

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2262 Session of 2026

INTRODUCED BY WAXMAN, DONAHUE, PIELLI AND RIVERA, MARCH 3, 2026

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 5, 2026

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), entitled  
 2 "An act concerning elections, including general, municipal,  
 3 special and primary elections, the nomination of candidates,  
 4 primary and election expenses and election contests; creating  
 5 and defining membership of county boards of elections;  
 6 imposing duties upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth,  
 7 courts, county boards of elections, county commissioners;  
 8 imposing penalties for violation of the act, and codifying,  
 9 revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto; and  
 10 repealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to  
 11 elections," in dates of elections and primaries and special  
 12 elections, further providing for special elections for United  
 13 States Senator and nominations and for nominations for  
 14 special election for Representative in Congress, Senator and  
 15 Representative in the General Assembly and member of council  
 16 or legislative body of cities, boroughs, towns and townships;  
 17 and, in nominations of candidates, further providing for  
 18 number of signers required for nomination petitions of  
 19 candidates at primaries, for nominations by minor political  
 20 parties, for place and time of filing nomination petitions  
 21 and filing fees and for nominations by political bodies,  
 22 repealing provisions relating to filing fee and further  
 23 providing for examination of nomination petitions,  
 24 certificates and papers and return of rejected nomination  
 25 petitions, certificates and papers and for vacancy in party  
 26 nomination by failure to pay filing fee or for failure to  
 27 file loyalty oath.

28 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 29 hereby enacts as follows:

30 Section 1. Sections 626, 629, 912.1, 912.2(a), 913 heading,  
 31 (b.1), (b.2) and (c) and 951(b) of the act of June 3, 1937

1 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, are  
2 amended to read:

3 Section 626. Special Elections for United States Senator;  
4 Nominations.--Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office of  
5 United States Senator, said vacancy shall be filled for the  
6 unexpired term by the vote of the electors of the State at a  
7 special election to be held at the time of the next general or  
8 municipal election, occurring at least ninety (90) days after  
9 the happening of such vacancy, and it shall be the duty of the  
10 Governor to issue writs of election to the various county boards  
11 of elections and to the Secretary of the Commonwealth within ten  
12 (10) days after the happening of said vacancy. Candidates to  
13 fill vacancies in the office of United States Senator shall be  
14 nominated by political parties, in accordance with the party  
15 rules relating to the filling of vacancies, by means of  
16 nomination certificates, in the form prescribed in section 630  
17 of this act; and by political bodies, by means of nomination  
18 papers, in accordance with the provisions of sections [951, 952  
19 and 954] 951 and 952 of this act. Said nomination certificates  
20 and nomination papers shall be filed in the office of the  
21 Secretary of the Commonwealth at least sixty (60) days prior to  
22 the date of said special election. Until such time as said  
23 vacancy shall be filled by an election as herein provided, the  
24 Governor of the Commonwealth may make a temporary appointment to  
25 fill said vacancy.

26 Section 629. Nominations for Special Election for  
27 Representative in Congress, Senator and Representative in the  
28 General Assembly and Member of Council or Legislative Body of  
29 Cities, Boroughs, Towns and Townships.--Candidates to fill  
30 vacancies in the offices of Representative in Congress, Senator

1 and Representative in the General Assembly and member of the  
2 council or legislative body of any city, borough, town or  
3 township shall be nominated by political parties, in accordance  
4 with the party rules relating to the filling of vacancies, by  
5 means of nomination certificates, in the form prescribed in  
6 section 630 of this act; and by political bodies, by means of  
7 nomination papers, in accordance with the provisions of sections  
8 [951, 952 and 954] 951 and 952 of this act. Said nomination  
9 certificates and nomination papers for the office of  
10 Representative in Congress, Senator and Representative in the  
11 General Assembly shall be filed in the office of the Secretary  
12 of the Commonwealth not later than fifty (50) days prior to the  
13 date of the special election, and for the office of member of  
14 the council or legislative body of a city, borough, town or  
15 township, in the office of the county board of elections wherein  
16 such city, borough, town or township is situate, not later than  
17 fifteen (15) days after the issuance of the writ of election.

18 Section 912.1. Number of Signers Required for Nomination  
19 Petitions of Candidates at Primaries.--Candidates for nomination  
20 of offices as listed below shall present a nominating petition  
21 containing at least as many valid signatures of registered and  
22 enrolled members of the proper party as listed below:

23 (1) President of the United States: [~~Two~~] One thousand.

24 (2) United States Senate: [~~Two~~] One thousand.

25 (3) Governor: [~~Two~~] One thousand including at least [~~one~~  
26 ~~hundred~~] fifty from each of at least ten counties.

27 (4) Lieutenant Governor: [~~One thousand~~] Five hundred  
28 including at least [~~one hundred~~] fifty from each of at least  
29 five counties.

30 (5) Treasurer: [~~One thousand~~] Five hundred including at

1 least [one hundred] fifty from each of at least five counties.

2 (6) Auditor General: [One thousand] Five hundred including  
3 at least [one hundred] fifty from each of at least five  
4 counties.

5 (7) Attorney General: [One thousand] Five hundred including  
6 at least [one hundred] fifty from each of at least five  
7 counties.

8 (8) Justice of the Supreme Court: [One thousand] Five  
9 hundred including at least [one hundred] fifty from each of at  
10 least five counties.

11 (9) Judge of the Superior Court: [One thousand] Five hundred  
12 including at least [one hundred] fifty from each of at least  
13 five counties.

14 (10) Judge of the Commonwealth Court: [One thousand] Five  
15 hundred including at least [one hundred] fifty from each of at  
16 least five counties.

17 (11) For any other office to be filled by the vote of the  
18 electors of the State at large or for any other party office to  
19 be elected by the electors of the State at large: [One thousand]  
20 Five hundred including at least [one hundred] fifty from each of  
21 at least five counties.

22 (12) Representative in Congress: [One thousand] Five  
23 hundred.

24 (13) Senator in the General Assembly: [Five hundred] Two  
25 hundred fifty.

26 (14) Representative in the General Assembly: [Three hundred]  
27 One hundred fifty.

28 (15) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
29 electors in counties of the first class at large: [One thousand]  
30 Five hundred.

1 (16) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
2 electors in counties of the second class at large: [Five  
3 hundred] Two hundred fifty.

4 (17) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
5 electors in cities of the first class at large: [One thousand]  
6 Five hundred.

7 (18) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
8 electors in counties of the second class A at large: [Two  
9 hundred fifty] One hundred twenty-five.

10 (19) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
11 electors in counties of the third class at large: [Two hundred  
12 fifty] One hundred twenty-five.

13 (20) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
14 electors in counties of the fourth class at large: [Two hundred  
15 fifty] One hundred twenty-five.

16 (21) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
17 electors in cities of the second class at large: [Two hundred  
18 fifty] One hundred twenty-five.

19 (22) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
20 electors in cities of the second class A at large: [One hundred]  
21 Fifty.

22 (23) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
23 electors in cities of the third class at large: [One hundred]  
24 Fifty.

25 (24) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
26 electors in counties of the fifth class at large: [One hundred]  
27 Fifty.

28 (25) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
29 electors in counties of the sixth class at large: [One hundred]  
30 Fifty.

1 (26) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
2 electors in counties of the seventh class at large: [One  
3 hundred] Fifty.

4 (27) Public or party offices to be filled by a vote of the  
5 electors in counties of the eighth class at large: [One hundred]  
6 Fifty.

7 (28) Office of judge of any court of record other than a  
8 Statewide court or a court in a county of the first or second  
9 class: [Two hundred fifty] One hundred twenty-five.

10 (29) District delegate or alternate district delegate to a  
11 National party convention: [Two hundred fifty] One hundred  
12 twenty-five.

13 (30) Member of State committee: [One hundred] Fifty.

14 (31) Office of district council member in a city of the  
15 first class: [Seven hundred fifty] Three hundred seventy-five.

16 (31.1) Office of district council member in a city of the  
17 second class: [One hundred] Fifty.

18 (32) Office of magisterial district judge: [One hundred]  
19 Fifty, but only for a candidate's primary election when the  
20 candidate does not already hold the office of magisterial  
21 district judge. A sitting magisterial district judge elected to  
22 the office shall not be required to file a nominating petition  
23 under this section to run for the office of magisterial district  
24 judge but may instead file a certificate of nomination for  
25 reelection specifying the intent to seek reelection to the  
26 office. If a sitting magisterial district judge files a  
27 certificate of nomination for reelection, the sitting  
28 magisterial district judge may not challenge the nominating  
29 petition of another candidate for magisterial district judge.

30 (33) Office of judge of election: [Ten] Five.

1 (34) Inspector of elections: [~~Five~~] Three.

2 (35) School director: [~~Ten~~] Five.

3 (36) All other public and party offices: [~~Ten~~] Five.

4 Section 912.2. Nominations by Minor Political Parties.--(a)  
5 Notwithstanding any other provision in this act to the contrary,  
6 minor political parties shall nominate all of their candidates  
7 for the offices to be filled at the ensuing November election  
8 pursuant to section 903 in accordance with the requirements of  
9 section 951, other than subsection (e) (6) and (7) thereof, [~~and~~  
10 ~~section 954,~~] and shall obtain the required signatures during  
11 the same time frame available to political bodies. Minor  
12 political parties shall be subject to the provisions of this act  
13 applicable to political parties with respect to special  
14 elections, voter registration forms, substituted nominations and  
15 all other purposes except as otherwise expressly provided in  
16 this section. "Minor political party" shall mean a political  
17 party as defined in section 801(a) or (b) whose State-wide  
18 registration is less than fifteen per centum of the combined  
19 State-wide registration for all State-wide political parties as  
20 of the close of the registration period immediately preceding  
21 the most recent November election. The Secretary of the  
22 Commonwealth shall prescribe forms or, if there is insufficient  
23 time, make appropriate conforming changes in existing forms to  
24 carry out the purposes of this section.

25 \* \* \*

26 Section 913. Place and Time of Filing Nomination Petitions[;  
27 ~~Filing Fees~~].--\* \* \*

28 [(b.1) Each person filing any nomination petition shall pay  
29 for each petition, at the time of filing, a filing fee to be  
30 determined as follows, and no nomination petition shall be

1 accepted or filed, unless and until such filing fee is paid by a  
2 certified check or money order or also by cash when filed with  
3 the county board. All moneys paid on account of filing fees  
4 shall be transmitted by the county board to the county treasurer  
5 and shall become part of the General Fund. Certified checks or  
6 money orders in payment of filing fees shall be made payable to  
7 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or to the county, as the case  
8 may be, and shall be transmitted to the State Treasurer or to  
9 the county treasurer and shall become part of the General Fund.

10 1. If for the office of President of the United States, or  
11 for any public office to be filled by the electors of the State  
12 at large, the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00).

13 2. If for the office of Representative in Congress, the sum  
14 of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).

15 3. If for the office of judge of a court of record,  
16 excepting judges to be voted for by the electors of the State at  
17 large, the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

18 4. If for the offices of Senator or Representative in the  
19 General Assembly, for any office to be filled by the electors of  
20 an entire county, for the office of district councilman in a  
21 city of the first class and for any office other than school  
22 district office to be filled by the electors of an entire city,  
23 the sum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), except as provided in  
24 paragraph 4.1.

25 4.1. If for nonschool board offices for any third class city  
26 official, the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00).

27 6. If for the office of delegate or alternate delegate to  
28 National party convention, or member of National committee or  
29 member of State committee, the sum of twenty-five dollars  
30 (\$25.00).

1 7. If for the office of constable, the sum of ten dollars  
2 (\$10.00).

3 8. If for the office of district councilman in a city of the  
4 second class or the office of district justice, the sum of fifty  
5 dollars (\$50.00).

6 (b.2) A filing fee shall not be paid for a nomination  
7 petition for any public office for which no compensation is  
8 provided by law, nor for any nomination petition for any public  
9 officer in any borough, town or township nor any party officer  
10 except as provided above nor for any nomination petition for  
11 judge of election or inspector of elections.

12 (c) The filing fees herein provided for shall not be  
13 refunded in the event of the withdrawal of any candidate named  
14 in any petition, or for any other cause whatsoever.]

15 \* \* \*

16 Section 951. Nominations by Political Bodies.--\* \* \*

17 [(b) Where the nomination is for any office to be filled by  
18 the electors of the State at large, the number of qualified  
19 electors of the State signing such nomination paper shall be at  
20 least equal to two per centum of the largest entire vote cast  
21 for any elected candidate in the State at large at the last  
22 preceding election at which State-wide candidates were voted  
23 for. In the case of all other nominations, the number of  
24 qualified electors of the electoral district signing such  
25 nomination papers shall be at least equal to two per centum of  
26 the largest entire vote cast for any officer, except a judge of  
27 a court of record, elected at the last preceding election in  
28 said electoral district for which said nomination papers are to  
29 be filed, and shall be not less than the number of signers  
30 required for nomination petitions for party candidates for the

1 same office. In cases where a new electoral district shall have  
2 been created, the number of qualified electors signing such  
3 nomination papers, for candidates to be elected at the first  
4 election held after the creation of such district, shall be at  
5 least equal to two per centum of the largest vote cast in the  
6 several election districts, which are included in the district  
7 newly created, for any officer elected in the last preceding  
8 election.]

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 2. Section 954 of the act is repealed:

11 [Section 954. Filing Fee.--The same filing fee shall be paid  
12 for each candidate nominated by a nomination paper as required  
13 in section 913 for the filing of nomination petitions by  
14 candidates for nomination to the same office. Each nomination  
15 paper nominating a candidate or a group of candidates for office  
16 shall be accompanied by a certified check or money order drawn  
17 in the proper amount to cover the filing fees for each candidate  
18 nominated therein but in no case less than the sum of five  
19 dollars (\$5.00), and payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
20 or to the county, as the case may be. All fees so received by  
21 the Secretary of the Commonwealth or the county election board  
22 shall be transmitted to the State Treasurer or to the county  
23 treasurer, as the case may be, and shall become part of the  
24 General Fund.]

25 Section 3. Sections 976 and 978.1 of the act are amended to  
26 read:

27 Section 976. Examination of Nomination Petitions,  
28 Certificates and Papers; Return of Rejected Nomination  
29 Petitions, Certificates and Papers.--When any nomination  
30 petition, nomination certificate or nomination paper is

1 presented in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth or  
2 of any county board of elections for filing within the period  
3 limited by this act, it shall be the duty of the said officer or  
4 board to examine the same. No nomination petition, nomination  
5 paper or nomination certificate shall be permitted to be filed  
6 if--(a) it contains material errors or defects apparent on the  
7 face thereof, or on the face of the appended or accompanying  
8 affidavits; or (b) it contains material alterations made after  
9 signing without the consent of the signers; or (c) it does not  
10 contain a sufficient number of signatures as required by law;  
11 Provided, however, That the Secretary of the Commonwealth or the  
12 county board of elections, although not hereby required so to  
13 do, may question the genuineness of any signature or signatures  
14 appearing thereon, and if he or it shall thereupon find that any  
15 such signature or signatures are not genuine, such signature or  
16 signatures shall be disregarded in determining whether the  
17 nomination petition, nomination paper or nomination certificate  
18 contains a sufficient number of signatures as required by law;  
19 or (d) in the case of nomination petitions, if nomination  
20 petitions have been filed for printing the name of the same  
21 person for the same office, except the office of judge of a  
22 court of common pleas, the Philadelphia Municipal Court or the  
23 office of school director in districts where that office is  
24 elective or the office of justice of the peace upon the official  
25 ballot of more than one political party; or (e) in the case of  
26 nomination papers, if the candidate named therein has filed a  
27 nomination petition for any public office for the ensuing  
28 primary, or has been nominated for any such office by nomination  
29 papers previously filed; [or (f) if the nomination petitions or  
30 papers are not accompanied by the filing fee or certified check

1 required for said office;] or (g) in the case of nomination  
2 papers, the appellation set forth therein is identical with or  
3 deceptively similar to the words used by any existing party or  
4 by any political body which has already filed nomination papers  
5 for the same office, or if the appellation set forth therein  
6 contains part of the name, or an abbreviation of the name or  
7 part of the name of an existing political party, or of a  
8 political body which has already filed nomination papers for the  
9 same office. The invalidity of any sheet of a nomination  
10 petition or nomination paper shall not affect the validity of  
11 such petition or paper if a sufficient petition or paper remains  
12 after eliminating such invalid sheet. The action of said officer  
13 or board in refusing to receive and file any such nomination  
14 petition, certificate or paper, may be reviewed by the court  
15 upon an application to compel its reception as of the date when  
16 it was presented to the office of such officer or board:  
17 Provided, however, That said officer or board shall be entitled  
18 to a reasonable time in which to examine any petitions,  
19 certificates or papers, and to summon and interrogate the  
20 candidates named therein, or the persons presenting said  
21 petitions, certificates or papers, and his or their retention of  
22 same for the purpose of making such examination or interrogation  
23 shall not be construed as an acceptance or filing.

24       Upon completion of any examination, if any nomination  
25 petition, certificate or paper is found to be defective, it  
26 shall forthwith be rejected and returned to the candidate or one  
27 of the candidates named therein, together with a statement of  
28 the reasons for such rejection:

29       Provided further, That no nomination petition, nomination  
30 paper or nomination certificate shall be permitted to be filed,

1 if the political party or political body referred to therein  
2 shall be composed of a group of electors whose purposes or aims,  
3 or one of whose purposes or aims, is the establishment, control,  
4 conduct, seizure or overthrow of the Government of the  
5 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the United States of America by  
6 the use of force, violence, military measure or threats of one  
7 or more of the foregoing. The authority to reject such  
8 nomination petition, paper or certificate for this reason shall,  
9 when filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, be vested in  
10 a committee composed of the Governor, the Attorney General and  
11 the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and when filed with any  
12 county board of elections shall be vested in such board. If in  
13 such case the committee or board, as the case may be, shall  
14 conclude that the acceptance of such nomination petition, paper  
15 or certificate should be refused, it shall within two days of  
16 the filing of such nomination petition, paper or certificate fix  
17 a place and a time five days in advance for hearing the matter,  
18 and notice thereof shall be given to all parties affected  
19 thereby. At the time and place so fixed the committee or board,  
20 as the case may be, shall hear testimony, but shall not be bound  
21 by technical rules of evidence. The testimony presented shall be  
22 stenographically recorded and made a part of the record of the  
23 committee or board. Within two days after such hearing the  
24 committee or board, if satisfied upon competent evidence that  
25 the said nomination petition, paper or certificate is not  
26 entitled to be accepted and filed, it shall announce its  
27 decision and immediately notify the parties affected thereby.  
28 Failure to announce decision within two days after such hearing  
29 shall be conclusive that such nomination petition, paper or  
30 certificate has been accepted and filed. The decision of said

1 committee or board in refusing to accept and file such  
2 nomination petition, paper or certificate may be reviewed by the  
3 court upon an application to compel its reception as of the date  
4 when presented to the Secretary of the Commonwealth or such  
5 board. The application shall be made within two days of the time  
6 when such decision is announced. If the application is properly  
7 made, any judge of said court may fix a time and place for  
8 hearing the matter in dispute, of which notice shall be served  
9 with a copy of said application upon the Secretary of the  
10 Commonwealth or the county board of elections, as the case may  
11 be. At the time so fixed, the court, or any judge thereof  
12 assigned for the purpose, shall hear the case de novo. If after  
13 such hearing the said court shall find that the decision of the  
14 committee or the board was erroneous, it shall issue its mandate  
15 to the committee or board to correct its decision and to accept  
16 and file the nomination paper, petition or certificate. From any  
17 decision of the court an appeal may be taken within two days  
18 after the entry thereof. It shall be the duty of the said court  
19 to fix the hearing and to announce its decision within such  
20 period of time as will permit the Secretary of the Commonwealth  
21 or the county board of elections to permit the names of the  
22 candidates affected by the court's decision to be printed on the  
23 ballot, if the court should so determine.

24 Section 978.1. Vacancy in Party Nomination [by Failure to  
25 Pay Filing Fee or] for Failure to File Loyalty Oath.--Every  
26 person nominated at any primary election as the candidate of any  
27 political party for any office, other than a borough, town,  
28 township, school district or poor district office, or the office  
29 of justice of the peace, or constable, [who has not paid the  
30 filing fee required by section nine hundred thirteen of this

1 act, as amended, for the filing of a nomination petition for  
2 such office, or] who has not filed the loyalty oath required by  
3 section 14, act of December 22, 1951 (P.L.1726), known as the  
4 "Pennsylvania Loyalty Act," as last amended June 19, 1961  
5 (P.L.446), shall [pay the amount of such fee to and] file such  
6 oath with the Secretary of the Commonwealth, or the county board  
7 of elections, as the case may be, at least eighty-five (85) days  
8 previous to the day of the general or municipal election at  
9 which such candidate's name would appear on the ballot. Failure  
10 to [pay such fee or] file such oath within the time herein  
11 prescribed shall result in a vacancy in such party nomination.  
12 Such vacancy shall be filled in the manner hereinafter provided  
13 for the filling of such vacancies happening by reason of the  
14 death or withdrawal of any candidate.

15 Section 4. The amendment or repeal of sections 626, 629,  
16 912.1, 912.2(a), 913 heading, (b.1), (b.2) and (c), 951(b), 954,  
17 976 and 978.1 of the act shall apply to the first primary  
18 election held after January 1, 2026, and each election held  
19 thereafter.

20 Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.