



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

William Hamilton, President & Eastern PA Legislative Coordinator – Carl Bailey, Secretary-Treasurer & Western PA Legislative Coordinator - Tim O'Neill, Consultant – Dan Grace, Trustee & Legislative Advisor - Tom Kohn, Esq. Legal Advisor - Thomas Felice, Staff



Trump-Appointed Judge Rejects GOP-Backed Pennsylvania Voting Requirement

A federal judge appointed by President Trump rejected a Republican-backed Pennsylvania mail-in ballot requirement on Monday, saying in a 21-page ruling that there is no evidence supporting Republicans' claim that the requirement helps root out fraud.

In her ruling Monday, U.S. District Judge Susan Baxter, who was appointed by President Donald Trump, wrote that the case "directly implicates the right of citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to cast a vote."

She ruled that Pennsylvania violated the First and 14th Amendments "by imposing impermissible burdens on Pennsylvanians' fundamental right to vote—burdens that are not justified by any state interest."

The date requirement "burdens the fundamental right to vote by disenfranchising some voters for defects in the envelope holding their ballots," Baxter wrote.

The judge said that although the burden in question is "minimal," Pennsylvania "has not identified any [state] interests that are served by imposing even this minimal burden on the right to vote. Nor, for that matter, have most of the Defendant county boards of elections identified an interest in requiring a voter to date the outer envelope of their ballot."

Baxter also singled out the RNC's and the Berks County Board of Elections' claim that the mail ballot date requirement helps detect voter fraud.

"Absent from the record, however, is any evidence demonstrating how this requirement furthers that purported interest," Baxter wrote. She added that other stated interests that the defendants pointed out are similarly "not supported by any evidence of record."

The PA Supreme Court is also deliberating over a case involving such ballots and will issue a ruling about whether counting them violates the Pennsylvania state constitution.