

Following the Law

November 4, 2022

It's official.

Well, it was *already* official because it was Pennsylvania law. And because the U.S. Supreme Court had confirmed it.

What is *it*? Election officials may not count mail-in ballots that are undated or incorrectly dated.

Official, yes, but now even *more* official.

On November 1, a week before the election, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that yes, election officials must follow Pennsylvania

The court's clarification is important. A problem loomed over the upcoming election.

election law that says you can't count undated or incorrectly dated ballots.

A voter who mails in a ballot is obliged to sign and date the outer envelope before sending it off. The court orders election officials to "refrain from counting any absentee and mail-in ballots received for the November 8, 2022, general election that are contained in undated or



incorrectly dated outer envelopes.”

The ruling was issued in response to litigation initiated by the Republican Party, which has launched a slew of lawsuits around the country to combat shady election practices.

The court's clarification is important. A problem loomed over the upcoming election. Pennsylvania's secretary of state had been giving the go-ahead for officials to count ballots whether they're dated properly or not . . . and to heck with election law and the SCOTUS. Until the ruling, county officials throughout Pennsylvania lacked consistent policies about how to handle bungled ballots.

Of course, when reasonable election rules are ignored, it's easier to commit election fraud — notwithstanding the disingenuous claim advanced by some proponents of lackadaisical election procedures that fraud is either a vanishingly small problem or does not exist at all.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.