

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_ab0041_AC-CE_pt01**

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

> **

Vote Record

Assembly - Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Date: 1/18/00
Moved by: _____ seconded by: _____
Clearinghouse Rule: _____
AB: _____ SB: RB 1507 Appointment: _____
AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Other: _____
AR: _____ SR: _____

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

Be recommended for:

- Passage
- Introduction
- Adoption
- Rejection

by committee

- 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

| | <u>Aye</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Absent</u> | <u>Not Voting</u> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rep. Stephen Freese, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Bonnie Ladwig | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Jeff Stone | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Jeff Fitzgerald | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. David Travis | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Mark Pocan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Totals: _____

unanimous consent

Motion Carried

Motion Failed

Vote Record

Assembly - Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Date: 1/23/01
 Moved by: Ladwig Seconded by: Stone
 AB: H SB: _____ Clearinghouse Rule: _____
 AJR: _____ SJR: _____ Appointment: _____
 AR: _____ SR: _____ Other: _____

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

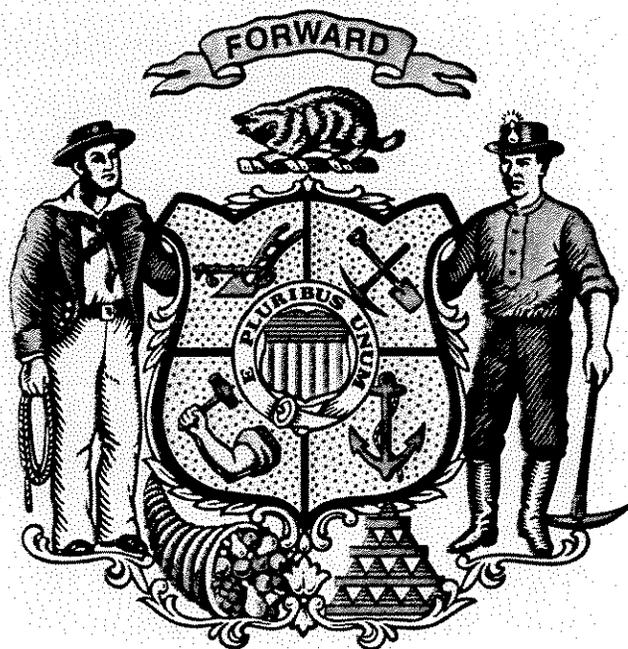
Rep. Stephen Freese, Chair
 Rep. Bonnie Ladwig
 Rep. Jeff Stone
 Rep. Jeff Fitzgerald
 Rep. David Travis
 Rep. Mark Pocan

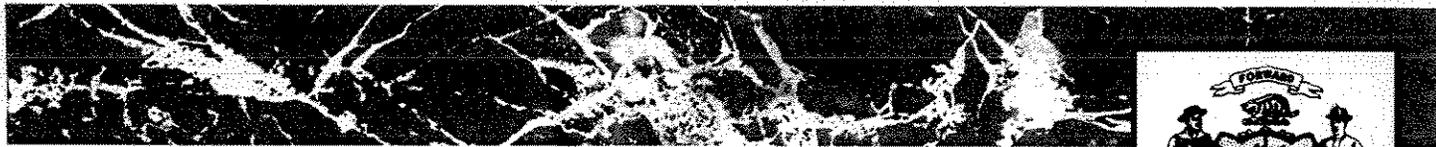
| | <u>Aye</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Absent</u> | <u>Not Voting</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rep. Stephen Freese, Chair | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rep. Mark Pocan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Totals: 6 0 _____ _____

Motion Carried

Motion Failed





DAVE TRAVIS
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 8953
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53708
266-5340

January 22, 2001

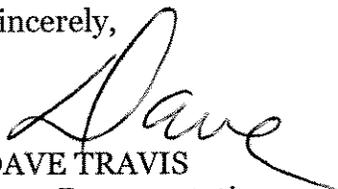
Rep. Steve Freese, Chairman
Committee on Campaigns & Elections
115 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Mr. Chairman:

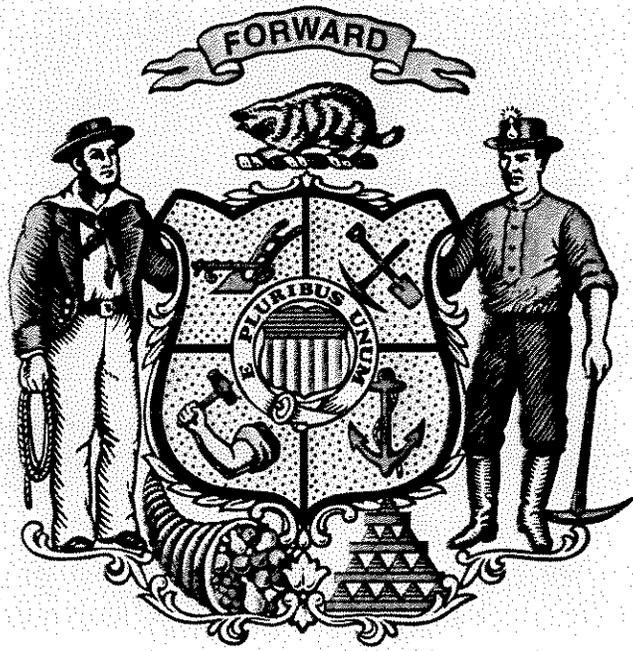
Obviously, the crush at the polls during high turnout elections is overwhelming local officials in high turnout elections. I offer two amendments designed to help alleviate this problem:

1. On the proposal to provide statewide uniform voting hours (Assembly Bill 41), I suggest that we extend voting until 9:00 P.M. This affords voters and officials more time in the critical after work hours, and should help to address the problems of long lines and general chaos at the polls. Furthermore, it will help alleviate the concerns about people in the western United States learning the election results early from here.
2. On the proposal relating to the training and certification of election officials (Assembly Bill 40), I suggest that we allow public workers the opportunity to work at the polls without personal penalty. Clearly, the shortage of poll workers is a major problem. Public employees are a natural source of poll workers. Many public employees could easily volunteer for a day of poll duties every year or two if they were not penalized.

Sincerely,



DAVE TRAVIS
State Representative
81st Assembly District





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.