As required by federal and state law, counties are required to conduct voter list maintenance every year to ensure out-of-date registrations are removed from the voter rolls.

VOTER LIST MAINTENANCE

Federal and state experts test, examine and certify all voting equipment as secure. Before deployment by counties, all equipment must be certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and the PA Department of State.

VOTING EQUIPMENT IS CERTIFIED

Each of Pennsylvania’s 67 county Boards of Elections are bipartisan with representatives from both the Democratic and Republican parties.

Pennsylvania law requires that all precincts be staffed by a bipartisan group of poll workers. All candidates and parties are entitled to have certified watchers in every polling place and authorized observers at the central counting location.

BIPARTISAN OVERSIGHT

Election management systems, voting machines and ballots are all stored in locked and secure facilities that can be accessed only by authorized personnel.

COUNTIES SAFELY STORE VOTING EQUIPMENT

Voters in all Pennsylvania counties utilize either hand-marked paper ballots or ballot-marking devices that allow them to review and verify their votes. The voter-verifiable paper trail is also used for post-election audits and recounts.

No county voting machines or tabulators are ever connected to the internet.

TESTING

To vote by mail, a ballot MUST be requested by a registered voter. Pennsylvania does not automatically send mail ballots to all voters. Voter identification and a signature are required on the application.

Mail and absentee ballot voters can track the status of their ballot online or by contacting their local election office.

BALLOTS STAY SECURE

After completing a mail or absentee ballot, a voter must then complete and sign a declaration on the outer return envelope, which provides another layer of review and security. This envelope has a unique barcode tied to the individual registered voter. Unless the ballot is returned in this envelope and signed by the voter, it will not be counted.

AUDITS ENSURE ACCURACY

Pennsylvania law requires every county to conduct post-election audits.

Counties go through a process during the official canvass to reconcile ballots cast with the number of voters in each precinct.

This infographic was prepared by the Committee of Seventy (seventy.org) and Pitt Cyber (cyber.pitt.edu) to provide an overview of important election processes. A special thanks to former election director Jeff Greenburg for his guidance and review.