

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 292 Session of
2023INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, GEBHARD, HUTCHINSON, STEFANO, J. WARD
AND DUSH, JANUARY 31, 2023

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 31, 2023

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing separate and distinct amendments to the Constitution
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, further providing for
3 method of elections and secrecy in voting and for absentee
4 voting; and providing for permanent list prohibited.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby resolves as follows:

7 Section 1. The following separate and distinct amendments to
8 the Constitution of Pennsylvania are proposed in accordance with
9 Article XI:

10 (1) That section 4 of Article VII be amended to read:

11 § 4. Method of elections; secrecy in voting.

12 [All] (a) Except as permitted by absentee ballot under
13 section 14, all elections by the citizens shall be by ballot [or
14 by such other method as may be prescribed by law] cast in person
15 by electors at their polling place: Provided, That secrecy in
16 voting be preserved.

17 (b) Except in the case of a ballot cast by a qualified
18 military or overseas elector, a ballot that is not cast in

1 person at a polling place must be received by a county board of
2 elections no later than 5 o'clock P.M. on the Friday before an
3 election.

4 (2) That section 14 of Article VII be amended by adding a
5 subsection to read:

6 § 14. Absentee voting.

7 * * *

8 (a.1) Each ballot returned that is not cast in person at a
9 polling place shall be subject to signature verification.

10 * * *

11 (3) That Article VII be amended by adding a section to read:

12 § 15. Permanent list prohibited.

13 The creation, existence or maintenance of a permanent list of
14 qualified electors who vote by a ballot that is not cast in
15 person at a polling place shall be prohibited.

16 Section 2. The following procedure applies to the proposed
17 constitutional amendments in this joint resolution:

18 (1) Upon first passage by the General Assembly of the
19 amendments, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed
20 immediately to comply with the advertising requirements of
21 section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

22 (2) Upon the second passage of the amendments by the
23 General Assembly, the Secretary of the Commonwealth shall
24 proceed immediately to comply with the advertising
25 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the Constitution
26 of Pennsylvania. The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall:

27 (i) Submit the amendment under section 1(1) of this
28 resolution to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth
29 as a separate ballot question at the first primary,
30 general or municipal election which meets the

1 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
2 Constitution of Pennsylvania.

3 (ii) Submit the amendment under section 1(2) of this
4 resolution to the qualified electors of this Commonwealth
5 as a separate ballot question at the first primary,
6 general or municipal election which meets the
7 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
8 Constitution of Pennsylvania.

9 (iii) Submit the amendment under section 1(3) of
10 this resolution to the qualified electors of this
11 Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first
12 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
13 requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
14 Constitution of Pennsylvania.