

## **Crime Victim Rights (Marsy's Law) Ballot Question:**

This is what your ballot will say you are voting on:

“Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to grant certain rights to crime victims, including to be treated with fairness, respect and dignity; considering their safety in bail proceedings; timely notice and opportunity to take part in public proceedings; reasonable protection from the accused; right to refuse discovery requests made by the accused; restitution and return of property; proceedings free from delay; and to be informed of these rights, so they can enforce them?”

**However, the entire amendment is almost 500 words long!**

Just this short summary is provided on your ballot, however here are some problems:

- 1.) To read the entire amendment, you would have to go to the state website and look up HB 276.
- 2.) It may infringe on defendant's right to a fair and speedy trial.
- 3.) The amendment's language is vague.
- 4.) This amendment would make a host of changes that should be voted on as separate amendments.
- 5.) The brief summary provided (and reproduced above) does not fully inform the voter as to the full extent of the amendment and the many changes to the law that will take place if approved.
- 6.) “It gives a victim the right to withhold potentially exculpatory evidence by refusing to be interviewed or deposed, which essentially denies the accused what he needs for a fair trial,” *The Hill* contributor Chandra Bozelko wrote. “There's only one justification for such a violation of due process: everyone must assume that the accused is guilty.”
- 7.) The PA Crime Victims Act, which includes a Crime Victims Bill of Rights, already addresses many of the proposed changes.
- 8.) This is part of a national lobbying effort by Marsy's Law For All Foundation which filed as a Delaware Corporation on May 30, 2018. This organization is bankrolled by billionaire Henry Nicholas.

American Family Association of PA P.O.Box 1048 Franklin PA 16323 <https://afaofpa.org>

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