



April 29, 2019

**SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE: SENATE BILL 300:
APRIL 30, 2019 Hearing**

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this hearing through a written submission in support of Senate Bill 300.

Philly Set Go is an all volunteer bi-partisan political action committee organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that is focused on increasing millennial participation in, and engagement with, state and local government. Founded in 2014, Philly Set Go has worked to increase millennial voter turnout through a combination of issue advocacy, candidate endorsements and get-out-the-vote programming.

As an organization committed to millennial voter participation, Philly Set Go is a supporter of Senate Bill 300. Millennial voters register as “independent” or “unaffiliated” in greater numbers than any other demographic. As such, the current “closed” primary process has a disproportionate impact on the opportunities millennials have to participate in the political process through voting. For example, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania there are approximately 1,447,677 registered voters between the ages of 25-34. Of those, twenty-one percent (21%) or three-hundred and two thousand, nine-hundred and forty-one individuals (302,941) are registered as unaffiliated or independent.¹

Given the importance of primaries within our electoral process, effectively disenfranchising twenty-one percent (21%) of the state’s millennial registered voters in the primary process sends a message to young voters that their voices do not matter. Moreover, each of these 302,941 individuals are excluded from participating in the primary that their tax dollars support. In short, the current system is both unfair and discourages maximum voter participation.

By opening up the primary process to independent and unaffiliated voters, Senate Bill 300 addresses this unfairness. Opening up the primary process doesn’t ensure that these voters will participate, but it does create the civic space that groups like ours need to point out that our elected government has removed a barrier to voting, now its the voter’s responsibility to exercise that right.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew A. Fontana

Vice-Char, Philly Set Go

Follow: @phillysetgo on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. #phillysetgo

Contact: Philly Set Go, join@phillysetgo.com

¹ Data from Pennsylvania Department of State, available here: <https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/VotingElectionStatistics/Pages/VotingElectionStatistics.aspx>