

2001 ASSEMBLY BILL 38

January 19, 2001 – Introduced by Representatives FREESE, GRONEMUS, AINSWORTH, ALBERS, HOVEN, HUNDERTMARK, KRAWCZYK, LADWIG, McCORMICK, MONTGOMERY, MUSSER, OWENS, PETTIS, TOWNSEND, URBAN and WILLIAMS, cosponsored by Senators SCHULTZ and FARROW. Referred to Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 7.51 (4) (b) and 7.60 (1); and *to create* 7.10 (7) and 7.15 (9) of
2 the statutes; **relating to:** public inspection of the records of the canvass of
3 elections for the offices of president and vice president.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, canvasses of elections are conducted at polling places or at central counting locations. All canvasses are open to the public. When a canvass at a polling place is completed, the election inspectors announce the results to those persons who are present at the polling place. The inspectors then report the returns to the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners. If a canvass is conducted at a central counting location, the municipal or county clerk or board of election commissioners is responsible for the canvass. Municipal and county clerks and boards of election commissioners then report the results to other clerks or agencies to the extent required to determine election results. All records of returns are open to public inspection. County clerks and boards of election commissioners are required to keep their offices open on election night and to post all returns.

This bill directs municipal and county clerks to withhold from public inspection records of the canvass of the election for the offices of president and vice president until 10 p.m. on election night. The bill does not affect public access to polling places and central counting locations.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

