

To: Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections
 Date: May 21, 2013
 From: Paul Malischke, malischke@yahoo.com

Subject: AB-89, combining wards into reporting units

Please consider removing the restriction limiting this to wards with 20 or fewer people.

The proposal to let municipalities over 35,000 combine wards into reporting units will help elections run more efficiently. However, the restriction of 20 people (line 10) is needlessly strict. With this restriction, many of the potential efficiencies will not be realized.

The restriction on lines 11 and 12 means that the reporting units cannot be bigger than a ward would be when established by redistricting. This is sufficient to maintain normal sized reporting units.

Under current law, municipalities smaller than 35,000 are not subject to a limit of 20 people for combining wards into reporting units. In November 2012, there were 18 reporting units larger than 4,000 voters, all from municipalities smaller than 35,000.

| Municipality | November 2012 | Total Votes Cast |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| CITY OF MONROE wards 1 - 9 | | 5,052 |
| TOWN OF HUDSON Wards 1-14 | | 4,866 |
| VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND WARDS 1-10 | | 4,863 |
| TOWN OF GREENVILLE WARDS 1-3 & 5-8 | | 4,859 |
| TOWN OF NORWAY WARDS 1-11 | | 4,848 |
| TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS WARDS 1 - 11 | | 4,590 |
| CITY OF ELKHORN WARD 1-7 | | 4,544 |
| VILLAGE OF HOLMEN Wards 1-11 | | 4,527 |
| CITY OF MIDDLETON Wards 1-5, 8-9 | | 4,516 |
| TOWN OF RIB MOUNTAIN WARDS 1-10 | | 4,389 |
| CITY OF FITCHBURG Ward 5 - 9 | | 4,327 |
| CITY OF DELAFIELD Wards 1-14 | | 4,311 |
| TOWN OF WASHINGTON Wards 1-13 | | 4,270 |
| CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE WARDS 6-9 | | 4,171 |
| VILLAGE OF MUKWONAGO Wards 1 - 10 | | 4,067 |
| CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE WARDS 1-5 | | 4,053 |
| CITY OF RICE LAKE Wards 1-13 | | 4,046 |
| CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE WARDS 15-19 | | 4,019 |

Current statute 5.16 (2) (b)

| City Size | Ward Minimum | Ward Maximum |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Greater than 150,000 | 1000 | 4000 |
| 39,000 to 150,000 | 800 | 3200 |
| 10,000 to 39,000 | 600 | 2100 |
| Less than 10,000 | 300 | 1000 |