

## FACT SHEET:

# STOP SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ABUSES AT THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY JAIL

→ VISIT [apa-pgh.org/ballotquestions](https://apa-pgh.org/ballotquestions) TO COMMIT TO SIGN 

### What:

Add a binding resolution to the May 2021 primary elections **severely restricting solitary confinement** in Allegheny County, and then turn out the **"YES"** vote.

### Why:

#### Solitary confinement is a form of torture.

According to the United Nations, extended periods in solitary should be considered a violation of the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. More than 80,000 people are held in solitary confinement on any given day in the United States.

**There are major abuses at the ACJ.** As detailed in the lawsuit filed by advocates against the Allegheny County Jail in October 2020, people inside the ACJ are routinely subjected to long stretches in solitary confinement as, essentially, punishment for having a mental illness. One chilling example:

**"Plaintiff suffers from psychiatric disabilities, including bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Mr. Byrd has been repeatedly issued misconducts and kept in solitary confinement for seeking mental health or medical care, and he has been repeatedly assaulted with a taser, sprayed with OC spray, and placed in the restraint chair.**

**He has been placed in the restraint chair approximately 20 times or more, including one instance of being strapped to the chair for 28 hours. These conditions have caused his mental health to deteriorate, and led to a series of self-harm attempts. "**

**Our initiative will:** A) limit solitary confinement to 24 hours; B) ban severe and inhumane forms of confinement – the "restraint chair"; and C) sharply restrict the cases in which solitary can be used.

**This is one of the strongest such laws proposed in the country.**

### How:

- **Collect 27,000+ valid signatures** from Allegheny County registered voters
- **Turn out the vote** for the **May 2021** primary election, and pass with **50%+ voting "YES"**

### When:

- **Tues., Dec. 29th, 2020:** Petitioning period begins
- **Tues., Feb. 16th, 2021:** Petitioning period ends
- **Tues., May 18th, 2021:** Election Day

### Who:

The **Alliance for Police Accountability (APA)** is a grassroots organization dedicated to criminal justice reconstruction, specializing in community/police relations. Our mission is to bring an end to racial profiling, police brutality, and injustice within the criminal legal system through advocacy, education, and policy!



**Endorsed by:** New Voices for Reproductive Justice, Pennsylvania United, Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network, UNITE, Women and Girls Foundation

