

BABETTE JOSEPHS, DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
DEMOCRATIC CHAIR,
STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE



REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 182ND DISTRICT

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□ 300 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Daryl Metcalfe
Majority Chair
House State Government Committee
43 East Wing
PO Box 202012
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Chairman Metcalfe:

I would like to note that as of October 25, 2011, you as Majority Chair have not advanced a single bill whose primary sponsor is a Democrat. Last session when I served as Majority Chair of the committee, the committee advanced twenty-eight bills whose primary sponsors were Republican.

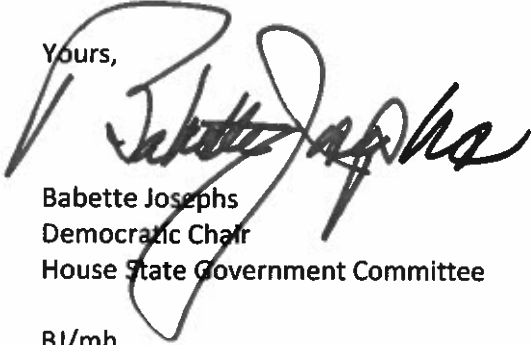
House Bill 125 was referred to the House State Government Committee on February 4, 2011. This letter is a request to have the committee consider the bill in the near future. This legislation would amend the election code to do the following:

- Require candidates for the General Assembly to file an additional pre-election campaign expense report during the year the candidate is on the ballot and quarterly reports for candidates for all offices in the year(s) the candidate is not on the ballot.
- Require candidates for all offices who file nomination petitions with the state to file campaign expense reports electronically.
- Implement contribution limits applicable to political donations made by all individuals, political parties, political committees and political action committees.
- Require candidates to report contributions received after the final pre-election report is filed to notify the Secretary of Commonwealth of such contribution electronically.
- Increase fees for the late filing of campaign expense reports.

It is essential that the citizens of Pennsylvania can be sure that no one individual, entity or industry has any undue influence on policy in the Commonwealth. In our democracy today, voter participation is at an all-time low. This isn't because voters are happy and content with the status quo, but because they

feel that their votes can't compete with unlimited amounts of campaign contributions. Something has to be done to restore the people's faith in our political process, and build trust and accountability. I believe reforming our campaign financing laws is part of the answer. House Bill 125 is a step in that direction. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Babette Josephs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some overlapping loops.

Babette Josephs
Democratic Chair
House State Government Committee

BJ/mh

CC: Interested Parties