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February 20, 2018

VIA PACFILE

Supreme Court of Pennsylvania
601 Commonwealth Avenue
Suite 4500
P.O. Box 62575
Harrisburg, PA 17106

Re: League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, et al., v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, et al., No. 159 MM 2017: Notification re Implementation of Remedial Plan

Dear Justices:

I write on behalf of Respondent Acting Secretary of the Commonwealth Robert Torres. On page 9 of its Opinion and Order dated February 18, 2018, this Court directed Acting Secretary Torres to “notify this Court by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, 2018, should it foresee any technical issues concerning the implementation of the Remedial Plan.”

Acting Secretary Torres does not foresee any technical issues with the implementation of the Remedial Plan. The Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation has begun updating databases, and expects to have nomination petition packets available for congressional candidates no later than Thursday, February 22, and updated voter lists available no later than Friday, February 23. See the February 20, 2018 press release attached to this letter for more information on the Department of State’s implementation efforts.

Please note that the Executive Respondents have requested confirmation from the Legislative Data Processing Center (“LDPC”) that it will produce textual language describing the Remedial Plan. The LDPC has not responded to the Executive Respondents’ inquiries thus far. The Department of State, however, is making progress toward generating the textual language internally.

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I will keep the Court apprised of any further developments.

Respectfully,



Mark A. Aronchick

cc: All counsel of record (via PacFile)

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Media(<http://www.media.pa.gov/>)

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State(<http://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/State.aspx>)

> Details

02/20/2018

Department of State Implementing PA Supreme Court's Remedial Congressional Map

Harrisburg, PA – Acting Secretary of State Robert Torres today said the Department of State is taking necessary steps to implement the

[remedial congressional map](http://www.pacourts.us/news-and-statistics/cases-of-public-interest/league-of-women-voters-et-al-v-the-commonwealth-of-pennsylvania-et-al-159-mm-2017)(<http://www.pacourts.us/news-and-statistics/cases-of-public-interest/league-of-women-voters-et-al-v-the-commonwealth-of-pennsylvania-et-al-159-mm-2017>)

released Monday by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

“The Department of State is well prepared for a new congressional map,” said Governor Tom Wolf. “The department responded immediately to the Court’s decision and is implementing its response plan. Over the next few days, updated information and support will be provided to local elections officials and candidates to ensure a smooth and orderly process.”

The department is making the operational changes in plenty of time for the May 15 primary election.

“Voters will not see any changes in individual polling places and these changes do not in any way affect voters’ polling places,” said Torres. “Nor will there be any change in the rules in effect at polling places.”

As soon as possible, the department plans to post spreadsheets on its website that will allow individual voters to check the congressional district in which they reside under the new boundaries.

With the map and data files made available by the Supreme Court on Monday, the Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation immediately began converting the data files into lists of precincts. This morning, staff began updating the elections system database with the new precincts lists.

Nomination petition packets will be available for congressional candidates no later than Thursday, and possibly as early as Wednesday. When nomination petitions are available, the Department will issue a press release and post an updated special notice to candidates on the Department’s website.

Congressional candidates will follow a revised petition circulating and filing schedule

(<http://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/CandidatesCommittees/RunningforOffice/Pages/Petition-Notice.aspx>)

approved by the court. The revised petition filing schedule, which applies ONLY to congressional candidates, allows for circulating and filing petitions from February 27 through March 20.

The Bureau is working simultaneously to update the voter registration database, the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors (SURE), so candidates can obtain updated voter lists from the Department or from appropriate counties. That work is also expected to be complete by the end of this week.

"In the meantime, there are 54 counties that lie entirely within a single district," said Jonathan Marks, Commissioner of the Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation. "So candidates for most congressional districts will be able to identify significant numbers of voters even before the updated lists are ready."

Where counties are split by the new map, the work of updating voter registration files in the SURE system is done by the County Boards of Elections. The Bureau is communicating with the affected counties to ensure that they have the information necessary to enter accurate updates.

The Bureau has also developed a plan for temporarily administering two sets of precincts for the 18th Congressional District to ensure that the four counties involved in the March special election for that district are not adversely impacted. The March 13 special election will be conducted using the former congressional boundaries.

NOTE: Video and audio of an interview with Jonathan Marks, Commissioner of the Bureau of Commissions, Elections and Legislation, will be available for download later today in an email from the Pennsylvania Internet News Service (PINS). To register for PINS emails, cms@pacast.com (<mailto:cms@pacast.com>)

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