



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 177
[2013 Assembly Bill 202]

Election Observers

Under state law, any member of the public may be present at any polling place, municipal clerk's office, or alternate absentee ballot site for the purpose of observing an election and the absentee ballot voting process, except a candidate whose name appears on the ballot. The chief inspector or municipal clerk may reasonably limit the number of persons representing the same organization who are permitted to observe at the same time. In addition, the chief inspector or municipal clerk may restrict the location of any observer to certain areas within a polling place, the clerk's office, or alternate site and must clearly designate such an area as an observation area. Designated observation areas must be so positioned to permit any authorized individual to readily observe all public aspects of the voting process.

2013 Wisconsin Act 177 requires the chief inspector or municipal clerk to clearly designate observation areas for election observers that are not less than three feet from nor more than eight feet from the table at which electors announce their name and address to be issued a voter number and not less than three feet from nor more than eight feet from the table at which a person may register to vote. Additionally, the Act requires an election observer to print his or her name, sign, and date a log maintained at the polling place, clerk's office, or alternate site.

Effective date: April 4, 2014.

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April 9, 2014

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.