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Montco to hold public informational meeting on Voter ID law

Norristown, PA (July 12, 2012) – With the November elections on the horizon and a controversial election law dominating the discussion in Pennsylvania, the Montgomery County commissioners and the county’s election board are taking steps to limit confusion and ensure that every eligible voter can vote.

Commissioner Leslie Richards, who is also chair of the county’s Election Board, announced today that the county will hold a public educational and informational meeting on the new Voter I.D. law in Pennsylvania. The meeting will be held in the Science Center auditorium at the Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell on Thursday, July 26 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be facilitated by Ellen Kaplan, vice president and policy director of the Committee of Seventy, a non-partisan voter watchdog group.

“There is a great deal of confusion and concern about the new Voter I.D. law,” Richards said, “and this meeting is one of several steps we are taking to help ensure that the law, if upheld in court, does not prevent anyone who wants to vote from doing so.”

Richards said that while we realize there are strong feelings in favor of and against the new law, the purpose of this meeting is not to provide a venue for people to “trumpet its benefits or vent their displeasure,” but rather to hold a “constructive, informative and helpful meeting where voters can objectively learn about the provisions of the law, and how to obtain the forms of identification the law requires. Of course, if issues or problems with the law’s implementation are overlooked, we would certainly encourage members of the audience to bring that to our attention.”

Richards said that the county has created a “working group” of individuals from various constituencies with a wide range of talents, who are working diligently to identify issues with the new law and to “seek ways to make sure that everyone who wants to vote can.”
A recent report indicated that almost 10 percent of Pennsylvania voters do not have acceptable identification under the law’s provisions. In Montgomery County, it is estimated that almost 45,000 voters do not have identification that meets the law’s requirement.