

RESOLUTION 006: VOTING RIGHTS

WHEREAS we, the citizens of the United States, residing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have sadly witnessed increasing legislative assaults on the right of all persons aged eighteen (18) and older, to vote,

AND WHEREAS the Voter Id Law enacted in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in March or 2012, continues to be disputed, but is nonetheless an enacted law, currently blocked while pending judicial consideration,

AND WHEREAS the free and open expression of religion is guaranteed by the 1st Amendment to our Constitution, and the Right to Vote has been expanded and articulated in no less than FOUR amendments to our Constitution, (XV, XIX, XXIV & XXVI),

AND WHEREAS the free and open ability to worship is best protected in the context of a vibrant and open electoral process which encourages all persons to vote who are constitutionally eligible to vote,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this 144th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania shall by enactment of this resolution, urge the Gov. of this Commonwealth and all elected representatives to repeal the Voter ID Law, returning the process of registration and voting to pre- 2012 circumstances, recognizing that the Commonwealth has no history of voter impersonation fraud, even at such time as the current Governor was Attorney General for the commonwealth,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this 144th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania urge all persons of faith and communities of faith to join in this appeal to restore voting privileges to pre- 2012 levels,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this 144th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania urge our elected officials to cease any further efforts to restrict voting access and instead consider expanding the franchise opportunities by allowing registration up to and including the day of voting, expanding voting to include days preceding Election Days, including the weekend leading up to Election Days, and an open primary process to allow for greater participation by all registered voters in candidate nomination process.

Respectfully submitted,
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Northern Tier