# 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\_pt03

Miscellaneous ... Misc

> \*\*

From:

Freese, Steve

Sent:

Tuesday, April 01, 2003 12:30 PM

To:

Griffiths, Terri

Subject:

FW: Assembly Bill 47

----Original Message----

From: Wiegand [mailto:wiegand@cs.wisc.edu] Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2003 12:29 PM To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us

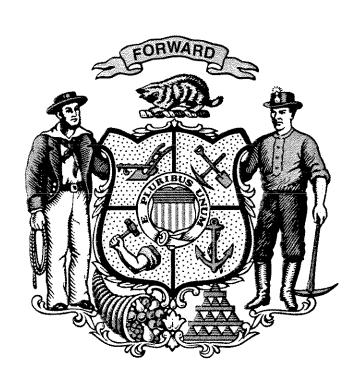
Cc: Wiegand

Subject: Assembly Bill 47

I am extremely supportive of Assembly Bill 47 to allow people to not have to vote by party affiliation in primary elections. This is an excellent proposal.

I have been very disheartened by our polar party system and the lack of attention to particular issues by citizens and candidates due to blanket party allegiance.

Thank you, Nancy Wiegand 5754 Forsythia Place Madison, WI 53705



From: Margo Lindl [margol@merr.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2003 1:02

**To:** Griffiths, Terri **Subject:** Re: Bill 47

Our address is: 5314 Denton Place, Madison, WI 5711

Frank C. and Margaret M. Lindl

---- Original Message ---From: Griffiths, Terri
To: margol@merr.com

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2003 10:57 AM

Subject: FW: Bill 47

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

----Original Message----

From: Margo Lindl [mailto:mar gol@merr.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 9:44 AM **To:** Steve.Freese@leqis.state.wi.us

Subject: Bill 47

Please VOTE to Pass Bill 47. We were ready years ago to have our choices while voting.

Frank C. Lindl

From: Freese, Steve

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2003 10:57

To: Griffiths, Terri Subject: FW: Bill 47

----Original Message----

From: Margo Lindl [mailto:margol@merr.com]

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2003 9:29 AM To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Bill 47

I would like a "YES" vote on Bill 47 for the vote of choice in the primary elections.

Margaret Lindl

From: Freese, Steve

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2003 10:56

To: Griffiths, Terri

Subject: FW: Bill 47

----Original Message----

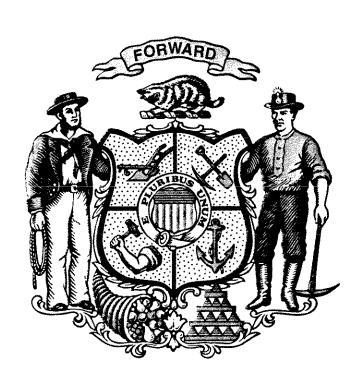
From: Margo Lindl [mailto:margol@merr.com]

**Sent:** Monday, March 31, 2003 9:44 AM

To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Bill 47

Please VOTE to Pass Bill 47 . We were ready years ago to have our choices while voting. Frank C. Lindl



From: Freese, Steve

Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2003 2:07

**To:** Griffiths, Terri **Subject:** FW: AB 47

----Original Message----

From: Jdac18@aol.com [mailto:Jdac18@aol.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 01, 2003 2:06 PM **To:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us.

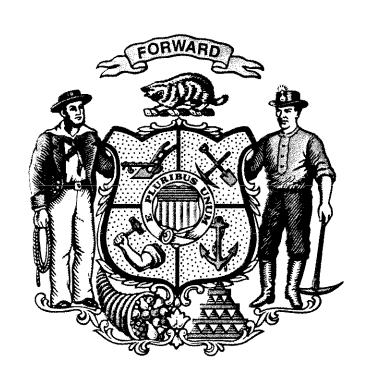
Subject: AB 47

Dear Rep. Freese,

I am writing to support AB 47. I believe this change in elections would get more people to the polls. So many times people ask me why they have to vote a straight ticket in primary elections.

Also this would make Wisconsin a leader in how to run good elections, something we have known for in the past. In the event that I can't make the public hearing, I would like to make my views known for the record. Thank You. Sincerely,

James Curtin 915 Vilas Ave Madison, Wi. 53715 Jdac18@aol.com



From:

Freese, Steve

Sent:

Tuesday, April 01, 2003 2:52 PM Griffiths, Terri

To:

Subject:

FW: Assembly Bill 47

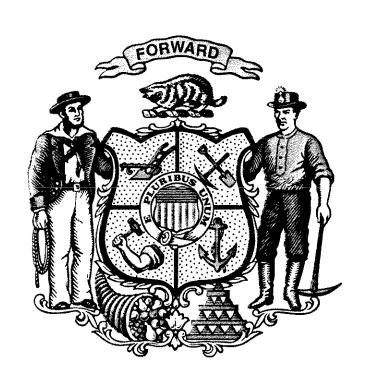
----Original Message----

From: Les Nelson [mailto:colfax@merr.com] Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2003 2:48 PM To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Assembly Bill 47

We favor Assembly Bill 47 and those in the Legislature who seek to make it law. It would greatly strengthen our elective process.

Jean and es Nelson 3018 Yarmouth Greenway #108 Fitchburg, WI 53711



APRIL 1, 2003

REP: STEPHEN FREESE P.O. BOX 8952 MADISON, WI. 53707-8952

RE: ASSEMBLY BILL 47

I SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 47.

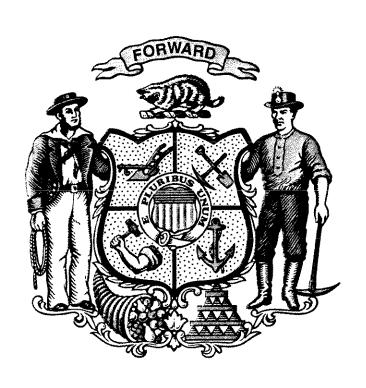
PEOPLE VOTING IN A PRIMARY ELECTION

SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE FUR THE PERSON

OF THEIR CHOICE REGARDLESS OF PARTY,

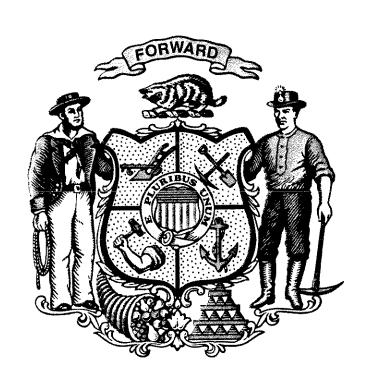
THANKS

Lyle Mestengen LYLE NESTINGEN 72 KESSEL CT #26 MADISON, WL 53711

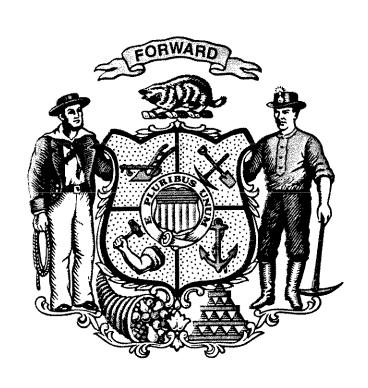


WHILE YOU WERE AWAY	A.M. P.M.
M Paul Drolson Mardisonitos M 310 Marinette Trail 53205	PHONED  RETURNED YOUR CALL
PHONE MOBILE AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION  MESSAGE  RESEARCE AB 41	PLEASE CALL WILL CALL AGAIN CAME TO SEE YOU WANTS TO
SIGNED	SEE YOU

ţ



WHILE YOU WERE AWAY  FOR  Jerry Date 1 Time A.M.  M. Vicania Machine Proned  OF 102 Porthood Cir S3717 Phoned  PHONE MOBILE  AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION  AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION  PLEASE CALL  AGAIN  CAME TO  SEE YOU  SIGNED  WANTS TO  SEE YOU  SIGNED



From:

Freese, Steve

Sent:

Wednesday, April 02, 2003 8:39 AM

To:

Griffiths, Terri

Subject:

FW: AB 47

----Original Message----

From: Eric Selje [mailto:eric.selje@charter.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2003 10:42 PM To: steve.freese@legis.state.wi.us

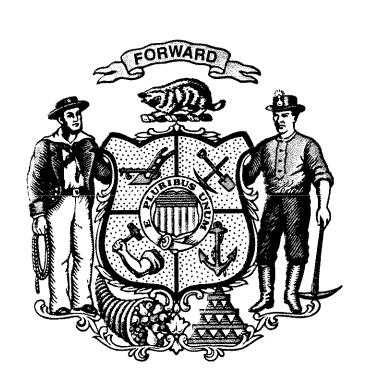
Subject: AB 47

Dear Mr. Freese,

I'd like to register my support for AB 47 (Blanket Primary law). I believe it would be an important step towards the reformation of the voting laws, which is necessary to re-engage voters. Other steps that I believe would help would be the elimination of the primaries altogether in favor of a system such as instant runoff voting and changing the voting days to weekends.

Thanks for listening,

Eric Selje 2505 Commonwealth Ave. Madison, WI 53711 608/236-9262



From:

Freese, Steve

Sent:

Wednesday, April 02, 2003 8:39 AM

To:

Griffiths, Terri

Subject:

FW: Assembly Bill 47

----Original Message----

From: Larry Black [mailto:imlab50@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2003 7:41 PM To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us

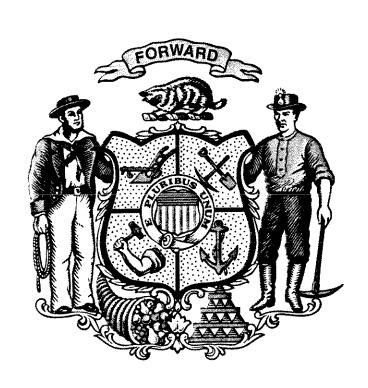
Subject: Assembly Bill 47

Dear Representative Freese,

We urge you to support Assembly Bill 47, which would give primary voters the chance to vote for the person of their choosing for each office, no matter the party affiliation. We believe in the idea of a voter being able to vote for the person they feel is right for the job, regardless of candidate's party affiliation. We do worry about cross-over voting to elect a weaker candidate in the primary to oppose a strong candidate in the general election, however we hope that this bill has some provision to prevent that occurence.

Sincerely, Larry Black and Barb Roeber 5706 Cedar Place Madison, WI 53705

MSN 8 helps eliminate e-mail viruses. Get 2 months FREE\*. http://join.msn.com/?page=features/virus



From:

Richard, Rob

Sent:

Wednesday, April 02, 2003 9:31 AM

To:

Griffiths, Terri

Subject:

FW:

----Original Message----

From: Judy Kusek [mailto:Judy@lilamerica.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 9:22 AM

To: rep.freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject:

Dear Steve,

I encourage you to support, in every way possible, Assembly Bill 47. The privilege to vote is meaningless if voters are not allowed to make up their own mind on each line of a ballot.

There is also a hearing coming up Wednesday 4-2-03 in which, if I understand this correctly, the two major parties are working to disallow the Libertarian voice on the election board. I encourage you to work diligently to stop this action. That seat was won fair and square and we need new voices on the election board.

Thank you for your attention to these items.

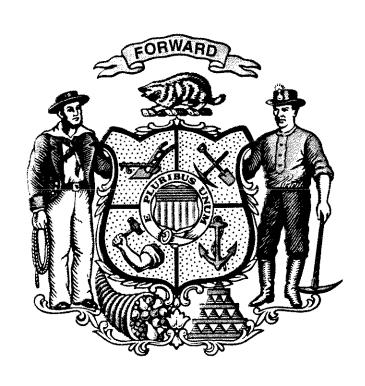
Sincerely,

Myron Ledworowski, CR 7730 Hillcrest Avenue

831-9707

Middleton, Wisconsin

53562



From: Patricia Whitely

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 11:11 AM

To: Griffiths, Terri

Subject: Re: AB 47

My address is: 1329 Stratford Court, Middleton, 53562

Thank you once again.

---- Original Message ----- From: Griffiths, Terri To: iloveplucy@charter.net

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 10:54 AM

Subject: FW: AB 47

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

----Original Message----

From: Patricia Whitely [mailto:iloveplucy@charter.net]

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 10:05 AM

**To:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us **Cc:** Sen.Risser@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: AB 47

Rep. Freese:

AB 47 would encourage more voters and, in the end, elect more folks from both parties. Please vote "yes", and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, a dedicated voter,

Patricia Whitely

Freese, Steve From:

Wednesday, April 02, 2003 10:13 Sent:

To: Griffiths, Terri

Subject: FW: AB 47

----Original Message----

From: Patricia Whitely [mailto:iloveplucy@charter.net]

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 10:05 AM

To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us Cc: Sen.Risser@legis.state.wi.us

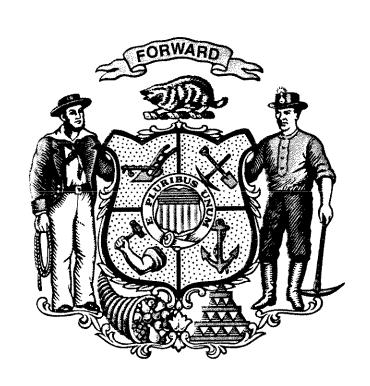
Subject: AB 47

Rep. Freese:

AB 47 would encourage more voters and, in the end, elect more folks from both parties. Please vote "yes", and

thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, a dedicated voter,

Patricia Whitely



From: Freese, Steve

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 12:25

To: Griffiths, Terri

Subject: FW: Assembly Bill 47

----Original Message----

From: Carl Pruess [mailto:carlpruess@hotmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 12:20 PM

To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Assembly Bill 47

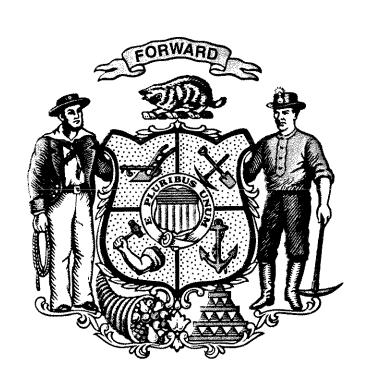
Dear Rep. Freese,

I want you to know that I am in favor of a "blanket primary" that would encourage more people to vote in primaries & force candidates to focus on issues rather than on partisanship.

Please do whatever you can to pass Assembly Bill 47.

Sincerely, Carl Pruess 114 Bascom Place Madison, WI 53726

MSN 8 helps <u>ELIMINATE E-MAIL VIRUSES</u>. Get 2 months FREE\*.



From: Nancy Winter

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 12:47 PM

To: Griffiths, Terri

Subject: Re: Assembly Bill 47

Nancy L. Winter

434 S. Yellowstone Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53719

---- Original Message ----From: <u>Griffiths, Terri</u> To: nwinter@winterlaw.net

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 12:25 PM

Subject: FW: Assembly Bill 47

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

----Original Message----

From: Nancy Winter [mailto:nwinter@winterlaw.net]

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 12:00 PM

To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Assembly Bill 47

I support Assembly Bill 47. It would promote voter turnout in primaries and is more democratic than party primaries.

Attorney Nancy L. Winter

From: Freese, Steve

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 12:01

To: Griffiths, Terri

Subject: FW: Assembly Bill 47

----Original Message----

From: Nancy Winter [mailto:nwinter@winterlaw.net]

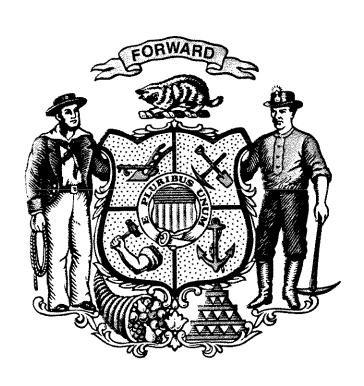
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 12:00 PM

To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Assembly Bill 47

I support Assembly Bill 47. It would promote voter turnout in primaries and is more democratic than party primaries.

Attorney Nancy L. Winter



From: Freese, Steve

Wednesday, April 02, 2003 2:01 PM Sent:

Griffiths, Terri To:

Subject: FW: 3/10 (gambling veto) & 3/28 (AB

----Original Message----

From: gini & bob kraft [mailto:ginibob@merr.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 3:23 PM

To: WI SEN - RISSER

Cc: WI-REP Freese; WI REP - BLACK

Subject: 3/10 (gambling veto) & 3/28 (AB 47)

Dear Senator Risser -

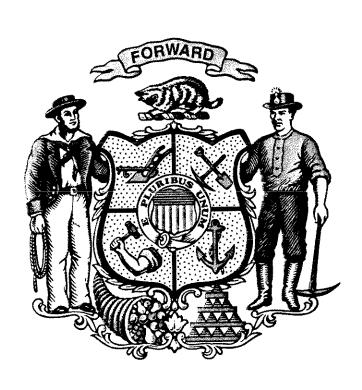
May I respond to the two letters referenced above? I'm remiss in not getting around to answering sooner. First & foremost, I am a senior citizen with no party affiliation, nor ax to grind whatsoever. As one of your voting contituents, I feel that I should express my thoughts. Call them wishes if you wish.

With regards to the gambling veto (?) I'm confused by your 3/10 letter. I recognize that you have been against gambling and I support that position, even though I do find my way to a casino every once & awhile. I do however, feel that some checks & balances should be in place & that the Governor's veto should have been overridden. REMOVING BETTING LIMITS AT BLACK JACK TABLES, ADDING CRAPS AS AN ACCEPTABLE GAME, & ADDING ROULETTE AS AN ACCEPTABLE GAME IS UNDENIABLY AN EXPANSION OF GAMBLING IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN. In view of your expressed opinion over the years, your failure to override the veto is a disappointment. Please consider voting what's good for the people & forget about what's good for the party(s).

On to Assembly Bill 47 per your 3/28 letter. It's about time we get rid of all the political rhetoric. As a very independent voter mayself, I feel I should be able to vote for an individual, not a Party. I voted for over 50 years now & can only say that the time for a "blanket primary" is long overdue.

thank vou

Robert C Kraft - 205 N Whitney Way - Madison, WI 53705



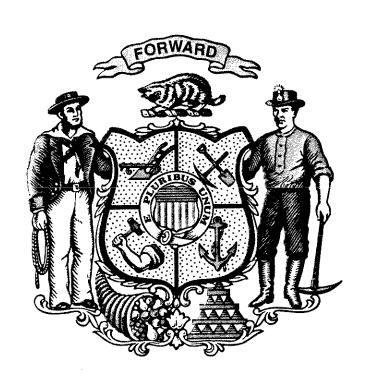
From: mary manthey roberts [mmantheyrobe@madison.k12.wi.us]

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 3:32 PM

To: Griffiths, Terri

Subject: Re:

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my home address is 7106 Longmeadow Road, Madison, WI 53717. Thank you!At
11:00 AM 4/2/03 -0600, you wrote:
>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
>
>
```



From: Sent: To: william strang [b-astrang@charter.net] Wednesday, April 02, 2003 3:45 PM

Griffiths, Terri

Subject:

Re:

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Dear Ms. Griffiths:

My mailing address is : 22 Quail Ridge Drive, Madison, WI 53717.

William A. Strang
```

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On Wed, 2 Apr 2003 10:56:00 -0600

"Griffiths, Terri" <Terri.Griffiths@legis.state.wi.us>
wrote:
>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
>
<TEXTAREA NAME="Signature" ROWS="4" COLS="60"><TEXTAREA
```

From:

Richard, Rob

Sent:

Wednesday, April 02, 2003 8:42 AM

To:

Griffiths, Terri

Subject:

FW:

----Original Message----

From: william strang [mailto:b-astrang@charter.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2003 3:51 PM To: rep.freese@legis.state.wi.us Cc: www.sen.risser@legis.state.wi.us

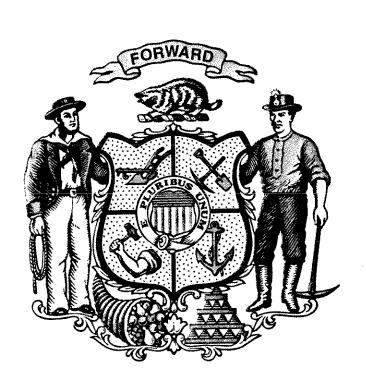
Subject:

Dear Representative Freese:

An earlier email message did not get through as I had the wrong address. I support Assembly Bill 47. I am an Independent voter and have always voted for the individual candidate whom I feel is best qualified. I feel disenfranchised by the current primary system and support your bill.

<TEXTAREA NAME="Signature" ROWS="4" COLS="60"><TEXTAREA

NAME="Signature" ROWS="4" COLS="60"><TEXTAREA
NAME="Signature" ROWS="4" COLS="60"><TEXTAREA
NAME="Signature" ROWS="4" COLS="60"><TEXTAREA
NAME="Signature" ROWS="4" COLS="60">



From: H Steinmann

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 4:27 PM

To: Griffiths, Terri

Subject: Re: Assembly Bill 47

Our mailing address is: 208 Saratoga Circle, Madison, Wl. 53705.

---- Original Message -----From: <u>Griffiths, Terri</u>

To: hsteinmann@charter.net

Sent: Monday, March 31, 2003 9:30 AM

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: H Steinmann [mailto:hsteinmann@charter.net]

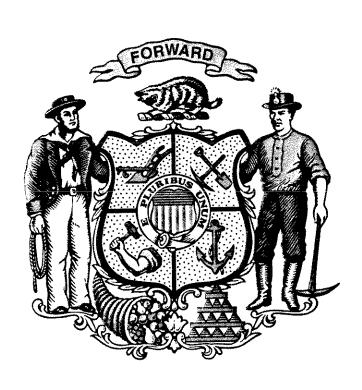
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2003 3:42 PM
To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
Cc: Sen.Risser@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Assembly Bill 47

My wife Gladys and I wholeheartedly support Assembly Bill 47 that would allow primary voters to vote for the person of their choice for each office regardless of party affiliation.

Representative Freese, Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, I urge you and all the members of this committee to support the passage of Assembly Bill 47.

Sincerely and respectfully submitted,

Howard R. Steinmann



From:

Freese, Steve

Sent:

Thursday, April 03, 2003 9:23 AM

To: Subject: Griffiths, Terri FW: Voting

----Original Message----

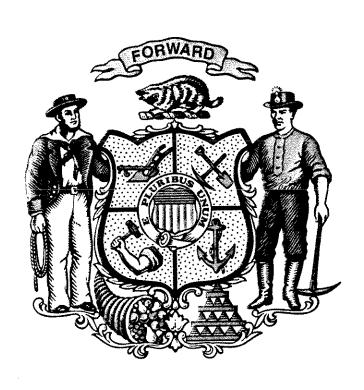
From: Candace Black [mailto:Cblack@GKLAW.COM]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2003 8:27 AM To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Voting

I would be very much in favor of voting for individuals versus political parties in the Primary Elections. Thank you for pursing this.

Candace Black 703 Moorland Road Madison, WI 53713



From:

Freese, Steve

Sent:

Thursday, April 03, 2003 9:23 AM

To: Subject: Griffiths, Terri FW: Assembly Bill 47

----Original Message----

From: Pat [mailto:path836@itis.com] Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 9:17 PM

To: steve.freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Assembly Bill 47

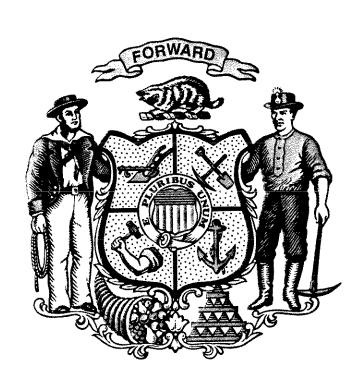
I understand Assembly Bill 47 is being introduced to change the primary election process in Wisconsin.

Since I cannot attend the hearing at the Capitol, I am using my son-in-law's computer and email connection to voice my opinion IN FAVOR of this bill.

I believe in voting for the person rather than strictly a party affiliation.

Please count my support at the hearing.

Thank you.
Helen Black
2009 Lakeview Avenue
Middleton, Wisconsin 53562
tele: (608) 831-7468



From:

Freese, Steve

Sent:

Thursday, April 03, 2003 9:23 AM

To:

Griffiths, Terri

Subject:

FW: support Assy. Bill 47

----Original Message----

From: Pat [mailto:path836@itis.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2003 10:04 PM

To: steve.freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: support Assy. Bill 47

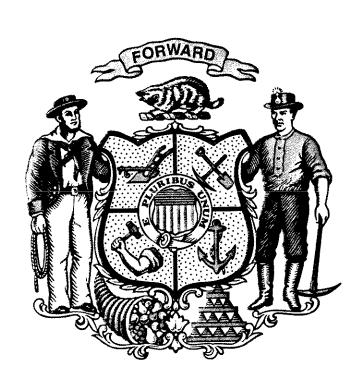
For several years now, I have not voted in the Wisconsin primary elections because I am opposed to the "straight party" approach.

Please note my support of Assembly Bill 47 which, as I understand it, proposes to change Wisconsin's primary election process so voters can again choose to vote for an individual candidate regardless of party in the primary elections.

Thank you.
Cynthia Hall
1726 Violet Place

Middleton, Wisconsin 53562

tele: (608) 836-1230



From:

Freese, Steve

Sent:

To:

Thursday, April 03, 2003 9:23 AM

Griffiths, Terri

Subject:

FW: Assembly Bill 47

----Original Message----

From: Julie Louther [mailto:altasadie@hotmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2003 7:37 AM To: steve.freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Assembly Bill 47

Dear Representative Freese:

I would like to ask that you support the adoption of Assembly Bill 47. I believe that it is highly important to be able to vote for people based on issues in the primary election.

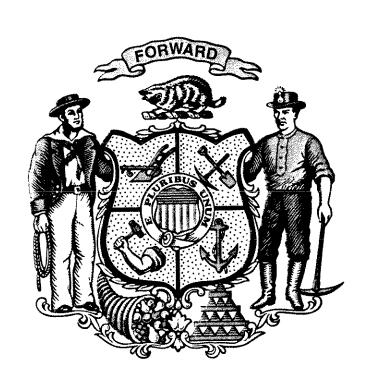
It has always been a difficult thing for me to vote at the primaries because of the party affiliation.

I also believe that more people would take the primary election more seriously and come out to vote if they knew that it was based on the individual vs their party affiliation.

Sincerely,

Julie Louther 7129 Countrywood Lane Madison, WI 53719

The new MSN 8: smart spam protection and 2 months FREE\* http://join.msn.com/?page=features/junkmail



From:

Freese, Steve

Sent:

Thursday, April 03, 2003 11:22 AM

To: Subject:

Griffiths, Terri FW: Assembly Bill 47

----Original Message-----

From: aaseireg@facstaff.wisc.edu [mailto:aaseireg@facstaff.wisc.edu]

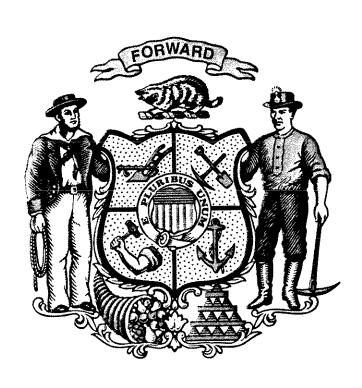
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2003 12:15 PM

To: steve.freese@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Assembly Bill 47

Please be advised that I favor Senator Risser's proposal (legislation) to change our state's primary election process allowing people to vote for the person of their choice, no matter what the party affiliation.

Shirley Seireg 219 DuRose Terr. Madison, Wis. 53705





## BOB ZIEGELBAUER

# STATE REPRESENTATIVE . TWENTY FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

# Committee on Campaigns & Elections Representative Stephen Freese, Chair Thursday, April 3, 2003 1:00 p.m. – 300-NE Support for AB 47

Mr. Chairman and Members:

Thank you for scheduling this hearing on AB 47 and for your consideration of it.

AB 47 would change Wisconsin election law to allow voters to vote for each office at a partisan primary election, but not be limited to one political party.

We are all regularly reminded of the limits of our current closed primary system when the evennumbered year September partisan primary becomes the de facto final election for a particular local county administrative office; that is, when there are candidates from only one party on the ballot for that office at the general election.

Last fall in Brown County, we had another classic example of this. A successor to retiring Sheriff Tom Hinz, was chosen in the September Republican primary at the same election that featured a hotly contested gubernatorial race in the Democratic primary. Brown County voters were forced to choose between voting for Governor and voting for Sheriff.

(To give you a better idea about this race, let me give you some of the numbers. Of the 35,381 votes cast in the 2002 fall primary in Brown County, 15,805 of the voters participated in the Democratic primary and 19,008 voted in the Republican primary. Of the 15,805 voters in the Democratic primary, 15,541 of them (about 98%) voted in the Governor's race. None of those voters were allowed to vote for Sheriff. Of the 19,008 Republican voters, only 14,396 participated in the Republican gubernatorial primary while 18,089 voted in the race for Sheriff.)

This type of situation happens regularly throughout the state.

I understand that the major political parties will likely oppose this bill. Elections are for the voters too, not only the political parties. This kind of change may or may not increase voter interest and turnout. However, it definitely will increase the impact of those who actually do show up to vote.

Thank you again for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

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