



## Luther S. Olsen

State Senator  
14th District

**TO:** Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government  
**FROM:** Senator Luther Olsen  
**DATE:** Monday, November 23, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 313

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Thank you Chairman LeMahieu and the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government for holding a hearing and allowing me to testify in support of Senate Bill 313.

We proposed this legislation after hearing from one of our local planning and zoning departments about the amount of money that could be saved using certified mail versus registered mail. Registered mail is the highest level of security that you can purchase from the United States Postal Service. This type of mailing is tracked as it moves throughout the entire Postal system and registered mail is transported separately from other mail types, such as First-Class mail. In addition, registered mail can be insured for up to \$50,000. On the other hand, certified mail does not have en-route tracking and insurance coverage is not provided, but the sender will receive a mailing receipt.

I would encourage committee members to look over the testimony that has been distributed to all of you from Janene Harper who is the Secretary and Bookkeeper for Adams County Planning & Zoning Department, so you can understand the importance of this change to state law. According to this information, sending zoning requests by registered mail costs \$15.13 per letter with an estimated 5 or more requests being sent to the township involved in this request every month. That is a cost of \$75.65 or more every month. In comparison, certified mail costs \$6.49 per letter, so approximately \$32.45 or more every month. If you compare registered mail to certified mail, that's a savings of roughly \$43.20 every month using this example.

In this day and age, technology has the ability to save our local government's time and money by updating these state laws relating to zoning ordinances. This bill will allow our local officials to utilize technology that will help ease the cost of registered mail on our local officials. As our constituent's in local government have told us, "*It may not seem crucial, but we are on a very limited budget and our mail expenses are getting tremendous.*"

Under current law, when a county enacts or amends certain zoning ordinances a county clerk is required to send town clerks copies of the enacted ordinances or amendments by registered mail. In addition, if a petition is sent to the county board and the county must hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to a zoning ordinance, then the county clerk would be required to send a copy of the notice, by registered mail, to any town clerks affected by this proposed amendment.

In general, this bill, will require a county clerk to send copies of ordinances, amendments, or notices to town clerks by certified mail. However, a county clerk could send these materials to a town clerk by e-

mail, if the county clerk includes with the e-mail a request that a town clerk promptly confirms receipt of the county clerk's email. Originally, under the bill, in the event that a town clerk does not send the e-mail confirmation within five business days, then the county clerk would send the zoning materials to the town clerk by certified mail. Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 313 says that if the town clerk does not send an email confirmation within two days (rather than five), then the county clerk would send the zoning materials to the town clerk by certified mail. We proposed this amendment after receiving input from the Wisconsin Towns Association and I wanted to note that this change has been approved by the Wisconsin Counties Association as well.

Thank you members, I ask for your support on Senate Bill 313 and I would be more than happy to answer any questions.



PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 187, COURTHOUSE  
FRIENDSHIP, WI 53934  
PHONE: 608-339-4222  
[www.co.adams.wi.gov](http://www.co.adams.wi.gov)

November 19, 2015

To: Representative Scott Krug

Re: Mailing Expense

Dear Representative Krug,

We must mail notification to Town clerks when a rezoning request has been scheduled for public hearing. State Statute requires that we must send this as Registered Mail; each letter costs us \$15.13. Though we only must send the letter to the Town involved in the rezone, there may be rezoning requests from five or more Towns that month. I believe Certified Mail would cost only \$6.49 per letter.

Any help to change this statute would be greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janene L. Harper".

Janene L. Harper  
Secretary/Bookkeeper  
Adams County Planning & Zoning

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathy Allen".

Cathy Allen  
Secretary/Bookkeeper  
Adams County Planning & Zoning



# COUNTY OF MANITOWOC

## COUNTY CLERK

1010 South 8<sup>th</sup> St., Ste. 115  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

*Jamie J. Aulik*  
Manitowoc County Clerk

Telephone: (920) 683-4004  
Email: [jamieaulik@co.manitowoc.wi.us](mailto:jamieaulik@co.manitowoc.wi.us)

**DATE:** November 23, 2015  
**TO:** Members of the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government  
**FROM:** Jamie J. Aulik, Manitowoc County Clerk  
**RE:** Testimony supporting Senate Bill 313, Senate Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 313, and Senate Bill 391

Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government:

Below are my comments supporting SB-313, SA-1 to SB-313, and SB-391.

**SB-313** relates to the method used by a county clerk to notify town clerks of certain county zoning actions. At present, counties are required to use a certified mail process to notify towns of actions relating to zoning. I support this bill because it would save time, money, and generally modernize the notification process by allowing counties to email materials to the town clerk so long as we receive confirmation of receipt.

**SA-1 to SB-313** would amend the requirement of a town clerk to confirm receipt of zoning materials from five days to two days. If two days elapsed without receiving notification of receipt from the town clerk, the county would send the materials via certified mail. I support this change because if this bill were enacted as amended, our office would not only email the materials to the town clerk but follow up with a phone call to let the know to check their email. In my county, all of our town clerks are part-time and I know they would appreciate the heads-up from our office and subsequently check their email.

**SB-391** relates to the training period for election officials and terms for members of a board of canvassers. I support this bill because at present, municipal clerks and other election officials have staggered terms for training and appointment which oftentimes creates unnecessary confusion for these important election officials. This bill would clean up current statutes by synchronizing their training, certification, and terms of appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the above bills. If there are any questions, I'm more than willing to attempt to answer them.

Very respectfully,

Jamie J. Aulik  
Manitowoc County Clerk