

**DARYL METCALFE, MEMBER**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
ROOM 144 MAIN CAPITOL  
PO BOX 202012  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, 17120-2012  
PHONE: (717) 783-1707  
FAX: (717) 787-4771

E-mail: [dmetcalf@pahousegop.com](mailto:dmetcalf@pahousegop.com)  
Website: [RepMetcalf.com](http://RepMetcalf.com)



**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
2525 ROCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 201  
CRANBERRY TOWNSHIP, PA 16066  
PHONE: (724) 772-3110  
FAX: (724) 772-2922

STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
CHAIRMAN

July 11, 2017

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf,

We are writing to express our disappointment with the letter that you sent on June 30<sup>th</sup> to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. Your refusal to cooperate with the Commission's reasonable request to provide publicly-available data and input from the states for the purpose of improving our election system is unacceptable and brings Pennsylvania into disrepute.

This Commission is made up of a bipartisan group of distinguished state election officials from both Democratic and Republican state administrations. The Commission was formed to "promote fair and honest" elections by making a study of "the registration and voting processes" used in elections. Neither the Commission's composition, nor its mission lead logically to your outrageous assertion that the Commission's request "implies that [the Commission] may undertake a systematic effort to suppress the vote in Pennsylvania."

The letter sent by the Commission simply requested that Pennsylvania provide any publicly-available voter roll data. It did not, as your letter implies, demand that we turn over other private, personal data of citizens when such data was not publicly available or when doing so would violate state law.

As your letter contrarily notes, the publicly available voter file can be purchased from the Department of State for \$20 by any citizen. You also properly indicate that such data must only be used for legally permissible purposes and may not be published on the Internet in accordance with state law. It is, however, shocking for you to claim that this information can be safely handed out to anyone with \$20, but that you will not provide it to a lawfully created, bipartisan Presidential Advisory Commission tasked with analyzing our election system.

Your response deprives Pennsylvania of a seat at the table with a bipartisan Commission that may be helpful in analyzing and addressing many issues regarding election integrity. The Commission's letter called for the state's feedback regarding a host of items that it may consider in the future. Your dismissive, and at times even insulting, letter ignored the opportunity for the state to provide a thoughtful response. You have let your desire to say no to a Commission created by the President outweigh your responsibility to do what is best for Pennsylvania.

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
July 11, 2017  
Page 2

Furthermore, your response makes it appear that your administration has something to hide that may be uncovered if an investigation into voter fraud is conducted. If you are so certain that voter fraud is not a significant issue, then the best way to demonstrate this would be to cooperate with this bipartisan commission.

Unfortunately, as you may be aware, Pennsylvania has been the subject of several well documented cases of voter irregularities in the past few years alone. In January 2016, three former Philadelphia election officials pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of violating the Election Code. An additional four Philadelphia election officials were charged with election fraud in 2015.

The House State Government Committee held a hearing on improving the integrity of elections in October of 2016. A testifier from the Public Interest Legal Foundation presented evidence obtained through public records requests to the Committee that a number of foreign nationals have been registered to vote in Philadelphia and have illegally voted in prior elections. In addition, Philadelphia City Commissioner Al Schmidt released a report investigating the city's 2012 primary election. The report concluded that there were hundreds of cases of irregularities that warranted further investigation including cases of voting by non-registered individuals, non-U.S. citizens, individuals voting more than once, individuals voting in the incorrect party's primary, and divisions with more recorded votes than voters.

Finally, numerous studies, including a 2012 study by the Pew Center, have shown that voting rolls are filled with invalid or inaccurate registrations. This includes many voters who are registered in another state or who are deceased. Any one of these incidents alone should be enough reason for you to be willing to cooperate in any way possible with a bipartisan Commission seeking to improve voting integrity throughout the country.

You conclude your letter, Governor Wolf, by lecturing the Commission that the "right to vote is absolute and I have no confidence that you seek to bolster it." Please allow us to make some necessary qualifications to your statement. The right to vote is absolute, but only to citizens of our state who are legally permitted to do so. We have no confidence that you seek to protect Pennsylvanian voters who are properly exercising their right to vote by preventing those who should not be voting in our state from doing so. Your absolute refusal to even engage with the Commission is detrimental to Pennsylvania. Regardless of political party affiliation or ideology, every patriotic Governor should cooperate to ensure the integrity of our elections.

Sincerely,

Daryl D. Metcalfe  
Chairman  
House State Government Committee

DDM:pln

The following State Representatives are signatories to the letter to Governor Wolf on July 11, 2017:

Rep. Daryl Metcalfe  
Rep. Stephen Barrar  
Rep. Cris Dush  
Rep. Matt Gabler  
Rep. Seth Grove  
Rep. Kristin Hill  
Rep. Jerry Knowles  
Rep. Brett Miller  
Rep. Brad Roae  
Rep. Frank Ryan  
Rep. Rick Saccone  
Rep. Thomas Sankey  
Rep. Craig Staats  
Rep. Justin Walsh  
Rep. Judy Ward  
Rep. Jeff Wheeland