

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

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

> **03hr\_ab0047\_AC-CE\_pt04**

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

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## Griffiths, Terri

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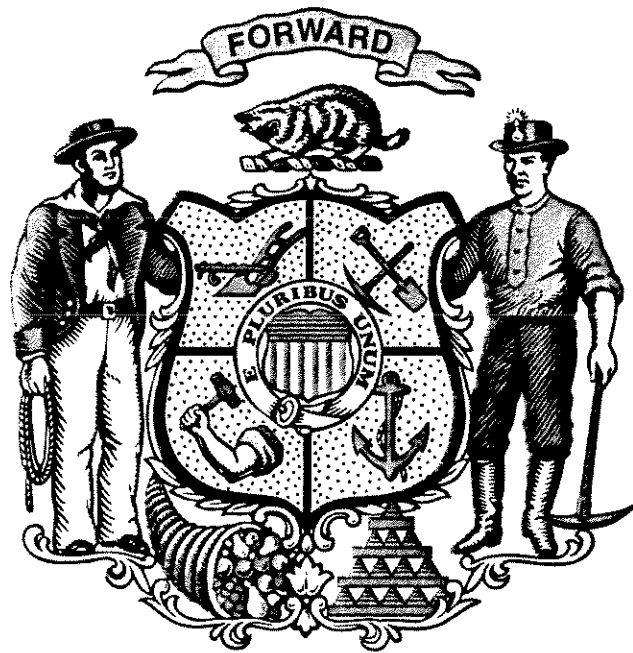
**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, April 04, 2003 8:35  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Primaries

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

**From:** ss-ridge [mailto:ss-ridge@pecbell.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 03, 2003 6:03 PM  
**To:** steve.freese@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Primaries

A friend mentioned that you're soliciting input on whether voters would be interested in the primary not being a "one party" vote, *i.e.*, a voter could pick a democratic for one office, and a republican for another primary candidate race. Please consider this our "vote" to change this antiquated system. Thank you.

Frank & Jessie Schlumpf  
W8797 State Rd. 39  
Blanchardville, WI 53516  
Phone: (608) 523-4810  
E-mail: [ss-ridge@PecBell.com](mailto:ss-ridge@PecBell.com)



## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** David J. Finton [finton@cs.wisc.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 04, 2003 1:46 PM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** Re: your mail

David Finton  
404 Chamberlain Ave #4  
Madison, WI 53726

Thanks,

David

On Fri, 4 Apr 2003, Griffiths, Terri 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

>

>

## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, April 04, 2003 1:37 PM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

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

From: David J. Finton [mailto:finton@cs.wisc.edu]  
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2003 1:36 PM  
To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
Cc: Sen.Risser@legis.state.wi.us; David Finton  
Subject: Assembly Bill 47

Representative Freese,

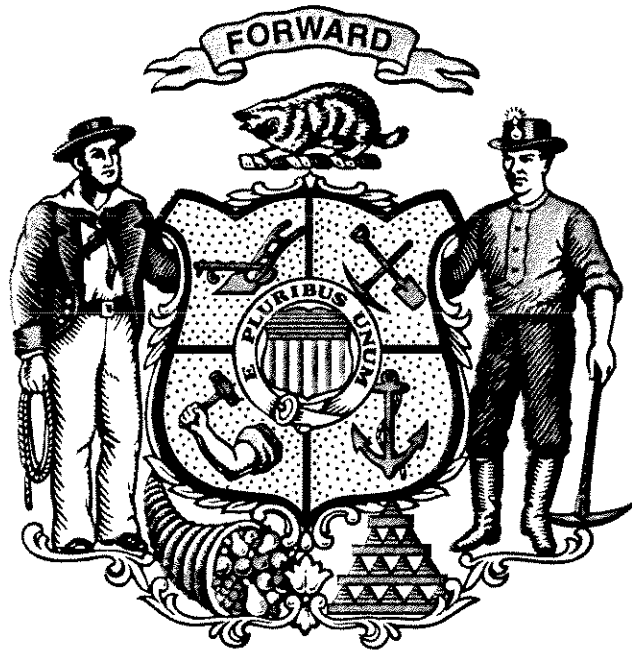
I believe Assembly Bill 47 should be passed, and that it will lead to more citizen involvement in Wisconsin government.

I heard about the bill in a letter from Senator Risser. I agree with his assessment that this "blanket primary" would encourage many more people to vote in primaries. I remember elections where I wanted to vote for a particular candidate in the primary, but was unable to because of my party affiliation. Although I'm a Republican, I almost never vote for the straight ticket. Because of this, I can see why many people might think that primaries are irrelevant.

I would like to see this changed. If more people were interested in primaries and if candidates thought it relevant to dialogue with voters not in their party affiliation, we might have more issue-oriented campaigns, which would be a win for everyone.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my views on this issue.

David Finton



## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Friday, April 04, 2003 3:05 PM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

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

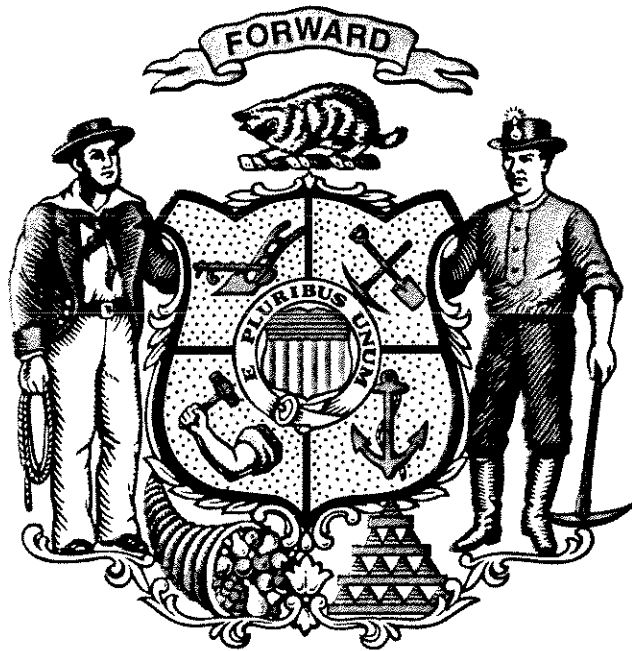
**From:** PHeiser [mailto:PJoJo@compuserve.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 04, 2003 3:03 PM  
**To:** Rep.Steve Freese  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 47

Dear Representative Freese,

My wife and I would like to voice our support for Assembly Bill 47. We consider ourselves independent voters and would like to be able to vote for the candidate of our choice from any party. We feel having this choice would give us more of a voice in our state government.

Respectfully,  
Paul & Patricia Heiser  
5114 Raymond Road  
Madison WI. 53711







## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, April 07, 2003 9:18 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Assembly Bill 47

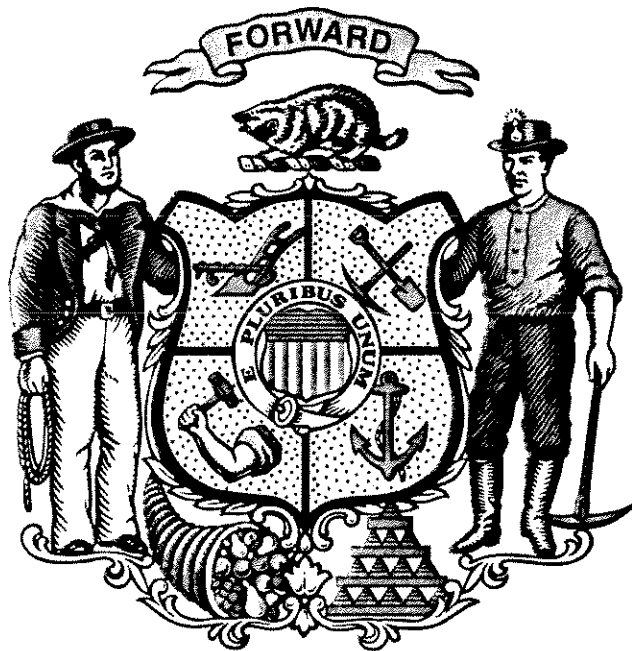
-----Original Message-----

From: Jsorns@aol.com [mailto:Jsorns@aol.com]  
Sent: Saturday, April 05, 2003 11:43 AM  
To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
Subject: Support for Assembly Bill 47

Stephen Freese,

I urge you to support and vote for Assembly Bill 47. I feel it speaks to the independent and hopefully "thinking" electorate of Wisconsin.

Juanita Sorenson, 123 Vaughn Court, Madison 53705



## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, April 07, 2003 11:13 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

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

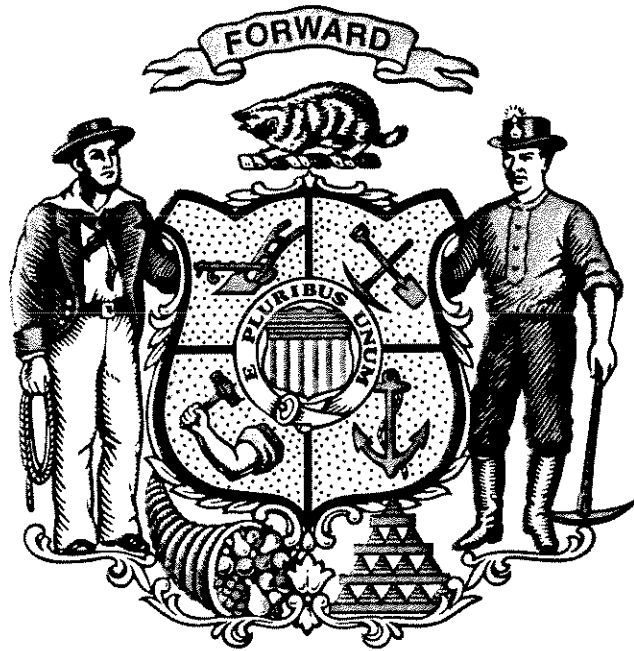
**From:** Colleen O'Connor [mailto:budybell@merr.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 07, 2003 11:01 AM  
**To:** Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
**Cc:** Sen.Risser@legis.state.wi.us  
**Subject:** Assembly Bill 47

Dear Representative Freese,

I could not attend the public hearing April 3, 2003 regarding Assembly Bill 47, but would like to express my support for the passing of this Bill. I always try and vote in the Primaries, but find it frustrating that I cannot vote for each person on their merit rather than having to vote a party line. While I may lean towards one party more than another, I would still prefer to make my own decision about how to vote. I sometimes don't vote on a particular race, because I cannot choose who I would like to vote for. This does not seem like a very democratic process to me. I also feel that independent and third party candidates would have a better chance in the election process if we could vote for the person of our choice. Please pass this Bill. Thank you for considering my opinion on this issue.

Sincerely,

Colleen O'Connor  
406 Paunack Place, B  
Madison, WI 53726



## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2003 8:46 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: In support of Assembly Bill 47

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

From: Forrest Aguirre [mailto:chromatic30@hotmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2003 8:33 PM  
To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
Subject: In support of Assembly Bill 47

Dear Representative Freese:

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the April 3rd meeting in which you considered Assembly Bill 47, due to work considerations. It is, perhaps, too late, but nonetheless I must state my support for the bill. I vote for candidates of different parties, depending on the office for which they are campaigning, whereas I might vote for a green party candidate for governor, I might vote for a republican candidate for county treasurer (let's not kid ourselves that county positions are "non-partisan" - I know better, I ran for dane county supervisor two elections ago). I think that freeing up the primary process gives voters more freedom to really choose the person, rather than the party, whom they want to represent their interests.

Finally, I think that campaign finance reform is the most important issue on the block today. I've seen the machinations and the money-pressure first hand by running for public office. Until we have publicly-finance campaigns or firmer (and lower) limits on spending, with harsher penalties for abuse of said limits, masses of people will go on hating politicians as they have for time immemorial, no matter what party they are from. Want to encourage people to get to the polls? Public financing (fueled by voluntary donations on people's tax forms, I suppose - if the people don't voluntarily pay, then the campaigns just have to be run that much more cheaply, don't they? Tough, say I. Deal with it!) is the way to real democracy. I'm sure you're well aware, both as a receiver of donations and by seeing your opponents receive donations, how much influence corporate and private interests have on our democracy. These donations garner "favours" in the form of legislation passed, judicial eyes averted when wrongdoing has been committed, and in tax breaks and other incentives for the donaters. Democracy truly is NOT free. Not anymore. I see the winds of change, however. People are fed up with fat politicians and the special interests - both left and right - that hold their leashes. Change is happening, perhaps slowly, but steadily, nonetheless.

I choose to make my voice heard in the voting booth - when two candidates run for office and one argues more vociferously for campaign finance reform, that candidate has my favor, and it will be difficult to sway me from voting for him or her, regardless of the way I feel about other issue. Call me altruistic, but I'm also convincing my friends, one by one, of the importance of voting in favor of campaign finance reform. Rumblings are already going on throughout the US, and they won't stop here in Wisconsin. I'm heeding those rumblings. I'm becoming a part of the background noise that will soon be brought to the foreground. I'm voting for a free democracy. I'm voting for campaign finance reform.

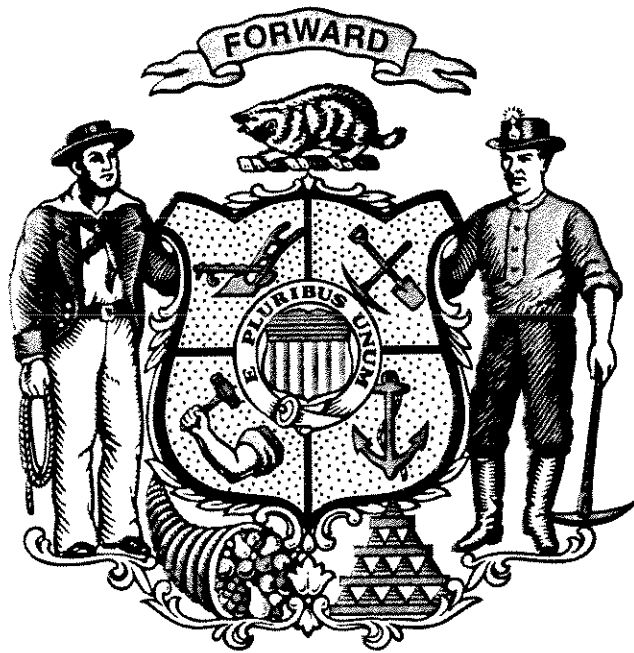
Letting me vote in a blanket primary is a step in that direction. If you fear the winds of change, vote against bill 47. If you sense them coming and long to be a part of a sea change in Wisconsin democracy, vote for bill 47.

Thank you for your time,

Forrest Aguirre  
Citizen of Wisconsin

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



## Griffiths, Terri

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**From:** Freese, Steve  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 07, 2003 9:05 AM  
**To:** Griffiths, Terri  
**Subject:** FW: Assembly Bill 47

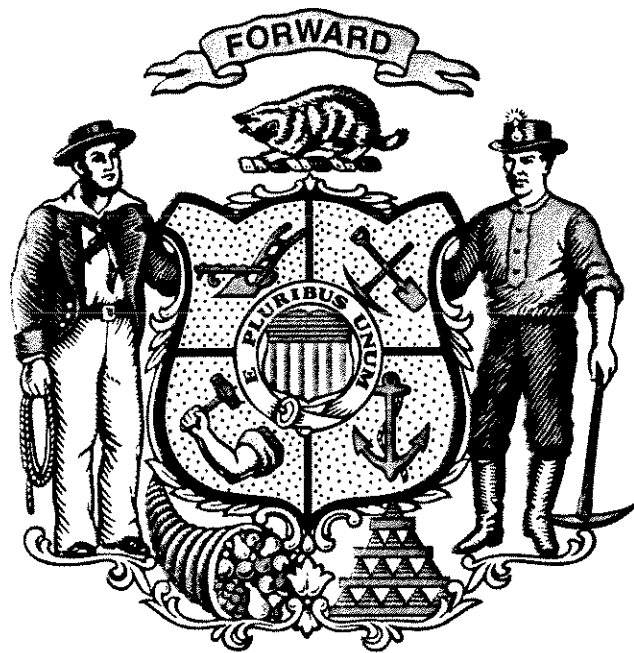
-----Original Message-----

From: Wiegand [mailto:wiegand@cs.wisc.edu]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 07, 2003 8:22 AM  
To: Steve.Freese@legis.state.wi.us  
Cc: Wiegand  
Subject: Assembly Bill 47

I am in favor of Assembly Bill 47. I realize the public hearing was a month ago, but I hope this bill passed. I am very opposed to party voting versus voting on issues and on people. I know for a fact that many, many people just decide at some time in their lives that they are of one or another party and then do not pay attention to actual facts, issues, and people. Along those lines, we need to develop a method in which people can become informed. This would have to be free and not sponsored by any party or special interest. TV ads sponsored by a party or special interest are ruining democracy. The current system is NOT working.

Thank you,  
Nancy Wiegand





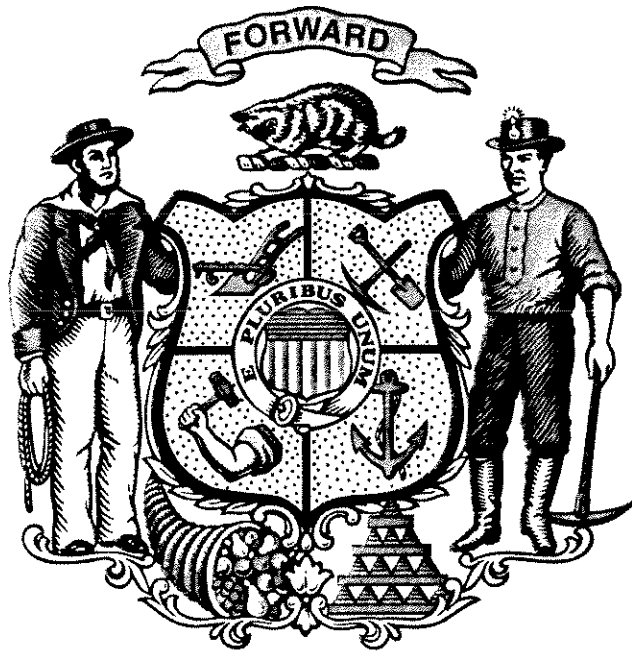


Wilfred Pierick  
5105 Flambeau Rd.  
Madison, WI 53705

To Stephen Freese -

I am in favor of  
Assembly Bill 47 -  
co-sponsored by  
State Senator Fred  
A. Kisser and  
hope for its  
passage.

W. J. Pierick

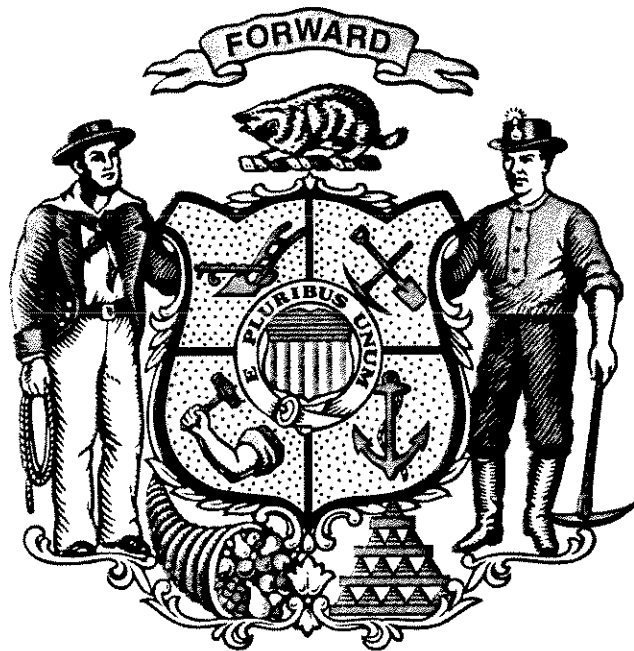


Dear Rep. Freeze,

We support Assembly Bill 47  
and would like to see it passed.

Dorothy Sund  
Julian M. Sund

5734 Forsythia Pl.  
Madison, WI 53705



AB47

on the ballot.

Who should we be  
accommodating - "the party"  
or "the voters"?

ARRIS

WCCD -  
WI County Constitutional Officers

172 - current laws  
allowe ballots to be mailed  
to work.

AB41 - Bypastians.

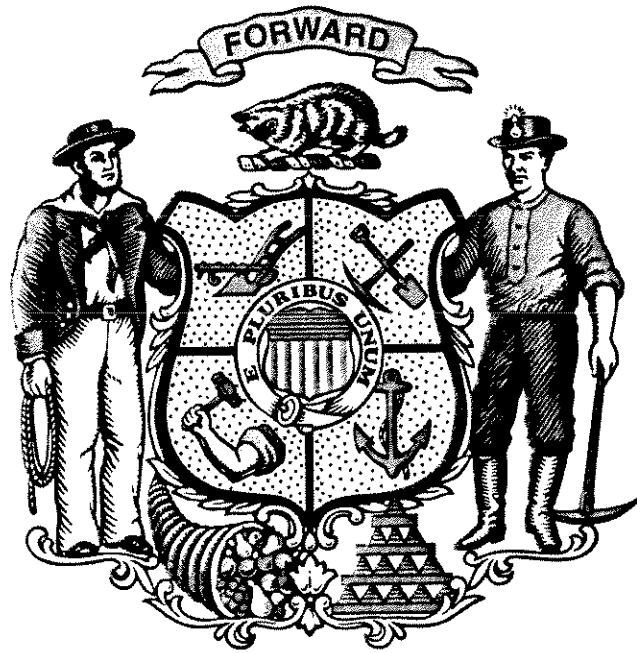
Mayor may not measure  
voter interest / turnout  
"Blanket Primary"

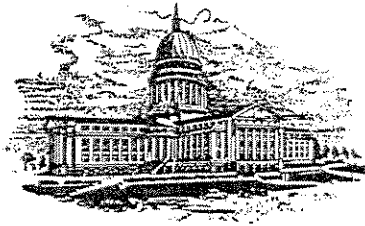
~~WCCD~~

Patterned after the  
Washington approach.

Believes his disenfranchised  
by having to identify  
which party, if he considers  
himself an independent.

Believe majority of  
voters are independent  
third core party members  
don't have a bondsmen wife  
closed primary.  
They give strong blanket





WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**STEPHEN J. FREESE**

Donald Robb  
2058 E. Main St.  
Madison, 53704

AB 41  
Support