

## GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

March 21, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 570** in its entirety.

The bill would create a procedure for conducting an election at qualified retirement home and residential care facilities during a public health emergency or an incident of infectious disease that restricts access to such facilities, by appointing employees of such facilities as “personal care voting assistants” to assist with absentee voting. The bill would also add requirements for absentee ballots, including mandating electronic notification of ballot defects and prohibiting correction of certification errors by individuals other than the voter, or a witness with respect to a witness certificate. Furthermore, this bill would change requirements and procedures relating to special voting deputies dispatched to qualified retirement home and residential care facilities, would modify canvassing procedures under certain conditions, would prohibit individuals employed by certain political groups from serving as election officials, and would add new penalties, including categorizing certain actions as election fraud.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety for several reasons. First, I object to delegating important election authority and responsibilities to retirement home and residential care facility employees who have minimal training in election procedures, and doing so without those employees having the benefit of supervision by an election official.

Second, I object to creating any additional barriers that may prevent eligible Wisconsin voters from casting their ballot and having their vote counted, including prohibiting clerks from fixing small, technical errors like making sure an address includes the ZIP code. The purpose of the additional information required on the ballot certificate is to be able to ensure the identity of the voter and witness and to be able to locate the individuals if there is a legitimate concern or question; not to be able to invalidate a person's vote based on a minor mistake. This bill would effectively require all ballots with even the most inconsequential mistakes to be discarded unless

the clerk is able to return these ballots for timely correction, increasing the likelihood that an eligible Wisconsin voter may be disenfranchised and prevented from participating in our democracy.

Sincerely,  
*TONY EVERS*  
Governor