



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

July 8, 2022

THE GOVERNOR

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 573, Printer's Number 1712.

This legislation does nothing to increase access to voting. Instead, this bill undermines the integrity of our election process and encourages voter intimidation.

This bill would permit any registered voter to be a poll watcher in any election district throughout the Commonwealth. Current law only permits a person to serve as a poll watcher in the county where the person is registered to vote. This requirement is important because poll watchers who live in the county are generally familiar with the voting district in which they are serving.

This bill makes it possible for bad faith partisan operatives to target a specific neighborhood or group of voters in an attempt to challenge the eligibility of voters, make poll workers' jobs more difficult, and disrupt the counting of ballots. This will only serve to slow down the election process and restrict access to the ballot box.

Our elections work best when members of the community work together to ensure that everyone's voice is heard. I urge the Republican-controlled General Assembly to focus their efforts on election reform measures that ensure that voters can freely and safely exercise their right to vote.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 573, Printer's Number 1712.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Wolf".

TOM WOLF
Governor