

NOTICE TO ALL VOTERS IN THE MAY 18 PRIMARY

There are three **Constitutional Amendment questions** and one **Statewide Referendum** on the ballot in the upcoming **May 18 Primary ballot**.

KAD suggests that voters **vote NO to questions 1 & 2**, and **YES to 3 and 4**.

- NO** 1. Shall the PA Constitution be amended to shift the power to terminate or extend a disaster declaration emergency from the Governor to the General Assembly?
- NO** 2. Shall the PA Constitution be amended to require that any disaster declaration issued by the Governor expire after 21 days unless extended by the General Assembly? and
- YES** 3. Shall the PA Constitution be amended to provide that one's rights may not be denied because of one's race or ethnicity?
- YES** 4. Do you favor expanding the current loan program for volunteer emergency services to also include municipal emergency services?

RATIONALE

Ballot Question 1 ***SHIFTS the power*** of an emergency declaration from the Governor, where it now resides, to the Legislature.

- The **General Assembly terminates** or extends the Governor's emergency declaration.
- Our **system of checks and balances is bypassed** since the Governor does not sign off on this legislation.

Ballot Question 2 will have an ***emergency declaration arbitrarily expire***.

- Preemptive termination of the emergency declaration after 21 days.

There have been no meaningful deficiencies in the current law or reasons provided for the proposed Constitutional Amendments. These proposed amendments are simply solutions looking for a problem, with **dire consequences**, and your Democratic Party does not think they are needed.

Ballot Question 3 sets forth a principle which has long been a standard to which the Democratic Party has adhered.

- Promotes states' rights - independent of the US Constitution and federal law - regarding equal rights of an individual.
- Allows individuals to not be discriminated against due to race or ethnicity by agencies and organizations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Prohibits legislation that is inconsistent with Pennsylvania law.

Referendum Question 4 would allow a now existing loan program for volunteer emergency services to be available to municipal emergency services.

- Provides funding for equipment and infrastructure improvements.

Dire Consequences if Vote Yes on Constitutional Amendment Ballot Question 1: shifting power in an emergency declaration

If you vote **YES**, you agree to give the legislature, by a simple majority vote, the sole power to take away the Governor's existing authority to make disaster emergency declarations.

There are already checks and balances held by the legislature against the governor's emergency declaration power – the legislature need only vote by a two-thirds margin to end the disaster.

The system of checks and balances is a guiding principle of government so that no one branch has more power than the other. A simple majority vote of the legislature sidesteps the usual process of checks and balances. This is a dangerous step toward demolishing our democracy.

Dire Consequences if Vote Yes on Constitutional Amendment Ballot Question 2: terminating emergency disaster prematurely:

Federal funding often depends on a disaster declaration in place.

Use of the National Guard depends on the governor's authority to declare a disaster.

What we lose when emergency declaration ends:

- **Lose billions of dollars in federal funding.**
- **Lose the ability to have nursing students administer vaccines.**
- **Lose the ability to extend license renewal dates for in state and out of state practitioners.**
- **Lose the ability to quickly bring back retired medical professionals.**
- **Lose the ability to make use of military and Department of Defense personnel to supplement staff in long term care facilities.**
- **Slow down the procurement of life saving supplies.**