

Prepared remarks for June 6
Pennsylvania Senate State Government Committee hearing of
Mercer County Director of Elections Jeff Greenburg

- **Chairman Folmer, Minority Chairman Williams and members of the Senate State Government Committee ...**
- **Thank you. For what you may ask? For a victory. For more than a decade I've shouted to all who would listen that election officials could count as a victory the opportunity to meet face-to-face with the General Assembly and specifically the State Government Committee. So to us, this is a big deal and a wonderful opportunity.**
- **I'm here today sort of as the head coach, to deliver some positive reinforcement and motivation to our team – you – to help Pennsylvania get where it needs to in order to continue delivering elections in a cost-effective, efficient and trustworthy manner. It will be our offensive coordinator, defensive coordinator and special teams coach who will address these issues in more detail.**
- **One of the unique things about this conversation, one that I believe differs significantly from many other groups that appear before the Senate, is we're not necessarily coming to you today with our hands out for money. Would counties like money? Sure, we all would. But we recognize the financial stress the Commonwealth currently faces so we are here today, our hands extended to the General Assembly, instead, with ideas that should you so agree somewhere down the road could deliver significant financial savings for the Commonwealth and counties.**
- **While we have many concerns, what you will hear about today are a couple issues that are at the forefront of what counties are facing: Poll worker retention, alternatives for the delivery of elections and potential cost savings that could be realized by those alternatives being approved.**

- **I would like to offer some brief thoughts on what to me would be the most important factor in the election reform discussion moving forward in PA. You.**
- **We would strongly encourage the General Assembly and your committee to continue the conversations with PA election officials so that we together can create a better system for voters and those of us who administer elections.**
- **So how can we do that? Most important step is to open the lines of communication and make these interactions more regular if possible. That can be as informal as a phone call or as formal as this hearing today or anywhere in between. Sometimes, informal is better.**
- **Would ask the committee to consider, if permitted under Senate rules, to create an Election Sub-Committee that would serve as a direct conduit to the election associations in PA. We recognize the importance of and demands on your time, as well as the diverse issues your committee is required to focus on. A sub-committee dedicated to elections would hopefully lead to more regular and informal communication between election administrators and the General Assembly on pending Election bills, as well as any other important election issues.**
- **While we as administrators don't want to cross the line necessarily of writing a bill, what we could offer the General Assembly is a sounding board on potential concerns, issues, pitfalls or even positive outcomes that might follow any passage of a new law.**
- **There are many issues that if addressed could improve the process in PA. I believe working together we could accomplish great things and bring PA out of the 19th century and into the 21st century.**

Jeff Greenburg brief bio

- **Mercer County Director of Elections, 11th year**
- **Legislative Chair of Western PA Election Personnel Association**
- **Past Chair of Western PA Election Personnel Association**
- **Past Pennsylvania local representative on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Standards Board**