



SHAE SORTWELL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE * 2nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Hearing Testimony
Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections
June 1, 2021
Assembly Bill 271

Representative Brandtjen and members of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections – thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on AB 271, relating to broadcasting election night proceedings.

We can all agree that having free and fair elections is integral to the freedom of our republic. To better achieve that end, there is room for reform of our elections laws, including this simple, common-sense, and bipartisan piece of legislation.

When investigating the corruption that occurred in Green Bay for the November 2020 election, I found that the City live-streamed the central count location on election night. However, I was puzzled that they did not keep a recording of the video. It is up for debate what reasoning they had for that decision, but common-sense says that they should have kept it for transparency.

Nonetheless, under current law, it is not required by a municipality to keep a video record of canvassing proceedings in any election that is live-streamed. To ensure and maintain election integrity and accountability, this bill will require that broadcast to be kept as a record and retained for 22 months.

As a note, if a municipality live-streams on a third-party site, such as Youtube, they are allowed to archive the record on the third-party site as a way to retain it.

I want to thank the committee for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions members of the committee may have.