



## Funding and Resources for Elections

Changes to elections administration in Pennsylvania from Act 77 of 2019 have resulted in significant increases in the costs and resources needed for counties to administer successful elections. The state and counties must work together to provide appropriate support for our elections, and anticipate the potential costs to counties related to any future Election Code reforms.

The implementation of mail-in ballots for all Pennsylvanians under Act 77 of 2019 was a significant change to election administration. As counties implemented Act 77 in 2020, most counties saw their budgets for elections-related costs increase significantly, as additional supplies were needed and staffing and overtime needs grew to address workload requirements. These impacts fell squarely on county shoulders, as they are solely responsible for administration of elections at the local level, without any new resources to offset these new requirements.

The increased workloads and stress of implementing an entirely new law during a highly contentious presidential election and a global pandemic have also led more than a third of Pennsylvania's counties to experience the loss of their election director and other top election staff. The resulting

loss of institutional knowledge is immeasurable, and efforts for staff recruitment and retention must be prioritized.

We must learn from this lesson as the General Assembly and administration continue to consider additional Election Code amendments. Counties and the state must work together as new laws and policies are developed to assure any increased costs and resource needs, including supplies and staffing, as well as adequate time for implementation, are also considered. Appropriate resources and funding support must be provided by the federal and state governments to support counties in their critical task of administering elections.

### COUNTIES SUPPORT:

- Ensuring that appropriate financial resources are allocated from the state to counties to support any new changes in election procedures, requirements or equipment.
- Allocating sufficient time, in consultation with counties, to implement any new requirements, training or procedures for elections administration.
- Supporting efforts to recruit and retain county elections staff, including establishing reasonable workload expectations with new laws and policies, to continue efficient and effective elections operations across the commonwealth.