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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative John Taylor
177th Legislative District

Representative Brendan Boyle
170th Legislative District

DATE: January 30, 2013

RE: Cosponsorship of Legislation: Permit Independent Electors to Vote in Primaries

In the near future, we plan on introducing legislation that would permit independent electors to vote the ballot of one political party of the independent elector's choice during a primary election.

Specifically, our legislation would permit independent electors to sign an affidavit declaring that he or she is not enrolled in a political party. After he or she signs the affidavit and the election official confirms the elector is not enrolled in a political party, the elector may choose to vote on the ballot of one political party. Our legislation would permit independent electors to vote the ballot of one political party by absentee ballot as well.

Voters choose to not enroll in a party for many reasons, but this decision should not prevent them from participating in the nomination process for candidates. Additionally, the primary election is almost tantamount to the general election in many races across the Commonwealth. If independents are prohibited from participating in the primary process, then they are essentially disenfranchised from participating in the electoral process. Independent voters comprise a growing and significant portion of Pennsylvania's registered voters, and our legislation would simply permit these voters to have their voices heard in the Commonwealth's primaries.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Josh Lance at 717-787-3179, or via e-mail at jlance@pahousegop.com.

Thank you,