

THE GOVERNOR

Title 4—ADMINISTRATION

PART I. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

[4 PA. CODE CH. 6]

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2007-09]

Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs

October 2, 2007


Whereas, one-third of Pennsylvania's population is rural, widely dispersed across 70 percent of the Commonwealth's land mass; and

Whereas, maintaining and expanding opportunities for rural communities and their residents significantly impacts and strengthens the economic, social, and cultural welfare of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, an advocate is required that provides the leadership and framework to address the unique needs of rural communities and promotes equal access to public and private opportunities politically, economically, and institutionally to sustain a rewarding quality of life for rural residents; and

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Rural Development Council was constituted to serve as a neutral forum where representatives of the private and nonprofit sectors and of all government agencies—Federal, State, and local—can individually and cooperatively address issues of concern to the rural areas of the Commonwealth.

Now, Therefore, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and other laws, do hereby formally create within the Governor's Executive Offices, the Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") as an advocate for rural Pennsylvanians and do hereby order and direct as follows:



Governor

Fiscal Note: GOV 07-12. No fiscal impact; (8) recommends adoption.

Annex A

TITLE 4. ADMINISTRATION

PART I. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

CHAPTER 6. ADDITIONAL COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Subchapter B. GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RURAL AFFAIRS

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§ 6.11. Functions.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs (Council) shall:

(1) Seek to build and foster inclusive, collaborative partnerships and networks of diverse individuals and organizations to improve the coordination and effectiveness of Federal, State and other programs, services and

actions affecting rural areas in this Commonwealth. To this end, the Council shall serve as a liaison to Federal, State and local government agencies to ensure that programs affecting rural Pennsylvanians are effectively utilized and that benefits are available to all rural citizens.

(2) Foster expanded economic and social opportunities for this Commonwealth's rural residents. In this regard, the Council and its partners shall identify opportunities for and impediments to expansion and develop strategies for taking advantage of opportunities and overcoming impediments. The Council shall develop, review and recommend policies to the Governor to promote expanded economic and social opportunities for rural Pennsylvania.

(3) Serve as a vehicle for collective advocacy on behalf of this Commonwealth's rural communities and their residents.

(4) Promote intergovernmental cooperation.

(5) Promote community-based problem-solving strategies which include all ideas, resources and expertise without regard to traditional distinctions among units, agencies or levels of government. Further, these strategies anticipate inclusion in the problem-solving process, all individuals, organizations and agencies with contributions to make for the advancement of the common good.

(6) Advise the Governor, agencies, organizations and other entities on issues affecting rural communities and their residents.

(7) Serve as a resource for private and nonprofit organizations on rural issues, programs and available sources of technical and financial assistance.

§ 6.12. Composition.

(a) The Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs shall consist of a Board of Directors comprised of 30 members, with six each representing the private sector, the nonprofit sector, local government agencies, State government agencies and Federal government agencies. Members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Members of the Board of Directors may continue to serve in their positions only so long as they remain a member of the group from which they were chosen.

(b) The Governor will designate three Co-Chairpersons representing State, Federal and local governments. The Co-Chairpersons serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

(c) The Governor will appoint an Executive Director who will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

§ 6.13. Compensation.

Members of the Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs receive no compensation for their services, except that the members may be reimbursed for actual travel and related expenses in accordance with Commonwealth policy. See Chapter 40 (relating to travel and subsistence).

§ 6.14. Terms of membership.

(a) Members will be appointed for a term of 2 years. Members serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

(b) If a vacancy occurs on the Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs due to resignation, disability or death of a member, a successor may be appointed by the Governor to serve the duration of the unexpired term. A successor so appointed may thereafter be reappointed.

§ 6.15. Procedures.

(a) The Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs (Council) is authorized to establish committees and procedures for the effective implementation of its functions consistent with this subchapter.

(b) The Council shall submit reports and policy recommendations it deems necessary that would assist in the preservation or enhancement of the quality of life for rural citizens and communities.

(c) The Council may hold public hearings to evaluate the effectiveness of Commonwealth services and programs to rural citizens and communities of this Commonwealth.

§ 6.16. Relationship with other agencies.

(a) The Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs (Council) shall seek to develop good working relationships with Federal and local government agencies so that the Council's mission to promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination may be achieved to the greatest extent possible.

(b) Agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction shall fully cooperate with and provide assistance as requested by the Council to properly carry out its power and duties.

§ 6.17. Effective date.

This subchapter shall take effect immediately and continue in effect unless revised or modified by the Governor.

§ 6.18. Rescission.

Executive Order 1999-2 is rescinded.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 08-873. Filed for public inspection May 9, 2008, 9:00 a.m.]

PART I. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
[4 PA. CODE CH. 6]
[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2004-11]
Pennsylvania Election Reform Task Force

December 13, 2004

Whereas, the intentions of voters in the sixth most populous state, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, are not weighted appropriately in the presidential primary election process because the Pennsylvania Primary Election takes place after the primary elections in 26 other states; and

Whereas, Colorado's 2004 election included a ballot measure to apportion electoral college votes based on results of that state's presidential election and Maine and Nebraska already apportion electoral college votes under certain conditions, and the interests of Pennsylvania voters would benefit from reviewing options for apportionment of electoral votes; and

Whereas, current estimates are that slightly more than nine million Pennsylvanians could vote, but only 5.76 million citizens, 62 percent of all eligible voting age adults, voted in the 2004 Presidential election; and

Whereas, in the context of the 2004 Pennsylvania Primary and General Elections, court challenges were filed to address issues concerning the statutory requirements regarding processing of absentee ballots for deployed members of the armed forces and in response to the varied practices among the Commonwealth's 67 counties in their efforts to comply with the absentee voter processing requirements of Federal and Pennsylvania law; and

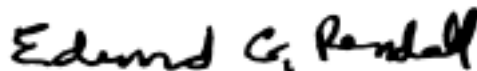
Whereas, Pennsylvania's system for distributing and receiving absentee ballots may present an impediment to the goal of increasing voter participation; and

Whereas, every county in Pennsylvania is working toward full compliance with the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) which requires increased attention to issues of voter access, education, improved election machines, election operations and election official training; and

Whereas, increasingly states are expanding the opportunity to vote by permitting voting before Election Day or voting by mail; and

Whereas, Pennsylvanians must be assured that the Commonwealth election system provides for the greatest level of participation and access while safeguarding the privacy of each vote and the integrity of every election.

Now, Therefore, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and other laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby establish the Pennsylvania Election Reform Task Force as follows:



Governor

Fiscal Note: GOV 04-12. (1) General Government Operations; (2) Implementing Year 2004-05 is \$21,208; 1st Succeeding Year 2005-06 is \$498; (3) 2003-04 Program—\$0; 2002-03 Program—\$0; 2001-02 Program \$0; (8) recommends adoption.

Annex A

TITLE 4. ADMINISTRATION

PART I. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

CHAPTER 6. ADDITIONAL COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

Subchapter V. PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION REFORM TASK FORCE

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6.293.	Report.
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6.295.	Effective date.
6.296.	Termination date.

§ 6.291. Tasks.

(a) The Pennsylvania Election Reform Task Force (Task Force) shall examine options and make recommendations for changing the date of the Primary Election, including legislative changes, and timelines necessary to achieve the recommended changes.

(b) The Task Force shall review all absentee voting statutes, regulations and county practices and recommend legislative or regulatory actions appropriate to improve access to the election process for individuals who cannot get to a polling place on Election Day.

(c) The Task Force shall review all absentee voting statutes, regulations and county practices and recommend legislative or regulatory actions necessary to ensure the ability to participate in elections by those subject to the requirements of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) (42 U.S.C.A. §§ 1373ff—1373ff-6 and 18 U.S.C. §§ 608 and 609).

(d) The Task Force shall examine options and make recommendations to increase voter participation, including early voting, voting by mail or other similar system reforms, while ensuring the privacy and security of all ballots cast.

(e) The Task Force shall make recommendations to address specific deficiencies at the State or county level with respect to compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) (42 U.S.C.A. §§ 15301—15545).

(f) The Task Force may examine other voting reforms such as methods for apportioning electoral votes.

§ 6.292. Composition.

The Pennsylvania Election Reform Task Force (Task Force) shall consist of 13 members.

(1) The Secretary of the Commonwealth shall serve as Chairperson of the Task Force. Four additional members shall be appointed by the Governor and shall represent various constituencies affected by or knowledgeable about the Pennsylvania election processes.

(2) Each of the following legislative caucus leaders shall appoint one member of the Task Force. These members shall be private citizens with knowledge of the Pennsylvania election process.

- (i) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- (ii) The Minority Leader of the Senate.
- (iii) The Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (iv) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

(3) The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania shall appoint three commissioners, election officials or private citizens to serve on the Task Force.

(4) The League of Women Voters shall appoint one person to serve on the Task Force.

§ 6.293. Report.

The Pennsylvania Election Reform Task Force shall present its recommendations in a final report by May 1, 2005.

§ 6.294. Cooperation by State agencies.

The Department of State shall serve as the administrative support agency of the Pennsylvania Election Reform Task Force (Task Force) and provide facilities, personnel assistance, information and services necessary to fulfill the objectives of the Task Force. All other Commonwealth agencies are directed to cooperate with and assist the Task Force in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities.

§ 6.295. Effective date.

This subchapter shall take effect immediately.

§ 6.296. Termination date.

This subchapter shall continue in effect until rescinded.

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 08-874. Filed for public inspection May 9, 2008, 9:00 a.m.]