



Research Brief

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Voter Registration in Pennsylvania Increases 2.4 Percent

MIDDLETOWN, Pa –The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that the number of registered voters increased 2.4 percent from April 2000 to November 2003. This data, from the Pennsylvania Department of State's Bureau of Commissions, Elections & Legislation, shows that the number of persons registered to vote in Pennsylvania increased from 7,527,499 in April 2000, the month Census 2000 was conducted, to 7,710,601 persons in November 2003. This represents an increase of 183,102 voters.

Of the 7.7 million registered voters in Pennsylvania, 3,204,440 are registered as republicans (41.6 %) and 3,677,488 are registered as democrats (47.7%). Looking at voter registration at the county level shows that Montgomery County has the most registered Republicans in the state, with 255,975 persons, and Philadelphia County has the most registered Democrats in the state, with 722,717 persons. Nearly 20 percent of all of the commonwealth's registered Democrats live in Philadelphia.

Bucks County had the highest increase in voter registration between April 2000 and November 2003 with an increase of 39,659 persons. York County had the second highest increase in voter registration, with an increase of 24,365 persons. Another county experiencing an increase of over 20,000 registered voters was Lancaster County, which had an increase of 22,880 registered voters. Fayette County had an increase in voter registration of 4,561 persons, while Westmoreland County increased its voter registration by 7,343 persons. Of the eleven counties that lost registered voters during this time period, Allegheny County had the highest decrease.

Over half of the increase in Pennsylvania's voter registration occurred in "other parties." The Republican Party increased its voter registration by 43,038 voters. York County had the highest increase in voter registrations for Republicans with an increase of 13,485. Lancaster County was second with an increase of 11,003. Philadelphia County had the largest decrease in Republican voter registration with a decrease of 23,285.

The Democratic Party fared slightly better than the Republicans, gaining 43,666 voters from April 2000 to November 2003. Montgomery County had the highest increase in Democratic Party voter registration with an increase of 24,831. Bucks County was second with an increase of 18,999. When combined, Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties lost 45,499 Democratic Party voters.

Pennsylvania's General Primary is Scheduled for April 27th

With the Pennsylvania's General Primary slated for April 27th, the deadline for persons wishing to register to vote is fast approaching, Pennsylvanians wishing to vote in this year's General Primary must register by March 29th. Applications received after that date will be processed for the November 2nd General Election. For more information on the registration process, please visit the Pennsylvania Department of State's Bureau of Commissions, Elections & Legislative Web site at:

<http://www.dos.state.pa.us/bcel/site/default.asp>

For additional information, please contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg's Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

| Table 1. Voter Registration by Party: Pennsylvania Counties, April 2000 & November 2003 | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| COUNTY | April 2000 | | | | November 2003 | | | |
| | Republican | Democrat | Other Parties | All Parties | Republican | Democrat | Other Parties | All Parties |
| Pennsylvania | 3,161,402 | 3,633,822 | 732,275 | 7,527,499 | 3,204,440 | 3,677,488 | 828,673 | 7,710,601 |
| Adams | 25,565 | 15,356 | 5,131 | 46,052 | 29,181 | 16,599 | 6,585 | 52,365 |
| Allegheny | 253,471 | 557,276 | 79,355 | 890,102 | 245,305 | 527,163 | 82,596 | 855,064 |
| Armstrong | 18,314 | 20,271 | 3,317 | 41,902 | 19,590 | 20,025 | 3,783 | 43,398 |
| Beaver | 32,287 | 72,020 | 9,461 | 113,768 | 34,038 | 70,413 | 10,069 | 114,520 |
| Bedford | 16,540 | 10,348 | 1,801 | 28,689 | 18,565 | 10,890 | 2,264 | 31,719 |
| Berks | 87,397 | 92,639 | 24,448 | 204,484 | 90,955 | 92,851 | 27,975 | 211,781 |
| Blair | 39,712 | 24,548 | 6,687 | 70,947 | 42,603 | 25,295 | 7,852 | 75,750 |
| Bradford | 22,230 | 10,279 | 3,499 | 36,008 | 22,452 | 10,100 | 3,756 | 36,308 |
| Bucks | 188,285 | 139,569 | 52,118 | 379,972 | 199,011 | 158,568 | 62,052 | 419,631 |
| Butler | 49,458 | 41,301 | 10,529 | 101,288 | 51,703 | 39,421 | 10,956 | 102,080 |
| Cambria | 28,126 | 56,410 | 5,079 | 89,615 | 26,813 | 54,408 | 5,602 | 86,823 |
| Cameron | 1,744 | 1,549 | 209 | 3,502 | 1,831 | 1,591 | 273 | 3,695 |
| Carbon | 13,408 | 16,529 | 2,959 | 32,896 | 13,778 | 16,711 | 3,624 | 34,113 |
| Centre | 38,920 | 31,712 | 13,656 | 84,288 | 34,319 | 27,091 | 11,628 | 73,038 |
| Chester | 157,902 | 77,448 | 43,071 | 278,421 | 159,686 | 85,074 | 47,924 | 292,684 |
| Clarion | 11,168 | 9,333 | 1,506 | 22,007 | 12,095 | 9,484 | 1,840 | 23,419 |
| Clearfield | 19,931 | 20,498 | 3,323 | 43,752 | 21,658 | 21,348 | 4,064 | 47,070 |
| Clinton | 9,235 | 8,685 | 1,573 | 19,493 | 10,222 | 9,540 | 2,168 | 21,930 |
| Columbia | 15,406 | 16,335 | 3,732 | 35,473 | 16,949 | 17,108 | 4,877 | 38,934 |
| Crawford | 27,098 | 19,880 | 3,631 | 50,609 | 28,881 | 21,945 | 4,759 | 55,585 |
| Cumberland | 74,383 | 37,613 | 15,200 | 127,196 | 76,128 | 39,214 | 17,166 | 132,508 |
| Dauphin | 81,136 | 56,839 | 16,063 | 154,038 | 77,962 | 56,849 | 18,066 | 152,877 |
| Delaware | 227,045 | 104,040 | 34,175 | 365,260 | 214,489 | 114,660 | 36,774 | 365,923 |

Table 1. Voter Registration by Party: Pennsylvania Counties, April 2000 & November 2003

| COUNTY | April 2000 | | | | November 2003 | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------|---------------|-------------|---------------|----------|---------------|-------------|
| | Republican | Democrat | Other Parties | All Parties | Republican | Democrat | Other Parties | All Parties |
| Elk | 7,158 | 10,274 | 1,599 | 19,031 | 7,507 | 10,540 | 1,886 | 19,933 |
| Erie | 66,216 | 88,612 | 14,034 | 168,862 | 63,749 | 85,218 | 15,474 | 164,441 |
| Fayette | 17,782 | 59,830 | 4,321 | 81,933 | 20,026 | 61,053 | 5,415 | 86,494 |
| Forest | 1,638 | 1,178 | 154 | 2,970 | 1,653 | 1,149 | 147 | 2,949 |
| Franklin | 40,421 | 22,152 | 7,291 | 69,864 | 43,617 | 22,513 | 8,597 | 74,727 |
| Fulton | 4,180 | 3,277 | 455 | 7,912 | 4,425 | 2,989 | 503 | 7,917 |
| Greene | 5,452 | 16,617 | 1,085 | 23,154 | 6,039 | 16,974 | 1,403 | 24,416 |
| Huntingdon | 14,527 | 8,724 | 2,123 | 25,374 | 16,308 | 9,444 | 2,795 | 28,547 |
| Indiana | 20,098 | 21,121 | 4,256 | 45,475 | 21,994 | 22,324 | 5,448 | 49,766 |
| Jefferson | 13,138 | 10,547 | 1,656 | 25,341 | 14,356 | 10,976 | 2,145 | 27,477 |
| Juniata | 6,716 | 4,590 | 794 | 12,100 | 7,421 | 4,683 | 1011 | 13,115 |
| Lackawanna | 44,462 | 90,456 | 7,383 | 142,301 | 44,576 | 93,579 | 9,028 | 147,183 |
| Lancaster | 157,993 | 64,623 | 33,310 | 255,926 | 168,996 | 71,295 | 38,515 | 278,806 |
| Lawrence | 19,477 | 31,283 | 3,816 | 54,576 | 20,098 | 31,195 | 4,126 | 55,419 |
| Lebanon | 39,650 | 19,467 | 7,036 | 66,153 | 39,876 | 19,031 | 7,814 | 66,721 |
| Lehigh | 77,500 | 80,866 | 22,079 | 180,445 | 76,132 | 79,342 | 25,585 | 181,059 |
| Luzerne | 67,954 | 110,125 | 11,354 | 189,433 | 72,407 | 116,126 | 15,148 | 203,681 |
| Lycoming | 33,481 | 22,775 | 5,330 | 61,586 | 35,015 | 23,187 | 6,554 | 64,756 |
| Mckean | 15,529 | 7,972 | 2,369 | 25,870 | 16,015 | 8,086 | 2,656 | 26,757 |
| Mercer | 29,393 | 35,577 | 6,502 | 71,472 | 29,756 | 34,425 | 6,835 | 71,016 |
| Mifflin | 12,839 | 8,910 | 1,766 | 23,515 | 14,109 | 9,057 | 2,149 | 25,315 |
| Monroe | 32,025 | 29,943 | 12,758 | 74,726 | 36,114 | 35,917 | 15,845 | 87,876 |
| Montgomery | 267,723 | 162,696 | 62,969 | 493,388 | 255,975 | 187,527 | 69,588 | 513,090 |
| Montour | 4,831 | 3,851 | 910 | 9,592 | 5,467 | 4,156 | 1,261 | 10,884 |
| Northampton | 60,007 | 77,053 | 21,176 | 158,236 | 61,697 | 75,937 | 23,774 | 161,408 |
| Northumberland | 23,043 | 23,652 | 3,223 | 49,918 | 24,014 | 23,513 | 3,942 | 51,469 |
| Perry | 15,041 | 6,588 | 2,249 | 23,878 | 16,068 | 6,643 | 2,686 | 25,397 |
| Philadelphia | 192,604 | 738,103 | 60,730 | 991,437 | 169,319 | 722,717 | 65,328 | 957,364 |
| Pike | 14,599 | 9,406 | 4,617 | 28,622 | 17,179 | 11,507 | 6,123 | 34,809 |
| Potter | 6,961 | 3,620 | 730 | 11,311 | 7,185 | 3,627 | 897 | 11,709 |
| Schuylkill | 45,647 | 34,226 | 6,018 | 85,891 | 45,894 | 34,247 | 7,260 | 87,401 |
| Snyder | 12,391 | 4,330 | 1,520 | 18,241 | 12,705 | 4,505 | 1,733 | 18,943 |
| Somerset | 23,603 | 21,867 | 2,698 | 48,168 | 24,660 | 21,984 | 3,356 | 50,000 |
| Sullivan | 2,486 | 1,687 | 291 | 4,464 | 2,493 | 1,627 | 336 | 4,456 |
| Susquehanna | 14,722 | 8,074 | 2,057 | 24,853 | 15,203 | 8,217 | 2,461 | 25,881 |
| Tioga | 15,958 | 7,010 | 1,766 | 24,734 | 16,714 | 7,300 | 2,272 | 26,286 |
| Union | 10,910 | 4,837 | 1,775 | 17,522 | 11,771 | 5,382 | 2,557 | 19,710 |
| Venango | 17,822 | 12,695 | 2,922 | 33,439 | 17,745 | 12,389 | 3,229 | 33,363 |
| Warren | 14,218 | 10,442 | 2,663 | 27,323 | 14,382 | 10,360 | 3,128 | 27,870 |
| Washington | 39,590 | 85,544 | 10,497 | 135,631 | 44,188 | 86,896 | 12,552 | 143,636 |
| Wayne | 16,191 | 7,415 | 2,761 | 26,367 | 16,538 | 7,845 | 3,379 | 27,762 |
| Westmoreland | 74,163 | 139,354 | 19,650 | 233,167 | 80,523 | 137,981 | 22,006 | 240,510 |
| Wyoming | 10,771 | 5,492 | 1,455 | 17,718 | 11,101 | 5,943 | 1,840 | 18,884 |
| York | 111,731 | 76,483 | 27,604 | 215,818 | 125,216 | 81,734 | 33,233 | 240,183 |

Table 2. Voter Registration Change: Pennsylvania Counties, April 2000 & November 2003

| COUNTY | All Parties | | Numeric Change | | COUNTY | All Parties | | Numeric Change | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| | Numeric Change | Percent Change | Republican | Democrat | | Numeric Change | Percent Change | Republican | Democrat |
| Pennsylvania | 183,102 | 2.4 | 43,038 | 43,666 | Juniata | 1,015 | 8.4 | 705 | 93 |
| Adams | 6,313 | 13.7 | 3,616 | 1,243 | Lackawanna | 4,882 | 3.4 | 114 | 3,123 |
| Allegheny | -35,038 | -3.9 | -8,166 | -30,113 | Lancaster | 22,880 | 8.9 | 11,003 | 6,672 |
| Armstrong | 1,496 | 3.6 | 1,276 | -246 | Lawrence | 843 | 1.5 | 621 | -88 |
| Beaver | 752 | 0.7 | 1,751 | -1,607 | Lebanon | 568 | 0.9 | 226 | -436 |
| Bedford | 3,030 | 10.6 | 2,025 | 542 | Lehigh | 614 | 0.3 | -1,368 | -1,524 |
| Berks | 7,297 | 3.6 | 3,558 | 212 | Luzerne | 14,248 | 7.5 | 4,453 | 6,001 |
| Blair | 4,803 | 6.8 | 2,891 | 747 | Lycoming | 3,170 | 5.1 | 1,534 | 412 |
| Bradford | 300 | 0.8 | 222 | -179 | Mckean | 887 | 3.4 | 486 | 114 |
| Bucks | 39,659 | 10.4 | 10,726 | 18,999 | Mercer | -456 | -0.6 | 363 | -1,152 |
| Butler | 792 | 0.8 | 2,245 | -1,880 | Mifflin | 1,800 | 7.7 | 1,270 | 147 |
| Cambria | -2,792 | -3.1 | -1,313 | -2,002 | Monroe | 13,150 | 17.6 | 4,089 | 5,974 |
| Cameron | 193 | 5.5 | 87 | 42 | Montgomery | 19,702 | 4.0 | -11,748 | 24,831 |
| Carbon | 1,217 | 3.7 | 370 | 182 | Montour | 1,292 | 13.5 | 636 | 305 |
| Centre | -11,250 | -13.3 | -4,601 | -4,621 | Northampton | 3,172 | 2.0 | 1,690 | -1,116 |
| Chester | 14,263 | 5.1 | 1,784 | 7,626 | Northumberland | 1,551 | 3.1 | 971 | -139 |
| Clarion | 1,412 | 6.4 | 927 | 151 | Perry | 1,519 | 6.4 | 1,027 | 55 |
| Clearfield | 3,318 | 7.6 | 1,727 | 850 | Philadelphia | -34,073 | -3.4 | -23,285 | -15,386 |
| Clinton | 2,437 | 12.5 | 987 | 855 | Pike | 6,187 | 21.6 | 2,580 | 2,101 |
| Columbia | 3,461 | 9.8 | 1,543 | 773 | Potter | 398 | 3.5 | 224 | 7 |
| Crawford | 4,976 | 9.8 | 1,783 | 2,065 | Schuylkill | 1,510 | 1.8 | 247 | 21 |
| Cumberland | 5,312 | 4.2 | 1,745 | 1,601 | Snyder | 702 | 3.8 | 314 | 175 |
| Dauphin | -1,161 | -0.8 | -3,174 | 10 | Somerset | 1,832 | 3.8 | 1,057 | 117 |
| Delaware | 663 | 0.2 | -12,556 | 10,620 | Sullivan | -8 | -0.2 | 7 | -60 |
| Elk | 902 | 4.7 | 349 | 266 | Susquehanna | 1,028 | 4.1 | 481 | 143 |
| Erie | -4,421 | -2.6 | -2,467 | -3,394 | Tioga | 1,552 | 6.3 | 756 | 290 |
| Fayette | 4,561 | 5.6 | 2,244 | 1,223 | Union | 2,188 | 12.5 | 861 | 545 |
| Forest | -21 | -0.7 | 15 | -29 | Venango | -76 | -0.2 | -77 | -306 |
| Franklin | 4,863 | 7.0 | 3,196 | 361 | Warren | 547 | 2.0 | 164 | -82 |
| Fulton | 5 | 0.1 | 245 | -288 | Washington | 8,005 | 5.9 | 4,598 | 1,352 |
| Greene | 1,262 | 5.5 | 587 | 357 | Wayne | 1,395 | 5.3 | 347 | 430 |
| Huntingdon | 3,173 | 12.5 | 1,781 | 720 | Westmoreland | 7,343 | 3.1 | 6,360 | -1,373 |
| Indiana | 4,291 | 9.4 | 1,896 | 1,203 | Wyoming | 1,166 | 6.6 | 330 | 451 |
| Jefferson | 2,136 | 8.4 | 1,218 | 429 | York | 24,365 | 11.3 | 13,485 | 5,251 |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Division of Population Estimates and the Pennsylvania Department of State's Bureau of Commissions, Elections & Legislation