



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 147
[2013 Senate Bill 20]

Residency of Poll Workers

Wisconsin Act 147 relates to the residency of election inspectors (poll workers) and allows individuals to serve at a polling place located anywhere in the county, but maintains a limited priority for municipal residents. The Act also makes changes related to the procedures for submitting political party lists of nominees to serve as election inspectors.

Expanded Residency Requirement

Act 147 expands the residency requirement for certain election officials to allow individuals from the county to serve, rather than requiring that individuals be from the particular municipality or ward. Under prior law, an individual was generally required to be a qualified elector of the municipality to serve as an election official in that municipality, and was generally required to be a qualified elector of the ward to serve as an election official at the polling place for that ward. In addition to qualified electors, a 16- or 17-year old high school student who meets certain criteria may serve as an election inspector for the polling place for his or her residence.

Act 147 provides that an individual who serves at a polling place must be a qualified elector of a county in which the municipality where the official serves is located. However, the chief inspector at each polling place must still be a qualified elector of the municipality and a high school student is still limited to serving at the polling place for his or her residence.

Priority for Residents of the Municipality

Act 147 establishes priority for election inspectors from the municipality, if the political parties do not submit lists of nominees. Current law provides that the two major political parties whose candidates for governor or president at the last election received the largest number of votes at an individual polling place (typically, the Republican and Democratic

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>.

parties) may submit a list of nominees to be appointed as election inspectors. If the parties submit such lists, then the nominees **must** be appointed as election inspectors. A municipality may only appoint election inspectors without regard to political party affiliation if the parties fail to submit lists of nominees.

Under Act 147, boards of election commissioners and local governing bodies are still required to appoint election inspectors from lists submitted by the political parties. However, if the parties fail to submit lists, then the Act requires that priority be given to qualified electors of the municipality before electors from elsewhere in the county. Electors from the county may be appointed to serve only if there are an insufficient number of qualified electors from the municipality.

Procedures for Submitting Party Lists of Nominees

Act 147 alters the procedures for submitting lists of nominees to serve as election inspectors. The Act provides that a political party may submit a list of nominees to the mayor, president, or chairperson of the municipality (as under prior law), or alternatively, may submit the list to the municipal clerk or his or her agent, or may deliver or mail the list to the office of the municipality. If the clerk or his or her agent receives the list of nominees, the clerk must then forward the list to the mayor, president, or chairperson of the municipality.

Act 147 also alters the particular political party officials who may submit a list of nominees to be appointed as election inspectors in the City of Milwaukee. The Act provides that the list is submitted by the county party committees, rather than by aldermanic district committeemen or committeewomen. The county chairperson must sign any list of nominees that is submitted.

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