

Luzerne County Board of Elections

February 23, 2002

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regard to agenda items 1&2 on dual language ballots and interpretation at select polling places for the upcoming special election.

In that the election is to fill a vacancy in the 116th district which includes the City of Hazleton which has a majority Latino population and a candidate of Latino origin on the ballot, I believe it to be 1) Fair and 2) In the Public Interest to make both the ballot and the polling place reflective of the demographics of the district as well as of the population served.

I have witnessed first hand the difficulties encountered at the polls by Non English speakers who have difficulty understanding the ballot as well the process for casting a vote. The addition of an accessible ballot and individuals at the polling place to provide much needed assistance assures a fair and accurate election.

This is a matter of common sense and basic fairness. If, in fact, the objective of this or any election is for the result to accurately reflect the will of the people to be served, then providing the most accessible process is a no brainer.

I wholeheartedly support both the dual language ballot as well as provisions for Spanish language interpreters at the polls where appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration.

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