



Pennsylvania Conference of Teamsters

Strength in Numbers 95,000

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

Virginia is proof that every vote counts

STATE HOUSE RACE ENDS IN TIE AND THE LUCK OF THE DRAW WILL DETERMINE IF THE REPUBLICANS CONTROL THE HOUSE BY 51 TO 49 OR THE DEMOCRATS WIN THE DRAW AND THE HOUSE WILL BE DIVIDED 50 TO 50.

An article published on line on December 20, 2017 by Joshua A. Douglas of (CNN®) explains that In the 2008 movie "[Swing Vote](#)," the presidential election comes down to a single vote in New Mexico. A character played by Kevin Costner is given the chance to vote again because his voting machine had malfunctioned the first time. His new vote will decide the presidency.

But that's Hollywood. A single vote would not determine an election of such importance in real life. Right? Wrong. We are seeing a real-life version of "Swing Vote" in Virginia right now, showing the true importance of every vote. A single vote has made the difference in a [Virginia House of Delegates race](#) that may determine if Republicans remain in control of the chamber.

Yet [turnout](#) in Virginia's 2017 election was less than 50%. We should not accept that level of participation as acceptable. According to the Virginia Election Board a vote that was contested by the Republican Party, although the ballot was questionable, a three-judge panel ruled it to be counted. Therefore, it ends in a tie vote.

Under [state law](#), the tied election will be determined "by lot," such as by a coin flip or drawing straws. If Republican Yancey keeps his seat, then Republicans will likely enjoy a 51-49 majority in the House. If the Democrat Simonds wins, then the Virginia House will be tied 50-50, requiring a lot more compromise and likely having significant policy implications.

To view entire article go to: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/12/20/opinions/virginia-house-of-delegates-opinion-douglas/index.html>

It is important that the PA Conference of Teamsters affiliates pay close attention to this Virginia election since Pennsylvania is currently controlled by Republicans in both the State House and the State Senate. Remember, not too long ago, PA Lt. Governor Stack broke a tie vote that would have opened the door for "Right-to-Work in Pennsylvania.

Every vote counts. We need to make an all out effort to register our members to vote. Especially since the 2018 PA Governor's race may very well determine if Pennsylvania goes "Right-to-Work.

The old adage in Pennsylvania was that if you register to vote your name will be placed on a "Jury duty selection pool". This is not true. The State of PA uses your drivers' license registration to determine the jury pool not your voter registration.

These Legislative Action Alerts will be posted on the PA Conference of Teamsters web site at www.pacfteamsters.com Go to the home page and click on the black box titled Legislative Action Alert Bulletins. Please share our web site address and these alerts with your officers, agents and stewards.