

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_ab0120_AC-CE_pt01**

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

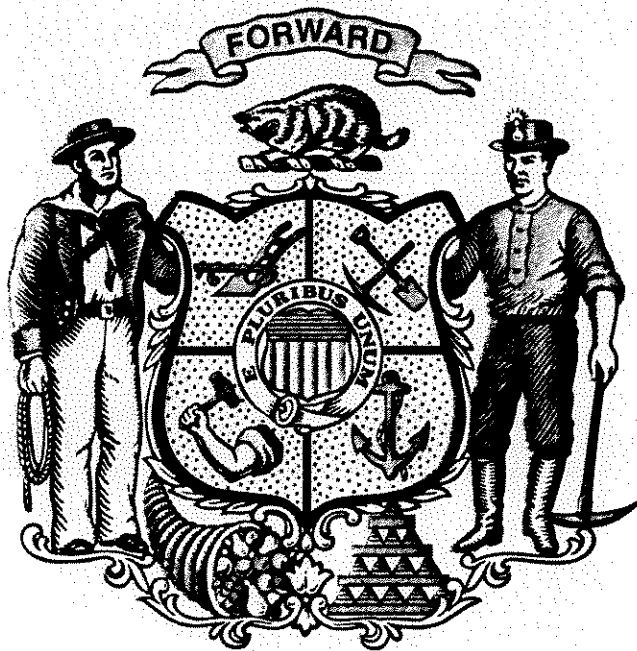
> **

Vote Record

Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Date: 3/6/03
Bill Number: 120
Moved by: Jr Seconded by: Pocan
Motion: Passage

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Representative Mark Pocan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>





Scott McCallum
Governor

Jon E. Litscher
Secretary

Mailing Address

3099 E. Washington Ave.
Post Office Box 7925
Madison, WI 53707-7925
Telephone (608) 240-5000
Fax (608) 240-3305

State of Wisconsin
Department of Corrections

September 12, 2001

Representative Stephen Freese, Chair
Committee on Campaigns and Elections
State Capitol, Room 115 West
Madison, WI

Dear Representative Freese:

This is in response to AB 373 relating to notice to felony offenders regarding their ineligibility to vote. I understand that the bill is scheduled for a hearing on Thursday, September 13th and wanted to provide you with some information on how we currently handle this matter.

In February 2001, the probation/parole rules, which all offenders on community supervision are required to follow, were revised to address the issue of notification. Under rule 13 we inform convicted felons that until they complete the terms and conditions of the sentence they cannot vote in any federal, state or local election as outlined in Wisconsin Statutes s. 6.03 (1)(b). (See attached)

If you have any questions concerning our current process please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon E. Litscher".

Jon E. Litscher
Secretary

PROBATION / PAROLE RULES

OFFENDER NAME

DOC NUMBER

Notice: If you are on parole and sentenced for crimes committed on or after June 1, 1984, or have chosen to have the new Good Time Law apply to your case and you violate these rules, the highest possible parole violator sentence will be the total sentence less time already served in prison or jail in connection with the offense.

As established by Administrative Rule DOC 328.11, you have an opportunity for administrative review of certain types of decision through the offender complaint process.

The following rules are in addition to any court-ordered conditions. Your probation or parole may be revoked if you do not comply with any of your court-ordered conditions or if you violate any of the following rules.

1. You shall avoid all conduct which is in violation of federal or state statute, municipal or county ordinances, tribal law or which is not in the best interest of the public welfare or your rehabilitation. Some rules listed below are covered under this rule as conduct contrary to law and are listed for particular attention.
2. You shall report all arrests or police contact to your agent within 72 hours.
3. You shall make every effort to accept the opportunities and counseling offered by supervision.

The confidentiality of drug and alcohol treatment records is protected by Federal laws and regulations. Generally programs you are involved in may not say to a person outside the Department of Corrections that an offender is attending the program, or disclose any information identifying him/her as a drug/alcohol abuser unless: 1) You consent in writing; or 2) The disclosure is allowed by a court order; or 3) The disclosure is made to medical personnel in a medical emergency or to a qualified personnel for research, audit, or program evaluation; or 4) You commit or threaten to commit a crime either at the program or against any person who works for the program. Programs that contract with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections can release information to Wisconsin Department of Corrections staff.

Violation of the Federal law and regulations by a program is a crime. These regulations do not protect any information about suspected child abuse or neglect from being reported under state law to appropriate authorities.

Refusal to sign the consent for releasing information, including placement for treatment, shall be considered a refusal of the program.

4. You shall inform your agent of your whereabouts and activities as he/she directs.
5. You shall submit a written report monthly and any other such relevant information as directed by your agent.
6. You shall make yourself available for searches or tests ordered by your agent including but not limited to urinalysis, breathalyzer, DNA collection and blood samples or search of residence or any property under your control.
7. You shall not change residence or employment unless you get approval in advance from your agent, or in the case of emergency, notify your agent of the change within 72 hours.
8. You shall not leave the State of Wisconsin unless you get approval and a travel permit in advance from your agent.
9. You shall not purchase, trade, sell or operate a motor vehicle unless you get approval in advance from your agent.
10. You shall not borrow money or purchase on credit unless you get approval in advance from your agent.
11. You shall pay monthly supervision fees as directed by your agent in accordance with Wis. Stats. s.304.073 or s.304.074, DOC Administrative Rule Chapter 328.043 to 328.046 and shall comply with any department and/or vendor procedures regarding payment of fees.
12. You shall not purchase, possess, own or carry any firearm or any weapon unless you get approval in advance from your agent. Your agent may not grant permission to carry a firearm if you are prohibited from possessing a firearm under Wis. Stat. s. 941.29, Wisconsin Act 71, the Federal Gun Control Act (GCA), or any other state or federal law.
13. You shall not, as a convicted felon, and until you have successfully completed the terms and conditions of your sentence, vote in any federal, state or local election as outlined in Wisconsin Statutes s.6.03(1)(b).
14. You shall abide by all rules of any detention or correctional facility in which you may be confined.
15. You shall provide true and correct information verbally and in writing, in response to inquiries by the agent.
16. You shall report to your agent as directed for scheduled and unscheduled appointments.

I have reviewed and explained these rules to the offender.		I have received a copy of these rules.	
AGENT SIGNATURE	AREA NUMBER	OFFENDER SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED

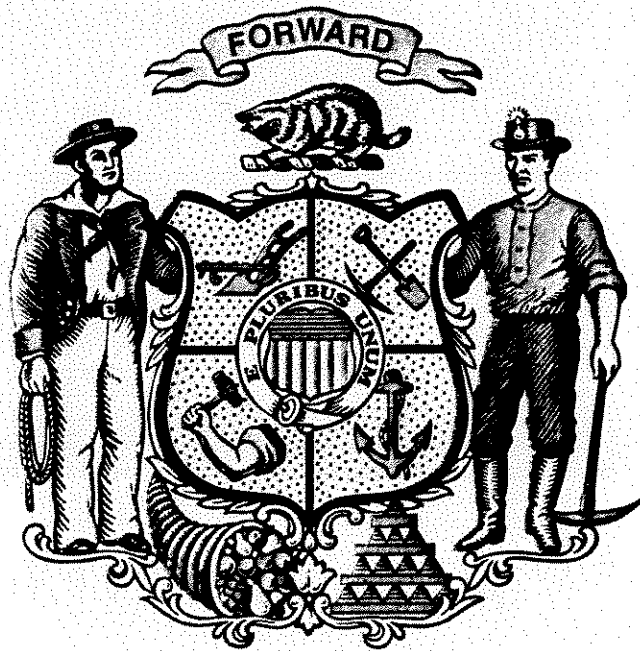
PROBATION / PAROLE RULES

OFFENDER NAME

DOC NUMBER

17. You shall submit to the polygraph (lie detector) examination process as directed by your agent in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code 332.15.
18. You shall pay fees for the polygraph (lie detector) examination process as directed by your agent in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code 332.17(5) and 332.18 and shall comply with any required Wisconsin Department of Corrections procedures regarding payment of fees.
19. You shall follow any specific rules that may be issued by an agent to achieve the goals and objectives of your supervision. The rules may be modified at any time, as appropriate. The specific rules imposed at this time are stated below. You shall place your initial at the end of each specific rule to show you have read the rule.

I have reviewed and explained these rules to the offender.		I have received a copy of these rules.	
AGENT SIGNATURE	AREA NUMBER	OFFENDER SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED



Richard, Rob

From: Roller, Rachel
Sent: Monday, March 03, 2003 6:04 PM
To: Rep.Freese
Subject: Forwarded from the desk of Senator Moore- RE:LRB 2041/1 Brief Summary

AB170

Representative Freese:

I would like to bring attention to inaccurate information that your office has inadvertently circulated to Legislators and legislative aides that misconstrues the intent of LRB 2014/1. Upon the request of others, one of your staff distributed brief descriptions of twelve election reform bills that you have recently circulated for co-sponsorship. The brief description for LRB 2041/1 reads as follows:

"Courts and Department of Corrections must tell felons, parolees and those under extended supervision they're ineligible to vote."

This description is misleading, as you and I both know that felons who are no longer on probation or parolees who have misdemeanors have the constitutional right to vote.

I feel it is in everyone's best interest to I inform you of this misleading description so that you may make necessary changes.

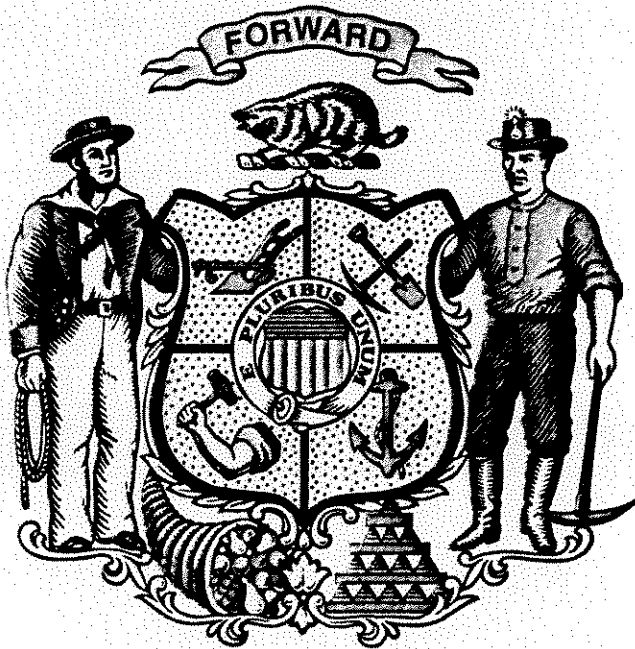
Sincerely,

Gwendolynne Moore
State Senator
4th Senate District

STEVE:

I INTEND NOT TO RESPOND BUT I
THOUGHT YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF
THIS E-MAIL. I TECHNICALLY WAS
CORRECT, BUT I OMITTED "... UNTIL
THEIR CIVIL RIGHTS ARE RESTORED" AFTER
MY BRIEF DESCRIPTION.

Rob



Griffiths, Terri

From: Conlin, Robert
Sent: Thursday, March 06, 2003 3:38 PM
To: Griffiths, Terri
Subject: AB 120: Notice as to ineligibility to vote

Terri:

Your boss said he wanted me to look into the issue and have an amendment prepared regarding notifying persons coming "off paper" that their rights to vote are restored. I mentioned that DOC already does that. Having now had the chance to review the statute, that requirement is based on a statutory obligation of DOC. Look at s. 304.078, below:

*304.078 Civil rights restored to convicted persons satisfying sentence. Every person who is convicted of a crime obtains a restoration of his or her civil rights by serving out his or her term of imprisonment or otherwise satisfying his or her sentence. The certificate of the department or other responsible supervising agency that a convicted person has served his or her sentence or otherwise satisfied the judgment against him or her is evidence of that fact and that the person is restored to his or her civil rights. **The department or other agency shall list in the person's certificate rights which have been restored and which have not been restored.** Persons who served out their terms of imprisonment or otherwise satisfied their sentences prior to August 14, 1947, are likewise restored to their civil rights from and after September 25, 1959.*

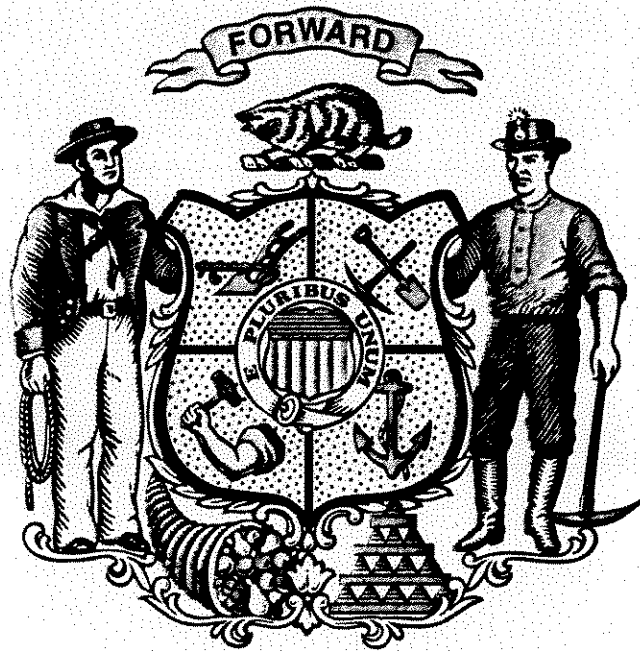
Does he still want an amendment, or would he prefer that I talk to Pocan and advise him of the status of current law?

Let me know how to proceed.

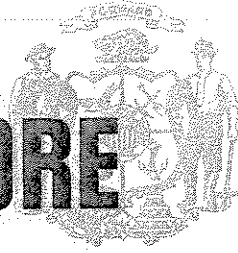
Thanks.

Bob Conlin

Senior Staff Attorney
Wisconsin Legislative Council Staff
(608) 266-2298



State Senator GWENDOLYNNE MOORE



Capitol Office:
P. O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882
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E-Mail: sen.moore@legis.state.wi.us
Member: Joint Finance Committee
Board Member: Wisconsin Housing and
Economic Development Authority

Testimony of State Senator Gwendolynne Moore on Numerous Assembly Bills Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections March 6, 2003

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit this written testimony in my absence. I would like to thank Chairman Freese and the members of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections for holding this public hearing to discuss numerous Assembly Bills that seek to modify Wisconsin's election process.

As you know, it is a fundamental function of government to ensure that each citizen truly has equal and unimpeded access to the ballot box and that every American voice is properly recorded. It is also important for the judicial branches of government to pursue the vigorous enforcement of laws when deliberate election fraud does indeed occur. However, as legislators, we must balance our duty to safeguard our system from election fraud with our duty to protect the voter's rights. We must not be swayed to alter the basic tenets of our election laws based solely upon the *perceived* fear of voter fraud. We must proceed with extreme caution when we entertain any legislation under the guise of "reform" that could compromise the franchise of our citizens. Ultimately, the voter's right to participate in the election process must be paramount.

Legislation that is being considered today, in particular Assembly Bill 111 (AB 111), is just such a proposal that severely threatens our citizens' franchise instead of providing any real electoral reform. **A voter should not be required to show a valid Wisconsin driver's license or photo id in order to receive their ballot.**

Disguising their proposals as necessary "election reforms" which would ensure the integrity of the system, Republican partisans are continually proposing new initiatives that would disproportionately disenfranchise Wisconsin's low-income, minority, elderly, handicapped, homeless, and student populations. Now Republicans seek to capitalize on a never previously utilized absentee ballot provision to justify implementation of an onerous voter ID bill. I am deeply troubled by Representative Freese's attempt to capitalize on the recent allegations of voter fraud that have been identified in recent **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** articles. Rep. Freese exploited this recent development by publishing a press release that misleads readers to believe AB 111 would have prevented this alleged voter fraud. Obviously, AB 111 does not address the concerns raised by the ACE incident, as Rep. Krug and Rep. Ladwig have recently introduced absentee ballot legislation to deal with this specific issue.

What AB 111 does do is place undue and unnecessary burden on some of our most vulnerable voters, including our low-income, minority, elderly, disabled, homeless and student citizens, by

requiring all voters – regardless of whether they are registered or not – to present a DOT-issued Wisconsin driver's license or photo ID in order to obtain a ballot. In essence, this measure is an unconstitutional **poll tax** on those whose grasp on the franchise is currently most vulnerable; the elderly, the low-income and the homeless, or handicapped. Individuals will still have to pay to obtain a birth certificate or other identifying information. Further, they could lose work time, wage compensation, or other financial support all in order to obtain an unnecessary ID.

Additionally, AB 111 is fiscally irresponsible, as it severely increases state spending by mandating the DOT to provide necessary identification free of charge for all citizens. During this time of state fiscal uncertainty, it is negligent for Republican legislators to create such an enormous fiscal impact on state government. It was estimated that AB 259, last session's voter ID legislation, which also would have provided an ID card free to anyone who requested it, would have cost the state \$850,000 annually. The author of AB 111 chose an inopportune time to introduce this legislation, as it is a time when our state is bracing itself for a \$4.2 billion deficit, the like of which our state has not faced since the Great Depression!

Just a few weeks ago Republicans restored \$22 million in cuts to the Transportation Fund proposed within the Governor's budget adjustment bill. It is extremely ironic with our state's enormous deficit that now this Republican proposal is proposing expensive new ideas to the already overly stressed DOT budget. In fact, DOT previously estimated that it would require 3 additional full-time employees to fulfill the photo ID mandate. This is distressing, and seemingly irresponsible, at a time when the state is considering eliminating 2,900 state jobs.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) estimates that roughly 130,000 people across the state do not have the kind of documentation referred to in this legislation. Furthermore, the DOT estimates that only 20% of these people would ever get necessary documentation if AB 111 became law. That means that roughly 100,000 Wisconsin residents currently without DOT-issued photo identification, many of who are elderly, low-income, minority, homeless, or handicapped, would be disenfranchised by this bill.

Many of these people do not have the time or the resources to go to the DMV to obtain identification simply to vote. For example, if AB 111 were passed, a low-income person would be forced to jeopardize their employment or utilize precious vacation time to visit the DMV. Further, an elderly person who may have health problems would have to stand in the DMV line for hours to maintain their franchise. Adding to that hardship, many DMV offices have been eliminated or have had their hours of operation reduced due to budget cuts.

Furthermore, students from out of state who study at Wisconsin's colleges and universities and are eligible to vote in this state would not be allowed to present photo identification from their home state or a Wisconsin university identification card in order to prove their identity. They, too, would have to go to the DMV to obtain a Wisconsin photo identification card.

Many of Wisconsin's most diligent voters have been registered at the same address and have voted at the same polling station for most of their adult lives. This is particularly true in Milwaukee's inner city, where many low-income minority voters have never had the kind of photo identification required in AB 111.

Most states do not require an identification card, photo or otherwise, for their state's registered voters. In fact, only state, South Carolina, a state that still refuses to remove the Confederate flag from its state capitol, requires all voters to present a photo ID or be denied the right to vote. Moreover, **29 states are precluded by state statute from asking for any kind of voter identification at the polls.** Instead, AB 111 seeks to depart from this group of states and "reform" our electoral system by disenfranchising voters.

AB 111 could potentially undermine the provisional ballot process. Under AB 111, if you fail to provide a valid DOT-issued Wisconsin photo id, your secretly cast vote will be put aside as a provisional ballot, and you will have until 4 pm the day after the election to obtain the necessary ID and prove your identity. One day is not sufficient time to procure an ID if you were born in another state and need to obtain a birth certificate, or have other work demands. If you fail to prove your identity your vote will not be counted!

Voter registration by corroboration must not be repealed. Currently, a person who does not have a residential address can vote if that person brings with them to the polls another registered voter from the same municipality. This means that homelessness in Wisconsin does not mean disenfranchisement. AB 111 would require the voter to show photo id even in the presence of corroboration. We should not strip a voter of his or her rights simply because that person lacks an address or a photo id. According to the January 8, 2001, edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, 1% of the US population is homeless throughout the course of a year.

The mere *perception* of voter fraud provides no factual basis, no compelling interest, to change the tenets of Wisconsin's open election system, which consistently produces one of the highest voter turnouts in the nation and encourages voters from all walks of life to participate in our democracy. Wisconsin has a long, proud history of progressive election laws and of inclusiveness in the electoral process.

In fact, Wisconsin was one of the first states to give immigrants the right to vote. In 1848, our state's Constitution allowed immigrants to vote as they declared their intention for naturalization. For over 150 years, our state has sought to make the polls as accessible as possible to new voters.

Many have attempted to exploit charges of voter fraud in Milwaukee during the 2000 election. In that election, Milwaukee District Attorney McCann found that out of the 361 individuals with criminal backgrounds who were accused of voter fraud, only 3 had not had their civil rights restored. **McCann did not press charges against these three individuals because they were unaware that they were disqualified from voting.**

Now, under the guise of election "reform", the bill being debated here today will have the effect of disenfranchising many of Wisconsin's poor, minority, elderly, handicapped, homeless, and student voters, many of whom tend to vote Democratic. **While I certainly hope that the intent of this proposal is not to silence the voices of Wisconsin's most vulnerable who happen to vote Democratic, the effect of this proposal will do just that.**

I am equally concerned by the ramifications of **Assembly Bill 122 (AB 122)**, which like AB 111 disenfranchises voters rather than enacting real election reform. **This controversial, divisive and unnecessary bill seeks to single out one particular constituency, prohibiting them from contributing to political campaigns and therein severely limiting their access to the political process.** Anyone who receives income from a gaming establishment would lose his or her right to play a role in the political process. Gaming operators, including casinos, lotteries and racetracks that violate this law would face a Class I felony, a fine of \$10,000 and possible imprisonment of not more than three years and six months!

The bill's drafting notes reveal that there are potential constitutional questions regarding the infringement of equal protection rights of persons who earn their income from gaming operations. Should the concept of singling out constituency groups be considered constitutionally acceptable, this bill should be expanded to include all corporations and entities that routinely "influence" campaigns and elections. Unless AB 122 prohibits all groups that influence campaigns from contributing, the bill is unjust and possibly unconstitutional.

And lastly, I would like to voice additional comments about several of the other eleven bills that the committee is considering here today:

I believe that **Assembly Bill 113** would do little to impact the election process in Wisconsin. Proponents argue that people who view results through media outlets prior to poll closings may be persuaded by the preliminary results and may opt not to vote. This legislation does not address these concerns, as most preliminary results publicized prior to 10 pm are national, particularly from east coast states whose polls close earlier than Wisconsin's due to time zone. I feel that federal legislation would be the proper outlet for addressing this concern, as it should impact the entire nation, not just the state of Wisconsin.

I support **Assembly Bill 114** as a fair proposal that intends to provide uniform polling hours and will provide greater opportunity for citizens to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

Under current election law, every vote cast, including all write-ins, are counted. **Assembly Bill 115** intends to disenfranchise voters who cast write-in votes for candidates that have failed to declare candidacy in the time specified in the bill. Every vote should

count, whether it is cast for a candidate on the ballot or is written-in by the voter. AB 115 disenfranchises voters and the election process.

County boards of supervisors, common councils, village board of trustees, town boards of supervisors, county chairpersons or mayors currently have the authority to fill temporary vacancies in their respective levels of government. **Assembly Bill 118** takes away local control and instead creates an un-funded mandate for local government and taxpayers. By mandating automatic special elections to fill all vacancies for local elected positions, Wisconsin taxpayers will bear significant additional election costs. With the looming multi-billion dollar state deficit as well as deficits at the local level, it is not a stretch to say that citizens are more concerned about increased government spending than filling short-term vacancies in current elected positions.

The change in campaign finance reporting proposed by **Assembly Bill 119**, which requires that non-resident registrants be held to the same filing requirements as Wisconsin residents, seems to be fair and common sense reform to campaign finance law.

Greater education regarding voting rights should always be encouraged to ensure voter awareness and diminish accusations of fraud. I support the concept of **Assembly Bill 120** as it carries on Wisconsin's tradition of educating citizens about the electoral process. I especially support the provision that gives the court system and the Department of Corrections (DOC) discretion as to how they will notify affected persons. During these times of state fiscal uncertainty, we should be attempting to pass legislative proposals that mandate minimal new fiscal increases on state government. While I have no information on whether this new requirement will create great additional costs to the court system and DOC, I am cautiously optimistic that the intent of the author is to limit such fiscal increases on state government.

Assembly Bill 121 gives municipal bodies the authority to test all polling officials to prove their ability to speak and read English. While it is important that polling officials be able to converse and communicate effectively with those electors at that polling place: I hope this is not a "back door" approach to encourage the introduction of divisive "English Only" proposals.

Finally, I support the section **Assembly Bill 123** that creates a segregated fund and spending authority for the State Elections Board to carry out the federal requirements imposed in the Help America Vote Act of 2002. I reserve judgment at this time of the remaining items within this bill because I am unclear of their effect on the citizens of Wisconsin.

I hope, as you consider your vote on these numerous election bills, the members of this Committee will remember that the integrity of our election system can only be protected by ensuring that every voice continues to be heard.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my views on bills being discussed at today's hearing.