



Committee of Seventy Election Ambassador Survey

Hello, my name is _____. I'm a student from _____ working with the Committee of Seventy to gather voters' thoughts on various election and voting reforms. Can I ask you three brief questions?

1) Would you support allowing voters the option to request and submit absentee ballots before Election Day without offering a reason or excuse?

Yes:

No:

Uncertain:

Background: Currently in Pennsylvania, voters may only use absentee ballots (ballots requested before the election and submitted by mail or in person) for certain reasons (or excuses), including, for example: illness or disability, business or vacation outside the municipality, or the observation of a religious holiday. No-excuse absentee ballots, however, can be requested for any reason and by any eligible voter. Twenty states (including Pennsylvania) require a reason or excuse to use an absentee ballot, while 27 states and the District of Columbia allow no-excuse absentee ballots (no reason or excuse must be offered).

2) Would you support allowing voters the option to vote for a certain period before Election Day at a select number of early voting locations?

Yes:

No:

Uncertain:

Background: Early voting allows voters to cast a ballot in person for a specified period before Election Day. This time period varies in duration from state to state, with an average of approximately three weeks; the number of early voting locations varies by county. Two thirds of states have some form of early voting, and in more than 20, this means voters have the opportunity to vote on the weekend.



3) *Would you support allowing independent and third party voters to vote in primary elections?*

Yes:

No:

Uncertain:

Background: Pennsylvania has a **closed primary system**, only allowing registered Democrats and Republicans to vote in spring primary elections – and only for candidates in their party. Independent and third party voters must wait until the general election in the fall to vote for candidates. If Pennsylvania were to have **semi-open primaries**, all voters regardless of party affiliation would be eligible to vote for candidates in the primary election.

Background on the Committee of Seventy

Seventy is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that works for better government and politics in Philadelphia and the state. Founded in 1904 to combat corruption and waste in government, Seventy's mission continues to be advocating for a government citizens can trust. Today, the organization focuses on a range of issues, however, many are related to elections and voting, ethics and transparency in government, and campaign finance.