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from
Adams County

written by: Commissioner Randy Phiel

November 1, 2019

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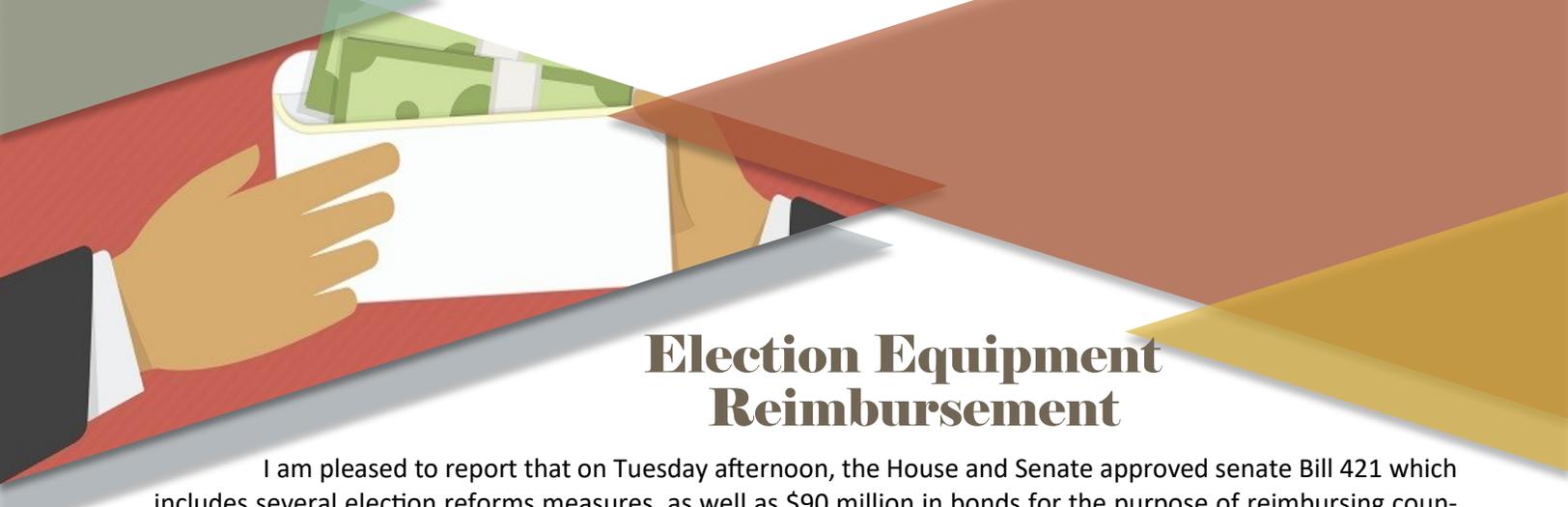
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VOTE

Tuesday, November 5th

This Tuesday is the Municipal Election. We will go to the polls and select county, municipal and school board officials. These are positions that significantly impact our daily lives. Adams County voters will be using new voting machines for the first time. We anticipate the transition to be seamless; but want to utilize the new equipment before next year's Presidential Election that will traditionally see much higher voter turnout. The new machines will tabulate write-in votes to the delight of our poll workers. Make sure you exercise your fundamental right to vote and urge your family, friends and neighbors to do the same!



Election Equipment Reimbursement

I am pleased to report that on Tuesday afternoon, the House and Senate approved senate Bill 421 which includes several election reforms measures, as well as \$90 million in bonds for the purpose of reimbursing counties for the purchase of voting machines. Adams County's new machines cost approximately \$500,000. With federal reimbursement of 10% already received, and a state reimbursement of 60% that is now pending with the passage of this legislation, that will help defray much of the cost. CCAP has informed us that Governor Wolf has indicated he intends to sign the bill within the next few days, and the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania will be working closely with the Department of State on implementation and process moving forward.

As an Adams County Commissioner and also a member of CCAP's Board of Directors, I am happy that I can report that on balance, the bill accomplishes CCAP's top priority for 2019, to achieve state funding to assist counties with the cost of purchasing new voting equipment under the requirements of the Stein settlement agreement.

In addition to the county funding of voting machines, other items Senate Bill 421 include is the creation of a new mail-in voter provision that would effectively be a no-fault absentee ballot, changes in ballot printing requirements sought by counties to reduce wasted resources and unnecessary cost, and a provision to prohibit the use of stickers for write-in candidates. Another somewhat controversial provision will eliminate straight party voting.

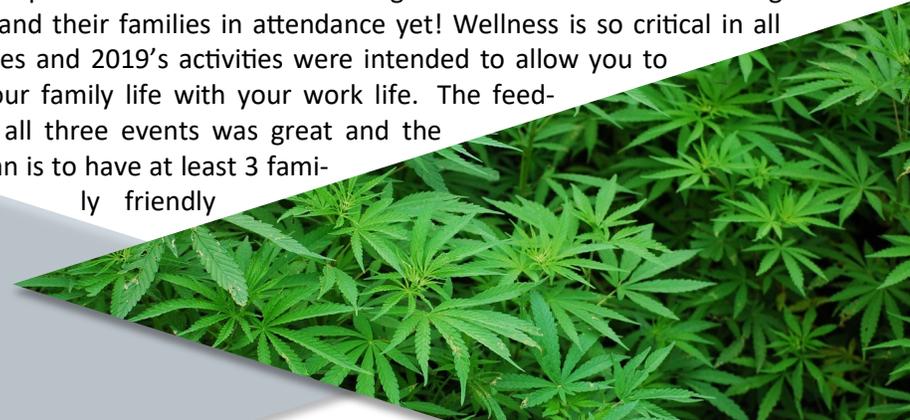
Lt. Governor Releases Marijuana Tour Report

After visiting all 67 counties for listening sessions, Lt. Governor Fetterman's report, which summarized more than 44,000 comments from the tour and on-line submissions, indicated that most of the attendees, in all but a few counties, supported legalization of recreational Marijuana. This supported a Franklin & Marshall 2017 poll that also showed strong state-wide support for legalization. At the same time the Governor and Lt Governor called on the General Assembly to approve legislation that would de-criminalize non-violent and small marijuana related offenses, and to also begin seriously debating and considering legalization of recreational marijuana. They are also seeking a path to restorative justice through the expungement of past convictions of non-violent and small marijuana related crimes.

In response to the Lt Governor's report, Republican leaders in both the House and Senate made it clear they have no plans to pursue the legalization of recreational marijuana, citing on-going concerns related to the state's opioid epidemic as well a potential impact to Pennsylvania's medical marijuana industry. The ultimate decision, or no-decision, has significant impact to Pennsylvania counties in relation to court proceedings, sentencing, imprisonment, probation and treatment.

Fall Fest Staff Wellness Event

The *Fall Family Night at the Farm* in Aspers on October 18th was a big success! This event had the highest number of employees and their families in attendance yet! Wellness is so critical in all aspects of our lives and 2019's activities were intended to allow you to blend your family life with your work life. The feedback for all three events was great and the plan is to have at least 3 family friendly



activities in 2020. Stay tuned for further details!

In other HR news Open Enrollment will take place from November 12-26 this year. Once again, it will be an electronic process utilizing your ADP Portal. Each employee must go through the Open Enrollment process regardless of making any changes to ensure you review your options. Remember, if you use Flexible Spending for medical or childcare you MUST enter a dollar amount each year even if the amount is the same. Failure to do so will result in you losing this benefit for 2020 so please make sure you complete this portion of the enrollment process. As always, if you have any questions or concerns our HR team is ready and able to assist you.

Annual 4-H Benefit Auction This Evening

The annual 4-H auction is one of the organization's largest fundraisers of the year. Doors open at 5:00 and the auction begins at 6:00. The auction is held at the Adams County Agricultural & Natural Resources Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg. Bid on handcrafted items, gift certificates, theme baskets, collectables, and items from local businesses and individuals during the live and silent auctions. Bidding to support this valued community organization begins at 6:00 p.m. Hot food, drinks, and baked goods will be available for purchase from the 4-H Teen Senate Club during the event. Make sure you get there early to outbid Commissioner Martin! For more information or if you would like to donate to the auction, contact Trudy Gladhill or Darlene Resh at the Penn State Extension Office Adams County 4-H at 717-334-6271 or email tlg30@psu.edu.



The **End**

This is a great time of year in Adams County and there is a lot going on. This evening is *First Friday In Gettysburg* with specials, artists, authors and later hours. Take an *Historic Downtown Gettysburg Food Tour* from 10:45-1:45 on November 1, 2, 3, 8, 9 & 10. Meet at 101 Chambersburg Street. The cost is \$64. Call 717-688-9584 for a food tour reservation. Have you ever toured one of Adams County's most historic structures? Take a free *Dobbin House Guided Tour* on November 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17 & Dec. 6, 7, 8 & 14. Make your own organic homemade applesauce on Saturday, November 2, from 9-12 at Oyler's Organic Farm in Biglerville. Cost is \$50. For reservation and times call 717-677-8411.

Learn about one of our community's most visitor's by joining *President Lincoln's 25 Hours In Gettysburg Walking Tour* with a licensed town guide. It departs every day from November 1-24 from the Lincoln Railroad Station on Carlisle Street. Cost is \$25 adult and \$10 Youth. For more mature entertainment *The Rocky Horror Show* runs two more days at the Gettysburg Community Theater today and tomorrow. Cost is \$21 while tickets last. GCT, 49 York Street. 717-334-2692. Gettysburg College presents *If Music Be The Food Of Love Concert* in Schmucker Hall on Sunday, November 3 at 4PM. Admission is free for a non-perishable food item(s) or a monetary donation to support the Gettysburg Soup Kitchen. All the participants donate their services. The Majestic Theater is showing some classics with *Great Art On Screen*. On Nov.4: Rebel In Venice, Nov.18: Paradise Lost, Jan. 20: A Collection Of Wonders. Shows are at 2 & 7PM and tickets are \$18. Two movies with historical fabric, Harriet & Judy, are playing this weekend.

I conclude this TGIF by urging everyone to support the **Adams County Community Foundation Giving Spree** taking place next Thursday from 4-7 at the Gettysburg Middle School. The goal this year is to raise \$1M. This initiative supports 85 local non-profits. The first 1,000 participants to walk in the door receive a \$10 coin to donate to the non-profit of their choice. These are just a few suggestions of events in Adams County.

No matter what you do get out there and experience all the historical, recreational, agricultural, natural and cultural opportunities that beautiful Adams County has to offer.