



## 2013 ASSEMBLY BILL 89

1     **AN ACT to amend** 5.15 (6) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** the method of reporting  
2           election returns by municipalities.

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*Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

3           **SECTION 1.** 5.15 (6) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:  
4           5.15 (6) (b) No later than 30 days before each election, the governing body of  
5           any municipality may by resolution combine 2 or more wards for voting purposes to  
6           facilitate using a common polling place. Whenever wards are so combined, the  
7           original ward numbers shall continue to be utilized for all official purposes. Except  
8           as otherwise authorized under this paragraph, every municipality having a  
9           population of 35,000 or more shall maintain separate returns for each ward so  
10          combined. In municipalities having a population of 35,000 or more, the governing

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1 body may provide in a resolution that returns for any ward having a population of  
2 20 or less be combined with returns for any adjacent ward, if the total population of  
3 the combined wards does not exceed the applicable population range under sub. (2)  
4 (b) for wards in that municipality. In municipalities having a population of less than  
5 35,000, the governing body may provide in the resolution that returns shall be  
6 maintained only for each group of combined wards at any election. Whenever a  
7 governing body provides ~~for common ballot boxes and ballots or voting machines,~~  
8 that returns shall be maintained only for combined wards under this paragraph, the  
9 municipality shall report separate returns shall be maintained results for each  
10 separate ballot required under ss. 5.62 and 5.58 to 5.64 at the partisan primary and  
11 general election. The municipal clerk shall transmit a copy of the resolution to the  
12 county clerk of each county in which the municipality is contained. In municipalities  
13 having a population of less than 35,000, the resolution shall remain in effect for each  
14 election until modified or rescinded, or until a new division is made under this  
15 section. Whenever needed for purposes of this paragraph, the municipal clerk shall  
16 determine the population of each ward in his or her municipality. If the population  
17 of a ward cannot be determined from census results, the clerk shall determine the  
18 population of the smallest unit encompassing the entire ward that can be determined  
19 from census results. The clerk shall then divide the land area of the ward by the land  
20 area of that unit. The clerk shall then multiply that result by the population of the  
21 unit to determine the population of the ward for purposes of this paragraph.

**SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

22  
23 (1) This act first applies with respect to reporting of election returns for  
24 elections held on the effective date of this subsection.

25 (END)