

Back to Business PA | Letter to Pennsylvania lawmakers

*John Fetterman
President of the Senate
200 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120*

*Senator Kim Ward
Majority Leader of the Senate
Room: 292 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120*

*Senator Jay Costa
Minority Leader of the Senate
Senate Box 203043
Harrisburg, PA 17120*

*Hon. Bryan Cutler
Speaker of the House
139 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120*

*Hon. Kerry A. Benninghoff
Majority Leader of the House
10 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120*

*Hon. Joanna E. McClinton
Minority Leader of the House
423 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120*

As business leaders throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we feel responsible for the interests of our employees, our customers, our communities, and our economy. Today we join together to speak out for the protection of equal voting rights and elections that are safe, secure, and accessible to every voter. Not only is voting a fundamental, constitutional right for every American; it is also essential to a well-functioning government and healthy business climate.

In 2019, Act 77 passed on a bipartisan basis through a Republican-led legislature. It was signed into law by a Democratic governor. This law served our state well through the 2020 election, allowing our employees and neighbors to vote more safely and securely during the pandemic, whether by absentee ballot or at early voting centers with modern voting machines. Yet today, during a global pandemic and economic crisis, our legislature is threatening to make it more difficult to vote.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses and residents are suffering. Over 5 million residents have lost their jobs. Businesses and residents owe more than \$743 million in unpaid electric and gas bills, and many now face shutoff. Countless businesses have shut their doors permanently, and over 500,000 residential and commercial property owners — including small businesses — are at risk for foreclosure. Addressing these issues and supporting Pennsylvanians' health and employment should be our elected leaders' number one priority, not unnecessary changes to how we vote.

Today, we stand together to call upon our legislature to abandon any changes that would make it harder for citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote. We call upon the legislature to conclude their investigation of the 2020 election and not spend millions of taxpayer dollars on an unnecessary audit. We urge every elected official to work together on a bipartisan basis to ensure our elections are faithful to the following principles:

- The right to vote is a sacred, inviolable right of every American citizen.
- Elections must be both secure and inclusive. We must not sacrifice one for the other.
- Government has a responsibility to make voting modern and convenient for voters.
- Government also has a responsibility to continuously improve election administration to preserve public trust.
- Good-faith bipartisanship is essential to preserve public confidence in our elections and the values of democracy. Election law must never become a partisan issue.

It's time for Pennsylvania to get back to business. Our commonwealth urgently needs lawmakers to turn their focus to our health, economy, and infrastructure. We call on our elected officials to stand for equal voting rights and secure, inclusive elections. And we invite elected officials to work together with the business community to create economic opportunities and heal divides in our communities.

Sincerely,

[Signatory companies and business associations]



Business for America and the West Philadelphia Corridor Collaborative are coordinating this letter as part of the Back to Business PA initiative. To learn more and sign the letter, visit bfa.us/pa.