



July 24, 2020

The Honorable John DiSanto  
Majority Chair  
State Government Committee  
Pennsylvania State Senate  
Senate Box 203015  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3015

The Honorable Anthony H. Williams  
Minority Chair  
State Government Committee  
Pennsylvania State Senate  
Senate Box 203008  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3008

Dear Senators DiSanto and Williams:

Thank you for chairing a productive meeting of the Senate State Government Committee yesterday to consider necessary changes to election procedures in the Commonwealth.

In the course of the meeting, there were several inaccurate references made to the mobile ballot-drop off plan executed by the City Commissioners, with the assistance of the Committee of Seventy, on the weekend leading up to the June 2 primary election. We felt it necessary to set the record straight.

This convenience offered to voters was initiated by City Commissioner Al Schmidt, with the concurrence of the two other Commissioners, Lisa Deeley and Omar Sabir. Ten mobile drop off sites were identified, and publicized with the help of the Committee of Seventy, aided by the colorful "Voteswagon" which served as a mobile billboard making it easier for voters to find the sites. No ballots were accepted or solicited in any other locations. At the drop off sites, ballots were only handled and accepted by staff of the Commissioners' office. Voters were notified that ballots would only be accepted from the individual present. The only exception to that rule was if a voter produced a signed Designation of Agent form developed and approved by the Department of State that authorized a voter to deposit the ballot of a neighbor, friend, or relative within a single household. All ballots were placed in a locked, secured and approved receptacle.

At a time of great uncertainty and unrest, this plan enabled some 4,000 grateful voters to make sure that their ballot was received by the Board of Elections in time to be counted. We are proud to have played a role in making that happen.

Sincerely,

Al Schmidt  
City Commissioner (R)  
City of Philadelphia

David Thornburgh  
President and CEO  
Committee of Seventy



**Committee of Seventy**

Join us in our campaign for better government

cc: Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill, Vice Chair  
Senator Joseph Scarnati, III, Ex-Officio  
Senator David Arnold, Jr.  
Senator Maria Collett  
Senator Doug Mastriano  
Senator Katie Muth  
Senator Patrick Stefano  
Senator Judy Ward  
Senator Lindsey Williams