

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_ab0111_AC-CE_pt01**

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

> **

Vote Record

Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Date: 3/16/03
Moved by: Gundrum Seconded by: Grothman

AB 111 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt _____
A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
A/S Sub Amdt _____
A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for: as amended
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Representative Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Gundrum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Glenn Grothman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jeffrey Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative David Travis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Pocan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 4 2 _____

300 N.E.

Vote Record

Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Date: 3/6/03
Moved by: Grothman Seconded by: Gundrum

AB 111 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

A/S Amdt 1 LRB a 0233
A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
A/S Sub Amdt _____
A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Unanimous consent

Committee Member	Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
Representative Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Gundrum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Glenn Grothman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jeffrey Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative David Travis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Pocan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 4 2 _____

Vote Record

Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Date: 3/6/03 Moved by: Grothman Seconded by: Wood

AB 11 SB Clearinghouse Rule
AJR Appointment
AR SR Other

A/S Amdt 2 LRBA 0230
A/S Amdt to A/S Amdt
A/S Sub Amdt
A/S Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt
A/S Amdt to A/S Amdt to A/S Sub Amdt

- Be recommended for:
Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrency

Unanimous consent

Table with 4 columns: Committee Member, Aye, No, Absent, Not Voting. Rows include Stephen Freese, Mark Gundrum, Glenn Grothman, Jeffrey Wood, David Travis, and Mark Pocan.

Totals: 5 1

Requires DOT. ob

Vote Record

Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Date: 3/6/03
 Moved by: Gundrum Seconded by: Grothman
 AB 111 SB _____ Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

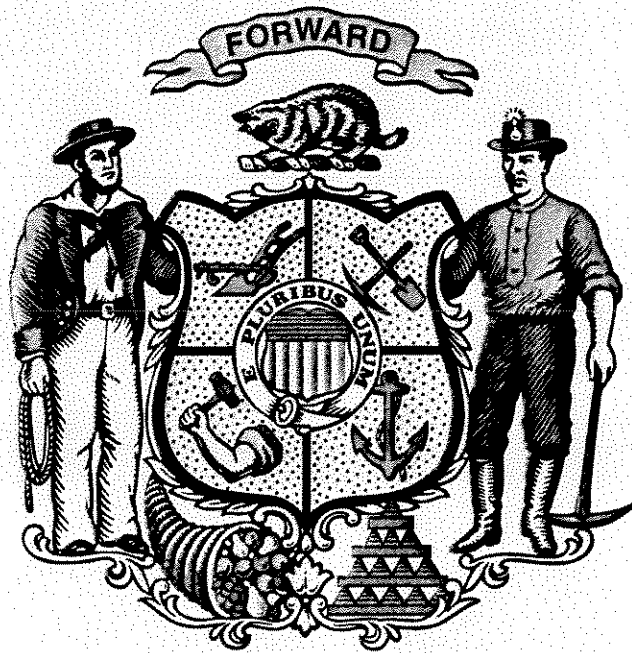
A/S Amdt 3 LRB a 0237
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____
 A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____
 A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Amdt _____ to A/S Sub Amdt _____

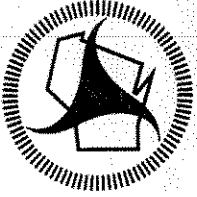
Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

Unanimous consent

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Representative Stephen Freese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Gundrum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Glenn Grothman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Jeffrey Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative David Travis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Pocan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 4 2 _____





Wisconsin Department of Transportation

www.dot.state.wi.us

Scott McCallum
Governor

Terrence D. Mulcahy, P.E.
Secretary

DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
4802 Sheboygan Ave.
PO Box 7949
Madison, WI 53707-7949

Date: September 28, 2001

To: State Representative Scott Walker and members
of the Assembly Campaigns & Elections Committee

From: *Julie* Julie Clark, Deputy Director, Bureau of Driver Services
6-2239

Re: AB-259 relating to DL/ID cards for voting

At the hearing on AB 259, Rep. Pocan asked for a cost estimate for staffing our DMV Customer Service Centers on election day from 7 AM to 8 PM. The question was also asked about how many Centers we have and their locations.

I'm enclosing the cost estimate for staffing our Centers on election day along with a map of our locations.

Please let me know if you have further questions.

**AB259 Cost Estimates for our DMV Customer Service Centers (CSC's)
To Stay Open on Presidential Election Day**

Assumptions

- CSC's will provide service at one location in each county.
- CSC's will have the site staffed from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- CSC's staff will have to obtain additional equipment to issue photo ID cards or photo DL over the counter, as it does not have spare equipment today.
- A minimum of two people will be required at each location.
- A complete set of digitized photo equipment is \$17,000
- This is only for the presidential election (once every four years)

Equipment

Currently DMV's Bureau of Field Services CSC's provides a minimum of one 5-day site in 23 counties. In addition, there are 20 travel teams that would be assigned to counties, leaving 29 counties without an open service center [72 -(23 + 20) =29].
 $\$17,000 \times 29 = \$493,000$

Each of the 29 additional sites would need a laptop computer to process applications for ID or DL at a cost of \$87,000 (29 x \$3000).

Staffing

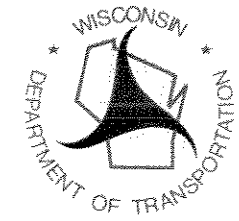
43 locations would require 5 hours of overtime for 2 people. $43 \times 2 \times 5 \times \$33.47 = \$14,392$

Staff from 5-day sites would have to be sent to 29 locations. This would require travel time, meals and 2 overnight stays.

$58 \times 6 \times \$33.47$	=	\$11,650	overtime
$58 \times 2 \times \$62$	=	\$ 7,192	travel
$58 \times \$61$	=	\$ 3,538	meals

Total cost	
Equipment =	\$580,000
Staff =	<u>\$ 36,772</u>
	\$616,772

DMV SERVICE CENTERS

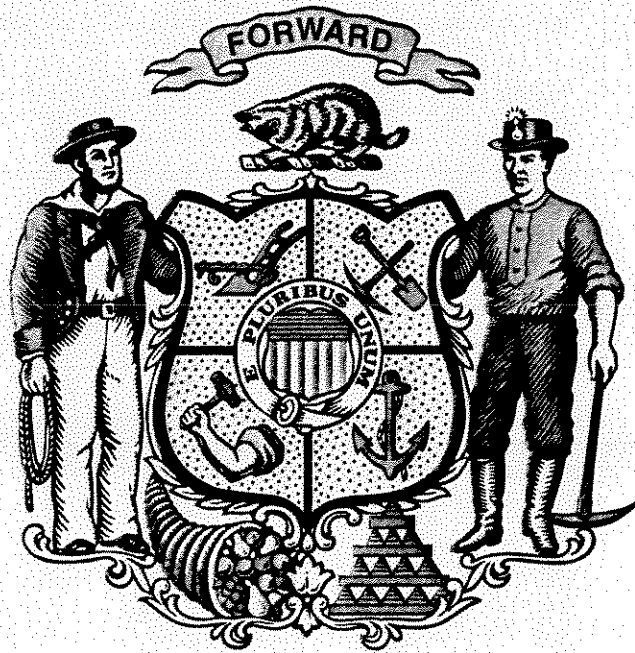


Legend

- TEAM HOME SERVICE CENTERS
- ◐ 5-DAY SERVICE CENTERS WITH REGISTRATION SERVICE
- Express Centers

TRAVEL SITES OPEN:

- 2,3,4 days/mo
- ◐ 1 day/mo
- 1 day/wk
- ◐ Up to 2 days/wk





Representative Scott Walker

Phone: (608) 266-9180 or (414) 771-1938 ~ Fax: (608) 282-3614 ~ E-Mail: Rep.Walker@legis.state.wi.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 23, 2002

Assembly Passes Photo ID Requirement for Voters *Requirement everywhere in society today*

Madison... Legislation requiring voters to show photo identification at the polls finally passed out of the state Assembly today after opponents used a procedural measure to block sending it to the Senate last fall. The bill passed on a 61-36 vote on November 8, 2001. The new rule would restore credibility to the state's election process, according to the bill's author, Rep. Scott Walker, R-Wauwatosa.

"From boarding a plain to cashing a check, a photo ID is needed in so many places these days," said Walker, "You even need it to enter the Capitol so why not show it to protect the integrity of a vote."

Walker said that concerns raised during the 2000 elections prompted his proposal. He said hundreds of state residents phoned his office with reports of voting irregularities. Additionally, a local television reporter recorded a Democratic activist handing out packs of cigarettes to homeless persons in exchange for their votes. A check by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel also revealed that 361 felons -- as well as numerous deceased individuals and non-citizens -- voted in the election.

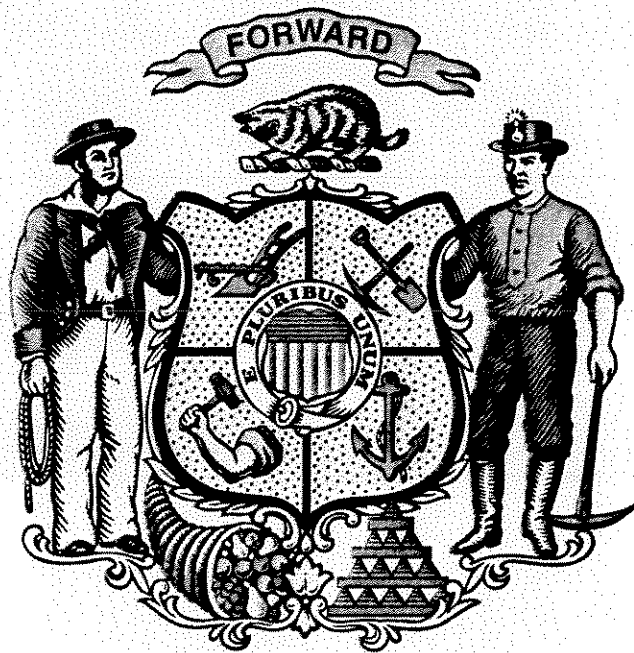
On Nov. 1, the Milwaukee Election Commission reported that 3,452 records were removed from the poll list following the election due to incorrect information. The names were deleted because their registration confirmation cards were undeliverable by the post office. Commission members previously voted in favor of a photo ID bill.

Walker pointed out that his bill allows the less than three percent of individuals currently without identification to request a state-issued ID card at no cost. Since the purpose of the card would be to establish identity, individuals with outdated addresses would still be allowed to cast their ballots.

He also noted that 44 states have either an ID requirement or advance registration. Five states with voter ID requirements have higher turnout percentages than the national average, according to the Federal Election Commission.

"The reasons for the high voter turnout in Wisconsin include both same-day voter registration and a sense of civic duty," Walker said. "Our legislation does nothing to detract from that."

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City of
BELOIT, Wisconsin

100 STATE STREET
BELOIT, WI 53511
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
CITY HALL - SECOND FLOOR
FAX (608) 364-6649
<http://www.ci.beloit.wi.us/>

FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Rep. Stephen Fleese

FROM: Carol Alexander PAGES: (INCLUDING COVER SHEET) 10

DEPARTMENT: City Clerk's Office PHONE # (608)364-6680

SUBJECT: Clerk's comments re:
Provisional Balloting

NOTES: _____

Alexander, Carol

From: James Villiesse - *New London*
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 11:20 AM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol, As you may know I am quite familiar with the Federal Voting assistance act of 2002. The provisional voting aspects of the act mostly did not affect us as we have election day registration but there were some events dealing with military voters and others were we had to come up with some kind of provisional procedure. I did expect that some provisional procedure would be introduced to meet these requirements, and Kevin did tell me that some Legislators wanted to expand upon what was required. Some comments. I do agree that the events in Milwaukee do point out a problem. Was the person who vouched for the non existent voters charged with voter fraud? Out here in the rural areas it has been a benefit that neighbors can vouch for neighbors, as this happens quite often. In some ways I would hate to lose this ability because one person abused it in Milwaukee big time. A person who is renting, doesn't drive and lives with a another person in whose name the phone and other utility bills are recorded would not have any id, and would be hard pressed to supply any the day after election day if they didn't have it the day before. We do have these people probably 6 to 10 every election. They are legitimate residents/voters and it some times takes them several years to get the normal credentials the rest of the voters have. The new procedure may disenfranchise these voters. From the procedures listed I wonder if he courts will conclude that we have violated the expectation of a secret ballot. I think that the manner in which the ballot is kept secret will be need to be spelled out. A better fix may be in making additional requirements for the witness which will ensure fraud charges if he is lying. Such provisions may be that the witness is a registered voter in that precinct, known to the poll workers, or who voted in that precinct in at least 4 of the last 8 elections. (Thus a residency of at least 3 years is required). Some kind of provisional balloting will have to be done, it will be the case that with the new law in some cases final results in very close elections may take a week or longer. Jim V.

Alexander, Carol

From: Sandy Ingram
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 11:16 AM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol,

Thank you for keeping us up to date on this. I have been thinking about the provisional ballot. The good part would be it would allow voters the opportunity to vote if they did not bring proper papers. In a small city like Cedarburg, there is usually sufficient time for an elector to come back to the polls. In a larger community, I can see a problem.

I agree that a person should not be able to verify the ID of an elector at the polls. It is too easy to "pre-plan" and really not valid identification.

Looking at the downside, Clerks would know how the elector voted because they would have to adjust the final totals the next day if the elector brought in a D.L. or SS card. An elected official from the registration table would have to "walk" with the voter to obtain a ballot and make sure the ballot was placed in an envelope and did not go into the tabulator. It seems most of the problems were in larger cities. Could provisional ballots apply to municipalities in excess of a certain population?

Sandy Ingram
City Clerk
City of Cedarburg
Phone: (262) 375-7606
Fax: (262) 375-7906
Population 11,252

Page 1 of 2

Alexander, Carol

From: Kathy Gibbs [tnorway@wi.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 10:49
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Carol, maybe they should institute all these nice rules for counties with populations the size of Milwaukee, since that is their target area to correct, instead of imposing all these unnecessary regulations on the rest of us. Obviously he has no idea of the Clerk's role and duties if he thinks this is not going to add "much" of a burden on what we already do. Just venting I guess. Some of these legislators really have no clue. Kathy Gibbs

Alexander, Carol

From: Jan Winget - *Union Grove*
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 1:22 PM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Carol -

I find the attached quite interesting but I think it could be a hassle to administer - even if Rep Freese doesn't think that it is an undue burden on the municipal clerk. While the Village of Union Grove may not have many ballots to hand count - just think of the larger cities especially the September primary when you have can how many names on the ballot and you have to watch the party lines. Any of the elections where there can be numerous candidates would be a headache. That's why most of use use machines to count the ballots.

Then again, why should the municipal clerk have to count them - bring back the poll workers. More expense.

I think that this is another unfunded mandate being forced upon the local municipal clerks!

Jan Winget

Page 1 of 3

Alexander, Carol

From: Mary Smith [mary@HOBART-
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 1:46 PM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

I guess I feel that in this day and age obtaining an identification card of some type is not a hardship for any resident.

I do not like the idea of having to add numbers to the electronic totals the day after the election. It will no longer be a secret ballot because you will know who that person voted for when you tally it.

We have had no one come to vote who has not been able to produce ID, ever. Either an Oneida Tribal Identification card or a Drivers License has always been produced if we have asked for ID.

Florida will have a problem counting and adding them correctly anyway right?

Mary Smith, CMC
Village Clerk / Treasurer
Village of Hobart Population 5285
e-mail: mary@hobart-wi.org
Phone: 920-869-3802
Fax: 920-869-2049

Alexander, Carol

From: Barringer, Barb [wbclk@ci.west-
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 1:19 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Carol,

I feel that if the person intends to vote, they should have the ID. If they don't have it, they don't vote. They already get to register on election day!

One other item that needs to be changed is the absentee voting. It's open to much more fraud now that they changed the law. We need to be more restrictive as to who can vote absentee.

Barb Barringer, City Clerk
City of West Bend
Pop. 28,353
(262) 335-5103
wbclk@ci.west-bend.wi.us

Alexander, Carol

From: vborth@wirapids.org
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 12:27 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

If the voter can provide ID on the day after the election, he/she should be able to provide it on election day. Why not just eliminate the allowance for a witness -- period.

Provisional voting is akin to the specious rationalization for giving taxpayers a grace period for paying taxes.

If they're smart enough to pay taxes after the deadline or to vote after election day, they should be smart enough to pay taxes by the deadline or vote on election day! If they're too stupid, then maybe they're too stupid to vote in the first place!

Vern Borth
Clerk
City of Wisconsin Rapids
444 W. Grand Ave.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2780

(715) 421-8208

Fax (715) 421-8280

e-mail vborth@wirapids.org

Alexander, Carol

From: Miller, Jeanne
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 12:33 PM
To: 'alexandc@ci.beloit.wi.us'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

I hesitate to respond to this inquiry. I have been in office almost two months. Our county is a central county with Optech equipment.

All ballots are brought to the Courthouse and counted the evening after polls are closed. By statute, Board of Canvas is held two days after the election. That is statutory. The other concern I have is, in a close race, you will not be able to call a winner. It would be delayed for at least an additional day. I'm not in favor of this, simply because I have not had the experience that the local municipal clerks have when individuals come in to vote. Let me know what your results are.

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

From: Dennis Linn [mailto:linnd@jvl.net.com]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 12:08 PM
To: Jeanne Miller
Subject: FW: Update on Provisional Ballots

Jeanne, please note this inquiry from the municipal clerk's network. In the drawbacks area, it assumes some different processes from our county process. Namely, we turn in the ballots the same evening, and you do the electronics.

This person assumes we would manually count the provisional ballots and report to you. Is there anything to prevent us from bringing the actual ballots to you the next day and you run them through your system?? Sort of a miniature version of what we do election evening.

Please comment to me from your viewpoint, or forward your response directly to Carol Alexander.

Thanks

Dennis Linn
Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Poynette, pop. 2366
Phone:(608) 635-2122 FAX:(608)635-8960
E-mail: linnd@JVL.net.com

Alexander, Carol

From: Carol A. Strause
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 8:31 AM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

I believe that because Milwaukee has separate rules than the rest of the state, they should adopt the provisional there where the problem is and not burden the rest of us!!!
In the smaller communities, of which we are one, there are a lot of elderly that don't drive and won't have picture ID. That will keep them from coming to the polls - they WILL NOT go thru the hassle of getting a picture ID just to vote. Unless, of course, the picture ID is only for those that we do not know and not for all who vote.

Carol A. Strause, CMC/CMTW
Village Clerk-Treas.
140 N. Main St., P.O. Box 147
Monticello, WI 53570-0147
ph 608-938-4383
fax 608-938-4352
pop-1140
vilofmonticello@tds.net

Message

Page 1 of 3

Alexander, Carol

From: Tess Hochrein (thochrein@ci.fond-du-
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 11:18 AM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Carol, This is the first that I have heard of the Provisional Balloting. I agree with the drawbacks that are listed, but this is going to cause problem with the pollworkers as far as when they give each voter a number. If a person has no ID and cast a ballot, but it has to be put in an envelope the pollworkers can not give them a number because otherwise at the end of the evening their number count would be off. 1) My personal opinions to help cut out fraud is to have every voter show a picture ID with name and address on before registering to vote and voting. You don't have to have a drivers license to get an ID. You can get one at the Motor Vehicle Department. 2) Have a cut off of 20 days voter registration before election day. Thanks for sharing this information with us.

You can put me down as a no to Provisional Balloting.

Thanks, Tess

Tess Hochrein, City Clerk
City of Fond du Lac
P O Box 150
Fond du Lac WI 54936-0150
Phone 920-929-3250 Fax 920-929-7515
Population 42,203

Alexander, Carol

From: Jennifer Hudon
Sent: Saturday, March 01, 2003 11:08 AM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol-

I am not in favor of the provisional ballot process.

Requiring a photo ID at the polls may sound like a good idea, but we provide our voters with voter id CARDS (NO PICTURES) Most people lose the cards. Many people come to the polls without their DL's. If they decide to require picture ID's at the polls, they should not postpone the process until the next day. I agree, we would not know if the person producing the ID is the same person who voted.

Since our Election officials have gone home and filled out their reports, I dont feel it proper for the Clerks to change the totals to add one or 2 votes for a person who didnt bring the proper documents. It sounds like the legislature is reacting again to a small minority of voters. Its like going in to Younkens to pay your bill on the due date and forgetting you check book. They dont forgive the late charge because a customer didnt bring in the right documentation.

Sure seems like the legislators are making our life very difficult lately. Ill be interested to get more info regarding the handicapped accessibility issues Barb Hansen touched on the other day. Sounds like another over-reaction.

Have a good weekend and good week!

Jennifer Hudon
City Clerk/Deputy Treasurer
City of Manitowoc
pop 34,000
phone 920-686-6950
fax 920-686-6959

Alexander, Carol

From: Jane Romanowski
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 11:24 AM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol - Interesting information. I can see why the committee is pushing for provisional ballots, but the whole process falls on the Clerk's shoulders. We aren't at the polls on election day to see what the person looked like who may have tried to vote and could not. How can we verify it is one in the same person when they come to our office - assuming we will be standing at the door for the entire day to see if and when the provisional voter may arrive. We always have our Board of Canvassers at 9 a.m. on the Wednesday after the election and our information is to the County by 10:00 a.m. I don't think we need to hold onto the ballots any longer than necessary as we all know what can happen with bags or boxes of ballots sitting around. How do we add votes to our mark sense machines when we have already closed the polls and locked in the totals? I'm not convinced that since there was a problem in Milwaukee that our whole system of election administration should be changed. I'd rather see Photo I.D.'s required or eliminate same day registration - as many other states do now.

I'm sure you will get a lot of interesting replies - I didn't want mine to sound witchy but these were the first thoughts out of this stuffed up head of mine. Take care. Jane

Jane M. Romanowski

Village Clerk/ Assistant to the Administrator
Village of Pleasant Prairie
9915 - 39th Avenue
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158
(262) 694-1400
Fax (262) 694-4734
jromanowski@plprairiewi.com
Population 17,077

Page 1 of 2

Alexander, Carol

From: Karalewitz, Kathy [KKaralewitz@menomonee - Falls]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 8:30 AM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol - I guess my main response would be, we are trying to move forward with counting of votes electronically which, in my opinion, is most accurate, then we should turn around and have to hand count these other ballots onto the total. Does not make that much sense. I would not be in favor of this. There would have to be a change in the statutes for canvassing. Seems like a lot of work, I would rather see the work be put towards "no registering on election day". Thanks.

Alexander, Carol

From: Jean Marena - MUSKEGO
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 12:02 PM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol - I have a question about photo i.d. Refers to not being able to present photo i.d. when registering at the polls. Photo i.d. is not required now. Is it going to be in 2004? Is that coming from the feds?

I don't like the provisional ballot proposal. Either they have proper i.d. or they don't. I think everyone going to vote should produce i.d., not just those registering on election day. If they don't, they shouldn't be allowed to vote. You can't even cash a check without producing an i.d. The news media and municipal newsletters and mailings can get out the word that proper i.d. is required to vote. I don't like delaying the results of an election which occurs because of the provisional voting.

Yours second paragraph refers to "or request to vote absentee". If this is a new registrant and they haven't produced a photo i.d., they wouldn't be able to obtain an absentee ballot under the current law would they? I don't agree if the new law would require us to send the absentee ballot w/o having received i.d.

Alexander, Carol

From: Cindi Hesse [Cindi.Hesse@appleton.org]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 1:09 PM
To: AlexandC@ci.beloit.wi.us
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

Carol,

While I understand Rep. Freese's concerns, it appears to me that much of what transpired in the Milwaukee area could have been avoided with better/properly trained election officials. Also, if a provisional ballot is approved and a witness can no longer be used to register another individual (which could be the case in Federal elections now), more voters may be disenfranchised.

I also feel that the issues that occurred in Milwaukee are not at all new to the election process, only that they have been brought to light. Sometimes things are only issues if we make it so.

While I do not take Rep. Freese's concerns lightly, I think the additional work for clerks and voters, additional training of inspectors, and modification of the voting process is much greater than the benefits that will be received.

HOWEVER,

I still feel very strongly (personally) that if Provisional ballot is to be allowed in the state of Wisconsin, advance registration deadlines need to be established (perhaps 30 days), and provisional balloting be processed by the municipal clerk from the date of registration closure to the day prior to election day. No provisional voting on election day. This would reduce the error rate greatly by taking this process away from the election officials and not allowing it on election day.

1 58 10

Alexander, Carol

From: Arlie Harris [AHarris@wppisys.org]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 1:13 PM
To: AlexandC@ci.beloit.wi.us
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol,
I would say that this sounds like a typical solution from the Legislature. If the Legislature wants photo ID... then voters should have photo ID to register. Period.

Enjoy the weekend.

Arlie Harris
City Administrator
Boscobel, WI 53805
608.375.5001
Fax 608.375.4750
aharris@wppisys.org

Page 1 of 3

Alexander, Carol

From: Town of Mosel
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 12:40 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

Carol,

I probably don't have enough election experience (handled three elections so far) to have a strong opinion one way or the other, but...

From my perspective, I don't think that it would significantly increase my workload and for the benefits of fraud protection it might be worth it. But I have a relatively small number of voters (an estimated 600 or so, if everyone shows up!) If I get 3-5 people who are new voters at any election, that is a lot. A municipality with a much larger number of voters could be overwhelmed by keeping track of all the potential new voters. Also, how does this provisional balloting fit with the statewide voter registration that is supposed to be happening? Would that system catch some of the issues Rep. Freese is concerned about? I don't know what that system is going to look like, but if it will take care of some of these fraud issues, why put provisional balloting in place?

I think the other issue is for the County Clerk's office and the delays, etc. that it would cause at that level. Hopefully someone at that level will provide their opinion.

Thanks for taking the time to do this!

Lavonne Athorp, Clerk
Town of Mosel, Sheboygan County
(Pop. - 830)
W982 County Road FF, Sheboygan, WI 53083
(920) 565-3700
(920) 565-2677 (fax)
moselclerk@bytehead.com

Alexander, Carol

From: Village of Wausaukee
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 12:28 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol,

Not only am I in favor of provisional ballots but also state wide voter registration. If state wide registration is not a possibility why not have everyone at least have to register in their municipality to vote. My poll workers are mostly elderly sweet ladies who question very little, at the presidential election I know people voted here that should not have when I looked at the poll list. This would have been a recount problem as well.

Kaye Menor
Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Wausaukee
428 Harrison Ave
PO Box 475
Wausaukee, WI 54177-0475
Phone: (715) 856-5341
Fax: (715) 856-6166
Email: vilofwauskee@webcntrl.com
Pop. 566

Page 1 of 1

Alexander, Carol

From: VillLannon@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 12:50
To: AlexandC@ci.beloit.wi.us
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol:

I read your e-mail and personally feel this is governmental overkill for such a small problem. It still doesn't completely solve the problem of fraudulent voting and I don't think any system or procedure will. So I guess I'm against it.

Thanks,
Jim Lamb
Village of Lannon Clerk/Treasurer

Alexander, Carol

From: Tony Hallman
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 11:03 AM
To: alexandc@ci.beloit.wi.us
Subject: Sounds like a plan

Carol,

We all take our freedoms too much for granted, photo id for voting purposes is not a big deal. We will not get all the crooks but will downsize the problem. Have a great day. tonyh.northwoods@hotmail.com

Alexander, Carol

From: Annette Dutcher
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 11:29 AM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol,

Thanks for explaining this. It sounds like it could be a good idea, but as I was thinking how it could affect us, it occurred to me that this could be a real time-consuming process in presidential elections, where our university population turns out in mass. We have always had the ruling that students who reside here while going to the university can choose whether to register and vote here or at home. The problem is that they don't change the address on their drivers' licenses for the 4 or 5 years they are here, so we always have to use other forms of i.d., such as their dorm assignment letters, utility bills, etc. They have student i.d. cards with pictures, but these don't contain their addresses. Often, the person whose name is on the lease for off-campus housing serves as a witness for his/her roommates, who sometimes don't have anything else. We have such a busy day during presidential elections already that having to do these added duties would slow down the process a lot. (Most of our students register on election day, even though the Student Senate and others do registration drives ahead of time!)

Annette Dutcher, City Clerk
City of Platteville
Population 9,999

Page 1 of 1

Alexander, Carol

From: Annette Dutcher
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 11:48 AM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Again Carol,

It occurred to me after I sent my first reply that this could create a phenomonal number of ballots for the clerk to count on the day after the election, too. I don't know how you feel, but I wouldn't want the responsibility of being the one counting these ballots, when the pollworkers are no longer a part of the process!

Annette

Alexander, Carol

From: Roxann Brue [arlingtonvil@core.com]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 9:22 AM
To: alexandc@ci.beloit.wi.us
Subject: Re: Balloting

I have an opinion. While the voting in Milwaukee may have problems I don't see the burden this places on the SMALL municipalities who don't have the budgets or full time clerks to have to go through this. I can see the good in his bill but maybe this is limited to the larger municipalities like the requirement to register voters at a certain population. Since the State is requiring State wide voter registration soon how will this bill affect that requirement? As budgets both State and Municipalities get cut who is going to make up for this extra cost for some municipalities, if any extra cost occurs.

Roxann Brue
Village of Arlington
P.O. Box 207
Arlington, WI 53911-0207
arlingtonvil@core.com
(608) 635-2474
(608) 635-8699 Fax

Page 1 of 3

Alexander, Carol

From: Diana Dykstra
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 12:18 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

I agree with the photo id issue. However, I am not sold of the issue of handling their ballots. I feel that if they don't have a photo id then they are sent away and not allowed to vote. Most people should know they need a photo id in order to vote, I think only the people that cause problems are those that are questionable.

I disagree with making a compromise allowing them to vote if they don't have a photo id on the spot. I think that will only cause severe problems. As it is we have trouble getting things organized for next day processing after an election and the newspapers are always calling the night of the election day - what do we tell them, we have to wait for official results until the three people that didn't have photo id's come in to prove they are residents? I don't agree with that part.

Diana Dykstra
Lake Geneva City Clerk
626 Geneva Street
Lake Geneva, WI 53147
Population: 7,196
Phone: (262) 248-3673
Fax: (262) 248-4715

Alexander, Carol

From: Robert C. Anderson
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 9:24 AM
To: AlexandC@ci.beloit.wi.us
Cc: Thomas G. Wilson
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

It seems ok except that we will also have to bring in election inspectors to certify the vote count on the provisional ballots that are cleared up the next day. I personally think it would just be better to eliminate registration at the polls. I think that stopping registration at least 10 days prior to the election would solve most of the id issues since they would have to come to the office or send in the required proof in advance or they wouldn't get to vote. I understand that there are still some states that require registration 6 months prior to the election and they have considerable residency requirements other than the 10 days here in WI. I don't know how other people feel about this issue but I do believe it need to be given some serious consideration.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please feel free to contact me.

Thanks

Bob

Robert C. Anderson
Utility, Finance & I.S. Manager
Town of Westport

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

From: Thomas G. Wilson
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 8:10 AM
To: Robert C. Anderson
Subject: FW: Update on Provisional Ballots

Please review this and forward your thoughts to Carol and me.

Thomas G. Wilson
Attorney/Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Westport (Dane County, WI)
Population 3,683

twilson@townofwestport.org
www.townofwestport.org
(608) 849-4372
(608) 849-9657 FAX

Alexander, Carol

From: Karen Peters [Karen.Peters@city.fitchburg.wi.us]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 1:14 PM
To: AlexandC@ci.beloit.wi.us
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

Well I do have some comments you can pass on.

The most obvious item to me is that this is being done for errors done in Milwaukee only. Since Milwaukee makes up their own legislative responses to situations, let this provisional ballot process apply to only them. If our things out broken, why mess with them?

I see additional expenses involved due to the special printing needs or provisional ballots and special envelopes to seal them. When a person comes in the next day (and I'm sure they will be very irate to have to do this!) and we then open the sealed envelope and manually tabulate the votes, all privacy is lost. The day after an election is hectic enough without adding this responsibility. I also agree that there isn't a good method to verify the person in the office is who voted. It is far too easy to create a "similar" signature. This seems to me to open up even more fraud.

I agree with his comments that the problems in Milwaukee need to be addressed and that is what they should be concentrating on. Not the fact that we do things correctly and will now suffer due to Milwaukee's mistake. Take the monies that would be spent on this and use them to educate the Milwaukee poll workers. Don't they have a special elections board that does this? I don't think the clerk is even involved.

Perhaps they need to turn the process over to the clerk since we are all very conscientious about following the laws.

There will need to be A GREAT DEAL of publicity given to this if everyone is to now need photo ID. This is a large change and the public is not prepared for this. We suggest they show us an ID but it isn't required. I think statewide advertisements with these changes are needed if this is to succeed. If this fails and citizens become irate due to unknown changes we will look much worse than we do now due to Milwaukee's errors. Oh yeah, there it is again.....Milwaukee's errors!!!

Please feel free to pass on any or all of these comments.

Karen A. Peters, MMC
City Clerk - City of Fitchburg
Population 21,257
5520 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711
Tel. #608-270-4210 Fax. #608-270-4212
E-mail: karen.peters@city.fitchburg.wi.us

Alexander, Carol

From: Gary Dummer
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 1:36 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Provisional Ballots

Hello:

I tried hard not to start this out with a negative comment but found it difficult to say anything in the beginning other than "Like they are going to listen to us – how often has that happened in the past?" The politician is going to do whatever he/she thinks is best and whatever his/her circle of political friends or party related acquaintances are supporting.

With that being said and out of the way I too would ask why we are doing this for such a small percentage of the electorate. It seems like this is another example of something similar to the laws put in place for the Protected Elector and all the additional forms that had to be designed and steps that had to be taken to insure one's confidentiality if the Elector was in certain personal situations. We adhered to all of those requirements (causing additional work) however not an undue burden, when balanced against whatever you want to balance it against and we adhere to the regulations regarding keeping military electors addresses current for absentee voting purposes through the Federal Voting Assistance Program when we get them returned because the last address we used is incorrect so we contact Federal Voting to update the information only to receive a response from them that the Personnel data is unavailable or is NOT RELEASEABLE which is not an undue burden, when balanced against whatever you want to balance it against. It continues on and on with all these undue burdens! We are all working under budgets, which include cutbacks in revenues and possibly staff if we are one of the clerks that is lucky enough to have a staff and then someone has the gall to pass on to us more regulatory legislation.

Why is it always necessary for legislators to create more regulations for clerks to adhere to so the elector is not "DENIED" the right to vote – after all, that is what the name of the game is all about – "getting that vote" to elect – guess who – the politician that is making all these laws that make it easier for a person to vote for that politician.

Now don't get me wrong. Certainly as a clerk I am all in favor of the voting process and wish more electors would take that right more seriously. I think that the Representatives should study ways on how the elector can be educated to understand what the laws are that are already in place that they have to follow to take advantage of that right. Just because someone has a right doesn't necessarily mean that everyone in the World has to become a "BROTHER'S KEEPER" to assist all of these negligent electors in carrying out their right.

Whoops! I just fell off my soapbox and I guess enough has been said for you to realize what I think about the idea.

Educated electors wherefore art thou!

Maybe you just caught me on a bad day.

Gary H. Dummer, CMC
City Clerk/Personnel Officer
City of Beaver Dam
205 S. Lincoln Avenue
Beaver Dam, WI 53916
(920) 887-4600, Ext. 338 (FAX) (920) 887-4662
gdummer@charter.net

Alexander, Carol

From: Ginny Brost, Clerk, CMC
Sent: Sunday, March 03, 2002 12:02 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

Hi Carol-

I just saw your email on provisional balloting and would like to offer the following:

- (1) In a community the size of Medford, identifying a person's identity and residency is not a problem. The Election officials know these people, know where these people live and know when they move.
- (2) The following situation could arise: A voter (whose identify and residency can be easily verified by the Election officials) forgets to bring a picture id on Election Day. This voter is insulted that he has to vote using a provisional ballot and leaves without voting. Is he or she, a legitimate voter, being unfairly treated.
- (3) Perhaps the core issue of identifying voters and their addresses could be addressed through voter registration.
- (4) How would this work with central count systems? Would Clerks be required to bring ballots in on election night for counting and then return the next day?
- (5) Why can't this issue be looked at as part of the Election reform?

Rep. Freese feels this is not an undue burden on Clerks when balanced against the lessening of potential voter fraud. In smaller communities with small Clerk's Offices, this is an undue burden. The potential for voter fraud is extremely small. Perhaps communities of a certain population should be excluded from the "provisional balloting".

Ginny Brost
City Clerk, CMC
City of Medford
639 South Second Street
Medford, WI 54451
Population: 4,333
Phone: (715)748-4321
Fax: (715)748-1289
E-Mail: cityclerk@tds.net

Alexander, Carol

From: Cari Burmaster
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2003 11:58 AM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

I would like to suggest that registration be taken out of the polling place. I think the State of Wisconsin can remedy this problem by requiring prior registration. Some states require that you register 10 days before the election (which would allow those just moving to come register because they would be a resident 10 days before the election). Have this issue ever been addressed? This would give the clerk adequate time to get the required information before the election takes place. I think with a state-wide registration system we may have to move towards this type of registration. Just a suggestion.

Cari Burmaster
City Clerk, City of Onalaska
Population 15, 224
Phone: 608/781-9530, x202
Fax: 608/781-9534
E-mail: cburmaster@charter.net

Page 1 of 2

Alexander, Carol

From: Village of Blue River
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 9:40 AM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

Good Morning,
I am against "provisional balloting". If the 2 percent of the public who do not have photo ID, DL or state ID are serious about voting they will obtain the necessary ID. If they don't, then they are not serious about voting and are doing it only to create problems.

Janet Kypke
Village of Blue River
vilbriv@mwt.net
pop 429

105

Alexander, Carol

From: Carla Ledesma
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 11:40 AM
To: 'Alexander, Carol'
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Musings on the election process... we've got so darn much to muse about it is becoming a 24/7 job:

I support eliminating the witness method of verifying a person's identification. By supplying his/her own ID, the witness is doing nothing but verifying who *she/he* is. It doesn't do anything to support identification of the voter. Never has.

I wonder how long it takes to obtain a state-issued ID. If a voter doesn't have it on election day, what are the chances the voter will have it on the next day?

Would this legislation change voter registration requirements with respect to having to produce a *photo* ID? Currently that isn't required. It places an additional requirement on the provisional voter. Or is that the intent?? It puts these people into a different class.

This probably isn't a good reason not to enact the legislation, but I think it is valid to bring up: The poll workers are already baffled (at least *mine* are) by the dizzying number of forms and envelopes they have to complete. Adding one more to the mix for provisions voting certainly won't help things.

You make an excellent point about knowing that the person standing in front of you on Wednesday is, in fact, the same person who appeared at the polls and voted provisionally on Tuesday. How do we know it is one and the same? We don't, and I don't see how this wrinkle can be addressed. What's to keep someone else from showing up on Wednesday as the unidentified voter?

Just another thought - I'm thinking of a busy election - would a poll worker have to stand outside of a booth with a provisional voter to make sure that ballot doesn't end up in the tabulator? Would we have to provide a supply of (new and different) provisional envelopes to the polls?

Could these provisional voters be required to cast a provisional ballot at the clerk's office? I know it would mean an extra trip for them, place a burden on them others don't have, require them to vote at some place other than their voting location, possibly disenfranchise them if they have transportation problems, blah, blah, blah, but at least the clerk would get to see them two days in a row.

I'm curious what your opinion was before the meeting with Rep. Freese, and what it was after speaking to him.

Carla A. Ledesma, CMC
City of Wauwatosa
7725 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
414-479-8918
Fax 414-479-8989
www.wauwatosa.net - <http://www.link.com/codes/wauwatosa/index.htm>

Richard, Rob

From: vborth@wirapids.org
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 11:27 AM
To: Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
Cc: Rep.Schneider@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Provisional voting

Beloit City Clerk Carol Alexander noted her meeting with you regarding provisional balloting and sent a breakdown of the proposal and arguments for an against.

The voting process should not be prolonged for the 2 percent of the public that does not have a photo ID, especially if only 15 percent of the 2 percent are expected to come back on the day after the election.

If you're aiming at stopping the 85 percent of the 2 percent, it would seem that simply requiring the photo ID and outlawing use of a witness on election day would solve the problem.

If it's made clear before election day that a photo ID is required to register to vote, there should be no good excuse for a voter not having one on election day.

Those who really want to vote will make the effort to complete the process before or on election day, including having their photo ID. For those who forget their ID, it's no more inconvenient to run home and get it on election day than it would be on the day after.

With provisional voting, you're adding unnecessary ambiguity to the election process, the kind of thing that created all the "sky is falling" rhetoric in Florida.

Vern Borth
Clerk
City of Wisconsin Rapids
444 W. Grand Ave.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2780

(715) 421-8208

Fax (715) 421-8280

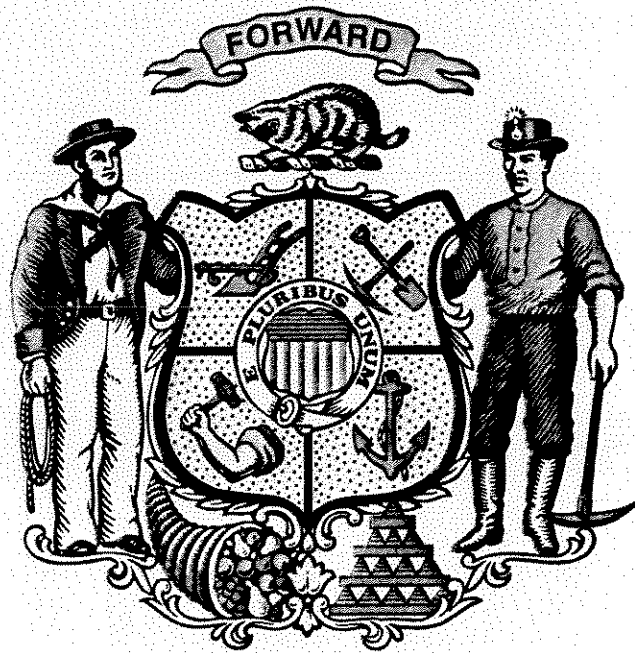
e-mail vborth@wirapids.org

Vern Borth
Clerk
City of Wisconsin Rapids
444 W. Grand Ave.
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-2780

(715) 421-8208

Fax (715) 421-8280

e-mail vborth@wirapids.org



Alexander, Carol

From: JANE WILMS
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 12:37 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

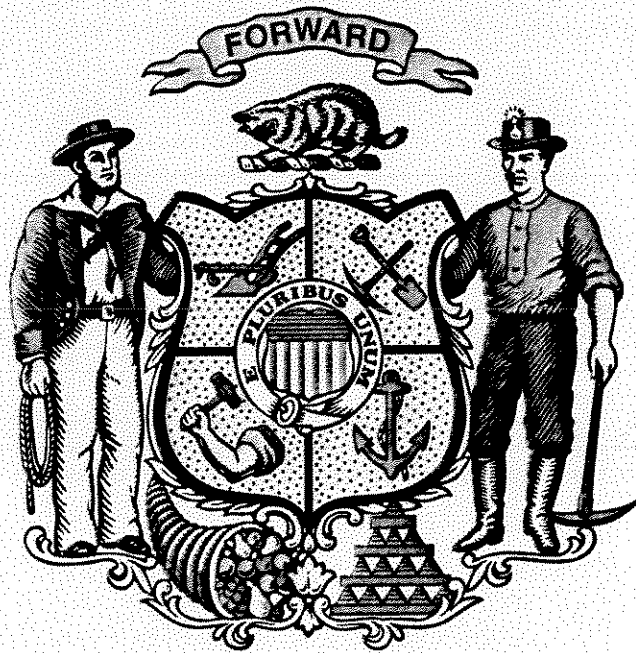
Carol -

Things were quite busy on Friday, so I didn't get a chance to respond to your e-mail on Provisional Ballots.

After re-reading the pros and cons, I have the following observations:

- By doing away with on-site registration, you would accomplish the same thing, reducing voter fraud without putting additional work on the election workers or the municipal clerk.
- The proposal creates more work for the election workers on a day when they are pushed to their limits as it is. The way I understand it is they will need to keep the ballots separate, but secure. The following day, we could have (how many) people coming back into Village Hall to show ID. You know they will not be happy to do that either, so we will get the brunt of their anger because they had to come back.
- Of the 85% that did not come back on Wednesday with proof of ID it is probably because they could not make it into the office during normal business hours, or they figured their one vote would not make a difference in the outcome. Why don't they extend our office hours the day after an election, so people can make it in??? (Don't add that, but it just irritates me to what extend they are going to when if they just cut off the registration early and gave us the opportunity to get the cards out before election, we would not have this problem.
- I also agree with your comment on how do you verify that it was the same person that registered that came back to show ID.
- Guess those are my comments at this point. I am going to have to check the legislation proposed and see what else they are proposing to do to the local clerk.
- Thanks for pursuing the input.

Jane



Message

Page 1 of 3

Alexander, Carol

From: Kathy Greig
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 3:06 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: RE: Update on Provisional Ballots

Carol,

This seems that there is a lot more work for the clerk and the election inspectors with provisional balloting. I would like to know what 10 states currently have provisional balloting and what do Clerks and election inspectors think about it.

I think that having provisional balloting will entail more paperwork with the maintenance of lists of those who need to supply photo id before the ballot can be counted. There would be lists made up in the clerk's office for those who wanted an absentee ballot and lists at the polling place for those who came in the register to vote and vote there. And this would be with 85 percent not coming back to the clerk's office with the photo id!

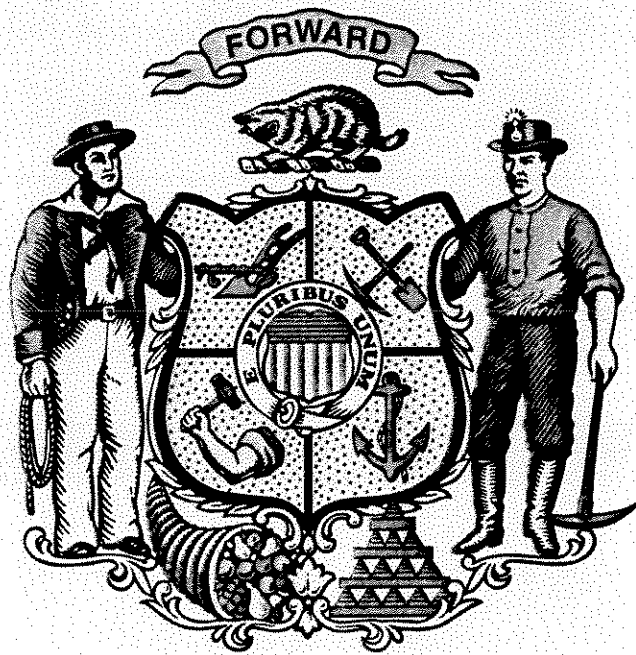
I agree that there could be potential fraud by not being able to verify the person who voted with the one who presents the photo id to the clerk. Even if we try to verify signatures on the form against the signature made in the office, we are not handwriting experts to verify that some of the signature scribbles are one and the same.

In a big elections -- President and Governor -- I put on 7 poll workers and additional voter registrars for each reporting unit. Our election inspectors are very dedicated and hard workers. This would give them another duty to perform. It may slow down the lines for the properly registered voters. If it does slow down the line, it will only make these voters agitated on having to wait longer. My election inspectors would like the elimination of same day registration, which is not likely to happen. Now another task would be given to them with regard to registration. Most election inspectors view working at the polls as a civic duty. Frankly, I don't think they need another task added to their duties.

I think that if there is better communication to all electors of what is required and what they need to bring with them when they register to vote, then provisional balloting would not be necessary.



Add this card to your address book



Alexander, Carol

From: Pat Dotseth
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 6:16 PM
To: Alexander, Carol
Subject: Re: Update on Provisional Ballots

Carol,

I would like to see Rep. Freese spend a few days in a Clerk's office during the election process. Perhaps he would have a different view of how to solve the problem. I'm not saying this to be sarcastic - I mean this in all sincerity since I feel he would have a very different view of how to solve the problem if he had first hand experience in the workings of an election.

I see his suggested changes as a method that will only add more time-consuming tasks and increase the chance of error within the Clerk's office due to time constraints. I realize he is trying to reduce or eliminate voter fraud as well as facilitate the voter.

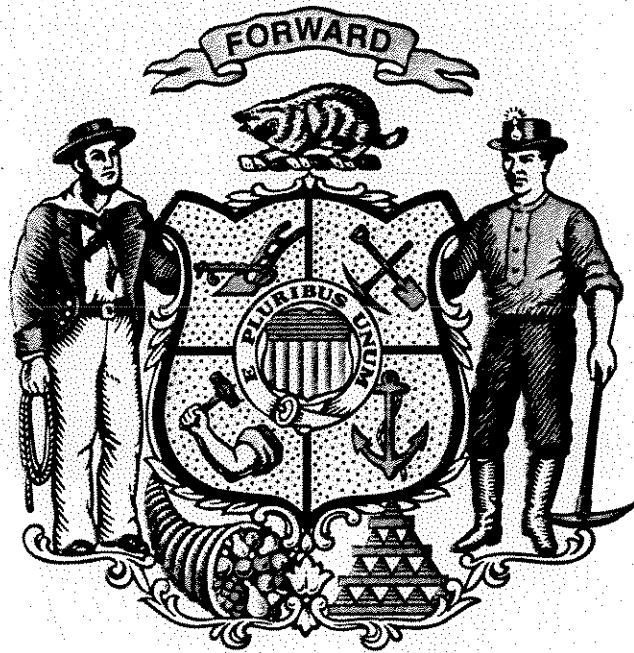
Rather than approach the problem this way, I feel it is time for the voter to take responsibility to provide the needed photo ID. I'm sure the voter would use this identification for other matters as well, not just voting. Other states have longer periods of time for qualifying as a voter - many require 30 days - not just 10 as in Wisconsin. This might be a better approach since the voter would have ample time to secure their photo ID. It would seem that 30 days would be ample to accomplish this. Besides, that it might help spur some residents who have moved in from neighboring states to change their driver's license sooner!

Following the method which Rep. Freese advocates would place additional duties on Clerks - and increase the number of time-consuming tasks which need to be accomplished on an already tight timeframe.

I would encourage him to take another and a long look at addressing this problem in a different manner.

Sincerely,

Pat Dotseth
City of Hudson



Richard, Rob

From: Orville Seymer [legal@execpc.com]
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 9:03 PM
To: rep.freese@legis.state.wi.us; sen.ellis@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Absentee ballot dispute erupts in recall race

Dear Sen. Ellis And Rep. Freese

Attached is the J/S story from March 3, 2003 concerning an absolute abuse of the absentee ballot process in the recall election scheduled for March 4th. While this may be legal, it is clearly unethical and an abuse of what the intentions are of the state legislature when this provision was changed in 1998.

I was one of the leaders of the Ament Recall effort in Milwaukee County and we have worked very hard to clean-up the abuses that have occurred in Milwaukee County government for a little more than a year. It is clear that the politicians of Milwaukee County simply have not received the message yet. I'm hoping that you will get the message and then send it to the county so that they understand it very loudly and clearly.

If we cannot get this absentee ballot situation under control, there will only be more shenanigans in up coming elections. I understand that you are busy with the Indian Gaming Comapcts but please do not push this problem to the side or it will come back to haunt us all in the very near future.

Just in case you have forgotten, I will remind you of some of the sheanigans that have occured in the recent past.

- 1.Smokes for Votes**
- 2. The shenanigans that went on in the Petak recall election of a few years ago.**
- 3. The Nov. 2000 Presidential Election**
- 4. A report that Marquette students voted more than once in the Presidential Election.**
- 5. Ballots that ended up in someone's front yard on election night 2000**

These are just a few of the many voting irregularities that have occurred in the past few years. I'm sure that the people in Chicago are looking at some of the news reports in Wisconsin and saying "Why didn't we think of that" We would not have had to look for dead people to vote, their are enough live one's out there.

Florida is also looking to get the "Election Monkey" off of their backs, maybe Wisconsin could become the next laughing stock of the nation as far as elections are concerned.

Thank You

Orville Seymer

(414) 761-3401

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/mar03/122560.asp?format=print>

Original URL: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/metro/mar03/122560.asp>

Absentee ballot dispute erupts in recall race

Holloway's opponent calls for investigation, election delay

By DAVE UMHOEFER
dumhoefer@journalsentinel.com

Last Updated: March 2, 2003

County Board Chairman Lee Holloway's election opponent demanded Sunday that this week's recall race be postponed until authorities investigate an unusual absentee voting arrangement that put nearly 150 ballots in the hands of an organization on Holloway's campaign payroll.

City and state election officials, saying they had no choice under an election-law loophole, approved a setup that allowed voter-requested absentee ballots to be mailed to the organization, which is run by Holloway's campaign manager. Under the typical arrangement, ballots would be mailed directly to would-be voters.

The revelation prompted Yolanda Staples-Lassiter, who is trying to unseat Holloway in Tuesday's recall, to seek an investigation before polls open.

"I want a full investigation," Staples-Lassiter said Sunday, adding that she might seek a court injunction to stop the election. "The election should be called off for now."

Campaigns and political parties long have distributed absentee-ballot applications, which go to the City of Milwaukee Election Commission. The commission then mails out ballots if the voter is registered.

In this case - in what election officials said was an unprecedented move - a non-profit political group known as African-American Coalition for Empowerment (ACE) requested permission to have residents agree to have their absentee ballots mailed to the organization. The requests were gathered in a door-to-door effort by ACE.

Elections officials were told by ACE officials that they wanted to avoid mail-delivery problems and that some residents feared opening letters from the government, state Elections Board Executive Director Kevin Kennedy said.

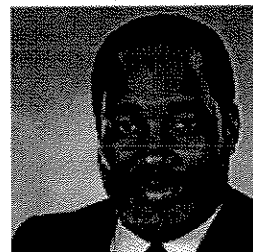
"Voters preferred that we got them," Holloway campaign manager Barbara White said. White is also president of ACE.

As understood by election officials, the idea was that ACE, blank ballots in hand, would then re-visit the resident, hand over the ballot for voting, get it back and then see to it that it made its way to City Hall. The completed ballots - some of which have already appeared at City Hall - need just one witness and no notarization, under loosened voting rules approved in 1998.

Warning given

Kennedy said he strongly advised ACE that its idea would raise questions about potential fraud and undue influence over voters, but couldn't block it because state law prohibits only a candidate or political party from being the recipient of voters' absentee ballots.

Recall Race



Photo/File

Holloway

- **Lee Holloway** (inc.), 56
- **Address; time in district:** 2836 N. Grant Blvd.; 26 years
- **Occupation:** Milwaukee County Board supervisor, board chairman
- **Elective offices; other government experience:** Elected 5th District county supervisor 1992, re-elected in 1996, 2000.
- **Education:** Lincoln High School graduate; bachelor's degree, University of Arkansas; master's degree, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- **Family:** married, four children

"We couldn't tell them no, but we thought we had an understanding they weren't going to do it because it doesn't pass the smell test," Kennedy said. "I told them, 'You're undermining the whole concept of absentee balloting in Wisconsin.' "

Both Kennedy and city Election Commission Executive Director Julietta Henry said Sunday that they were not aware of ACE's direct connection to the Holloway campaign. Kennedy said, though, that he had assumed the group had a favorite in the race.

ACE - where the phone Sunday was answered "Friends for Lee Holloway - received \$6,392 from the Holloway campaign over a 10-day period this month for consulting, printing and literature drops, according to records at the Milwaukee County Election Commission. Henry, who works for the city, said she does not review those records.

One 5th District resident, Andrea Smith - identified by Staples-Lassiter - said Sunday that she cast an absentee ballot for Holloway a couple weeks after a woman named Barbara stopped by her house, identifying herself as "with the election committee." She signed up to get a ballot.

Smith, who lives on N. 35th St., said the woman returned Thursday night and showed her the two names on the ballot. She chose Holloway because he is the incumbent, she said.

Holloway said Sunday night he would have no immediate comment.

Kennedy, of the state Elections Board, said he gave advice over the phone to White, thinking for five minutes that she was a city elections official because she identified herself as from the "election committee."

Henry said ACE had collected and sent in more than 500 ballot applications for Tuesday's recall, as well as races on the April 1 regular spring election. Many of the applicants were not registered voters, so the city commission ended up mailing out only about 150 ballots to ACE offices, she said.

To check to see if those voters did indeed request ballots, the city sent special letters to each of the 150, Henry said.

Two people who received the letter called the city Election Commission last week, she said. One reported not having requested a ballot. The other reported being told that the application was a petition clean up the neighborhood, not a ballot application, Henry said.

DA alerted

Kennedy said he had alerted District Attorney E. Michael McCann to the issues involved, in case it turns out that individuals were taken advantage of in the process.

Informed Sunday night of ACE's role, Staples-Lassiter said, "Oh, my God."

She said she had not known of ACE's request to the Election Commission but noted that it helped explain why she kept meeting voters at the doors who told her they were given absentee ballots.

"Every last one of those absentee ballots should be shredded," she said.

White has clashed with Staples-Lassiter before during the course of a yearlong recall campaign led by Staples-Lassiter against Holloway. And on Sunday White had strong words for her call for an election delay.

"I don't give a (expletive) about what Yolanda Staples-Lassiter says," White said. "We can do whatever the hell we want to do."

White, contacted at the ACE office on W. Villard Ave., said she was on sabbatical from ACE during the campaign.



Photo/File

Staples-Lassiter

Yolanda Staples-Lassiter, 46

Address; time in district: 2118 N. 36th St.; 23 years


Occupation: Economic development assistant, U.S. Small Business Administration, Milwaukee.

Elective offices; other government experience: Candidate, 5th District Supervisor, 2000; former legislative assistant to state Sen. Gwendolynne Moore.

Education: Custer High School graduate; associate degree, Glendale Community College, Glendale, Ariz.

Family: Divorced, four children

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She said ACE was doing voter education, not really working for Lee Holloway. The group would work for whatever politician would pay it, White said.

Absentee ballots are counted at the polls on election day, and can be returned until 5 p.m Tuesday. They can be challenged as they are counted.

A version of this story appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on March 3, 2003.

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Race on despite disputed ballots

Judge refuses to halt voting in recall election

By DAVE UMHOEFER
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Last Updated: March 3, 2003

County Board Chairman Lee Holloway's recall election proceeded today under a cloud after a judge refused to halt voting, and multiple instances of possible fraud surfaced as absentee ballots poured into the city Election Commission from a group campaigning for Holloway.

An absentee-ballot application from a vacant lot; admissions of forgery; erroneous names on returned ballot envelopes; mismatched signatures; and other discrepancies surfaced in interviews with voters and a review of the sealed ballots.

Recall Election

The head of the Election Commission said late Monday she would not allow counting of the disputed absentee ballots the group submitted until she receives a green light from the Milwaukee County district attorney's office.

The district attorney's office launched an investigation Monday after the Journal Sentinel reported on an unusual arrangement that allowed a group known as the African-American Coalition for Empowerment, or ACE, to receive blank absentee ballots and distribute them to voters the group had solicited door to door. Nearly 160 completed ballots were presented to city election

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officials Monday by ACE, which is on Holloway's campaign payroll and is run by his longtime campaign manager.

In the last several weeks, ACE workers got as many as 600 potential voters to sign applications for the vote-ahead ballots. Election officials rejected hundreds, though, because the applicants were unregistered, according to Julietta Henry, Election Commission executive director.

Because of a loophole in state law, ACE got permission from election officials to persuade residents to have their ballots sent to ACE's Milwaukee office instead of to the voters - an unusual, if not unprecedented, move. ACE then took the ballots to voters' homes, and the group's workers acted as witnesses while people marked them.

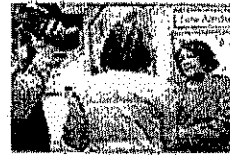
Based just on handwriting discrepancies, more than 100 of the 162 ACE-solicited ballots were deemed suspicious enough Monday to warrant further investigation, based on separate, preliminary reviews by the district attorney's office and Henry's staff. Journal Sentinel reporters also examined many returned ballots and compared them with signed ballot applications. No actual ballots were opened.

Henry asked the district attorney's office to focus special attention on five cases in which either the alleged voters told the commission they did not seek to vote absentee, or the ballot envelope contained a different name than the ballot-request application.

Interviews Monday with more than 20 of the ACE absentee voters revealed widespread confusion. Holloway's opponent today is Yolanda Staples-Lassiter, a federal worker. Several people whose names appear on ballots and ballot applications submitted to the Election Commission told the Journal Sentinel on Monday night that they never voted.

Many said they had not voted absentee before.

- "The people came to my door a couple of weeks ago from the



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ABSENTEE BALLOT DISPUTE

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Graphic/Journal Sentinel
Absentee Ballot Dispute

Quotable

“ Maybe the candidates aren't that good, but my right to vote is precious. This is not fair that they're doing this. ”

- Guillermo Cantoral, voter who believes he was duped

Recent Coverage

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African coalition," said Robert Stern, who lives on N. 37th St. "I signed my name (on the application), and I thought I'd get a ballot, but I never got a ballot. I'm not too happy about it. I don't need no absentee ballot anyway. They told me they were with Holloway."

Stern, who said he did not know the workers' names, added that he would have voted for Holloway anyway. He contacted the Election Commission to complain Monday after realizing they received a ballot in his name. In addition, the signature of the witness who supposedly saw him sign the ballot is illegible, and there is no address provided.

Stern intends to go to the polls and cast a ballot today, and now he's nervous "they might think I voted twice," he said.

- Guillermo Cantoral was mystified to learn last week that his signature appeared on an absentee election ballot until his mother-in-law revealed Monday that she signed his name on the ballot at the behest of someone who came to their door late last week.

Cantoral now believes he was duped twice: first when he signed an application for an absentee ballot, and a second time when his mother-in-law was told to fill out his ballot. In the first instance, Cantoral said he was told he was signing a petition for a neighborhood cleanup.

"Maybe the candidates aren't that good, but my right to vote is precious," Cantoral, 36, said Monday evening. "This is not fair that they're doing this."

Cantoral's mother-in-law, Josephine Gomez, said she voted for Staples-Lassiter.

- Three distinctly different "Sarah Moore" signatures appear on an ACE ballot application and two attached voter registration cards sent to the Election Commission, all under the address of 2014 N. 25th St.

But the address doesn't exist, and the nearest address is a vacant lot.

Election Commission officials declined to send ACE a ballot in that case, noting the discrepancies.

- Everlois Grimes said someone came by her house with an application for a ballot, and she signed that. But she said she never received a ballot, even though the city has one in her name.

"I never got any ballot," she insisted, adding that the last time she voted was in the presidential election for Al Gore.

Grimes and her sister, Emma Graves, also were concerned that their mother, Aggie Grimes, is listed as voting, too.

"I am 100 percent sure she didn't vote," said Graves, who said she had signed her mother's application for a ballot, adding that she never received the actual ballot. Everlois Grimes added that her mother's mental condition is such that she can't even spell her name on her own.

For her part, Graves said she also signed an application but never received a ballot. Instead, she said that she received a letter from the coalition saying it had run out of ballots.

- Barbara Rainey-Mitchell, who lives in the 3100 block of N. 39th St., said a man approached her several weeks ago as she walked to her front door.

"They were going up and down the block," Rainey-Mitchell said. "They said they can't get people to come to vote, so they were going to come to them."

Rainey-Mitchell said she signed something to request the ballot with the expectation that it would arrive in the mail and that she would return it through the mail.

Friday, however, another man arrived at her house with a ballot and had her fill it out while he waited in an adjacent room. She put the ballot in an envelope and handed it to him.

Rainey-Mitchell said she voted for Holloway because she was more familiar with him.

Sharon Yarber, who operates a day care center in the same neighborhood, said a man approached her more than a week ago and asked if she planned to vote in the supervisor's race. The man offered to bring Yarber a ballot, after she told him that her day care duties would keep her from getting to the polls.

Another person brought the ballot to her home sometime last week, and Yarber filled it out, voting for Holloway.

"I didn't know too much about the other people," Yarber said.

"I feel good about it," she said. "Normally I would not have gone out and voted."

Yarber and Rainey-Mitchell said the people who presented them with absentee-ballot applications and ballots did not attempt to sway their votes. Several others contacted in the same neighborhood said the same.

- Bette J. Higgins, who lives on the 1900 block of N. 32nd St., said two people came to her house with a ballot in her name at the end of last week. "They had a whole stack of ballots," she said.

She said she just checked off both candidates. "I didn't know who to vote for," she said, adding they didn't talk about any of the candidates. "I generally vote. But I vote at the school across the street," she said pointing to Westside Academy I.

- Patricia A. Neal, who lives in the Parc West Apartments, 2342 N. 35th St., recognized the person who had solicited her absentee registration. She believed the man was working for Holloway, but she said he never said so explicitly. "He brought me the ballot," said Neal. She said she filled out the ballot in privacy and that he didn't see who she was voting for. She declined to say how she voted.

Brief legal skirmish

A move by Staples-Lassiter for a court order to halt today's election failed, with Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Maxine White dismissing it for lack of specific evidence.

The remedy for any absentee ballot irregularities should be post-election challenges, argued John Finerty, a lawyer for Holloway, and County Corporation Counsel William Domina. Domina represented the Milwaukee County Election Commission. Holloway has declined to comment on the dispute.

A losing candidate can petition the county Elections Commission for a recount and challenge ballots the candidate feels are suspect, he said.

James Gatzke, an attorney for Staples-Lassiter, said Monday his client's election chances could suffer because of ACE's role.

At a Monday afternoon news conference, Gatzke said some voters "had been potentially misled as to the effect of their absentee ballot." He said holding the election today "could be a gross injustice."

Journal Sentinel staff writers Tom Held, Jessica McBride, Georgia Pabst and Steve Schultze contributed to this report.

A version of this story appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on March 4, 2003.

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