

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 884 Session of
2021INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, STEFANO, J. WARD, HUTCHINSON, MENSCH
AND PITTMAN, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

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. (a) Upon the first passage by the General
17 Assembly of these proposed constitutional amendments, the
18 Secretary of the Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to
19 comply with the advertising requirements of section 1 of Article
20 XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the
21 required advertisements to two newspapers in every county in
22 which such newspapers are published in sufficient time after
23 passage of these proposed constitutional amendments.

24 (b) Upon the second passage by the General Assembly of these
25 proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of the
26 Commonwealth shall proceed immediately to comply with the
27 advertising requirements of section 1 of Article XI of the
28 Constitution of Pennsylvania and shall transmit the required
29 advertisements to two newspapers in every county in which such
30 newspapers are published in sufficient time after passage of

1 these proposed constitutional amendments. The Secretary of the
2 Commonwealth shall:

3 (1) Submit the proposed constitutional amendment under
4 section 1(1) of this resolution to the qualified electors of
5 this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first
6 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
7 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of
8 Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which
9 occurs at least three months after the proposed
10 constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.

11 (2) Submit the proposed constitutional amendment under
12 section 1(2) of this resolution to the qualified electors of
13 this Commonwealth as a separate ballot question at the first
14 primary, general or municipal election which meets the
15 requirements of and is in conformance with section 1 of
16 Article XI of the Constitution of Pennsylvania and which
17 occurs at least three months after the proposed
18 constitutional amendment is passed by the General Assembly.