

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

2001-02

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Campaigns &
Elections
(AC-CE)

File Naming Example:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- > 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

Published Documents

> Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

> **

> Committee Reports ... CR

> **

> Executive Sessions ... ES

> **

> Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

> **

*Information Collected For Or
Against Proposal*

> Appointments ... Appt

> **

> Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

**

> Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

> **01hr_ab0010_AC-CE_pt01**

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

> **

Vote Record

Assembly - Committee on Campaigns and Elections

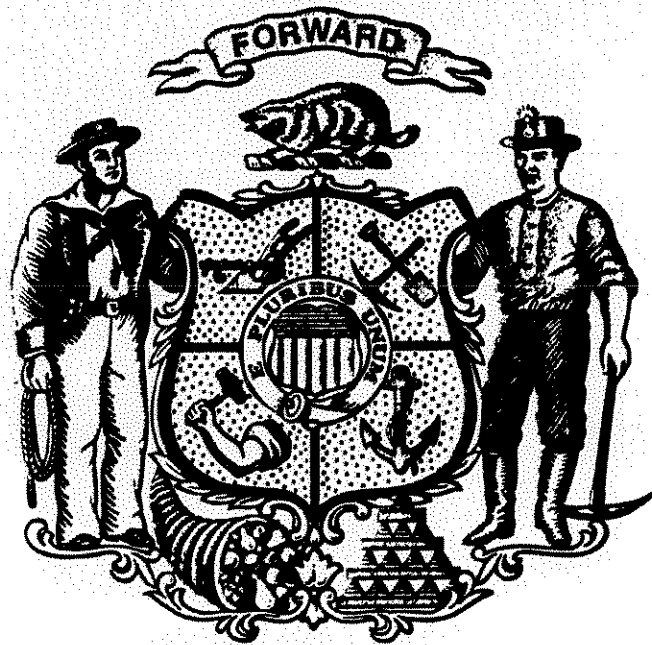
Date: 1/23/01
Bill Number: AB10
Moved by: adapt. Seconded by: Stone
Motion: _____

Committee Member

	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Rep. Stephen Freese, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Bonnie Ladwig	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jeff Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jeff Fitzgerald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. David Travis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Mark Pocan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed



DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

LRB-1032/1dn
RJM:wlj:rs

December 7, 2000

2001 AB 10

Representative Walker: Ludwig:

This bill contains the provisions of 1999 AB-649 (repealing registration by corroboration on election day), along with provisions repealing the use of corroboration for late voter registration. The bill also contains provisions generally requiring an individual to present a Wisconsin driver's license or identification card in order to register. Please let me know if the bill is not consistent with your intent. As you review the bill, please note the following issues:

1. Because a person must pay a fee to obtain a driver's license or identification card, requiring a person to present one of these forms of identification in order to obtain the registration required to vote may be considered an unconstitutional poll tax. To avoid this potential challenge, this bill permits a person to present his or her birth certificate which costs nothing. Please let me know if this option is inconsistent with your intent. *eliminate birth certificate*
2. This bill repeals ss. 6.30 (4) and 6.32, stats., which allow registration by mail, because these provisions are incompatible with a requirement that a person show identification when registering. However, because the bill permits overseas electors to register by mail, these provisions have been incorporated into the overseas voting statute. See proposed s. 6.24 (3) (b).

The bill does not incorporate these provisions exactly, however. It did not seem logical to require a municipal clerk to inform an overseas elector who mails an incomplete registration form or whose registration form is not timely that the elector may register in person at the municipal clerk's office or polling place. Although this requirement is in current law, this bill does not include it.

Repealing the provisions allowing registration by mail may disproportionately affect the elderly, who are less likely to travel to a location where they may register in person. To address this concern, this bill makes clear that certain nursing homes, community-based residential facilities, and retirement homes may be designated as registration locations. See proposed s. 6.28 (1).

3. The bill does not change current law with regard to transferring registration to a new address within a municipality or transferring registration to a new legal name. Thus, a person whose address changes within a municipality or whose name is legally changed need not present identification when submitting a request to update his or her registration. However, a person who moves to a new municipality generally must complete a new registration form and present identification. *should have photo id for name & address change*

4. The bill does not change current law with regard to the suspension of registrations for registered electors who have not voted during a four-year period. Current law permits these electors to avoid suspension of their registration by mailing a form certifying that they still reside at the address at which they are registered and desire to continue their registration. These electors are not required to present identification.

Robert J. Marchant
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2001 BILL

1 **AN ACT to repeal** 6.30 (1) (title), 6.30 (4), 6.32, 6.54 and 6.56 (5); **to renumber**
2 **and amend** 6.24 (3) and 6.30 (1); **to amend** 6.275 (1) (b), 6.28 (1), 6.28 (3), 6.29
3 (title), 6.29 (2) (a), 6.29 (2) (b), 6.33 (title), 6.33 (1), 6.33 (2) (a), 6.33 (2) (b), 6.40
4 (2) (b), 6.50 (10), 6.55 (2) (b), 6.55 (2) (c) 1., 6.55 (2) (c) 2., 6.55 (2) (d), 6.55 (3),
5 6.55 (7) (c) 1., 6.55 (7) (c) 2., 6.56 (2), 6.79 (1), 6.79 (4) and 7.08 (1) (c); and **to**
6 **create** 6.24 (3) (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** the registration of electors and
7 the determination of eligible electors in certain municipalities on election day.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Registration for all municipalities?
Under current law, voter registration is required in every municipality having a population of more than 5,000. If registration is required, any individual who qualifies as an elector in a ward or election district but who is not registered to vote may do so in person at various locations within the applicable municipality or, provided the envelope is postmarked by the close of registration (the second Wednesday preceding the election), may mail to the appropriate municipal clerk a completed registration form. In addition, current law permits late registration at the municipal clerk's office after the close of registration but before 5 p.m. on the day before the election and permits election day registration in the appropriate ward or election district. An individual who makes a late or election day registration must complete a registration form and a certification of eligibility and must present

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acceptable proof of residence. Current law also permits any individual whose name does not appear on a registration list for a ward or election district on election day but who claims to be a registered voter in that ward or election district to vote after completing a certification of eligibility and presenting acceptable proof of residence.

If an individual attempting to vote under these late registration or election day procedures is not able to present acceptable proof of residence, as an alternative, current law permits another qualified elector who resides in the same municipality to corroborate the information contained in the individual's registration form or certification. In any municipality where registration is not required, a similar procedure may be followed on election day to determine whether an individual is an eligible elector.

*any photo id
student id,
etc.*

This bill repeals the authority for an individual to utilize corroboration under these late registration or election day procedures. This bill also requires an individual who registers to vote, other than an individual who resides outside of the United States and who qualifies as an "overseas elector" under the law, to present a Wisconsin driver's license or a Wisconsin identification card that was issued to the individual and that contains a photograph of the individual, or a copy of the individual's birth certificate. Current law does not contain this requirement. In addition, this bill repeals the authority for any individual other than the overseas elector to register by mail. This bill has no effect upon military electors.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 6.24 (3) of the statutes is renumbered 6.24 (3) (a) and amended to
2 read:

3 6.24 (3) (a) If registration is required in the municipality where the overseas
4 elector resided or where the elector's parent resided, the elector shall register on a
5 form prescribed by the board designed to ascertain the elector's qualifications under
6 this section. The form shall be substantially similar to the original form required
7 under s. 6.33 (1), insofar as applicable. ~~Registration shall be accomplished in~~
8 ~~accordance with s. 6.30 (4)~~ Notwithstanding s. 6.30, the elector is not required to
9 present identification as a prerequisite to registering.

10 **SECTION 2.** 6.24 (3) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

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1 6.24 (3) (b) Notwithstanding s. 6.30, an overseas elector may register by
2 mailing a completed registration form to the office of the appropriate municipal
3 clerk. Upon receipt of a registration form that is submitted under this paragraph,
4 the municipal clerk shall examine the form for sufficiency. If the form is insufficient
5 to accomplish registration, or the clerk knows or has reliable information that the
6 proposed elector is not qualified, the clerk shall notify the proposed elector within 5
7 days, if possible. If the form is sufficient to accomplish registration, and the clerk has
8 no reliable information to indicate that the proposed elector is not qualified, the clerk
9 shall enter the elector's name on the registration list and transmit a 1st class letter
10 or postcard to the registrant, specifying the elector's ward or aldermanic district, and
11 polling place. If the letter or postcard is returned, or if the clerk is informed of a
12 different address than the one specified by the elector, the clerk shall strike the name
13 of the elector from the list. The letter or postcard shall specify "Address correction
14 requested" or "Do not forward—", and if a postcard, "Return postage guaranteed".

15 **SECTION 3.** 6.275 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 6.275 (1) (b) Where registration applies, the total number of electors of the
17 municipality residing in that county who were preregistered on the deadline
18 specified in s. 6.28 (1), including valid mail registrations under s. 6.24 (3) (b) which
19 are postmarked by that day.

20 **SECTION 4.** 6.28 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 6.28 (1) REGISTRATION LOCATIONS; DEADLINE. Except as authorized in ss. 6.29 and
22 6.55 (2), registration ~~in person~~ for any election shall close at 5 p.m. on the 2nd
23 Wednesday preceding the election. ~~Registrations made by mail under s. 6.30 (4) must~~
24 ~~be delivered to the office of the municipal clerk or postmarked no later than the 2nd~~
25 ~~Wednesday preceding the election.~~ An application for registration ~~in person or by~~

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1 mail may be accepted for placement on the registration list after the specified
2 deadline, if the municipal clerk determines that the registration list can be revised
3 to incorporate the registration in time for the election. All applications for
4 registration corrections and additions may be made throughout the year at the office
5 of the city board of election commissioners, at the office of the municipal clerk, at the
6 office of any register of deeds, or at other locations provided by the board of election
7 commissioners or the common council in cities over 500,000 population or by either
8 or both the municipal clerk, or the common council, village or town board in all other
9 municipalities and may also be made during the school year at any high school by
10 qualified persons under sub. (2) (a). Other registration locations may include but are
11 not limited to fire houses; police stations; public libraries; institutions of higher
12 education; supermarkets; community centers; plants and factories; banks,
13 savings and loan associations, and savings banks; and qualified community-based
14 residential facilities, qualified retirement homes, and nursing homes as defined in
15 s. 6.875 (1). Special registration deputies shall be appointed for all locations. An
16 elector who wishes to obtain a confidential listing under s. 6.47 (2) shall register at
17 the office of the municipal clerk of the municipality where the elector resides.

18 **SECTION 5.** 6.28 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 6.28 (3) AT OFFICE OF REGISTER OF DEEDS. Any person who resides in a
20 municipality requiring registration of electors shall be given an opportunity to
21 register to vote at the office of the register of deeds. ~~An applicant may fill out the~~
22 ~~required~~ The registration form shall be completed as required under s. 6.33. Upon
23 receipt of a completed form, the register of deeds shall forward the form within 5 days
24 to the appropriate municipal clerk, or to the board of election commissioners in cities

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1 over 500,000 population. The register of deeds shall forward the form immediately
2 whenever registration closes within 5 days of receipt.

3 **SECTION 6.** 6.29 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 **6.29 (title) Late registration in person.**

5 **SECTION 7.** 6.29 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 6.29 (2) (a) Any qualified elector of a municipality where registration is
7 required who has not previously filed a registration form or whose name does not
8 appear on the registration list of the municipality shall be entitled to vote at the
9 election if he or she ~~delivers to the municipal clerk a registration form executed by~~
10 ~~the elector registers at the office of the municipal clerk not later than 5 p.m. of the~~
11 ~~day before an election. The form shall contain a certification by the elector that all~~
12 ~~statements are true and correct. Alternatively, if the elector cannot obtain a~~
13 ~~registration form, the elector may deliver a statement, signed by the elector,~~
14 ~~containing all of the information required on the registration form. The elector shall~~
15 ~~present acceptable proof of residence as provided in s. 6.55 (7). If no proof is~~
16 ~~presented, the registration form or the listing of required information shall be~~
17 ~~substantiated by one other elector of the municipality, corroborating all the material~~
18 ~~statements therein. The corroborating elector shall then provide acceptable proof of~~
19 ~~residence under s. 6.55 (7). The signing of the form by the registering elector and~~
20 ~~statement by the corroborating elector shall be done in the presence of the municipal~~
21 ~~clerk or deputy clerk not later than 5 p.m. of the day before an election.~~

22 **SECTION 8.** 6.29 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 6.29 (2) (b) Upon ~~the filing of the registration form required by~~ registering an
24 elector under this section, the municipal clerk shall issue a certificate addressed to
25 the inspectors of the proper ward directing that the elector be permitted to cast his

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1 or her vote, unless the clerk determines that the registration list will be revised to
2 incorporate the registration in time for the election. The certificate shall be
3 numbered serially, prepared in duplicate and one copy preserved in the office of the
4 municipal clerk.

5 **SECTION 9.** 6.30 (1) (title) of the statutes is repealed.

6 **SECTION 10.** 6.30 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 6.30 and amended to read:

7 **6.30** Registration applications shall be made in person, ~~except under sub. (4).~~
8 Each person making a registration application shall present to the clerk, issuing
9 officer, or registration deputy a valid operator's license issued to the person under
10 ch. 343 that contains the photograph of the license holder, or a valid identification
11 card issued to the person under s. 343.50, or a copy of the person's birth certificate.
12 If the identification presented is not acceptable proof of residence under s. 6.55 (7),
13 the person shall also present acceptable proof of residence.

14 **SECTION 11.** 6.30 (4) of the statutes is repealed.

15 **SECTION 12.** 6.32 of the statutes is repealed.

16 **SECTION 13.** 6.33 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

17 **6.33 (title) Registration forms; manner of completing.**

18 **SECTION 14.** 6.33 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 **6.33 (1)** The municipal clerk shall supply sufficient registration forms as
20 prescribed by the board printed on loose-leaf sheets or cards to obtain from each
21 applicant information as to name, date, residence location, citizenship, age, whether
22 the applicant has resided within the ward or election district for at least 10 days,
23 whether the applicant has lost his or her right to vote, and whether the applicant is
24 currently registered to vote at any other location, and shall provide a space for the
25 applicant's signature. The forms shall also include a space for where the clerk,

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1 issuing officer, or registration deputy may record the type of identification serial
2 provided by the applicant and any unique identifying number of any elector who is
3 issued such a number under s. 6.47 (3) contained in that identification. The forms
4 shall also include a space where the clerk, issuing officer, or registration deputy, for
5 any applicant who possesses a valid voting identification card issued to the person
6 under s. 6.47 (3), may record the serial number contained in the voting identification
7 card. Each register of deeds shall obtain sufficient registration forms at the expense
8 of the unit of government by which he or she is employed for completion by any elector
9 who desires to register to vote.

10 SECTION 15. 6.33 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 6.33 (2) (a) The All information other than information relating to the
12 identification provided by an applicant or relating to an applicant's voting
13 identification card may be recorded by any person, but the . The clerk, issuing officer,
14 or registration deputy shall record all information relating to the identification
15 provided by an applicant or relating to an applicant's voting identification card. Each
16 applicant shall sign his or her own name unless the applicant is unable to sign his
17 or her name due to physical disability. In such case, the applicant may authorize
18 another elector to sign the form on his or her behalf. If the applicant so authorizes,
19 the elector signing the form shall attest to a statement that the application is made
20 upon request and by authorization of a named elector who is unable to sign the form
21 due to physical disability. Ward and aldermanic district information shall be filled
22 in by the clerk.

23 SECTION 16. 6.33 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

24 6.33 (2) (b) The registration form shall be signed by the registering elector and
25 any corroborating elector under s. 6.29 (2) (a) or 6.55 (2) before the clerk, issuing

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1 officer, or registration deputy. The form shall contain a certification by the
2 registering elector that all statements are true and correct.

3 **SECTION 17.** 6.40 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 6.40 (2) (b) In addition to the revision which is required under s. 6.50,
5 municipal clerks may conduct door-to-door and mail registration canvasses at any
6 time. The door-to-door canvass shall consist of both the deletion from the
7 registration list of the names of electors who no longer reside at the address for which
8 they are registered and the addition to the registration list of the names of electors
9 who reside at that address. The mail canvass shall consist of the municipal clerk
10 examining the registration records and canceling the registration of electors after
11 the mailing of notices in accordance with s. 6.50 (1) and (2) or (2m). ~~The mail canvass~~
12 ~~may also consist of adding to the registration list the names of eligible electors.~~ Both
13 door-to-door and mail canvasses whenever made shall be made throughout the
14 municipality in a uniform manner. An elector who wishes to obtain a confidential
15 listing under s. 6.47 (2) shall register at the office of the municipal clerk of the
16 municipality where the elector resides.

17 **SECTION 18.** 6.50 (10) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 6.50 (10) Any elector whose registration is canceled under this section may
19 ~~have his or her registration reinstated by filing a new registration form~~ reregister
20 as provided under s. 6.30.

21 **SECTION 19.** 6.54 of the statutes is repealed.

22 **SECTION 20.** 6.55 (2) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 6.55 (2) (b) Upon executing the registration form under par. (a), the person
24 shall be required by a special registration deputy or inspector to present a valid
25 operator's license issued to the person under ch. 343 that contains the photograph

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1 ~~of the license holder, a valid identification card issued to the person under s. 343.50,~~
2 ~~or a copy of the person's birth certificate. If the identification presented is not~~
3 ~~acceptable proof of residence under sub. (7), the person shall also present acceptable~~
4 ~~proof of residence under sub. (7). If the person cannot supply such proof, the~~
5 ~~registration form shall be substantiated and signed by one other elector who resides~~
6 ~~in the same municipality as the registering elector, corroborating all the material~~
7 ~~statements therein. The corroborator shall then provide acceptable proof of~~
8 ~~residence. The signing by the elector executing the registration form and by any~~
9 ~~elector who corroborates the information in the form under par. (a) shall be in the~~
10 ~~presence of the special registration deputy or inspector. Upon compliance with this~~
11 ~~procedure, such person shall then be given the right to vote.~~

12 **SECTION 21.** 6.55 (2) (c) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

13 6.55 (2) (c) 1. As an alternative to registration at the polling place under pars.
14 (a) and (b), the board of election commissioners, or the governing body of any
15 municipality in which registration is required may by resolution require a person
16 who qualifies as an elector and who is not registered and desires to register on the
17 day of an election to do so at another readily accessible location in the same building
18 as the polling place serving the elector's residence or at an alternate polling place
19 assigned under s. 5.25 (5) (b), instead of at the polling place serving the elector's
20 residence. In such case, the municipal clerk shall prominently post a notice of the
21 registration location at the polling place. The municipal clerk, deputy clerk, or
22 special registration deputy at the registration location shall require such person to
23 execute a registration form as prescribed under par. (a) and to present a valid
24 operator's license issued to the person under ch. 343 that contains the photograph
25 of the license holder, a valid identification card issued to the person under s. 343.50.

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1 ~~or a copy of the person's birth certificate. If the identification presented is not~~
2 ~~acceptable proof of residence under sub. (7), the person shall also provide acceptable~~
3 ~~proof of residence as provided under sub. (7). If the person cannot supply such proof,~~
4 ~~the registration form shall be corroborated in the manner provided in par. (b). The~~
5 ~~signing by the elector executing the registration form and by any corroborating~~
6 ~~elector as prescribed under par. (a) shall be in the presence of the municipal clerk,~~
7 ~~deputy clerk, or special registration deputy. Upon proper completion of registration,~~
8 ~~the municipal clerk, deputy clerk, or special registration deputy shall serially~~
9 ~~number the registration and give one copy to the elector for presentation at the~~
10 ~~polling place serving the elector's residence or an alternate polling place assigned~~
11 ~~under s. 5.25 (5) (b).~~

12 **SECTION 22.** 6.55 (2) (c) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

13 6.55 (2) (c) 2. Upon compliance with the procedures under subd. 1., the
14 municipal clerk or deputy clerk shall issue a certificate addressed to the inspectors
15 of the proper polling place directing that the elector be permitted to cast his or her
16 vote. ~~If the elector's registration is corroborated, the clerk shall enter the name and~~
17 ~~address of the corroborator on the face of the certificate.~~ The certificate shall be
18 numbered serially and prepared in duplicate. The municipal clerk shall preserve one
19 copy in his or her office.

20 **SECTION 23.** 6.55 (2) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

21 6.55 (2) (d) A registered elector who has changed his or her name but resides
22 at the same address, and has not notified the municipal clerk under s. 6.40 (1) (c),
23 shall notify the inspector of the change before voting. The inspector shall then notify
24 the municipal clerk at the time which materials are returned under s. 6.56 (1). If an
25 elector ~~changes~~ has changed both a name and address, the elector shall ~~complete a~~

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1 ~~registration form~~ register at the polling place or other registration location under
2 pars. (a) and (b).

3 **SECTION 24.** 6.55 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 **6.55 (3)** Any qualified elector in the ward or election district where the elector
5 desires to vote whose name does not appear on the registration list where
6 registration is required but who claims to be registered to vote in the election may
7 request permission to vote at the polling place for that ward or election district.
8 When the request is made, the inspector shall require the person to give his or her
9 name and address. If the elector is not at the polling place which serves the ward or
10 election district where the elector resides, the inspector shall provide the elector with
11 directions to the correct polling place. If the elector is at the correct polling place, the
12 elector shall then execute the following written statement: "I,, hereby certify that
13 to the best of my knowledge, I am a qualified elector, having resided at for at least
14 10 days immediately preceding this election, and that I am not disqualified on any
15 ground from voting, and I have not voted at this election and am properly registered
16 to vote in this election." The person shall be required to provide acceptable proof of
17 residence as provided under sub. (7) and shall then be given the right to vote. ~~If~~
18 ~~acceptable proof is presented, the elector need not have the information corroborated~~
19 ~~by any other elector. If acceptable proof is not presented, the statement shall be~~
20 ~~certified by the elector and shall be corroborated by another elector who resides in~~
21 ~~the municipality. The corroborator shall then provide acceptable proof of residence~~
22 ~~as provided in sub. (7).~~ Whenever the question of residence cannot be satisfactorily
23 resolved and the elector cannot be permitted to vote, an inspector shall telephone the
24 office of the municipal clerk to reconcile the records at the polling place with those
25 at the office.

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1 SECTION 25. 6.55 (7) (c) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

2 6.55 (7) (c) 1. ~~A Wisconsin motor vehicle~~ An operator's license issued under ch.
3 343.

4 SECTION 26. 6.55 (7) (c) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

5 6.55 (7) (c) 2. ~~A Wisconsin~~ An identification card issued under ~~s. 125.08, 1987~~
6 ~~stats s. 343.50.~~

7 SECTION 27. 6.56 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 6.56 (2) Upon receipt of the list, the municipal clerk shall make a check to
9 determine whether each person who has been allowed to vote under s. 6.55 (3) is
10 properly registered. If so, the clerk shall correct the registration list. If the address
11 on the registration list is not correct, the clerk shall correct the address. The clerk
12 shall then notify the elector by postcard when he or she is properly registered. ~~If such~~
13 ~~person~~ the person is found not to be properly registered, the clerk shall send the
14 person a 1st class letter with that information, ~~containing a mail registration form~~
15 ~~under s. 6.30 (4) indicating that the person may contact the clerk for instruction on~~
16 how to continue the person's registration. The letter shall be marked "ADDRESS
17 CORRECTION REQUESTED". If such letter is returned undelivered, or if the U.S. postal
18 service notifies the clerk of an improper address which was apparently improper on
19 the day of the election, the clerk shall notify the district attorney.

20 SECTION 28. 6.56 (5) of the statutes is repealed.

21 SECTION 29. 6.79 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

22 6.79 (1) MUNICIPALITIES WITHOUT REGISTRATION. Except as provided in sub. (6)
23 (a), where there is no registration, before being permitted to vote, each person shall
24 state his or her full name and address. The officials shall enter each name and
25 address on a poll list in the same order as the votes are cast. If the residence of the

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1 elector does not have a number, the election officials shall, in the appropriate space,
2 enter "none". Alternatively, the municipal clerk may maintain a poll list consisting
3 of the full name and address of electors compiled from previous elections. Whenever
4 an elector appears to vote, the officials shall verify the correctness of the elector's
5 name and address, and shall enter a serial number next to the name of the elector
6 in the order that the votes are cast, beginning with the number one. If the name and
7 address of an elector do not appear on the prepared poll list, the officials shall enter
8 the name, address, and serial number of the elector at the bottom of the list. The
9 officials may require any elector to provide identification, including acceptable proof
10 of residence, ~~or to have another elector corroborate his or her information in~~
11 ~~accordance with the procedure specified in s. 6.55 (2) (b) before permitting the elector~~
12 to vote. An elector who presents an identification card under sub. (6) (a) is not
13 required to provide separate identification. The officials shall maintain a separate
14 list of those persons voting under ss. 6.15 and 6.24.

15 **SECTION 30.** 6.79 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 6.79 (4) SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION. When any elector provides identification
17 or proof of residence under sub. (1) or s. 6.15, 6.29, or 6.55 (2) or (3), the election
18 officials shall enter the type of identification or proof and any unique identifying
19 number contained in the identification or proof on the poll or registration list, or
20 supplemental list maintained under sub. (2). ~~If the form of identification includes~~
21 ~~a number which applies only to the individual holding that piece of identification, the~~
22 ~~election officials shall also enter that number on the list. When any elector~~
23 ~~corroborates the registration identity or residence of any person offering to vote~~
24 ~~under sub. (1) or s. 6.55 (2) (b) or (c) or (3) the name and address of the corroborator~~
25 ~~shall also be entered next to the name of the elector whose information is being~~

BILL**SECTION 30**

1 ~~corroborated on the registration or poll list, or the separate list maintained under~~
2 ~~sub. (2).~~ When any person offering to vote has been challenged and taken the oath,
3 following the person's name on the registration or poll list, the officials shall enter
4 the word "Sworn".

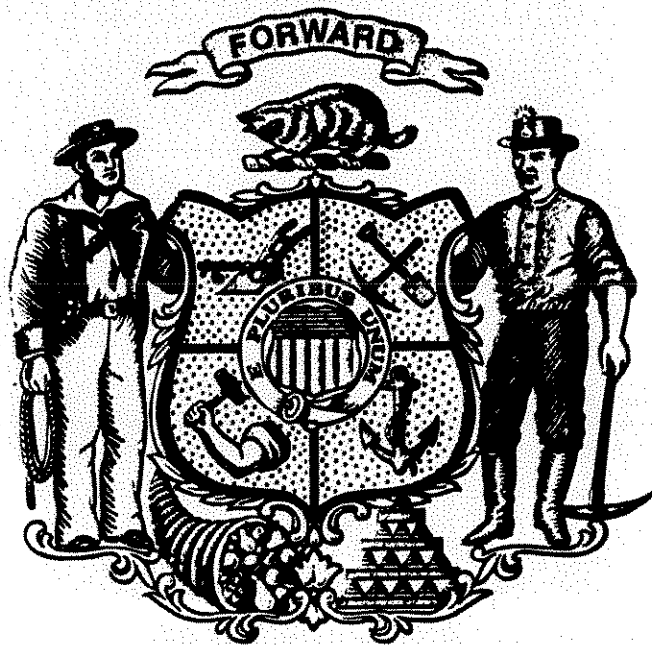
5 **SECTION 31.** 7.08 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 7.08 (1) (c) Prescribe forms required by ss. 6.24 (3) and (4), ~~6.30 (4)~~, 6.33 (1),
7 6.40 (1) (b), 6.47 (1) (a) 2. and (3), 6.55 (2) and (3), 6.79 (5), and 6.86 (2) and (3). All
8 such forms shall contain a statement of the penalty applicable to false or fraudulent
9 registration or voting through use of the form. Forms are not required to be furnished
10 by the board.

11 **SECTION 32. Initial applicability.**

12 (1) The treatment of sections 6.30 (4) and 6.32 of the statutes first applies to
13 completed mail registration forms that are delivered to a municipal clerk or
14 postmarked on the effective date of this subsection.

15 (END)





Wisconsin State Assembly

TO: All Legislative Colleagues

FROM: Representative Bonnie Ladwig
Representative Steve Freese

DATE: January 3, 2001

RE: Co-sponsorship of election reform bills

In light of the recent election issues that have surfaced in the past few months, we will be introducing the following legislation:

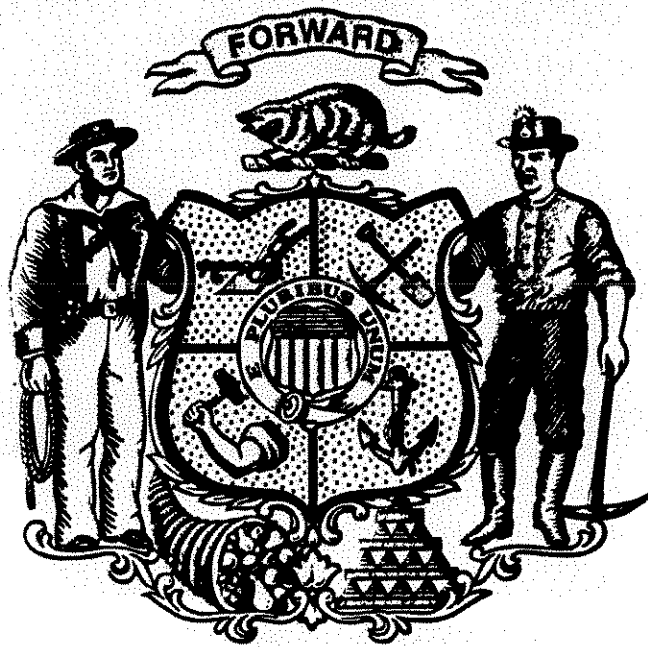
103
10
LRB 1032/1 ~ eliminating registration by corroboration and require identification to register to vote. In past elections there has been a trend to gather up people to vote on an election day who are not registered to vote and who do not have the adequate information to register. Current law allows potential voters to get around registration requirements by having a qualified voter, who resides in the same municipality, to corroborate information on their behalf. Questions have been raised as to the truthfulness of these actions. We intend to re-introduce legislation that would repeal the authority of any individual to use corroboration on an Election Day in order to prove that the individual is an eligible voter. Last session this legislation was introduced as AB 649. This would **not** repeal the use of corroboration in order to register to vote up to 5 p.m. on the day before the election.

103
11
LRB 1033/1 ~ relating to absentee voting. During the 1999-2000 session, a state law passed allowing voters to vote absentee without a reasonable excuse. Previously, voters could only vote absentee if they had a legitimate reason. This new law brought about large increases in absentee voting. Some local communities had over 2,000 absentee ballots cast before Election Day. This produced a significant cost to municipalities to send out these ballots. It also created an Election Day that spanned a period of four weeks. As we have seen in Florida with the Presidential race, absentee ballots can be misplaced and not counted. We would like to revert back to the old requirements of absentee voting to help reduce costs and other problems that have developed with this new law.

103
12
LRB 1034/1 ~ relating to requiring individuals to present identification in order to vote at a polling place. This legislation would require voters to provide photo identification with a current address at the polls to help reduce the chance of someone voting multiple times under different names. Currently, no identification is required to verify a registered voter's identity. This legislation does not apply to absentee voting.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring any of these bills, please contact Rep. Ladwig's office at 266-9171 or Rep. Freese's office at 266-7502 by Wednesday, January 10, 2001.

The analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau for each draft is included as attachments to this e-mail.



Kit Halloran

From: League of Women Voters of Wisconsin <genfund@lwvwi.org>
To: * * * <kitha@execpc.com>; <kjohnson@madison.k12.wi.us>; <Janequity@aol.com>

Statement to the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections Regarding
Electoral Reform
Thursday, January 18, 2001
Milwaukee

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin believes strongly that Wisconsin's election laws should provide citizens with maximum opportunity for registration, voting at the polls, and absentee voting, including convenient hours and places for registration; provision for adequately instructed deputy registrars; convenient hours and places for voting; and ease of obtaining and executing absentee ballots. We oppose Assembly Bill 10, 11 and 12 which seeks to diminish rather than maximize Wisconsin's citizens current opportunity to vote. AB 11 will diminish voter turnout by making it more difficult to vote absentee. AB 12 requires additional burden on the voter to provide official identification at the polls. This too, will reduce voter turnout or participation rather than support or enhance voter opportunity.

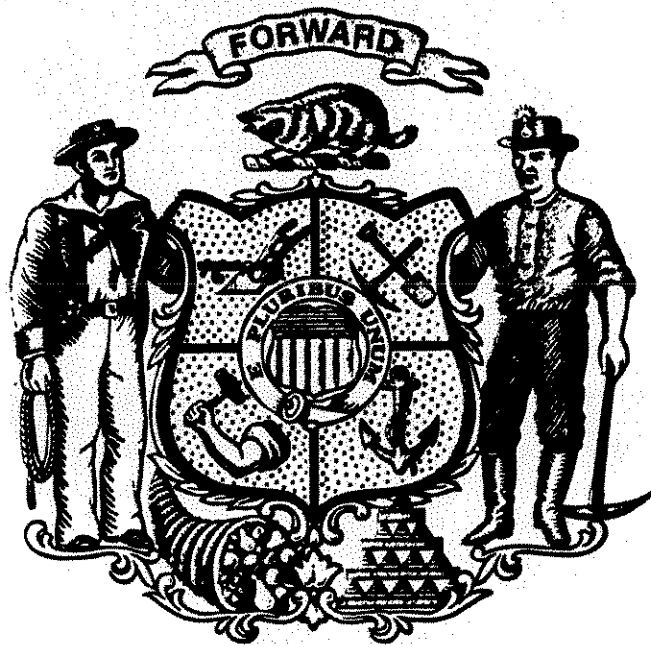
We continue to support increasing the number and training of poll workers and will support a statewide database of registrants. We propose reforms that go beyond goals of reducing fraud and our goal of increasing turnout. We oppose any proposal that reduces turnout in the name of reducing fraud.

Beverly Speer
LWVWI, Inc.
122 State Street, Rm 405
Madison WI 53703-2500
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genfund@lwvwi.org
www.lwvwi.org; www.dnet.org

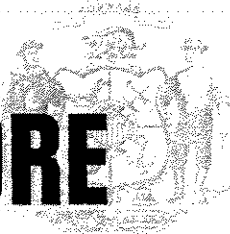
Submitted by:

*Kit Halloran
1633 N. Prospect #5E
Milwaukee, WI 53202*

01/17/2001



State Senator GWENDOLYNNE MOORE



Capitol Office:
P. O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-5810 Fax: (608) 267-2353
District Telephone: (414) 442-3080
Toll-free Legislative Hotline: 1-800-362-9472
E-Mail: sen.moore@legis.state.wi.us
Member: Joint Finance Committee
Board Member: Wisconsin Housing and
Economic Development Authority

**Testimony by State Senator Gwendolynne Moore
Assembly Committee on Elections and Campaigns
Thursday, January 18, 2001, at 10:00 a.m.
UW-Milwaukee Center on Continuing Education, Room 7970
The Plankinton Building (above the Grand Avenue Mall)
161 West Wisconsin Avenue**

Good Morning. I would like to thank the members of the Committee for holding today's public hearing on this issue of vital importance. The 2000 elections have certainly posed the nation and its individual states with questions about the soundness of the electoral process. Given the experiences in Florida, it is without question a matter of national interest to ensure that each citizen truly has equal access to the ballot and that each American voice is unquestionably recorded. It is also in our national interest for states to vigorously enforce their laws to combat voter fraud. However, we must proceed with extreme caution in this post-election aftermath and not be swayed to change the basic tenets of our election laws based solely upon the *perceived* fear of voter fraud.

Based largely on unsubstantiated claims of multiple voting which were proven by the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office to be untrue, the perception of widespread voter fraud in Wisconsin has fueled the calls for election reform across the state. Certain answers to this call, such as increased training and pay for poll workers, would be effective and proactive changes to our system. However, other proposed reforms, including the photo-identification requirement, restrictions on the absentee ballot, elimination of voter registration by corroboration, and an untested and unstudied statewide voter registration list would not serve to positively reform our system, but negatively deform it for many of the state's most vulnerable voters. *Measures like a photo id requirement, a restrictive absentee ballot, and a statewide voter registration list are not going to protect the integrity of the vote. Florida, which has all three in place, is a perfect example of this.*

- **No widespread voter fraud occurred in Wisconsin during this election cycle as it did in other states.**

The Milwaukee County District Attorney's office determined that claims of multiple voting by Marquette University students were nothing but "unfounded, spoof responses" and that no voter fraud had occurred. Despite this finding, many Republicans continue to call for quick legislative responses to these alleged incidences but fail to acknowledge that the claims of widespread voter fraud were nothing more than fiction. While the Marquette student who gained national notoriety for voting multiple times eventually

retracted his statement when faced with the possibility of criminal charges for voter fraud, he was later charged with five counts of selling false identification cards to other students for profit. I find it quite ironic that certain state and local officials are now calling for a photo id's as a way to prevent voter fraud which never actually occurred based upon a deliberate prank of a person whose side business was making fraudulent photo id's.

- **In fact, November 7, 2000, was a very successful election day for Wisconsin:**
- 66.5% of eligible voters turned out statewide—the third highest turnout in the nation, behind only Minnesota and Maine (two other same-day registration states).
- Total turnout was by far the largest in the state's history.
- **November 7, 2000, was a successful election day for Milwaukee, as well:**
- 81,500 Milwaukee residents alone registered to vote at the polls on election day,
- Turnout in many of Milwaukee's African-American and Hispanic wards soared to unprecedented heights. In the 9th Assembly District in the southwestern side of Milwaukee, for example, turnout this year was 43% higher than in 1996.

While Republicans turned out voters in record numbers this year, Democrats got out more votes than anyone could have predicted, particularly Democratic voters in Milwaukee's African American neighborhoods. Now, under the guise of election reform, a litany of Republican proposals which will have the effect of disenfranchising many of Wisconsin's poor, minority, elderly, handicapped, and homeless voters, most of whom tend to vote Democratic, are being offered by the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections here today. While I certainly hope that the intent of these proposals is not to silence the voices of Wisconsin's most vulnerable who happen to vote Democratic, the effect of these proposals will do just that.

1. Photo Identification Requirement : AB 10 / AB12

- **Contrary to what some Republican leaders have reported to the media, not everyone has a photo id card. Significant portions of the low income, elderly, homeless, and handicapped populations of our state do not have driver's licenses or state-issued photo identification cards.**

While the notion of photo identification seems a normal part of every-day life to many residents of Wisconsin, many others do not and have never required photo identification to go about their daily business. For example, evidence shows that many low-income persons cannot afford a car, and, therefore, do not own a driver's license. As such, a photo identification requirement could have a dramatic chilling effect on this portion of the electorate. According to a 1998 report issued by John Pawasarat and Frank Stetzer of the University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee Employment and Training Institute entitled

Removing Transportation Barriers to Employment: Assessing Driver's License and Vehicle Ownership Patterns of Low Income Populations:

- While 95% of Waukesha County residents, 93% of Washington/Ozaukee County residents, 91% of northern Milwaukee County suburban residents, and 92% of southern Milwaukee County suburban residents used a car to drive to work, only 62% of central city residents did the same.
- 23% of the central city residents used public transportation to get to their place of employment.
- Furthermore, only 77.7% of Milwaukee County females and 57.4% of Milwaukee county males hold valid licenses.
- **Requiring persons who do not have a photo id card to purchase such documentation in order to vote would be akin to a poll tax.**

While persons who do not hold valid driver's licenses could potentially obtain a state-issued photo identification card, the constitutionality of requiring members of the electorate to do so in order to vote is highly questionable. This measure would place a monetary burden on voters, for those persons who would be required to obtain a photo identification card in order to prove their identity prior to voting would be charged a \$9 initial fee and \$6 renewal fee charged by the Department of Motor Vehicles. While some might see this cost as miniscule, this cost would certainly place an undue hardship on low-income and elderly persons on a tight budget. According to the January edition of the Journal of Public Health, many poor, elderly women across the country cannot even afford to buy food. To impose this additional restriction on this large group of non-drivers would not only be unconscionable, but would be certain to disenfranchise them.

Furthermore, the institutionalization of a monetary cost as a prerequisite to voting equals one thing and one thing only – a poll tax. Poll taxes are prohibited in federal elections by the 24th Amendment and similarly prohibited in state elections by the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

- **In fact, most states do not require registered voters to show photo id at the polls.**

According to a November 27, 2000, paper issued by the National Council of State Legislators (NCSL):

- 29 states are precluded by state statute from asking for voter id at the polls (voter id means any state-issued form of identification, which can include, but is not limited to driver's licenses and identification cards),
- Only 13 states actually require voter identification at the polls, and
- 8 states may, in certain circumstances, require voter identification at the polls. (Wisconsin and Minnesota, two states who do not require photo id are 2 of the 8, since both states have same-day voter registration and voter id must be provided at the polls in order to register.)

This is a far cry from the 46 states that Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen (R-Brookfield) claimed in a December 4, 2000, article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* that "have some form of photo id required".

- **A birth certificate requirement would create the same roadblocks for voters as the photo identification requirement.**

A person's birth certificate is included with the state-issued driver's license or photo identification card as an acceptable form of identification to prove one's identity under AB 10 and AB 12. Under current policies established by the Department of Transportation (DOT) for obtaining a driver's license or a photo id card, a hospital birth certificate or a baptismal birth certificate does not satisfactorily meet the requirement for a birth certificate. Since November 1, 1986, hospitals have been prohibited from issuing birth certificates. However, anyone born before that date (i.e. all current voters!) may only have hospital birth certificates or baptismal certificates. *As such, persons without properly certified birth certificates would have to pay \$12 to obtain one, if they were born in Wisconsin, in order to vote! The cost could be greater if they were born outside of the state.*

2. Statewide Voter Registration List: LRB 1848/1

Statewide voter registration lists are certainly not immune from abuse or fraud. A December 7, 2000, *New York Times* article detailed the systematic disenfranchisement of Florida voters via Florida's statewide voter registration list. According to the article, Florida hired a private Texas firm with close ties to the Republican Party to "cleanse" its voter registration rolls. Due to huge errors by the firm, however, large numbers of primarily African-American voters were mistakenly removed from the registration rolls and prevented from exercising their fundamental right to vote (i.e. mistakenly named as felons, mistakenly presumed dead, shared the same name as someone else, etc.)

This proposal needs to be studied before it is implemented.

- What are the estimated costs and how would we pay for it?
- How would we ensure that no voter disenfranchisement similar to what occurred in Florida would occur here in Wisconsin?
- How would the Elections Board handle this dramatic responsibility when it is entering its fourth year of working on its database software conversion and campaign finance electronic filing project with no end in sight? Appropriated well over \$1 million since the project's inception in 1997, the Elections Board originally promised that both projects would be completed by May 1, 1998. At the December 19, 2000 quarterly meeting of the Joint Committee on Finance, the Elections Board, far from finished and out of compliance with the statutory requirements for electronic filing, submitted a request for additional funds for the project.
- Do we want to follow Florida's example and place the responsibility for a maintaining a voter registration list in the hands of a partisan body?

Why should we bring this system, ripe for true voter fraud, to Wisconsin?

3. Elimination of Voter Registration by Corroboration: AB 10

- **Ending voter registration by corroboration would silence the homeless vote in Wisconsin.**

Homelessness in Wisconsin does not mean disenfranchisement. Currently, a person who does not have a residential address can vote if that person brings with them to the polls another registered voter from the same municipality. The Republican proposal would not only take away a person's right to vote by corroboration but would further require that person to show photo id.

According to the January 8, 2001, edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association, 1% of the US population is homeless throughout the course of a year. Given the unprecedented closeness of this year's election, it should be even clearer to us that each and every vote in our country has enormous importance. We should not strip a voter of his or her rights simply because that person lacks an address.

4. Re-instating restrictions on absentee ballots: AB 11

- **There is nothing fraudulent or wrong with increasing voter turnout by encouraging people to vote, even if they do so before the election.**

Last year, the Legislature voted in a bipartisan fashion to change Wisconsin's election laws to allow a person to vote absentee if that person is unable to go to the polls for any reason. *All six of the members sitting on this Committee who served in the Legislature last session voted in favor of this change.* This year, the Reverend Jesse Jackson utilized the progressive changes made by that law and took busloads of young people who might not have otherwise voted in Racine and Milwaukee to vote by absentee ballot in this year's Presidential race.

Now, Republicans who voted in favor of this change last session are proposing to do away with the current system and reserve absentee ballots for only those who can prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are unable to be at the polls on voting day. While the recent elimination of the restrictions on absentee ballot voting did not result in voter fraud, it was used in "Get Out the Vote" efforts led by Democrats and it did result in greater numbers of people voting absentee this year than in election years past. With the success of the new law in increasing turnout and the lack of any confirmed voter fraud via absentee ballot, there is no reason to impose additional restrictions on Wisconsin's voters.

5. Positive Changes

- **Increased pay and training for poll workers, as well as additional dollars for increased recruitment efforts would help reduce potential ballot errors and incidences of fraud more than any voter restrictions ever could.**

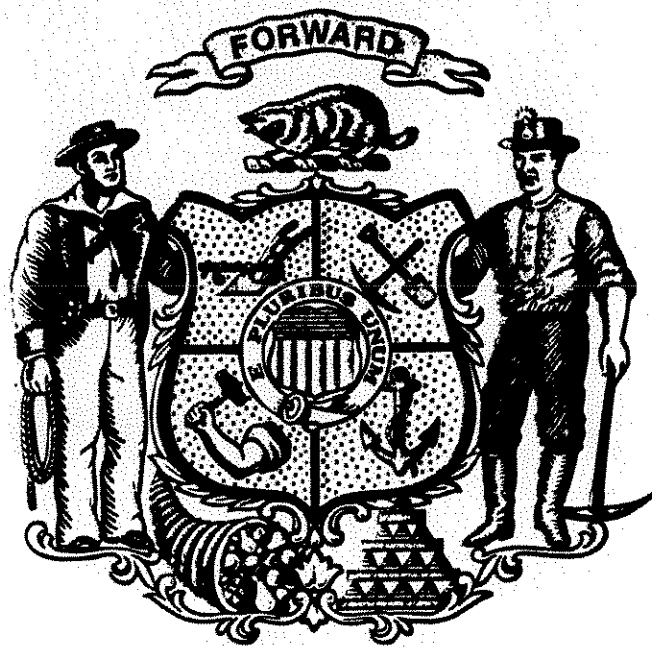
Given the high number of voters in this election, it is no doubt that the system was stressed to the very limit and that some ballot errors did occur, as they do in every election. However, if any changes are to be made to current law, the allocation of additional funding to municipalities to assist in election administration would be preferable. Such funding could be used to provide training to those volunteers staffing the polling places, to recruit additional poll volunteers, and to send out materials which advertise the election, direct citizens to their proper polling place, and encourage voters to pre-register. These measures would help our elections to run smoothly and efficiently, instead of simply creating additional restrictions for voters.

While it can always be improved upon, Wisconsin's system is based on the promotion of voter turnout and in the good faith of our citizens. The high level of voter turnout across the state, which was fueled by Wisconsin's successful open election laws, is something that all elected officials alike should be celebrating. Instead, we are sitting here discussing ways to prevent the voter fraud that has never occurred under our system and was proven by the Milwaukee County District Attorney not to have occurred this year. Members of this Committee are about to vote on proposals which will *discourage* voter turnout and will hinder the democratic process in Wisconsin.

It is also important to remember that, despite our intent, it is the effect that these changes will have on voters that will be scrutinized – not only by the public, but also by the law. The effect of additional restrictions on voters will be voter disenfranchisement. The effect of this disenfranchisement will be felt the most by poor, minority, elderly, handicapped and homeless voters. The effect of implementing changes to our successful election laws which encourage voter turnout when there has been no evidence of voter fraud will be the unconstitutional violation of the Voting Rights Act.

I encourage the Committee to think long and hard about passing these bills quickly. This is not a process that should be "fast tracked". We must ensure that we have thoughtfully considered the upsides and downsides to all of these proposals, as well as other proposals presented here today. Three days after the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I urge the Committee not to develop ways to suppress and restrict voices in our community and across our state. Wisconsin has a history of being a progressive, and not a regressive, state. I encourage the Committee to keep it that way.

I thank the members of the Committee and all those in attendance for your time and attention today.





Testimony Before the Assembly Campaigns & Elections Committee

Hearing

January 18, 2001

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today at this important hearing. My name is Larry Marx and I'm Co-Executive Director of Wisconsin Citizen Action, the state's largest public interest organization. We have 53,000 members statewide and 250-dues-paying affiliate organizations from labor, community, senior citizen, faith, environmental, family farm and other organizations. Our interest in voter participation comes out of our recent experience with a non-partisan get-out-the-vote effort we conducted in the Latino community in Milwaukee, traditionally the lowest turnout area in the entire city. We succeeded in raising turnout some 30% in 21 targeted wards, bringing 2,453 brand new voters to the polls. For some it was the first time in their lives that they exercised their franchise and it was an incredibly moving and exciting experience to see them take their .

We very much appreciate the interest of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections in voter reform. We want to emphasize from the start that we applaud your efforts to reduce the opportunity for fraud in Wisconsin elections, but we think it is a false dichotomy to assume that the goals of reducing voter fraud and increasing voter participation are at odds.

Wisconsin has a proud tradition of being a high voter participation state. As you know, Wisconsin ranked third in the nation in voter turnout on November 7th with 66% of eligible voters going to the polls, as compared to 53% nationally. Wisconsin's turnout also marked an 8.6% increase over 1996, the sharpest rise of any state in the nation. In Milwaukee, 245,670 people voted, 53% of those eligible to vote and 67% of those pre-registered to vote by October 25th. We believe we need to build on this tradition of increasing voter participation while also reducing the opportunity for fraud.

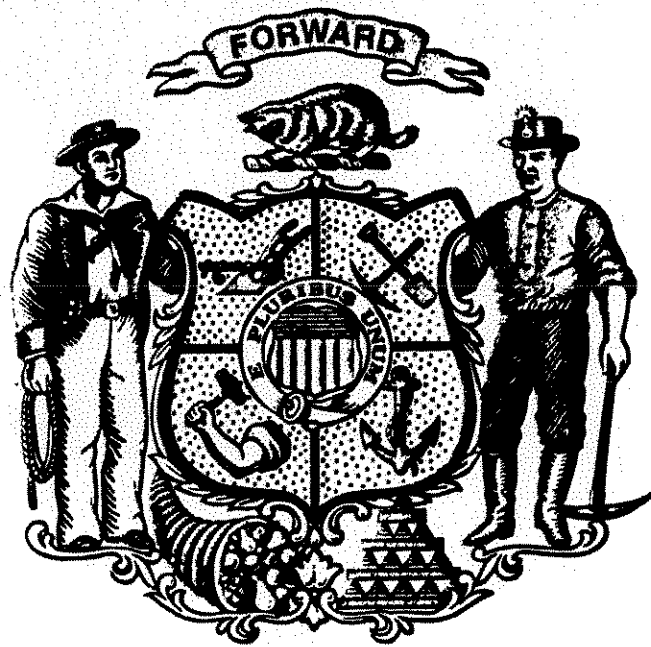
The problem is *not* too many voters having too easy a time of voting -- it's too **few poll workers having too hard a time of overseeing and processing our elections**. The same factors that open the door to fraud also work to slam the door on increased voter participation. I personally witnessed last November incredibly long lines and more than hour-long waits for people to vote in Milwaukee. We suggest that the committee adopt a standard for its list of reforms that asks "Will it make it both harder to cheat and easier to vote?" Under that standard, we applaud and support LRB 1848, 1849 and 1850. Adding better training for poll workers, a state-maintained computerized database of registered voters, and standardizing and expanding polling hours will go a long way to both reduce

fraud and increase the participation of voters. But LRB 1032, 1033 and 1034 increase the barriers to voting in the name of fraud reduction. We are opposed to these changes in voting procedures because they would roll back the clock and have the effect of reducing turn-out, particularly amongst lower income voters and voters of color who already vote at rates far below the white middle class.

We believe that the committee should consider the following agenda of 6 progressive electoral reforms could both enhance voter participation and reduce the instances of fraud:

1. More poll watchers and more and better training to prevent fraud (increase funding for both). LRB 1849 goes part of the way there.
2. Provision of bilingual poll watchers and/or translators in areas with a heavy concentration of bilingual populations.
3. Bilingual ballots where appropriate or available on request everywhere. Currently, Hispanic, Hmong and other populations with primary languages other than English are hindered from voting on referenda and from correct filling out of ballots due to the provision English-only language on ballots. I have personally witnessed some new American citizens almost giving up out of frustration in not having anyone able to answer their questions about voting and how to use the ballot.
4. Expansion and standardization of voting hours to alleviate lines of voters and the accompanying stress on poll workers (such as LRB 1850). This will simultaneously make it easier for working people to vote and reduce the opportunity for mistakes and fraud that comes from a few number of poll workers processing a heavy concentration of voters filing through in a sharply limited amount of time.
5. Statewide, centrally maintained computerized database of registered voters to prevent fraud (LRB 1848).
6. Use a portion of the millions spent to advertise the state lottery for advertising campaigns on registering to vote and following correct voting procedures. It's incredible that our state government teaches people how to gamble better than it teaches them how to vote.
7. ***Maintain Wisconsin's pride of place as one of the nation's traditionally, highest turnout states, behind only Maine and Minnesota in the last presidential election. Retain same day voter registration, and maximal means (personal corroboration, utility bills, no photo ID requirement, etc.) to prove residence status for registration, and maintain ease of voting absentee.***

With more poll workers, better training, a statewide, computerized list of registered voters and better education around voting procedures, we can make it both harder to cheat and easier to vote. On behalf of our 53,000 members and our coalition of 250 affiliates, we urge this committee to use a standard for reforms of doing both and not forcing us to choose between two important American principles.





January 31, 2001

REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN FREESE
ROOM 115 WEST
STATE CAPITOL
P O BOX 8952
MADISON WI 53708-8952

RE: AB 10 and AB 12 relative to Voter Identification

Dear Rep. Freese:

I am very disturbed with the use of a copy of a birth certificate which is to be used for identification for voter registration which is proposed in the two bills introduced.

Don't you know that a birth certificate can only verify that a person has been born? It does not tell us where that person is currently living or what that person's current name is, which is why we need to have current identification, showing the person's current address and current name. A valid operator's license or identification card that was issued by the department of transportation and contains a photograph of the holder is fine--if it again includes their current name and address. Most times, when a person is registering to vote at the voting polls, they try to produce some sort of ID which does not give us the proper information to prove 10 days' residency as required by State Law. Some people move around so much, you can't believe they would get a new ID card every time they move.

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY HALL
828 CENTER AVE.
SHEBOYGAN, WI
53081-4496

920/459-3361
FAX 920/459-3967

What would work very well would be if people could not register at the polls on election day, and they would have to register more than ten days before an election in the Clerk's Office. Also, if we could issue a Voter's Identification Card (as many other states do), it would save much confusion for the voter as well as the election officials. So many voters think they must register each time they vote.

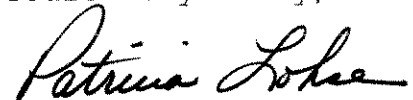
REP. STEPHEN FREESE

Page 2

January 31, 2001

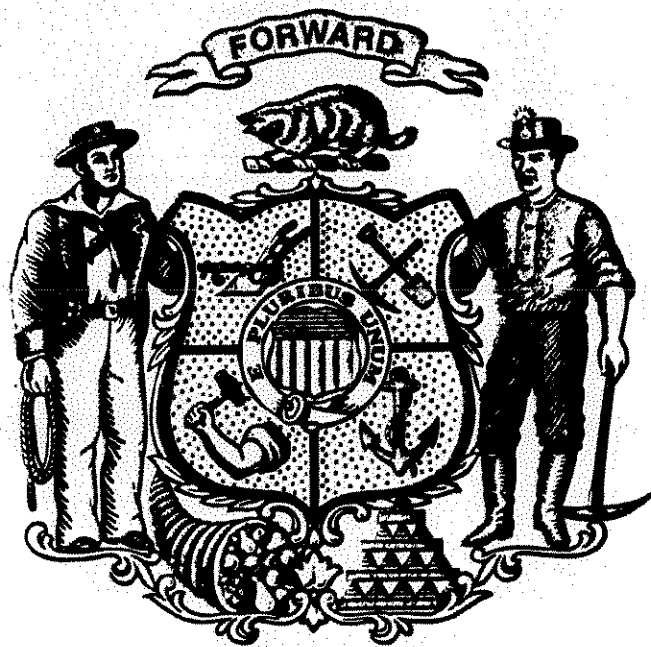
Please, if you're going to make a change in the elector identification laws, DO NOT allow birth certificates as a form of identification.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Lohse".

PATRICIA LOHSE, CMC
City Clerk

pal



Griffiths, Terri

From: Richard, Rob
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2001 4:40 PM
To: Griffiths, Terri
Subject: FW: Legislation on Election Reform

-----Original Message-----

From: Alexander, Carol [<mailto:AlexandC@ci.beloit.wi.us>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2001 3:15 PM
To: 'sen.robson@legis.state.wi.us'; 'rep.fitzgerald@legis.state.wi.us';
'rep.freese@legis.state.wi.us'; 'rep.ladwig@legis.state.wi.us';
'rep.pocan@legis.state.wi.us'; 'rep.schooff@legis.state.wi.us';
'rep.travis@legis.state.wi.us'; 'sen.darling@legis.state.wi.us';
'sen.moore@legis.state.wi.us'; 'sen.panzer@legis.state.wi.us';
'wisgov@gov.state.wi.us'
Subject: Legislation on Election Reform

Thank you to those from the Assembly who worked on AB49 and advocate for making our election process a better one. It was great to exchange information with some of you last week in Madison at the District 4 & 5 Wisconsin Municipal Clerk's meeting and to know that you really are listening to the voices of those working closely in this process every day. As an advocate for change, but only change that will bring improvement, I submit to you my comments on those proposals that appear to be at the forefront of consideration:

1. Uniform polling hours from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Excellent idea that works to ensure fairness and voter access throughout the state. Will lead to increased voter access in many communities.
2. Voter identification cards. I believe these are a good idea if access to them is made available free of charge to the voter, and at no cost to the local municipality. They should contain a picture and a current address. That is one of the challenges with many people moving often, to maintain a valid card with a current address. Another related challenge is the fact that many people only vote at a presidential election, hence wherever the cards are made available will be just as swamped with getting cards as we are with voter registration.
3. Statewide voter registration list. A nightmare of an idea. It will be extremely difficult to keep up unless clerks statewide will input data into some "master" maintained by the elections board. Changes made on election day, or course, are not reflected in this list. There is ample paperwork now and adding this unwieldy system will further tax the resources available to municipal clerks and the elections board.
4. Punch card voting. I believe this is being eliminated - great idea. The marksense machines allow for little error and have proven to be effective. Part of the training mandate to the state elections board should be to train new clerks who have these machines in their operation and intricacies.
5. Training for pollworkers. I believe the burden is on the clerks to train the pollworkers. I don't know how any election can be effectively administered unless the clerk is trained and can pass that training along to the pollworkers. I attend every session possible offered by the state elections board and in turn train 155 people in Beloit for election work. I don't believe the pollworkers need to be certified, I believe the clerks need to be certified and then submit proof of training sessions offered and names of attendees to the elections board. The Dept. of Revenue carried out a mandate whereby each Board of Review needed to have a certified member sitting on the board. The Wisconsin Municipal Clerk's Association has taken the lead in working with the DOR to offer training to our members in response to this state mandate. I believe a similar program can be started to certify clerks to offer pollworker training. Clerks from smaller municipalities often don't attend the training sessions because they are on extremely limited budgets, work out of their homes,

have no support from their boards for training, or a variety of other reasons, yet are expected to know and follow all of the laws - a difficult situation.

6. Fining a pollworker for failing to register a voter? I don't quite understand the reasoning for this suggestion that I read about in the Milwaukee Journal, but instituting a fine system will further drive away potential pollworkers. Training is the key! We are fortunate in Beloit to have people asking us when they can become a pollworker or how to move up from the alternate to the permanent list. Making the system punitive will be counterproductive.
7. Cutting the budget of the state elections board. They are already short staffed and if additional training needs will be assigned to them, will have increased needs for additional staff. We rely on them for expert information very quickly. Ready access via email and phone is necessary for those of us doing the job of election administration. Their need to be fully staffed impacts us and all citizens greatly.
8. Holding referenda elections at the same time as already scheduled elections. Great idea. The primary last week in Beloit cost us \$9,000 in staff costs for 542 voters. Each additional election that is called outside of the normally scheduled dates is costly and historically attracts very few voters. We process all of the paperwork and staff the polling places at a minimum, however, each election held has standard costs that occur no matter what the anticipated turnout. Each municipal budget is greatly impacted by each additional special election held.
9. Vouching for voter residency. I believe this leads to increased chances of fraud and will be eliminated by use of the voter card. A picture ID is the best proof and responsibility must be placed on the voter to obtain that card in a timely fashion. Much advertising and public information dissemination are an important part of the process so potential electors know their options and deadlines.
10. The state must decide if they are making voter access easier or more difficult. Going toward one witness on the absentee envelope was a good idea
 - many elderly people tell us they don't have contact with two people at one time, and catching the mailman or a Meals on Wheels delivery person may be their only option. Going back to two witnesses serves no real purpose that I can see.
11. Registration by mail. Last year this was included and we marveled at how easy it was - almost a formula for fraud. I agree that this should be eliminated. Presentation in person of the voter card is another part of this. In addition, the idea of presenting a birth certificate is pretty far fetched. How many people have an original birth certificate handy?
12. Allowing people to vote absentee for any reason. Again, is the idea to make voter access harder or easier? I encouraged people to come to the office by putting announcements and articles in our local newspaper. Many clerks were overwhelmed by the amount of people coming into their offices to register and to vote. Many clerks were overwhelmed by the amount of voters at the polling places. I don't know which is better, but if increasing voter access is the direction that is being taken, then I suggest eliminating the part of the process called the certificate voter. Most people came in during the 10 days between the close of registration and election day. Certificate voting just threw in another round of paperwork and checking that had to be tracked by the clerks, pollworkers and voters themselves.
13. Not releasing results of canvass until 10:00 p.m. on election night for presidential elections. Great idea - we all know how people are impacted by what they hear on the news - will promote voter access again.
14. Something I didn't see in the proposed changes was any suggested method to eliminate college students from voting in their home district as well as where they attend college. With the 10-day residency rule in Wisconsin and same day registration, there is obviously no way to prevent someone from voting twice. Many local elections have been swayed by students who are not permanent residents, when local candidates have tapped into their voting

potential. I suggest college students be enabled to vote in their home districts, not their "adopted" college districts. The State of Illinois closes registration a month before the election. This gives clerks time to register everyone who wishes to, prepare the voter lists and distribute them to the polling places without that last minute rush. Some responsibility must lay with the voter to take the initiative to register early and properly.

Thank you for reading my thoughts and I hope you will consider them along with other messages you will receive from other clerks and constituents. We work very hard for you and are very proud of the work we do. Please consider these changes to our election laws in the spirit of increasing voter access, and improving the process under which we all flourish as citizens of a free country. If you would like to discuss any of this further, please contact me at any time. Thank you.

Carol

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