



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2013 Senate Bill 20**

**Senate Amendments 1 and 2**

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### **Current Law**

Current law generally requires that an individual be a qualified elector of the municipality to serve as an election official in that municipality, and requires the individual to be a qualified elector of the ward to serve as an election official at the polling place for that ward. Additionally, a 16- or 17-year old high school student who meets certain criteria may serve as an election inspector (poll worker), but only at the polling place serving the student's residence.

Current law provides a process for the nomination and appointment of election inspectors that involves participation by the political parties. The two major parties whose candidates for governor or president at the last general election received the largest number of votes at an individual polling place (typically, the Republican and Democratic parties) may submit a list of nominees to be appointed to serve as election inspectors. If the parties submit lists of nominees, the board of election commissioners or municipal governing body *must* use the lists to appoint election inspectors. Election inspectors may only be appointed without regard to political party affiliation if the parties fail to submit lists of nominees.

### **2013 Senate Bill 20**

Senate Bill 20 expands the residency requirement for certain election officials to allow individuals from the county to serve, rather than requiring that individuals be from the particular municipality or ward. The bill provides that an individual who serves at a polling place on Election Day must be a qualified elector of a county in which the municipality where the official serves is located. However, the chief inspector at each polling place must still be a qualified elector of the municipality, and a high school student is still limited to serving at the polling place for his or her residence.

**Senate Amendment 1**

Senate Amendment 1 establishes priority for the appointment of election inspectors from the municipality, if the political parties do not submit lists of nominees. The amendment provides that the board of election commissioners or local government official “shall give priority to” qualified electors of the municipality for which no list of nominees was submitted. However, if an insufficient number of electors from the municipality are identified, then the board of election commissioners or local official may appoint or nominate qualified electors from a county where the municipality is located.

**Senate Amendment 2**

Senate Amendment 2 makes changes to the procedure by which the political parties submit lists of nominees to be appointed as election inspectors. The amendment provides that a party may submit a list of nominees to the mayor, president, or chairperson of a municipality (as under current law), or may submit the list to the municipal clerk or his or her agent, or may deliver or mail the list to the office of the municipality. If the clerk or his or her agent receives the list of nominees, the clerk must then forward the list to the mayor, president, or chairperson of the municipality.

Senate Amendment 2 also changes the particular political party officials within the City of Milwaukee who may submit a list of nominees to be appointed as election inspectors. The amendment provides that the list is submitted by the county party committees, rather than by the aldermanic district committeemen or committeewomen. The amendment also requires that the county chairperson sign any list of nominees that is submitted.

**Bill History**

Senate Amendments 1 and 2 were offered by Senator Lazich on October 31, 2013. On the following day, the Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs voted to recommend passage of amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0, and voted to recommend passage of amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1. The committee then voted to recommend passage of Senate Bill 20, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

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