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GLOSSARY OF ELECTION TERMS FOR PENNSYLVANIA:

Absentee Ballot - A ballot cast by a voter who is absent from his or her polling place on Election Day. An absentee ballot may be mailed to the voter or in certain emergency cases may be delivered to the voter by a deputy sheriff.

Assisted Voting- Visually impaired, physically incapacitated or illiterate voters may be assisted in casting their ballot at a polling booth. This assistance may be by a person nominated by the voter, other than the voter's employer, the voter's union representative, or the Judge of Elections,

Canvass - In Pennsylvania, the canvass is the official counting of votes which by law takes place in a public location in each county seat beginning at 9 A.M on the third day after each election. The returns from each precinct (voting machine tapes, absentee ballots, rosters and tally sheets, if any) are examined to determine that the totals for each candidate or question and that the number of voters voting matches the number of votes cast.

Contest - A legal proceeding that seeks to overturn the result of an election, or that seeks to remove a nominated candidate from the ballot.

Counting votes backward- A tallying malfunction where a vote for a candidate is *subtracted* from the candidate's total vote count.

DRE- A Direct Recording Electronic voting machine records votes by means of a ballot display, provided with mechanical or electro-optical components, that can be activated by the voter (typically buttons or a touchscreen); that processes data by means of a computer program; and that records voting data and ballot images in removable memory components. DREs *do not* produce an auditable paper trail.

Election District – Pennsylvania term for local precinct.

Election Officers (District) - The District Election Officers are the pollworkers responsible for the proper and orderly voting in local precincts. In Pennsylvania, these officials include the elected Judge of Elections, elected Majority Inspector of Elections, elected Minority Inspector of Elections, one or more Clerks, and possibly Machine Inspectors. The duties include signing in registered voters, explaining voting procedure and use of voting equipment, providing ballots and monitoring the conduct of the election. They are sometimes called Precinct Boards or Local Boards.

Emergency Paper Ballot- Used when a malfunctioning voting machine cannot be repaired or replaced in a reasonable length of time. It is a paper ballot; however, it is counted by the precinct board on election night at the polls and hand tallied.

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Hanging Chad - A chad is a small bit of paper that is punched from a ballot using a punch-type mechanical voting machine. A hanging chad is a chad that did not completely detach from the ballot. When there is a hanging chad, that vote may not be counted correctly. Pennsylvania no longer uses voting systems that may produce a hanging chad.

Optical Scan – A voting system where voters mark paper ballots by hand or using a ballot marking device, then the ballots are stored in a locked ballot box and run through a scanning device to count them. Pennsylvania currently uses both precinct count scanners (a scanning device tabulates ballots in each precinct), and central count scanning in which the ballots are brought to the county election offices for tabulation. Some scanning devices are based on digital rather than optical technology.

Over Vote - A vote for two or more candidates for the same office, or both a "for" and "against" vote on a single question.

Phantom Vote- Occurs when more votes than voters are added to the total vote count.

Provisional Ballot- A paper ballot that is issued to a voter whose name does not appear on the roster at the polls, who does not have an approved form of identification the first time they appear to vote in an election district, or who election officials assert are not eligible to vote. (In a primary election, this includes voters who claim to be registered for a particular political party, but the district register indicates they are registered as a member of another political party.) Within seven days after the election, the County Board of Elections will examine the provisional ballots to determine if they are valid. After this seven-day period, voters can find out if their provisional ballots were counted, partially counted or not counted. Whether a provisional ballot is counted is contingent upon the verification of that voter's eligibility and correct Election District.

Recount - A legal request for retabulation and retallying of individual ballots.

Results Tape- A printout of the results from each precinct, along with the public and protected counter voter totals and serial numbers of precinct voting machines. The results are signed by the District Election Officers and results tapes must be delivered to the County Election Board and publicly posted on the door of each polling place on election night after the polls close.

Under Vote- Occurs when ballots have been cast but no votes were recorded.

Unofficial Returns- Election night results are incomplete and may not include all hand tallied absentee ballots and do not include provisional ballots. This is why the incomplete and unofficial numbers can change between election night and the completion of the canvass.

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Vote Switching- Occurs when one candidate has been selected, but another candidate appears on the touchscreen. Also known as Vote Flipping.

Voter Registration Database- A voter database is a database that usually contains information on voter's name, physical address, party affiliation, voting history (including federal, sub-national, primary, municipal, or special election voting history), absentee or military voter designations, ethnicity, race, gender, birth date or age range. In Pennsylvania our state Voter Registration Database is known as the SURE System (Secure Uniform Registry of Electors.)

Zero Tape – A printout showing that each voting machine has no votes cast on it before the polls are opened. Zero tapes must be signed by all District Election Officers and posted in each precinct before voting begins.