

WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

**2003-04**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on  
Campaigns &  
Elections  
(AC-CE)**

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt01a
- 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt01b
- 05hr\_AC-Ed\_RCP\_pt02

*Published Documents*

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

➤ \*\*

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ \*\*

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ \*\*

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ \*\*

*Information Collected For Or  
Against Proposal*

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ \*\*

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

\*\*

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

➤ **03hr\_ab0047\_AC-CE\_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ \*\*

## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Richard, Rob  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2003 8:14 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Legislative Issues

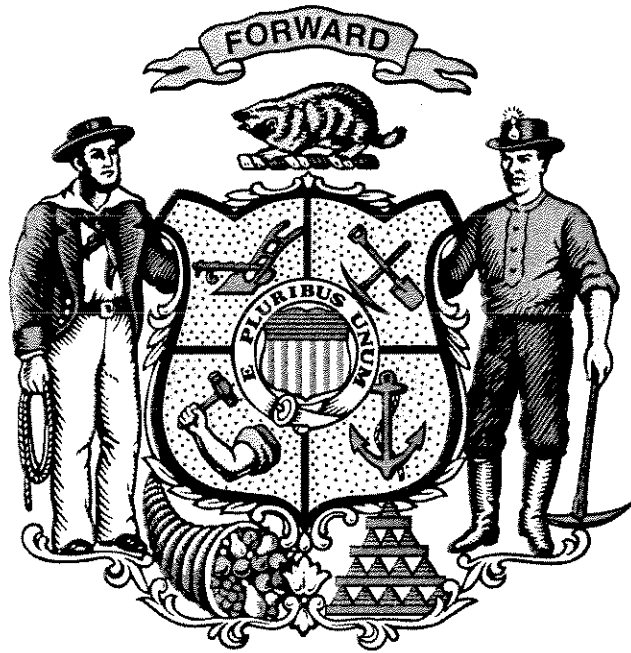
-----Original Message-----

**From:** Marilyn.Merten@co.washington.wi.us  
[mailto:Marilyn.Merten@co.washington.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2003 3:05 PM  
**To:** Rep.Grothman@legis.state.wi.us; Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us;  
Rep.Gundrum@legis.state.wi.us; Rep.Wood@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Legislative Issues

AJR-15. DO NOT support this legislation. Allow the public the right to elect its representatives. What can happen is that a county board does not especially care for a particular elected officials and therefore, wants the power to hire or fire. I am not in this type of a position; however, I can speculate what could happen under the circumstances. I believe the public at-large should have the right to make that decision at the polls. Being an elected official, I am beholding to the people who elect me and not the people who may appoint me. I thoroughly understand that the legislation provides that it would need to be approved by county referendum but my experience tells me it should remain elected. I was appointed to fill a vacancy and then elected; however, I was well-known by many members of the county board. It could have just as easily been that even though I was well-qualified, someone else or another county board member could have been appointed to the position.

AB-47. I do not believe ticket splitting should be permitted at a primary. Unless you want to do away with the party system, there is no good reason for people to be able to nominate candidates for the general election, unless it is for the party they are committed. As you well know a weaker candidate could be supported in a primary election to be sure another party candidate can win in the general election and that is just not right! The primary election should be a nominating election.

Marilyn H. Merten  
Washington County Clerk






## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Terry C. Anderson, Director  
Laura D. Rose, Deputy Director

TO: REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN FREESE

FROM: Robert J. Conlin,  Senior Staff Attorney

RE: *California Democratic Party v. Jones* and 2003 Assembly Bill 47, Relating to a "Blanket" Primary

DATE: March 27, 2003

This memorandum provides a summary of a U.S. Supreme Court decision issued in 2000, *California Democratic Party, et al. v. Jones*, 530 U.S. 567 (2000), and briefly addresses how that decision might affect 2003 Assembly Bill 47, relating to authorizing electors to vote in the primary of more than one political party.

### *California Democratic Party v. Jones*

In *California Democratic Party v. Jones*, four political parties brought suit against the California Secretary of State seeking to invalidate California's "blanket primary" system, which authorized all eligible voters to vote for any candidate in the state's partisan primary regardless of the candidate's political affiliation. The blanket primary replaced a closed primary system in which each voter received a ballot limited to candidates of his or her own party. As a result of the implementation of the blanket primary system, each eligible voter received a primary ballot listing every candidate regardless of party affiliation and allowed the voter to choose freely among them. The blanket primary system was enacted as a result of initiative Proposition 198.

The plaintiff political parties sought a legal determination that the blanket primary violated their First Amendment rights of association. The Federal District Court and the Court of Appeals upheld the constitutionality of the blanket primary system, but the U.S. Supreme Court struck the system down as an infringement of the parties' First Amendment rights.

In its decision, the Supreme Court acknowledged that states have a major role to play in structuring and monitoring the election process, including primaries. Thus, according to the Court, states may require parties to use the primary format to select their nominees. In addition, states may require parties to demonstrate a "significant modicum of support" before allowing their candidates a place on the ballot. Finally, a state may require party registration a reasonable period of time before a

primary election. [*California Democratic Party v. Jones*, 530 U.S. 567, 572 (2000).] However, the Court noted that it had never held that states may freely regulate the processes by which political parties select their nominees. Such regulation of a political party's internal workings must be within the limits imposed by the Constitution. [*California Democratic Party v. Jones*, 530 U.S. at 572-573.]

The Court, citing several previous cases, noted that it has held that the First Amendment protects "the freedom to join together in furtherance of common political beliefs, which necessarily presupposes the freedom to identify the people who constitute the association, and to limit the association to those people only." [*Id.* at 574, internal citations omitted.] It pointed out that perhaps the most important aspect of a political association's right to exclude is its ability to select its own nominees because the nominee, and his or her positions, are put before the public to win it over to the party's views. The Court noted that "our cases vigorously affirm the special place the First Amendment reserves for, and the special protection it accords, the process by which a political party selects a standard bearer who best represents the party's ideologies and preferences." [*Id.* at 575, internal quotations and citations omitted.] Additionally, the Court observed that California's blanket primary forces political parties to associate with those who have refused to affiliate with the party or those who have affiliated with a rival party, or both. The Court cited several studies indicating that significant numbers of voters "cross over" and vote for candidates of a different party in the blanket primary system. Although the Court seemed to acknowledge that cross-over voting might be determinative in only a small number of cases, it noted that a single election in which the party nominee is selected by nonparty members could have the effect of destroying the party. [*Id.* at 578-579.]

In addition, the Court pointed out that even if the party's nominee wins under a blanket primary system, he or she will probably have prevailed by taking somewhat different positions than he or she may have taken under a closed primary. In short, the Court dismissed California's argument, which had prevailed in the lower courts, that the burden on a party's First Amendment associational rights were inconsequential. The Court wrote:

In sum, Proposition 198 forces petitioners to adulterate their candidate selection process--the basic function of a political party--by opening it up to persons wholly unaffiliated with the party. Such forced association has the likely outcome...of changing the party's message. We can think of no heavier burden on a political party's associational freedom. [*Id.* at 581-582.]

Accordingly, the Court concluded that California's blanket primary system was unconstitutional unless the state could show that the system was narrowly tailored to serve a compelling state interest.

Turning first to the question of whether the state had a compelling interest in creating a blanket primary, the Court examined California's proffered reasons for the blanket primary system. In short, those reasons were as follows: (1) producing elected officials who better represent the electorate; (2) expanding candidate debate beyond the scope of partisan concerns; (3) ensuring that "disenfranchised" persons enjoy the right to an effective vote; (4) promoting fairness; (5) affording voters greater choice; (6) increasing voter participation; and (7) protecting privacy. The Court found that none of these asserted interests were sufficiently compelling to allow the state to burden the parties' First Amendment rights by imposing a blanket primary upon the parties. Perhaps most notably, the Court dismissed the state's third asserted interest--ensuring disenfranchised persons the right to an effective

vote--as being without merit. The Court noted that the state, in its reference to "disenfranchised" persons, did not mean persons who cannot vote, but rather those voters who are independents or members of minor parties in "safe" districts who, because of the closed primary system, are unable to participate in what amounts to a determinative election. California argued that the only way to ensure that such voters have an effective vote is to force the party to open its primary to them. The Court stated that it has held in previous cases that "a nonmember's desire to participate in the party's affairs is overborne by the countervailing and legitimate right of the party to determine its own membership qualifications." [*Id.* at 583.] The Court pointed out that the voter's desire to participate does not become more weighty simply because the state supports it. The Court put California's argument to rest by stating:

Moreover, even if it were accurate to describe the plight of the nonparty member in a safe district as "disenfranchisement," Proposition 198 is not needed to solve the problem. The voter who feels himself disenfranchised should simply join the party. That may put him to a hard choice, but it is not a state-imposed restriction upon his freedom of association, whereas compelling party members to accept his selection of their nominee is a state-imposed restriction upon theirs. [*Id.* at 583-584.]

Having concluded that the state's asserted interests were not compelling, the Court also observed that even if the state's interests were compelling, the blanket primary system was not a narrowly tailored means of furthering them. The Court suggested that the state could better protect those interests by resorting to a nonpartisan blanket primary. The Court described a nonpartisan blanket primary as a system under which the state determines what qualifications it requires for a candidate to have a place on the primary ballot--which may include nomination by established parties and voter petition requirements for independent candidates. Each voter, regardless of party affiliation, may then vote for any candidate and the top two vote-getters (or however many the state prescribes) then move on to the general election. The Court pointed out that this system has all of the characteristics of the blanket primary, except the constitutionally crucial one: primary voters are not choosing a party's nominee. Under a nonpartisan blanket primary, a state may ensure more choice, greater participation, increased "privacy" and a sense of fairness, all without severely burdening a political party's First Amendment rights of association. [See *Id.* at 585-586.]

In conclusion, the Court held that the blanket primary system imposed by California Proposition 198 unconstitutionally infringed upon a political party's right of association under the First Amendment and that the state's reasons for doing so were not compelling. Further, the Court ruled that the blanket primary system was not narrowly tailored to meet those interests even if they were compelling. Accordingly, the blanket primary system was invalidated.

### 2003 Assembly Bill 47

2003 Assembly Bill 47 was introduced by Representative Ziegelbauer and others, and was cosponsored by Senator Risser and others. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections on Thursday, April 3, 2003. The bill changes the state's current open primary system into one similar to that at issue in *California Democratic Party v. Jones*.

As you know, under current law, a voter in a partisan primary election may cast a ballot or vote in the column of only one political party, regardless of the number of candidates who are running for office in that party. Alternatively, a voter in the September primary may vote for any of the independent candidates for state office, but if the voter chooses this option, he or she may not vote for any party candidates for any office.

According to the Legislative Reference Bureau analysis to Assembly Bill 47, the bill:

. . . permits a voter in the September primary and other partisan primaries to 'split tickets,' designating the candidate of his or her choice for each office regardless of party affiliation, including the offices of governor and lieutenant governor. The bill also allows a voter to vote for independent candidates for state offices in the September primary, in addition to party candidates for one or more state or county offices.

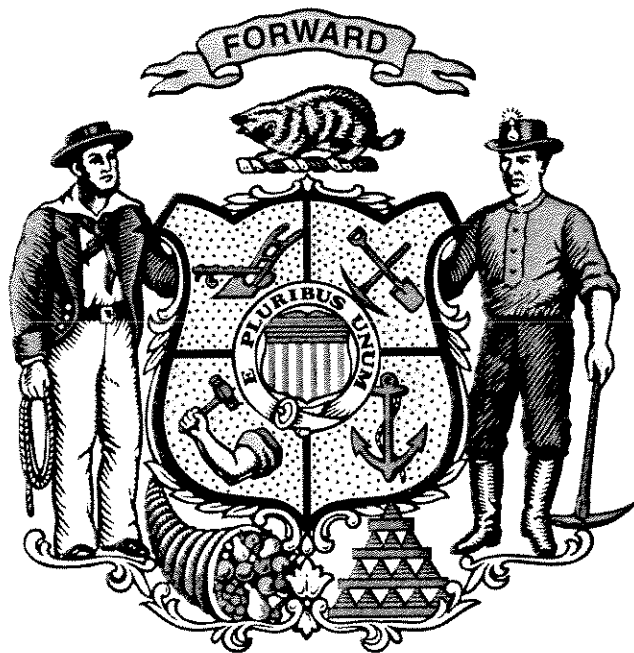
However, the bill does not allow voters to vote for more than one candidate for each office.

### Discussion

2003 Assembly Bill 47 seeks to create a primary system like the one at issue in *California Democratic Party v. Jones*. If such a system were enacted into law, and if it were challenged, it appears likely that the system would be found unconstitutional absent a significant shift in the court's view of political parties' First Amendment associational rights. Although it may be possible for the state to justify the imposition of blanket primary by showing that it has a sufficiently compelling reason and if the method used to impose the burden is narrowly tailored to meet that interest, the Supreme Court's refusal to recognize California's asserted interests as being sufficiently compelling would likely make it difficult to justify the type of primary established by the bill.

I hope you find the information in this memorandum useful. If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at the Legislative Council staff offices.

RJC:jal:tlu:wu;ksm;rv





## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Richard, Rob  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 27, 2003 12:47 PM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: AJR15

-----Original Message-----

From: Sharon.Martin@co.washington.wi.us  
[mailto:Sharon.Martin@co.washington.wi.us]  
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2003 12:39 PM  
To: Rep.Grothman@legis.state.wi.us; Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us;  
Rep.Gundrum@legis.state.wi.us; Rep.Wood@legis.state.wi.us  
Subject: AJR15

Dear Representatives Grothman, Freese, Gundrum and Wood:

AJR-15. DO NOT support this legislation. Allow the public the right to elect its representatives. What can happen is that a county board does not especially care for a particular elected officials and therefore, wants the power to hire or fire. Fortunately, I am not in this type of a position; however, I can speculate what could happen under the circumstances. I believe the public at-large should have the right to make that decision at the polls. Being an elected official, I am beholding to the people who elect me and not the people who may appoint me. I thoroughly understand that the legislation provides that it would need to be approved by county referendum but it should remain elected.

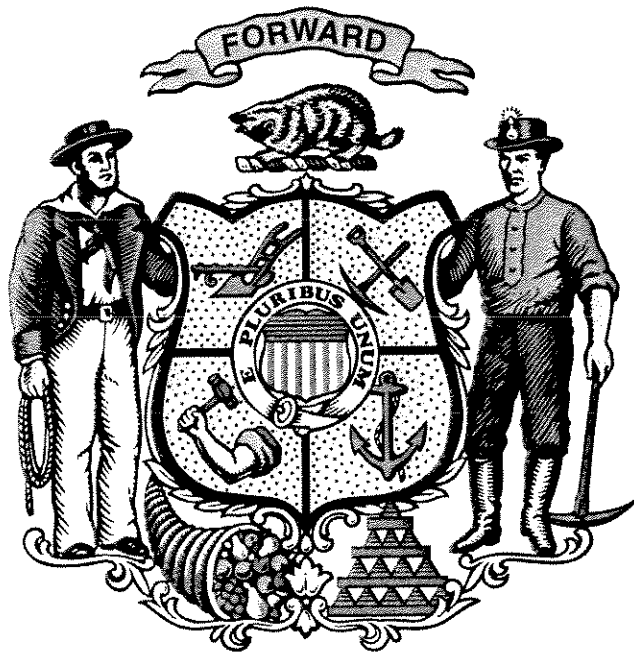
I was just elected to this position and if the county board could appoint someone to this position, you could end up with someone who is underqualified and no experience. These are public records and we were able to provide a seamless transition by making the public aware of who would be qualified and they chose who is qualified, not someone that the county board likes or is friends with.

Thank you for your time.

Sharon A Martin  
Register of Deeds  
Washington County  
432 E Washington Str Room 2084  
West Bend, WI 53095

262-306-2225-ph  
262-335-6866-fx

sharon.martin@co.washington.wi.us  
X



## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 11:30 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

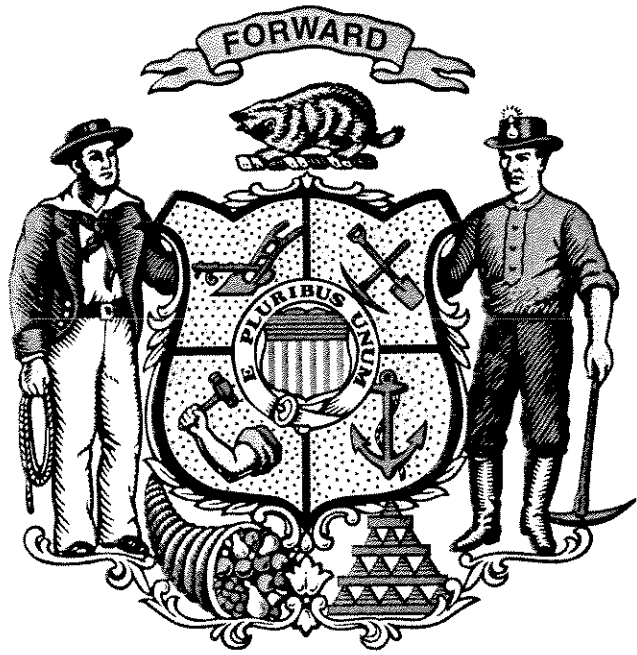
-----Original Message-----

**From:** Wilbert F Noltemeyer [mailto:bnoltie@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 11:20 AM  
**To:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 47

Dear Mr. Freese:

I am urging you to support this bill which I believe will help our election process. I know a number of people who do not vote in the primary election because they do not want to vote for a "party"; they want to vote for individuals. I am one of those who feel that having to vote a straight party ticket is not upholding our democratic (not the party) ideals. Anything we can do to increase the number of people voting in primary elections should be looked into. The percentage of people voting in any of our elections is a national disgrace. Thanks for your consideration.

Bill Noltemeyer



**Griffiths, Terri**

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 12:25  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

-----Original Message-----

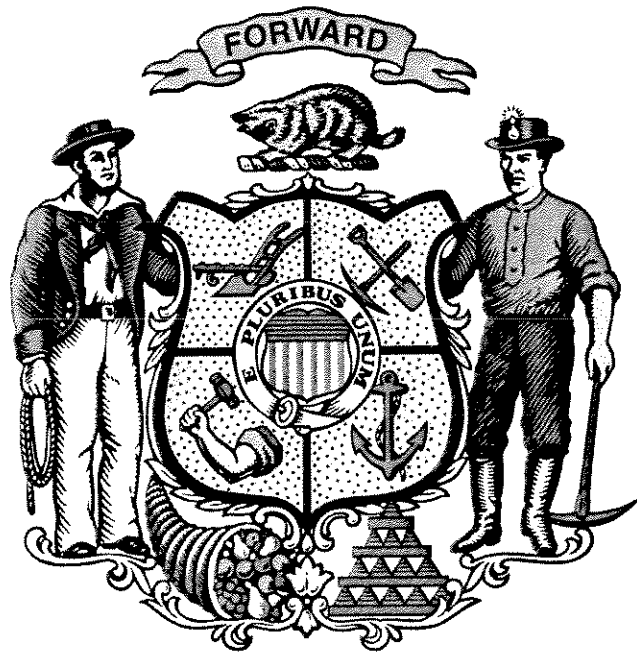
**From:** Dan & Nancy Barry [mailto:skeezer161@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 12:28 PM  
**To:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 47

Dear Rep. Freese,

I would like to voice support for an open primary for the voters of Wisconsin as expressed in Assembly Bill 47. As has become very apparent with the recent scandals in the legislature, the tone of politicking in Wisconsin has become excessively partisan. Once a state with a reputation for clean and honest government, I now feel disgusted by the bickering and lack of vision shown by our elected leaders. This measure by no means cleans the slate to fix the mess I feel this state is in, but begins inroads to again build bipartisan cooperation in a time where this is badly needed. I would like to vote for the candidate in any given race that represents my views, not a party platform. I hope government for the people, by the people, and of the people can return to Wisconsin. Give me/us a chance to choose the candidates I/we want representing us in Madison.

Sincerely,

Daniel Barry  
902 McBride Rd.  
Maple Bluff, WI 53704



**Griffiths, Terri**

---

**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 1:04  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Oneoldbohunk@aol.com [mailto:Oneoldbohunk@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 1:03 PM  
**To:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 47

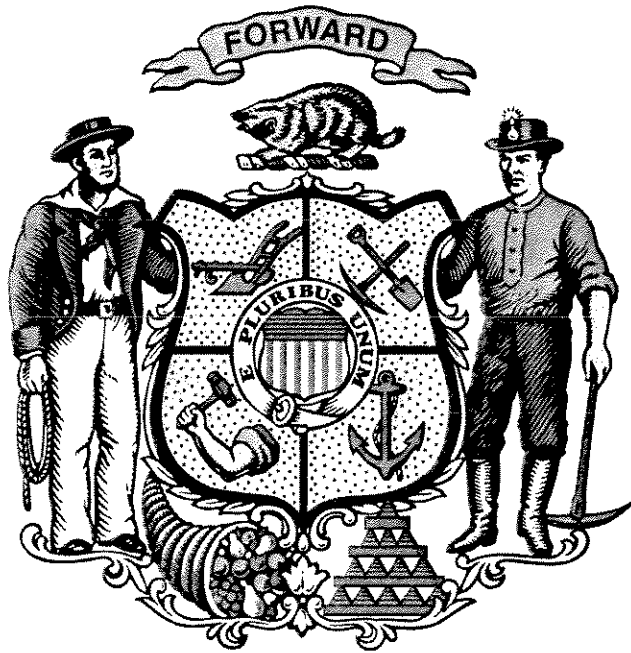
Dear Sir:

Received a letter from Fred Risser today concerning the introduction of Assembly Bill 47, allowing primary voters the opportunity to vote for the person of their choice for each office, no matter what the party affiliation.

As a poll worker for almost forty years in the Town of Madison, I am completely in accord!! All those years the primary has been a complete farce, having to vote along party lines, and you'll never know how many complaints we have had, nor the number of voters turned off by the present system. Many voters would switch party to vote for the weaker candidate opposing theirs just to throw polls off.

Therefore I am with you 100% and truly wish I could be at the hearing on April 3rd to air my opinion vocally; however, I must be out of the city on that day. So I say "*Go for it! You have my complete support and blessings.*" If there is anything I can do to assist the cause, please let me know.

John H. Marvin, 2039 Irwin Place, Madison, Wisconsin 53713-1127  
Tel: (608) 251-6882





**Griffiths, Terri**

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 2:44 PM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

-----Original Message-----

From: Fritz Lutze [mailto:rslutze@facstaff.wisc.edu]  
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2003 2:43 PM  
To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
Subject: Assembly Bill 47

Steve,

I have never mailed or called re a bill before but consider this to be of vital importance.

This bill must be passed to assure freedom of choice and consequently speech.

Sincerely, Fritz Lutze re Assembly bill 47

## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Fritz Lutze [rslutze@facstaff.wisc.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 4:46 PM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** Re: Support of bill re primary elections

Terri,

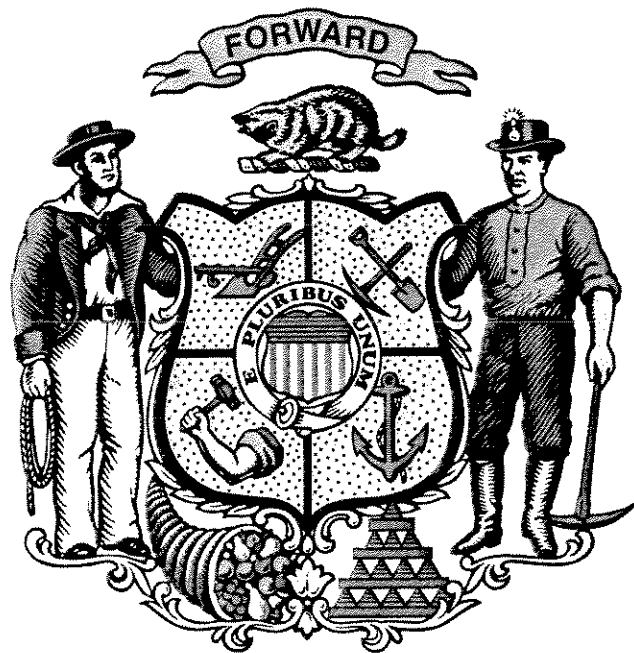
Per your request: A. Frederick Lutze- 3410 Bluff St. - Madison, WI 53705

----- Original Message -----

**From:** "Griffiths, Terri" <Terri.Griffiths@legis.state.wi.us>  
**To:** <rslutze@facstaff.wisc.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 9:33 AM

> Please provide us with your mailing address for the records of the  
> committee on Campaigns & Elections. Thank you.

>  
> Terri S. Griffiths  
> Administrative Assistant/Committee Clerk  
> Assembly Committee on Campaigns & Elections  
> Office of Rep. Stephen J. Freese  
> (608) 266-7502  
>



**Griffiths, Terri**

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**From:** Richard, Rob  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 2:45  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Hearing AJR

-----Original Message-----

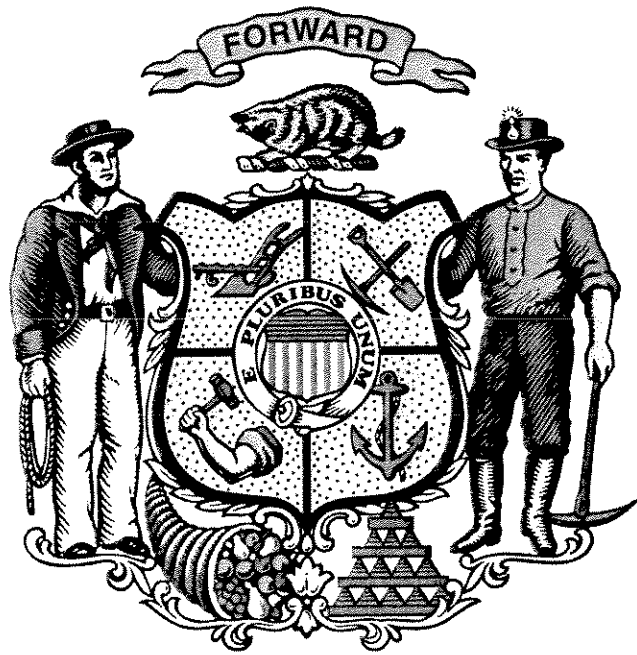
**From:** Louise Principe [mailto:LPrincipe@co.kenosha.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 1:17 PM  
**To:** 'rep.freese@legis.state.wi.us'  
**Subject:** Hearing AJR

Dear Representative Freese,Chair

I am sending this message in regards to my hope that you will not support AJR15. I have discussed this matter with Representative Ziegelbauer in the past and realize his strong, unending support to allow this option for counties to appoint the offices of Registers of Deeds, County Clerks, Clerks of Court, Treasurers, Sheriffs and District Attorneys. It may on the surface protect home rule but my past experience tells me that these elections are important not only to the citizens we represent but also to keep the party system we have in place. There are many of us who believe that the positions are not just administrative in nature, while that is a very important part of the job that we do, we also help develop legislation that improves our profession with the support, of course, from the legislature and many other professional organization. We serve on many committees local and otherwise, and are expected to play a leadership role in the community develop our budgets, help develop technology in our office, back up staff when needed, develop job descriptions, further our education and many of us hold other professional degrees. I believe by electing these positions we are providing a balance in our government, as we answer to those who elect us not those who appoint us. If my memory is correct in my day while serving on the Kenosha County Board I can recall when supervisors on the board were not happy about an appointed staff. The staff person is still here and the county board supervisor is long gone. I have asked Jane Licht to sign for me at the hearing as I will be on vacation I do believe however that it is important for you to understand my reasoning behind this non-support of AJR15. Thank you and again I ask your support in not passing this out of your committee.

Sincerely,

**LOUISE I. PRINCIPE**  
**REGISTER OF DEEDS**  
**1010 - 56TH ST**  
**KENOSHA WI 53140**  
**LPRINCIPE@CO. KENOSHA.WI. US**



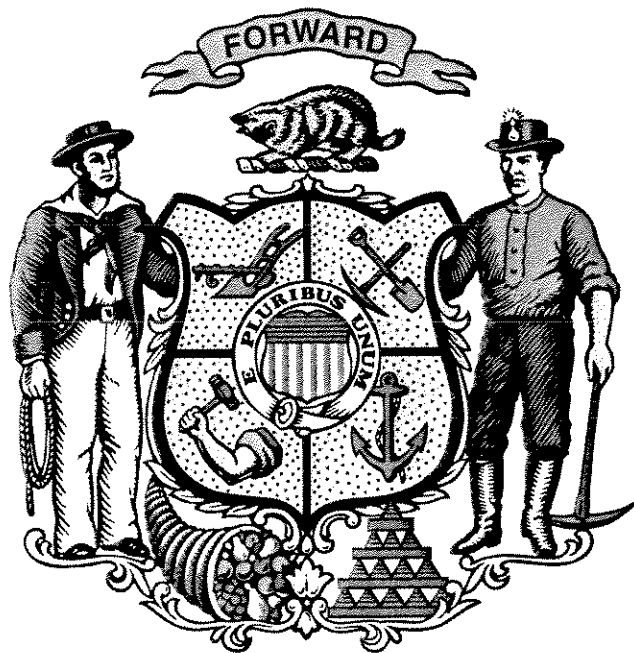
**Griffiths, Terri**

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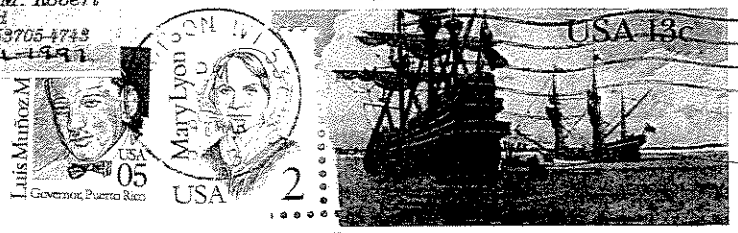
**From:** Warrenolaf@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 5:05 PM  
**To:** Sen.Risser  
**Cc:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wis.us  
**Subject:** AB 47

I strongly oppose AB 47. In this country, we have unaccountable political parties already. We voters need to be able to hold the PARTIES to account. Allowing Publicans to vote in the Democratic party, and vice versa, blurs things.

---Warren Hagstrom



MR. W. ROBERT  
5101 Juncos Rd  
Madison, WI 53705-4748  
Ph: (608) 231-1997



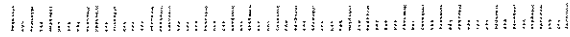
Ark and Dove, Maryland, 1634

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN FREESE

P.O. Box 8952

MADISON, WIS. 53707-8592

© USPS 1984

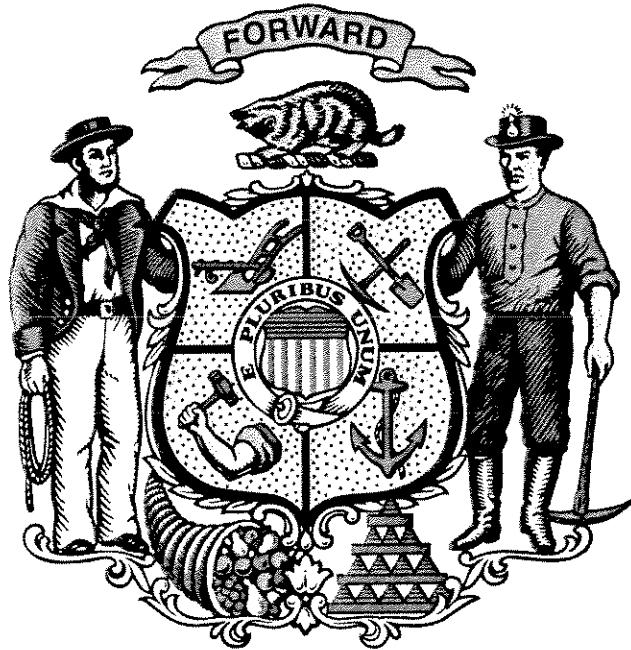


3-28-03..  
CHAIRMAN-ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE-CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

I am hopeful you favor assembly Bill #47. at the age of 92 I regret to admit avoiding ~~is~~ PRIMARY ELECTIONS because I have known many good candidates seeking a different office in the other Party. I have no choice unless I am willing to pay the price of failing one good candidate because of Party limitations. In these cases I stay home.

Wm. Robert.





March 29, 2003

Representative Stephen Freese  
PO Box 8952  
Madison WI 53707

Dear Representative Freese:

In the past I have not  
voted in primary elections for  
the reason that they did not  
always allow me to vote for  
the person of my choice. This  
has been frustrating as I  
do believe we should vote,  
but only if allowed to  
make our own choice.  
For this reason I do hope that  
Assembly Bill 47 is passed.

Sincerely,

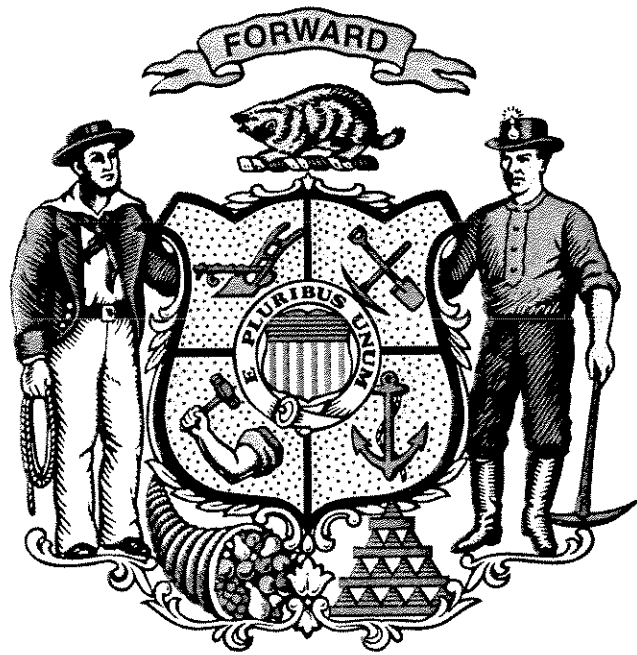
Frances Crumpton

Frances M. Crumpton  
8301 Old Sauk Road #307  
Middleton WI 53562



Representative Stephen Freese  
PO Box 8952  
Madison WI 53707-8952





3/28/03

To

Rep. Steve Friesse

Re Assembly Bill # 47

Please register me as  
as in favor of Bill # 47

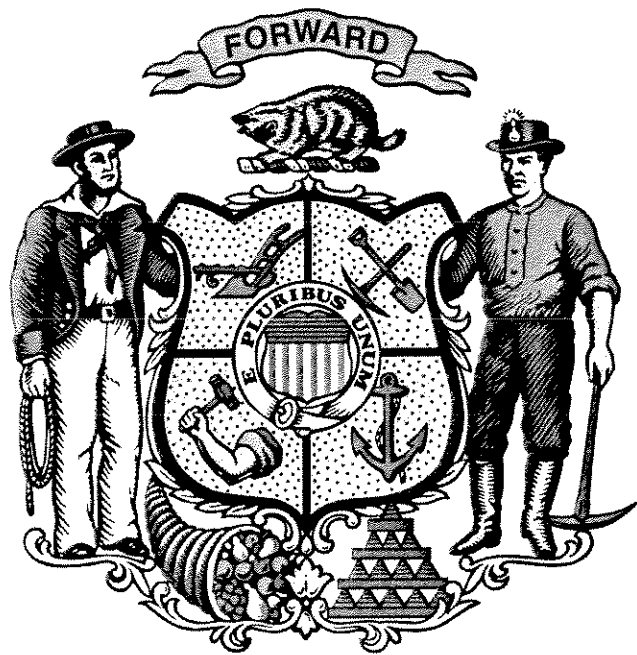
Thank you,

Richard E. Lent

4545 Thurston Lane #4

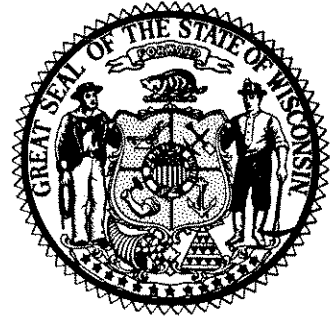
Madison Wis.

53717



# FRED A. RISSER

Wisconsin State Senate



March 28, 2003

Helen and Robert Domek  
5117 Loruth Ter  
Madison, WI 53711-2625

Dear Helen and Robert:

This session, I have again co-authored legislation that, if passed, would change our state's primary election process.

Our bill, Assembly Bill 47, would allow primary voters the opportunity to vote for the person of their choice for each office, no matter what the party affiliation. I feel that this "blanket primary" would encourage many more people to vote in primaries and would force candidates to focus on issues rather than on partisanship.

**Assembly Bill 47 is scheduled for a public hearing before the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 3, 2003, Room 300 Northeast, State Capitol.**

If you have an interest in this measure, I would encourage and invite you to either come to the hearing or contact the Chair of this Committee, Representative Stephen Freese, and share your views. He may be reached at P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53707-8952; or by email at [Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us)

Thank you for your interest in state government and our community. Best wishes.

*March 31, 2003*

Most sincerely,

*Att: Rep. Stephen Freese*

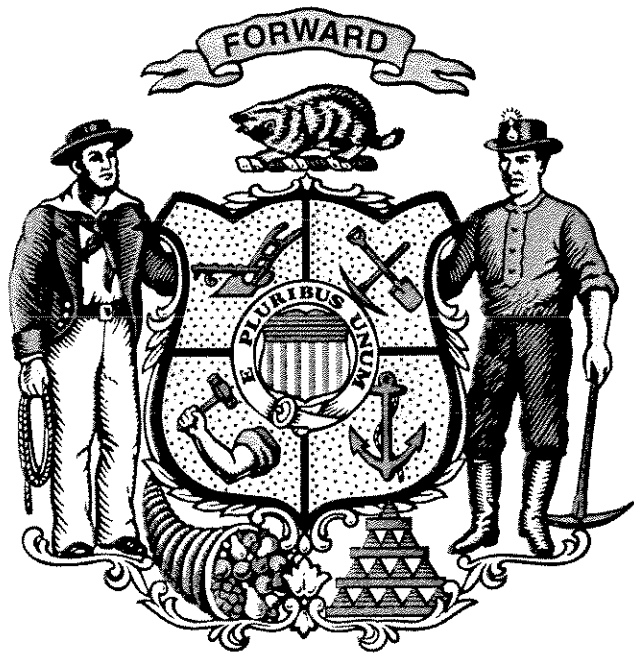
A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Fred".

FRED A. RISSER  
State Senator

FAR:lt

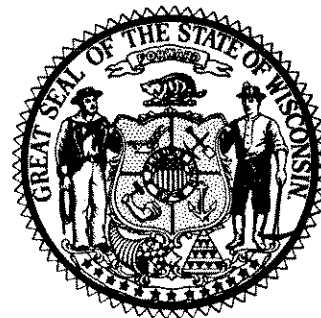
*We are in favor of the passage of Assembly Bill 47.*

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Helen Domek Robert E. Domek".



# FRED A. RISSER

Wisconsin State Senate



March 28, 2003

~~George and~~ Anita Gurda  
621 Bordner Dr  
Madison, WI 53705-2556

*George died  
Jan 11-2002*

~~Dear George and~~ Anita:

This session, I have again co-authored legislation that, if passed, would change our state's primary election process.

Our bill, Assembly Bill 47, would allow primary voters the opportunity to vote for the person of their choice for each office, no matter what the party affiliation. I feel that this "blanket primary" would encourage many more people to vote in primaries and would force candidates to focus on issues rather than on partisanship.

**Assembly Bill 47 is scheduled for a public hearing before the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 3, 2003, Room 300 Northeast, State Capitol.**

If you have an interest in this measure, I would encourage and invite you to either come to the hearing or contact the Chair of this Committee, Representative Stephen Freese, and share your views. He may be reached at P.O. Box 8952, Madison, WI 53707-8952; or by email at [Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us)

Thank you for your interest in state government and our community. Best wishes.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Fred".

FRED A. RISSER  
State Senator



Mrs. Anita J. Gurda  
621 Bordner Dr.  
Madison, WI 53705

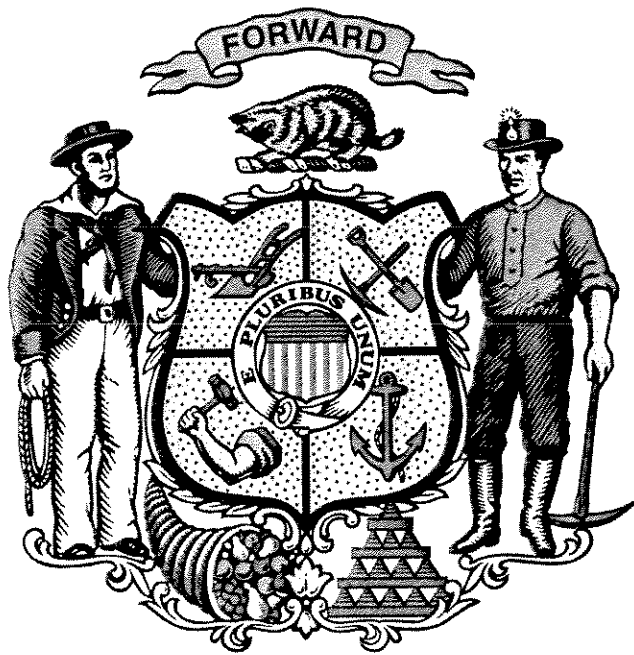
FAR:lt *Representative Freese — As an 83 yr old voter — who has only missed voting on a very few occasions and as an independently minded voter I am often frustrated because my choices are limited by the present rules — We need to be able to choose the candidates at primaries from <sup>among</sup> all parties!*

P.O Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 (608) 266-1627 E-Mail: [Sen.Risser@legis.state.wi.us](mailto:Sen.Risser@legis.state.wi.us) Fax: (608) 266-1629

Printed on Recycled Paper

*Thank you!*





William R. Walker  
1838 Camelot Drive  
Madison, WI 53705  
March 29, 2003

Representative Stephen Freese  
PO Box 8952  
Madison WI 53707-8952

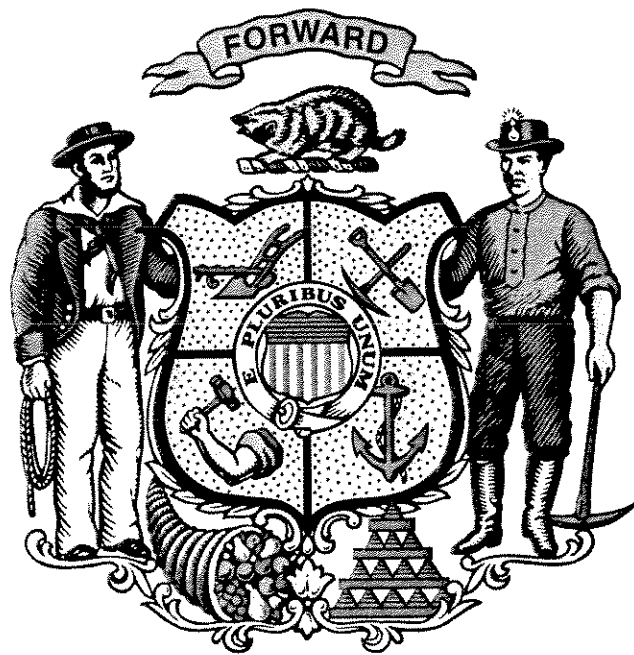
Dear Representative Freese:                      Re: Assembly Bill 47

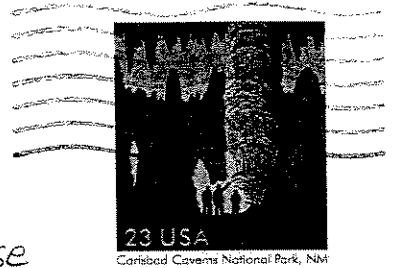
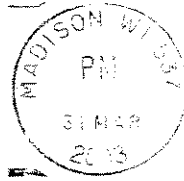
Although I usually vote for all the candidates from one party, there have been several primary elections when I have been frustrated by being prohibited from voting for independents whom I believed merited my support.

Please do your best to advance this bill which would relieve this restriction on voters in primary elections.

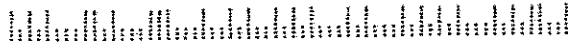
Sincerely,

*William R. Walker*





Representative Stephen Freese  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53707-8952



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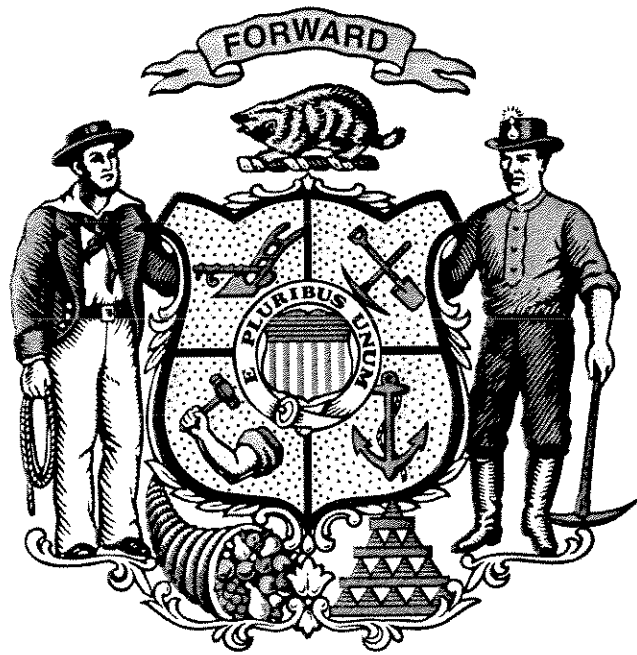
4725 Sheboygan Ave. #337  
Madison, WI 53703  
3-29-03

Dear Representative Freese;

This is to let you know that I support  
Assembly Bill 47, which is scheduled for a public  
hearing before the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and  
Elections on April 3, '03.

Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration.

Sincerely yours,  
Nelen Jean Maas



CAROLL D. BRANDT  
1225 E. GORHAM, APT. M  
MADISON WI 53703-1740  
608.257.0857

MARCH 29, 2003

REP. STEPHEN FREESE, CHAIR  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGNS  
AND ELECTIONS  
WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

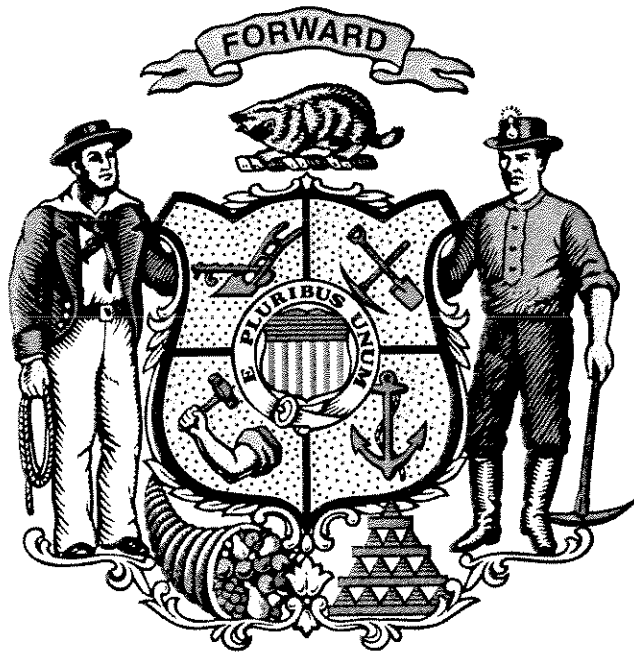
DEAR REP. FREESE,

ALTHOUGH I CAN'T ATTEND THE PUBLIC  
HEARING ON ASSEMBLY BILL 47, I WANT YOU  
TO KNOW THAT I AM IN FAVOR OF THIS  
MEASURE, WHEREBY PRIMARY VOTERS COULD  
VOTE FOR THE PERSON OF THEIR CHOICE FOR EACH  
OFFICE, REGARDLESS OF PARTY AFFILIATION.

AS A REGULAR VOTER, I AM OFTEN FRUSTRATED  
BY THE REQUIREMENT TO STAY WITHIN ONE  
PARTY'S SLATE OF CANDIDATES; I CONSIDER  
MYSELF AN "INDEPENDENT", VOTING ACCORDING  
TO THE ISSUES INVOLVED, BUT OUR PRESENT  
"PARTY RULES" FOR PRIMARY ELECTIONS SEVERELY  
COMPROMISE MY FREEDOM TO DO SO.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

SINCERELY,  
Carroll D. Brandt  
(MS.) CAROLL D. BRANDT



## Griffiths, Terri

---

**From:** Wilbert F Noltemeyer [bnoltie@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 9:38 AM  
**To:** Terri.Griffiths@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Re:

Wilbert Noltemeyer  
629 Orchard Drive  
Madison, WI 53711

On Mon, 31 Mar 2003 09:36:27 -0600 "Griffiths, Terri"  
<Terri.Griffiths@legis.state.wi.us> writes:  
> Please provide your mailing address for the record of the committee  
> on Campaigns & Elections. Thank you.  
>  
> Terri S. Griffiths  
> Administrative Assistant/Committee Clerk  
> Assembly Committee on Campaigns & Elections  
> Office of Rep. Stephen J. Freese  
> (608) 266-7502  
>  
>  
>



## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 11:30 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

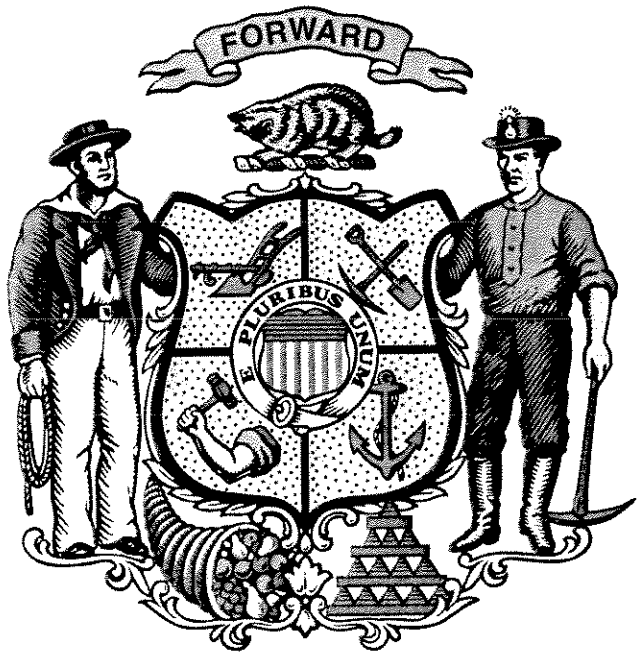
-----Original Message-----

**From:** Wilbert F Noltemeyer [mailto:bnoltie@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 11:20 AM  
**To:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 47

Dear Mr. Freese:

I am urging you to support this bill which I believe will help our election process. I know a number of people who do not vote in the primary election because they do not want to vote for a "party"; they want to vote for individuals. I am one of those who feel that having to vote a straight party ticket is not upholding our democratic (not the party) ideals. Anything we can do to increase the number of people voting in primary elections should be looked into. The percentage of people voting in any of our elections is a national disgrace. Thanks for your consideration.

Bill Noltemeyer



**Griffiths, Terri**

---

**From:** Stewart J. Miller  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 10:36 AM  
**To:** 'Griffiths, Terri'  
**Subject:** RE: Assembly Bill 47

Stewart J. Miller  
225 Larkin St.  
Madison, WI 53705-5117  
SJMillerJK@worldnet.att.net  
608-233-1209, direct  
608-238-1126, fax

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Griffiths, Terri [mailto:Terri.Griffiths@legis.state.wi.us]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 9:35 AM  
**To:** SJMillerJK@worldnet.att.net  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

Please provide us with your mailing address for the records of the committee on Campaigns & Elections. Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Stewart J. Miller [mailto:SJMillerJK@worldnet.att.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2003 1:05 PM  
**To:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 47

Representative Stephen Freese  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53707-8952

RE: Assembly Bill 47

Dear Mr. Freese:

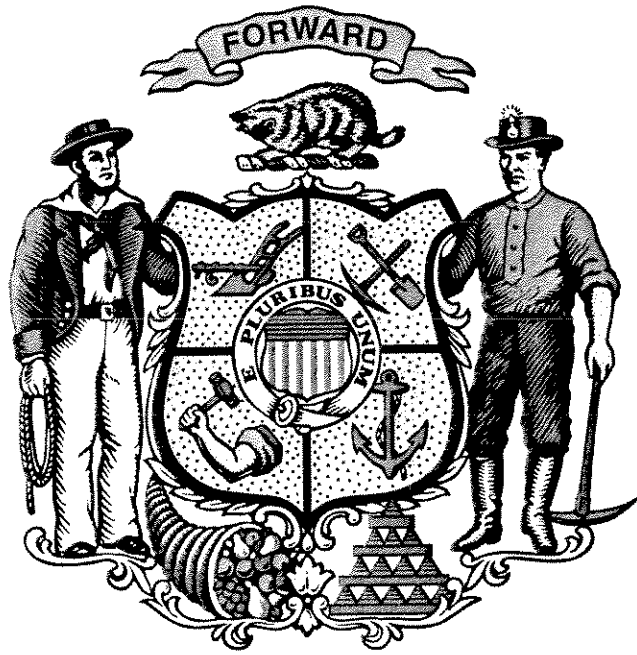
I received a letter dated March 28, 2003 from Senator Risser about Assembly Bill 47. I have complained (since the time that I moved back to Wisconsin) about not being able to vote across party lines during a primary election. To be restricted to a particular party block vote takes away one of this country's main beliefs, to be able to vote for the person of your choice.

I would like to voice my support for this bill.

Why did it take so long for this issue to become important enough and force a change in the State's voting law?

Offered with respect,

Stewart J. Miller  
SJMillerJK@worldnet.att.net



## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 10:55 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

-----Original Message-----

From: Lana Holland [mailto:ljholland@wisc.edu]  
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2003 10:05 AM  
To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
Subject: Assembly Bill 47

Dear Mr. Freese:

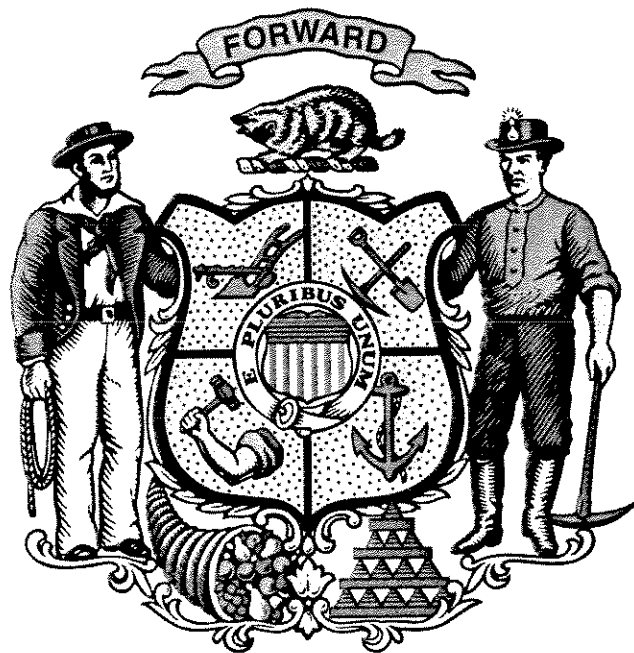
I am writing to you to express my support for Assembly Bill 47, as written by State Senator, Fred Risser.

I have been frustrated in previous elections by my inability to vote for the people I support, regardless of their party affiliation. This Bill would allow me to vote for the best candidates because of issues instead of partisanship.

I will try to attend the public hearing On Thursday, April 3rd, 2003, but in the event that I am unable to be there, please consider my support for Assembly Bill 47.

Thank you.

Lana Holland  
205 N. Hillside Terrace  
Madison, WI 53705



## Griffiths, Terri

---

**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 10:58 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: state election and campaign finance reform

-----Original Message-----

From: George Perkins [mailto:geoperkins@tds.net]  
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2003 3:21 PM  
To: steve.freese@legis.state.wi.us  
Subject: state election and campaign finance reform

Dear Mr. Freese,

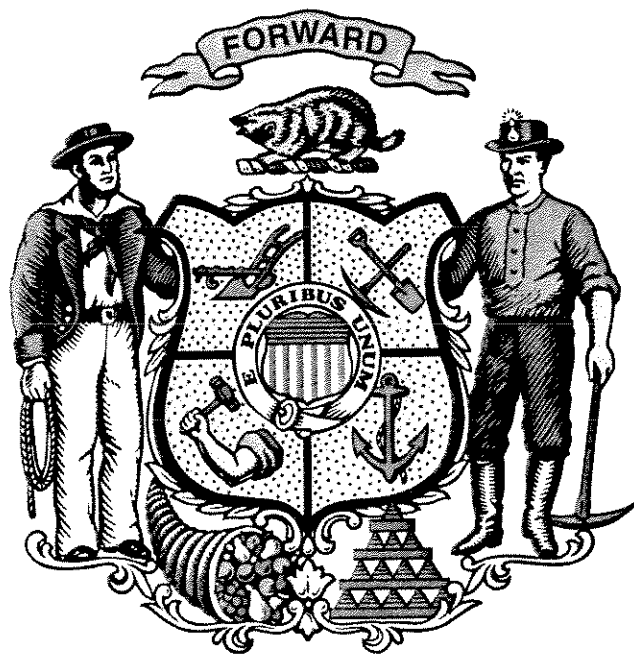
I am writing because I am unable to attend the public hearing scheduled Thursday April 3 before the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections regarding Assembly Bill 47.

I would like to register in favor of AB 47.

Wisconsin voters should have the right to choose the best candidates for office during a primary, regardless of party affiliation.

Thank you for your time.

George J. Perkins  
2219 Chadbourne Ave.  
Madison, WI 53726  
608-442-7883  
geoperkins@yahoo.com





**Griffiths, Terri**

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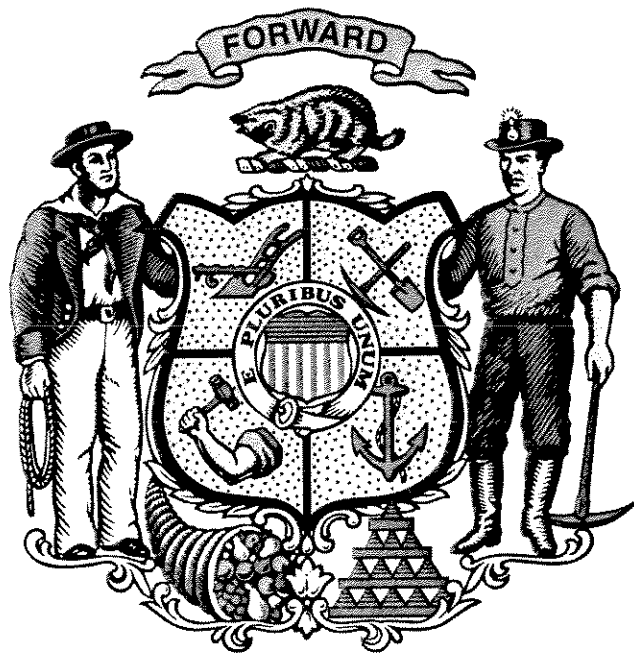
**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 10:58  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Betty Dodson [mailto:bdodson@wiscmail.wisc.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 30, 2003 10:55 PM  
**To:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 47

I am writing to say that I support Assembly Bill 47. While there may have once been (but I doubt it) a good reason to have voters declare their party interest in primary elections, there certainly does not seem to be a need for that today. I would encourage you to support this bill paving the way for the primary election to be open, hopefully encouraging more voters to participate. Voter participation in primary elections has never been high, and this seems to me to be a plausible explanation for that lack of interest.

Betty Dodson  
7201 East Pass  
Madison, WI 53719  
608-848-2182



**Griffiths, Terri**

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 10:58 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Primary Elections

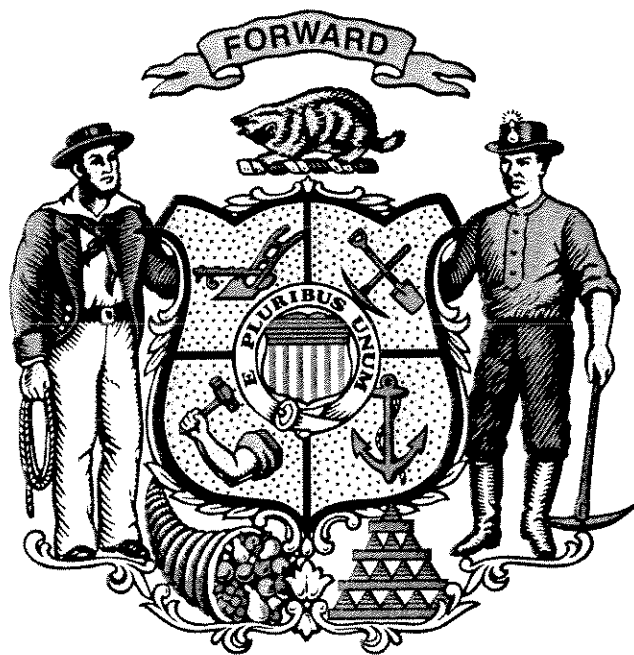
-----Original Message-----

From: john ebsen [mailto:ebsen@shell.core.com]  
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2003 4:12 PM  
To: steve.freese@legis.state.wi.us  
Subject: Primary Elections

Steve-

This letter is written to support reporting Assembly Bill 47 out of committee. I believe that an open primary has been a hallmark of Wisconsin for many years. This Bill would reinstate that tradition, and encourage voters to focus on individual candidates.

Regards,  
John Ebsen  
1 Courtland Circle  
Madison, WI 53711-2602



## Griffiths, Terri

---

**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 10:59 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Please support Assembly Bill 47

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Riordan [mailto:riordanmr@earthlink.net]  
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2003 9:35 AM  
To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
Subject: Please support Assembly Bill 47

Dear Stephen Freese,

Please support Assembly Bill 47, which would allow primary voters to vote for the person of their choice for each office, no matter what the party affiliation.

Just because a given voter believes that a Democrat is the best choice for a given office, for example, does not mean that that voter believes that the best choices for all other offices must also be Democrats.

Thank you.

Mark Riordan  
4513 Gregg Rd  
Madison, WI 53705

