

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_ab0038_AC-CE_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

Vote Record

Assembly - Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Date: 4/12/01 Moved by: Freese Seconded by: Ladwig
 AB: 38 SB: _____ Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Appointment: _____
 AR: _____ SR: _____ Other: _____

A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____
 A/S Sub Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____
 A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Amdt: _____ to A/S Sub Amdt: _____

- Be recommended for:
- Passage
 - Introduction
 - Adoption
 - Rejection

- Indefinite Postponement
- Tabling
- Concurrence
- Nonconcurrence
- Confirmation

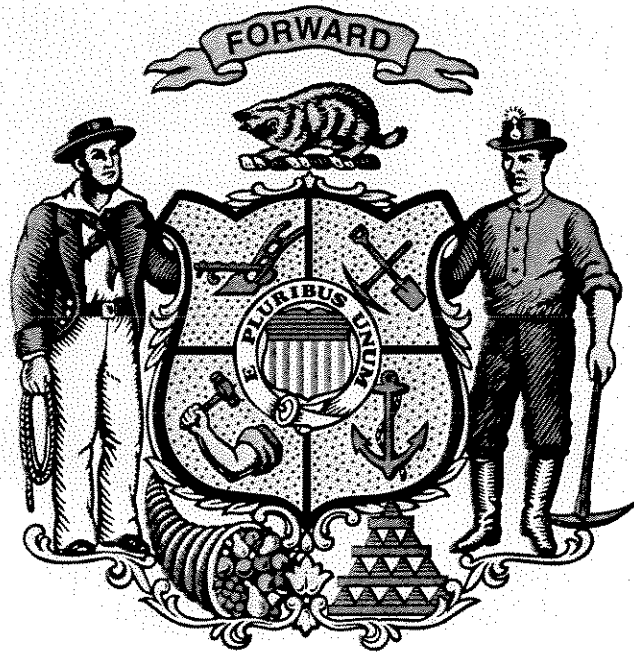
Committee Member

Rep. Stephen Freese, Chair
 Rep. Bonnie Ladwig
 Rep. Jeff Stone
 Rep. Jeff Fitzgerald
 Rep. David Travis
 Rep. Mark Pocan

Aye	No	Absent	Not Voting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Totals: 6 0 _____ _____

Motion Carried Motion Failed



For more information, contact
Representative Steve Freese:
Office: (608) 266-7502
Home: (608) 935-3789

For immediate release

November 15, 2000

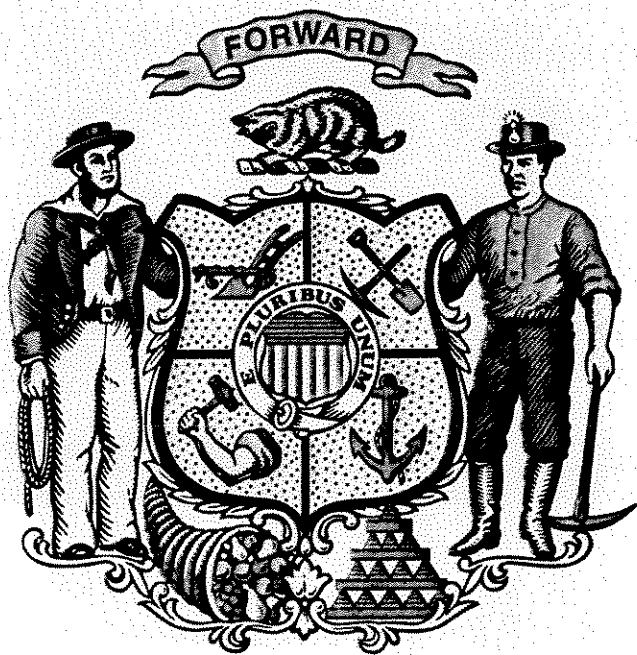
Freese Works for Accurate Results

MADISON.....As the nation waits for Florida to determine our next president, one Wisconsin legislator is working to ensure these problems do not arise again. State Representative Steve Freese (R-Dodgeville) plans to introduce legislation to help avoid the media confusion that occurred with this year's election. This legislation would require that the counties and the State Elections Board withhold presidential election results from the public until the polls have closed in all 48 contiguous states. This means that Wisconsin presidential election results will not be released until after the polls in California, Washington and Oregon have closed. Freese hopes that this will deter the media from making incorrect early predictions such as those that occurred with Florida.

"Inaccuracies in reporting by the media on the East Coast can have a dramatic effect on voter turn-out in the Midwest and Western states," said Freese, "I'm hoping that this new bill will help us avoid these problems in the future."

Freese says that self-regulation on the part of the media will still be necessary, however he hopes that his bill will be a first step toward promoting responsibility and accuracy in election coverage. He hopes that this legislation will make Wisconsin a leader in helping to bring about fairness and equality in the electoral process.

- more -



WSJ 11-21-00

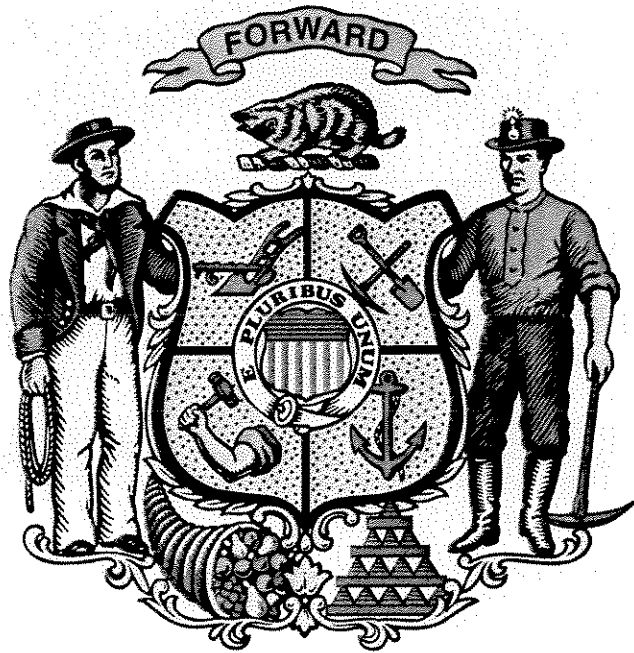
Lawmaker plans election proposal

A state lawmaker plans to propose a bill that would prevent Wisconsin's presidential election results from being released until all voting in the nation was complete.

Rep. Steve Freese, R-Dodgeville, said that results from the East Coast were available before polls closed elsewhere.

Freese said he believed part of the reason for California's low 39 percent voter turnout was that many believed the race was over.

Under Freese's bill, election results would be processed the same way they are now, but county clerks and the state Elections Board couldn't release the results until 10 p.m. Election Day. That would prevent Wisconsin's results from affecting potential voters in earlier time zones, he said.



Memorandum

To: Jeffrey Kuesel, Managing Attorney
Robert Marchant, Attorney

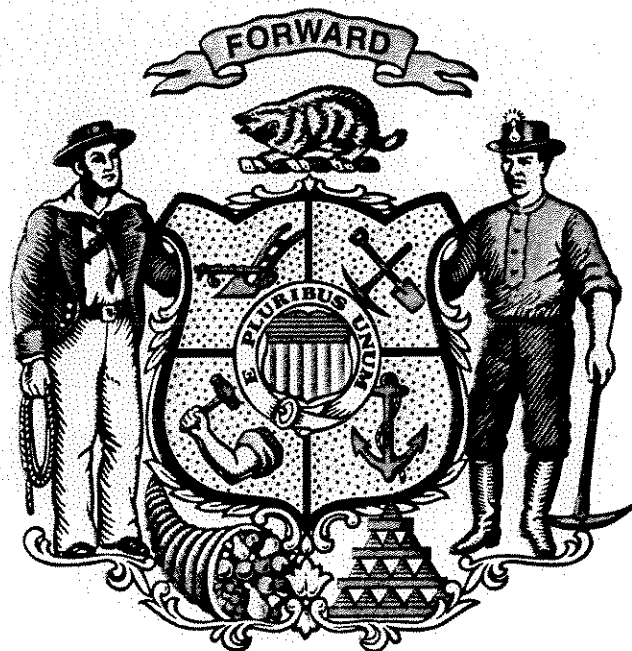
From: Representative Steve Freese

Date: November 21, 2000

Re: Bill draft request relating to disclosure of election results

Please prepare a legislative draft that would require all 72 Wisconsin counties and the State Elections Board to withhold presidential election results from the public until all polling locations have closed in the continental United States.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Rob in my office at 266-7502.
Thank you!



MEMORANDUM

To: All Legislators

From: Representative Steve Freese

Date: January 2, 2001

Re: Co-sponsorship of LRB-1171/1, relating to the public inspection of the records of the canvass of elections for the offices of president and vice president

Election 2000 turned out to be one of the most controversial presidential elections in history. Part of the controversy was the media's early announcement of Florida being won by Vice-President Gore before all the polls closed in that state, and their subsequent recantation of that announcement.

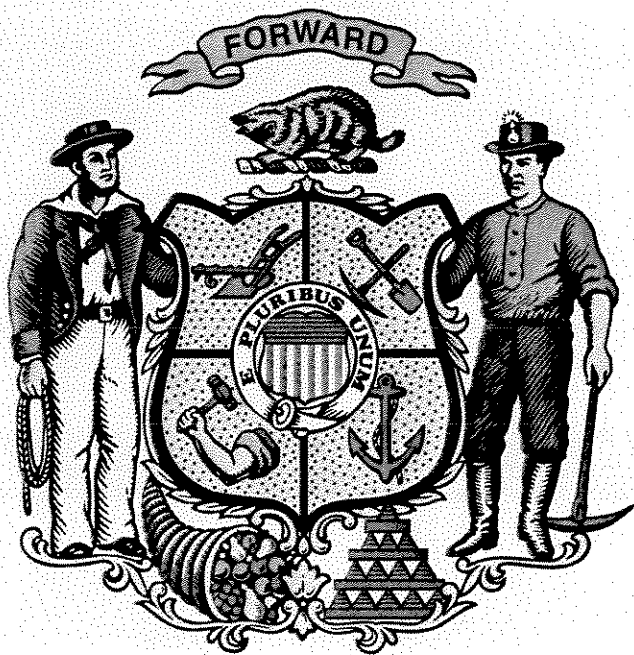
In an effort to prevent the announcement of election returns in Wisconsin from influencing voters in the Mountain and Pacific time zones, I'm introducing LRB-1171/1. This bill directs municipal and county clerks to withhold from public inspection records of the canvass of the election for the offices of president and vice president until 10 p.m. on election night.

The analysis by the LRB can be found below. **If you would like to co-sponsor LRB-1171/1, please contact Rep. Freese's office at 6-7502 by Friday, January 12, 2001.**

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 board 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. This bill does not effect public access to polling places and central counting locations.



Richard, Rob

From: Richard, Rob
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2001 1:21 PM
To: 'Rachel.Hansen@state.sd.us'
Subject: RE: Inquiry

Rachel:

It is Assembly Bill 38. It passed out of the Assembly Campaigns and Elections Committee on a 6-0 vote and is now in our Rules Committee. As far as I know there are no immediate plans to have it come up for a floor vote yet this fall, but Rep. Freese is still pushing for its passage.

The bill is simple. It 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 pm on election night. It does not effect public access to polling places and central counting locations.

We believe that it would stand up to any argument by the press that it would infringe on their right to access information because they could still conduct exit polling. The problem is that they could still conduct exit polling, and we have a repeat of Florida all over again. We thought this bill was the furthest we could go without infringing on constitutional rights.

Hope this helps.

Rob Richard, Policy Advisor
Office of Rep. Steve Freese
Wisconsin State Assembly
608-266-7502

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

From: Rachel.Hansen@state.sd.us [mailto:Rachel.Hansen@state.sd.us]
Sent: Tuesday, November 06, 2001 11:00 AM
To: Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Inquiry

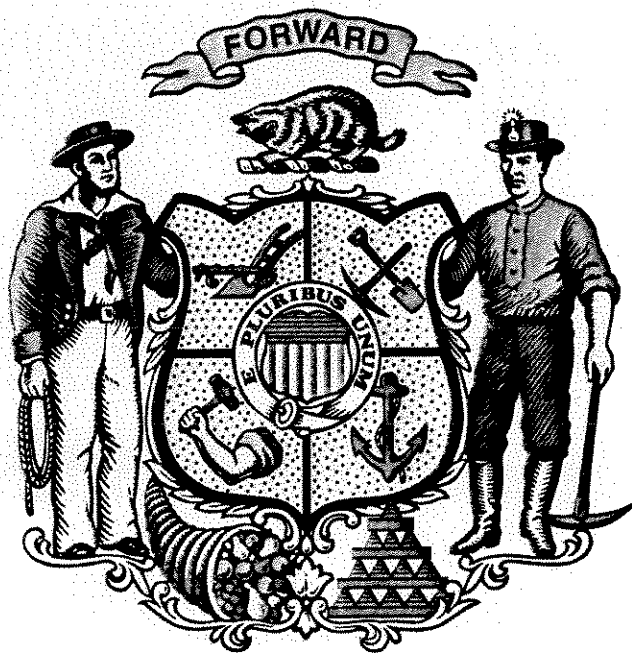
Hello Representative Freese:

Greetings from South Dakota! I am working on some research for Governor Janklow over here and wondered if you could help me out. I have been researching the idea of delaying election results in our state until all polls in the continental US were closed. I read that you thought of (or did?) propose this bill last session in Wisconsin. I searched the Wisconsin Legislature homepage, but couldn't find anything on it. Basically, I was wondering if you did, in fact, propose such a bill and what arguments were made for and against such a proposal? I would appreciate any insight you could provide me on this matter.

Thank you! Rachel

Rachel A. Hansen
Governor Janklow's Office
Pierre, SD
Ph. (605) 773-3662

Fx. (605) 773-4711



Polls: Freese plans to introduce bill in January

Continued from Page 1A

the difference," Freese said.

The assemblyman said his bill would not infringe on the First Amendment right to free speech.

"It's not a First Amendment issue. It's a timing issue. We're just saying from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. those results won't be released."

University of Wisconsin-Platteville political science professor

John Rink agreed that the bill wouldn't infringe on the media's right to access information.

"It (the bill) couldn't prevent a media consortium from holding exit polls and making projections," Rink said.

"Media outlets would still be able to contact voters directly and conduct surveys in analyzing their projections. Networks would still

have to make their own decisions on that data in making their projections," he said, adding that he didn't think the bill would have much impact on the current system of election-night coverage.

Freese plans to introduce his bill, which he hopes will have bipartisan support, in January, when the Wisconsin State Legislature returns from the holiday recess.

Freese proposes change in election reporting

Presidential race: He wants the state to not release results until last poll in U.S. closes

By NICK LAGOSI

for the TH

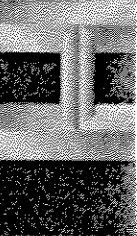
MADISON, Wis. — A southwestern Wisconsin lawmaker plans to introduce a bill that could impact the way the media report presidential

election results in the state.

State Rep. Steve Freese, R-Dodgeville, said his bill would prevent Wisconsin election officials from releasing vote counts until "the last polling station closes in the continental United States."

In essence, county clerks and other election officials couldn't divulge information about presidential votes until 10 p.m. Central time, two hours after Wisconsin polls close.

The bill would only pertain to presidential elections, the lawmaker said.



50 cents
164th Year, No. 323
2 sections, 28 pages

Herald

Freese pointed to last week's election-night situation in Florida, when the major television networks projected Vice President Al Gore the winner of that state before the voters in the western portion of Florida had an opportunity to cast their ballots.

Much of the state of Florida is in the Eastern Time Zone, but the Western panhandle of the state is in the Central zone.

but Freese and other Republicans have charged that the premature projection could have influenced the outcome of the vote. Freese said western Florida voters could have decided not to vote based on the initial news that Gore had won the state.

"I want to make sure each voter feels their vote counts regardless of what's happening in the rest of the country," Freese said.

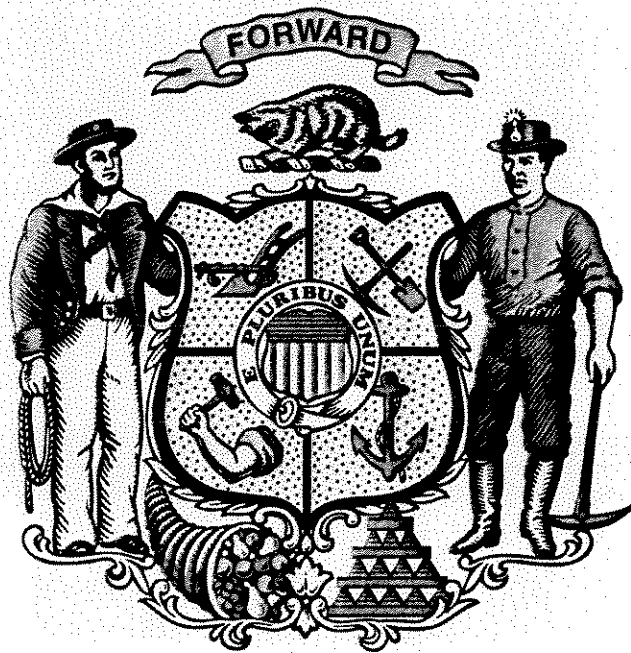
Freese said voter turnout was very high in Wisconsin, noting that some

preincts in Grant County experienced turnout of more than 90 percent. But Freese said only 32 percent of California's eligible voters came to the polls on election day.

"I think there's a connection there," Freese said, indicating that voter projections in the eastern and Midwestern areas of the country have a direct impact on voters in western states.

"Votes count, and this election shows it. One vote can really make a difference."

Polis/Please turn to Page 2A



LRB 1171/1

REPS

- ✓ FRAESE
- ✓ MONTGOMERY
- ✓ MUSSER
- ✓ AINSWORTH
- ✓ GROMMUS
- ✓ URBAN
- ✓ HOVEN
- ✓ ALBERS
- ✓ PETHIG
- ✓ MCCORMICK
- ✓ OWENS
- ✓ FRACZYK
- ✓ WILLIAMS
- ✓ HUMMERMARK
- ✓ LADWIG
- ✓ TOWNSEN

SEN

SCHULTZ

Farrow

~~RESSLER 1032 & 1034~~

~~Lowles 1032~~