

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

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

> **01hr\_sb0110\_AC-CE\_pt02**

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
STAFF MEMORANDUM**

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TO: REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN FREESE

FROM: Robert J. Conlin, Senior Staff Attorney *RJC*

RE: Amendments to 2001 Senate Bill 110, Included in Budget

DATE: December 17, 2001

This memorandum identifies those amendments currently pending to Senate Bill 110 which have already been enacted into law. Senate Bill 110, which relates to various election law changes, is scheduled for an executive session in the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections on Thursday, December 20, 2001.

On June 12, 2001, eight amendments were introduced to 2001 Senate Bill 110. As noted in an earlier memorandum to members of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, dated December 10, 2001, *Assembly Amendment 1* was laid on the table on June 12, 2001, and *Assembly Amendment 2* was determined to be nongermane on November 6, 2001.

*Assembly Amendment 3*, relating to authorizing a local governmental unit to grant leave to its employees to serve as election officials without loss of benefits, was included in the provisions of 2001 Wisconsin Act 16 (the Biennial Budget Act).

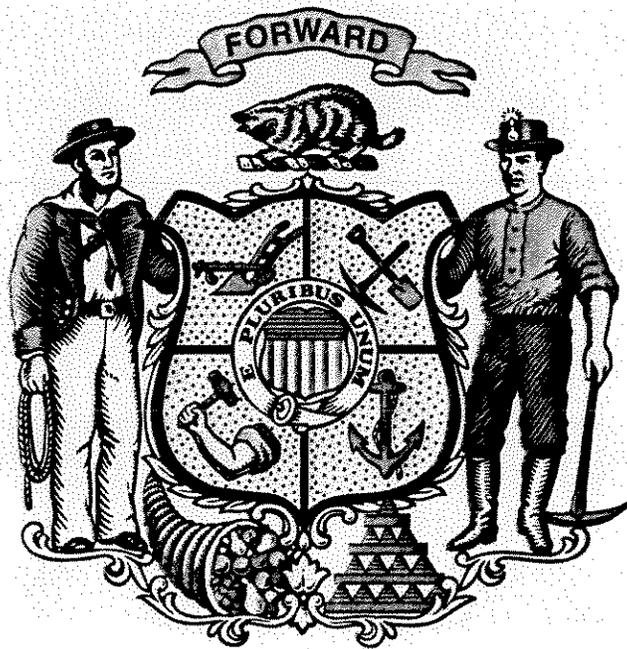
*Assembly Amendment 4*, relating to the training and certification of chief election inspectors, was also included in Act 16.

Finally, *Assembly Amendment 8*, relating to the elimination of punch card voting, was included in Act 16, but the Governor vetoed provisions relating to requiring the Department of Administration to enter into a master lease agreement on behalf of the Elections Board to obtain sufficient electronic voting system equipment to replace punch card voting systems. The Governor indicated that he vetoed those provisions because the Department of Administration should make the determination as to whether use of a master lease is appropriate to replace punch card voting systems.

Accordingly, of the eight amendments introduced, only Assembly Amendments 5, 6 and 7 have either not been disposed of or included in Act 16.

If you have additional questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me at the Legislative Council Staff offices.

RJC:jal;wu





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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
STAFF MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN FREESE

**FROM:** Robert J. Conlin, Senior Staff Attorney *RJC*

**RE:** 2001 Senate Bill 110, as Amended by Assembly Amendments 5, 6 and 7, and Two Proposed Draft Amendments

**DATE:** December 19, 2001

This memorandum, prepared at your request, briefly describes the provisions of 2001 Senate Bill 110 which would remain if Assembly Amendments 5, 6 and 7 and two proposed draft amendments, LRBA1016/1 and LRBA0575/1, were adopted. As you know, Senate Bill 110 makes various election law changes.

It will be noted at the outset, however, that Assembly Amendment 7 and LRBA1016/1 both relate to statewide voter registration and the maintenance of a statewide voter registration list. It is assumed that the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections will not recommend adoption of both amendments. However, both will be described herein.

This memorandum will first briefly describe Assembly Amendments 5, 6, 7, LRBA1016/1 and LRBA0575/1 and then will briefly describe the bill as affected by those amendments should they pass.

**THE AMENDMENTS**

**Assembly Amendment 5**

Generally, Senate Bill 110 authorizes the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners of any municipality to designate any location as a temporary satellite station for absentee voting by electors of the municipality. The bill permits any qualified elector of a municipality to obtain and cast an absentee ballot at a satellite station. The satellite station may be open for absentee voting at any time, but only after the official absentee ballots are prepared and before 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election.

Assembly Amendment 5 deletes the provisions of the bill relating to satellite voting stations.

**Assembly Amendment 6**

Generally, under current law, the polls in a first, second or third class city must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. In a village, town, or fourth class city (cities with a population of less than 10,000), polls must be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., unless the village, town, or city determines to extend the opening hour to not earlier than 7:00 a.m. Senate Bill 110 requires the polls to be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in all municipalities with a population of 8,000 or more. In other municipalities, the polls must be open from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., but may be extended by the governing body to not earlier than 7:00 a.m.

Assembly Amendment 6 creates uniform polling hours throughout the state from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., regardless of the size of the municipality conducting the election.

**Assembly Amendment 7**

Generally, under current law, voter registration is required in municipalities with a population over 5,000 people. In smaller municipalities, voter registration is optional.

Senate Bill 110 directs the Elections Board to study the costs, benefits, and feasibility of and to prepare recommendations with regard to requiring voter registration in every municipality. The bill specifies a number of issues that must be addressed in the study. Generally, the results of the study and all of the Board's recommendations must be submitted to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature no later than approximately nine months after the bill becomes law.

Assembly Amendment 7 requires registration in every municipality. In addition, the amendment deletes the electronic registration study provisions contained in the bill and, instead, requires the Elections Board to compile and maintain electronically an official registration list. The amendment provides various specific limits and restrictions on the electronic registration list. These requirements were described in a memorandum to Members of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections dated December 10, 2001.

**LRBa0575/1**

Under Senate Bill 110, a special legislative committee is created to study multilingual voting needs in the state and the needs of disabled voters. The bill specifies various issues that the special legislative committee is to study with regard to both the multilingual and disability issues.

LRBa0575/1 deletes the component of the study relating to multilingual voting needs.

✓ **LRBa1016/1**

As noted above, Senate Bill 110 requires the Elections Board to study a statewide voter registration system.

LRBa1016/1 deletes those provisions of the bill requiring the study and instead requires the Elections Board to submit as part of its budget request for the 2003-05 fiscal biennium, a proposal to create a statewide, centralized voter registration and poll list system. The proposed system must be computerized, must require voter registration in every municipality in the state, must be maintained by

the Elections Board, and must allow for the real time entering and checking of voter registration and polling information by election officials, so as to facilitate the elimination of multiple voting by the same elector at the same election. The proposed system must be designed to be operational as of the 2004 Spring Election.

**THE BILL AS AFFECTED BY THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED AMENDMENTS**

If the above-described amendments are adopted, Senate Bill 110 will essentially consist of the following items:

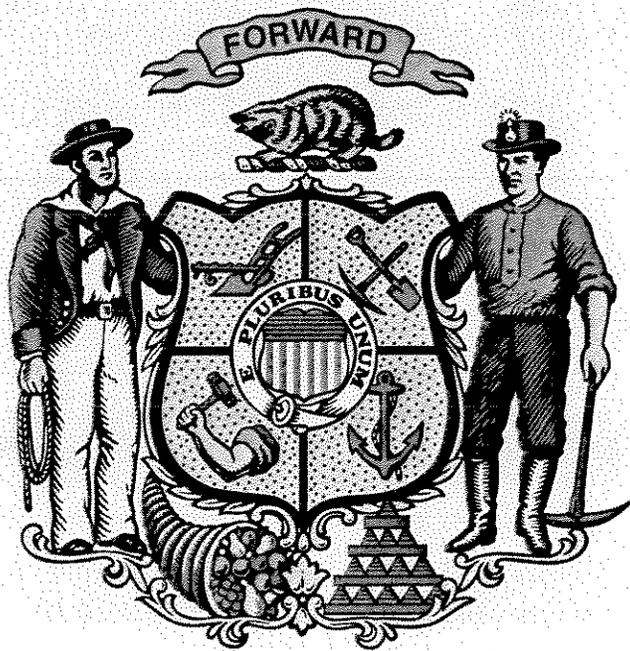
1. ***Uniform Polling Hours for all Municipalities in the State.*** Polling hours for all elections in the state would be from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
2. ***Leave for Service as an Election Official.*** The bill would provide that if a local governmental unit is also the employer of a person who has taken a leave to serve as an election official, the local governmental unit may require the employee, before the service begins, to assign his or her interests and any compensation earned for the service to the local governmental unit. If the employee makes this assignment, he or she need not make the certification that would otherwise be required which allows a local governmental unit to deduct the amount the person received for service as an election official from the employee's regular paycheck.
3. ***Voting by Felons and Immigrants.*** The bill would require that whenever a court imposes a sentence or places a person on probation for a conviction that disqualifies the person from voting, the court must inform the person of that disqualification. The bill would also require the Department of Corrections to inform the person of the disqualification if the person is released to parole or extended supervision or, if the person is confined as a condition of probation, upon the person's release to probation. In addition, the bill would regain the standard voter registration form to include a notice advising each registering elector of the law with regard to the voting eligibility of felons and requires each registering elector to certify that, to the best of the elector's knowledge, he or she is a qualified elector. The bill would require every municipality to post a uniform sign on election day at the entrance to each polling place that advises electors of the voting eligibility requirements under the laws of the state, including the voting eligibility requirements applicable to felons and immigrants. In addition, the bill would specify that the municipal clerk must instruct election officials with regard to the voting eligibility requirements under the laws of the state, including the voting eligibility requirements applicable to felons and immigrants.
4. ***Election Board Studies and Recommendations.*** The bill would require the Board to study polling place staffing needs in general elections and the use of separate registration locations on election day. The Board would be required to submit the results of these studies and all recommendations to the Legislature no later than approximately six months after the bill becomes law.
5. ***Special Legislative Committee for the Study of Disabled Voting Needs.*** The bill would establish a special legislative committee for the study of disabled voting needs. The purpose of the committee would be to study the needs of physically disabled electors for greater

accessibility to polling places and voting equipment and greater protection of privacy. The committee would be required to prepare recommendations for providing greater accessibility to polling places and voting equipment and greater protection of privacy for physically disabled electors. The committee is to consist of 13 members, which members are to be appointed as specified in the bill. The staff of the Legislative Council would be obliged to administer the affairs of the committee. The committee would be required to report to the Legislature within approximately nine months after the bill becomes law its findings and recommendations with regard to maximizing voting in the state by disabled electors.

6. *Statewide Registration and Registration List.* The bill would contain a statewide voter registration and electronic registration list requirement. The specifics of those provisions will depend upon whether Assembly Amendment 7 or LRBA1016/1, as described above, is adopted.

I hope you find this information helpful. If I can be of further assistance please contact me at the Legislative Council Staff offices.

RJC:rv;ksm





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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
STAFF MEMORANDUM**

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TO: REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN FREESE

FROM: Robert J. Conlin, Senior Staff Attorney *RJC*

RE: 2001 Senate Bill 110, as Amended by Assembly Amendments 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11

DATE: December 21, 2001

On December 20, 2001, the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections voted to recommend passage of 2001 Senate Bill 110, as amended by several amendments. As you know, Senate Bill 110 makes various election law changes. This memorandum, prepared at your request, briefly describes the provisions of 2001 Senate Bill 110, as amended, if the Assembly were to adopt these amendments. The amendments are Assembly Amendments 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11.

This memorandum will first briefly describe Assembly Amendments 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11 and then will briefly describe the bill as it would be affected by those amendments should they be adopted by the Assembly.

**THE AMENDMENTS**

**Assembly Amendment 3**

Generally, under Senate Bill 110, a local unit of government may permit its employees to serve as election officials without loss of fringe benefits, seniority privileges, loss of pay or any other penalty. Under the bill, an employee of a local governmental unit who obtains a paid leave of absence for service as an election official must certify in writing to the head of the local governmental unit by which he or she is employed the amount of compensation that the employee receives for service as an election official. That amount must be deducted from the employee's pay earned for the scheduled working hours. However, under the bill, if the local governmental unit is also the employer for purposes of the employee's service as an election official, the local governmental unit may require the employee, before the service begins, to assign his or her interest in any compensation earned for the service as an election official to the local governmental unit. If the employee makes this certification, the employee would receive no paycheck for the service as an election official and would have no deduction made from his or her regular paycheck.

Assembly Amendment 3 also authorizes a local governmental unit to grant leave to its employees to serve as election officials without loss of benefits, as under the bill. However, Assembly Amendment 3 does not include the certification provision which would enable an employee to assign his or her pay for service as an election official to the local governmental unit for which he or she is otherwise employed.

#### **Assembly Amendment 5**

Generally, Senate Bill 110 authorizes the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners of any municipality to designate any location as a temporary satellite station for absentee voting by electors of the municipality. The bill permits any qualified elector of a municipality to obtain and cast an absentee ballot at a satellite station. The satellite station may be open for absentee voting at any time, but only after the official absentee ballots are prepared and before 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election.

Assembly Amendment 5 deletes the provisions of the bill relating to satellite voting stations.

#### **Assembly Amendment 6**

Generally, under current law, the polls in a first, second or third class city must be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. In a village, town, or fourth class city (cities with a population of less than 10,000), polls must be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., unless the village, town, or city determines to extend the opening hour to not earlier than 7:00 a.m. Senate Bill 110 requires the polls to be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in all municipalities with a population of 8,000 or more. In other municipalities, the polls must be open from 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., but may be extended by the governing body to not earlier than 7:00 a.m.

Assembly Amendment 6 creates uniform polling hours throughout the state from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., regardless of the size of the municipality conducting the election.

#### **Assembly Amendment 9**

Generally, under current law, voter registration is required in municipalities with a population over 5,000 people. In smaller municipalities, voter registration is optional.

Senate Bill 110 directs the Elections Board to study the costs, benefits, and feasibility of and to prepare recommendations with regard to requiring voter registration in every municipality. The bill specifies a number of issues that must be addressed in the study. Generally, the results of the study and all of the Board's recommendations must be submitted to the appropriate standing committees of the Legislature no later than approximately nine months after the bill becomes law.

Assembly Amendment 9 deletes those provisions of the bill requiring the study and instead requires the Elections Board to submit, as part of its budget request for the 2003-05 fiscal biennium, a proposal to create a statewide, centralized voter registration and poll list system. The proposed system must be computerized, must require voter registration in every municipality in the state, must be maintained by the Elections Board, and must allow for the real time entering and checking of voter registration and polling information by election officials so as to facilitate the elimination of multiple

voting by the same elector at the same election. The proposed system must be designed to be operational as of the 2004 Spring Election.

### **Assembly Amendment 10**

Under Senate Bill 110, a special legislative committee is created to study multilingual voting needs in the state and the needs of disabled voters. The bill specifies various issues that the special legislative committee is to study with regard to both the multilingual and disability issues.

Assembly Amendment 10 deletes the component of the study relating to multilingual voting needs.

### **Assembly Amendment 11**

Generally, under current law, after an election, a municipal clerk or board of election commissioners must verify the address of each elector who registered at the polling place on election day. The verification is conducted via first class postcard, which must be labeled either "ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED" or "DO NOT FORWARD--RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED." If the post card is returned undelivered, or if the clerk or board of election commissioners is informed of a different address than the one specified by the elector which was apparently improper on the day of the election, the clerk or board must remove the elector's name from the registration list, mail the elector a notice of the removal and provide the name to the district attorney for the county where the polling place is located.

A similar process, including referral to the appropriate district attorney of the name of any voter or person who corroborates registration information on behalf of the voter, applies when the clerk believes a person has voted more than once or when a person is improperly registered on election day.

Assembly Amendment 11 requires that in addition to referring the relevant names to the district attorney in the situations identified above, the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners must notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency. The amendment requires that within two weeks after receiving the information, the local law enforcement agency must investigate the matter and report the results to the district attorney. No later than two weeks after receiving such a report, the district attorney must file a report with the clerk or board of election commissioners indicating the results of each investigation and any action the district attorney intends to prosecute as a result of each investigation.

### **THE BILL AS AFFECTED BY THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED AMENDMENTS**

If the above-described amendments are adopted by the Assembly, Senate Bill 110 will essentially consist of the following items:

1. ***Uniform Polling Hours for all Municipalities in the State.*** The bill would provide that polling hours for all elections in the state would be from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
2. ***Leave for Service as an Election Official.*** The bill would provide that a local unit of government may permit its employees to serve as election officials without loss of fringe

benefits, seniority privileges, loss of pay or any other penalty. Under the bill, an employee of a local governmental unit who obtains a paid leave of absence for service as an election official would be required to certify in writing to the head of the local governmental unit by which he or she is employed the amount of compensation that the employee receives for service as an election official. That amount must be deducted from the employee's pay earned for the scheduled working hours. This provision in the bill would be the same as current law, as created by 2001 Wisconsin Act 16 (the Biennial Budget Act).

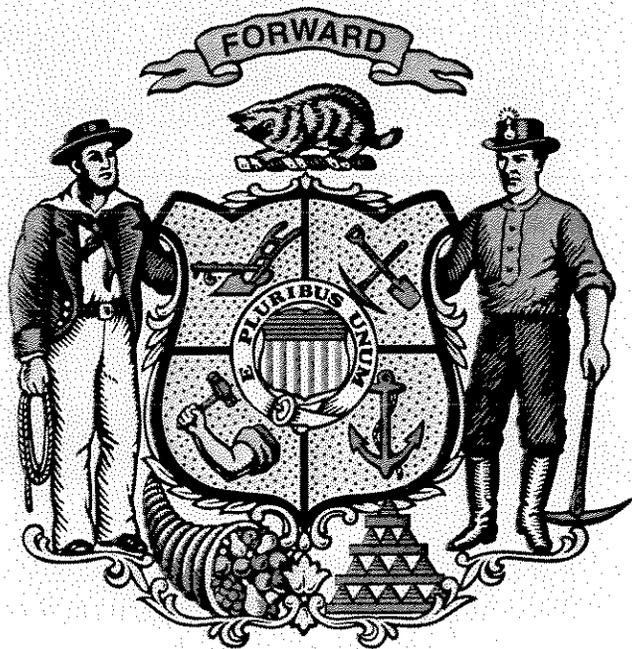
3. ***Voting by Felons and Immigrants.*** The bill would require that whenever a court imposes a sentence or places a person on probation for a conviction that disqualifies the person from voting, the court must inform the person of that disqualification. The bill would also require the Department of Corrections to inform the person of the disqualification if the person is released to parole or extended supervision or, if the person is confined as a condition of probation, upon the person's release to probation. In addition, the bill would require the standard voter registration form to include a notice advising each registering elector of the law with regard to the voting eligibility of felons and to require each registering elector to certify that, to the best of the elector's knowledge, he or she is a qualified elector. The bill would require every municipality to post a uniform sign on election day at the entrance to each polling place that advises electors of the voting eligibility requirements under the laws of the state, including the voting eligibility requirements applicable to felons and immigrants. In addition, the bill would specify that the municipal clerk must instruct election officials with regard to the voting eligibility requirements under the laws of the state, including the voting eligibility requirements applicable to felons and immigrants.
4. ***Election Board Studies and Recommendations.*** The bill would require the Board to study polling place staffing needs in general elections and the use of separate registration locations on election day. The Board would be required to submit the results of these studies and all recommendations to the Legislature no later than approximately six months after the bill becomes law.
5. ***Special Legislative Committee for the Study of Disabled Voting Needs.*** The bill would establish a special legislative committee for the study of disabled voting needs. The purpose of the committee would be to study the needs of physically disabled electors for greater accessibility to polling places and voting equipment and greater protection of privacy. The committee would be required to prepare recommendations for providing greater accessibility to polling places and voting equipment and greater protection of privacy for physically disabled electors. The committee is to consist of 13 members, which members are to be appointed as specified in the bill. The staff of the Legislative Council would be obliged to administer the affairs of the committee. The committee would be required to report to the Legislature within approximately nine months after the bill becomes law its findings and recommendations with regard to maximizing voting in the state by disabled electors.
6. ***Statewide Registration and Registration List.*** The bill would require the Elections Board to submit, as part of its budget request for the 2003-05 fiscal biennium, a proposal to create a statewide, centralized voter registration and poll list system. The proposed system must be computerized, must require voter registration in every municipality in the state, must be maintained by the Elections Board, and must allow for the real time entering and checking of

voter registration and polling information by election officials, so as to facilitate the elimination of multiple voting by the same elector at the same election. The proposed system must be designed to be operational as of the 2004 Spring Election.

7. ***Voter Verification.*** The bill would require a municipal clerk who, or board of election commissioners which, believes that a person was improperly registered on election day or voted more than once to refer the person's name, and the name of any relevant corroborator, to the local law enforcement agency and the district attorney. Within two weeks after receiving the information, the local law enforcement agency would be required to investigate the matter and report the results to the district attorney. No later than two weeks after receiving such a report, the district attorney would be required to file a report with the clerk or board of election commissioners indicating the results of each investigation and any action the district attorney intends to prosecute as a result of each investigation.

I hope you find this information helpful. If I can be of further assistance please contact me at the Legislative Council Staff offices.

RJC:rv:jal;ksm;rv

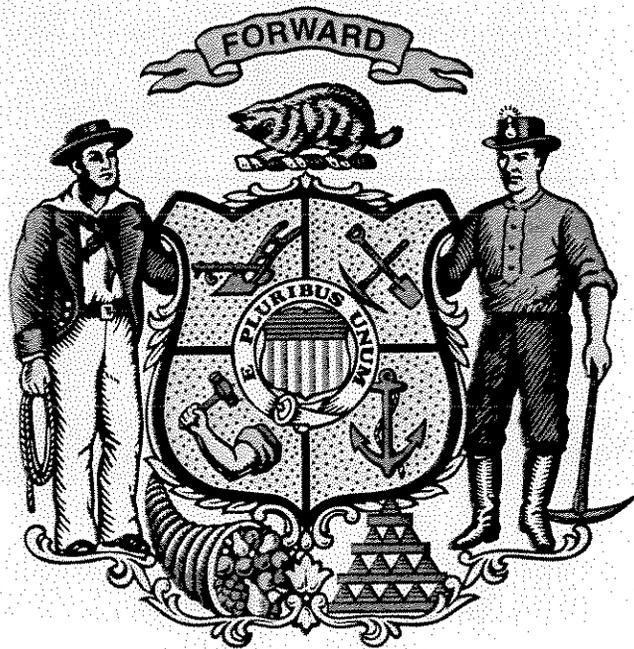


My name is Jesse Strawn and I am a student at UW-Superior. In this rough and tumble world of public education, there is little time to consider other responsibilities such as voting. I am writing to support SB110, which I believe is a step in the right direction of electoral reform. This bill provides meaningful reform to the electoral process that works to maintain the integrity in Wisconsin elections as well as ensuring voters do not become further disenfranchised. There should be as few obstructions as possible when allowing people their right to vote.

Education and training of polling workers is an excellent proposal. As an active member in student politics, I feel that I can speak for a large number of my fellow students when I say that positive electoral reform, as suggested by SB110 is a step in the right direction.

Thanks for your consideration

J. Strawn

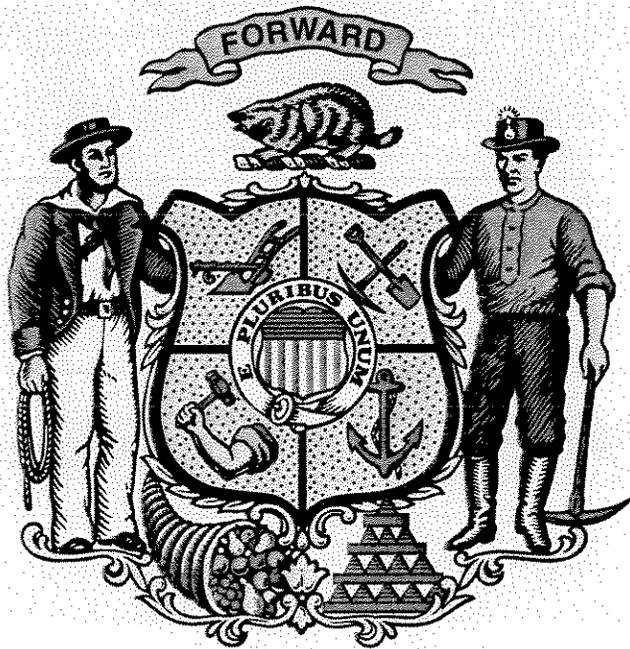


Dear Representatives,

I am writing to encourage you to support voter reform bills such as SB 110, I feel this is the proper action to be taking in order to make our voting processes more efficient and valid. I would also like to make sure that you understand that I do not support such measures as AB 294. With bills such as these we are only discouraging the public to go out and vote, any restrictions or reforms that would in any way inhibit or decrease the number of voters I feel is a step in the wrong direction. We have plenty of other areas to reform in order to improve our current voting process and we should be focusing on only those which better the voting system, not those which exclude voters. I hope that you agree with me and will take the appropriate action to ensure that all people of Wisconsin have freely available access to voting.

Thank you,

Jacqueline M. Helmrick  
615 W. Johnson St. #220  
Madison WI, 53706-1792  
608-264-3163  
jmhelmrick@students.wisc.edu





# United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

122 State Street Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703-2500 Phone (608) 263-3422 Fax (608) 265-4070

## Testimony of Craig Trost

Legislative Affairs Director, United Council of UW Students

Before the Assembly Campaigns and Elections Committee

### In favor of Senate Bill 110

Thank you Representative Freeze for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Craig Trost and I am the Legislative Affairs Director for United Council of UW Students. United Council represents approximately 140,000 students at 23 UW campuses.

United Council coordinates statewide voter education and mobilization for our member campuses. As an organization that works hard to get students involved in the democratic process, we are very interested in this piece of legislation.

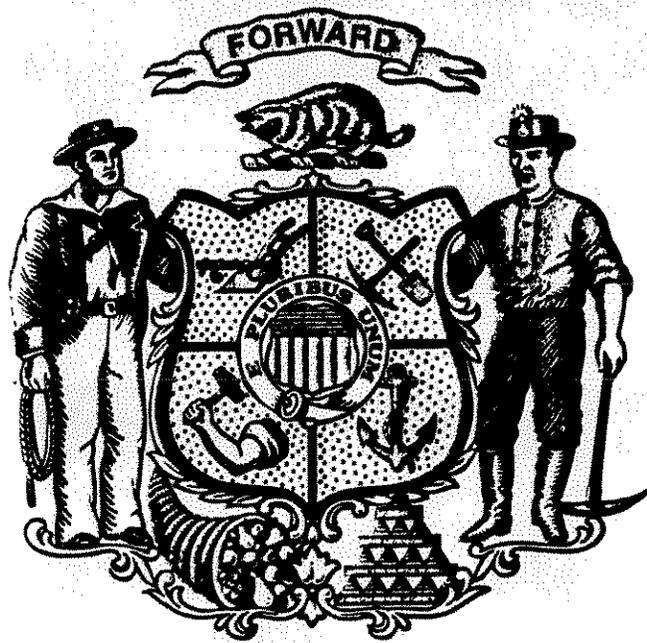
Senate Bill 110 would establish uniform polling hours of 7 a.m.– 8 p.m. This would be highly beneficial for voter education efforts to ensure access to the election polls. Also, you may have heard the saying, “Vote early, vote often.” There is no way to get around the fact that voter participation in America is decreasing. However, if Wisconsin makes positive efforts to increase access to polls, such as SB-110, students will get into the habit of voting early in their life. If polling hours are the same around the state, students are more likely to continue to vote after they are out of college, because this not only will voting become a habit but so will the times between which one can vote.

This bill goes further to set up a special committee to study multi-lingual voting needs. Language is often a communication barrier in America. The country watched as Florida hung in the balance during the last presidential elections as a result of several things, one of which was a confusing ballot. If the layout design of a ballot could confuse voters, just imagine what confusion a language barrier could present.

Finally, this bill goes even further to address issues of differently-abled voters, statewide voter lists, time off from work for poll workers and education campaigns. For the above reasons, I encourage you to support Senate Bill 110. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Inter-Departmental Mailing Address: United Council, Room B-11 South, State Capitol

E-mail Address: UCOUNCIL@unitedcouncil.net





# WISCONSIN

## Grades

Election Day

One Year Later

**D**

**D**

November 7, 2000

November 7, 2001

## Facts

2000 Turnout:

66.1% (national average 50.4%)

2000 Residual Vote:

Not available

Statewide Voter Registration System:

No

Provisional Balloting:

Same day voter registration

Rate of Disenfranchisement:

1.3% (national average 2.0%)

Registration Deadline:

Same day voter registration

Poll Hours:

7/9am - 8pm

## The Report

Wisconsin had failed to address two of the four basic protections covered by this Report Card heading into the November 2000 elections, and the state legislature failed to implement any changes during this past year. Therefore, the state's grade holds at a "D".

Wisconsin's biggest weakness are its voting and registration systems.

Wisconsin does not collect statewide data on residual vote rates, leaving citizens and policy makers alike without the information necessary to assess the effectiveness of the state's voting systems, identify problems, and determine appropriate solutions.

Wisconsin also lacks an integrated, computerized statewide registration system. While its same-day registration provides protection of the right to cast a ballot, it does increase the potential for voter fraud, particularly in the absence of a statewide voter registration system.

Wisconsin does not have provisional balloting, but it does have same-day registration. As such, citizens can vote on election day even if they have not registered previously. Therefore, the kind of registration errors that provisional ballots are intended to safeguard against are not a problem.

In addition, Wisconsin restores voting rights to citizens convicted of a felony once their sentence is completed.



### Statewide Voter Registration

Wisconsin has only local voter registries. While same-day registration obviates concerns that registration errors will result in voters being turned away from the polls, a central list is a critical tool in preventing fraud.



### Disenfranchisement

Wisconsin restores voting rights to citizens who have been convicted of a felony upon full completion of their sentence (including probation and parole).



### Provisional Balloting

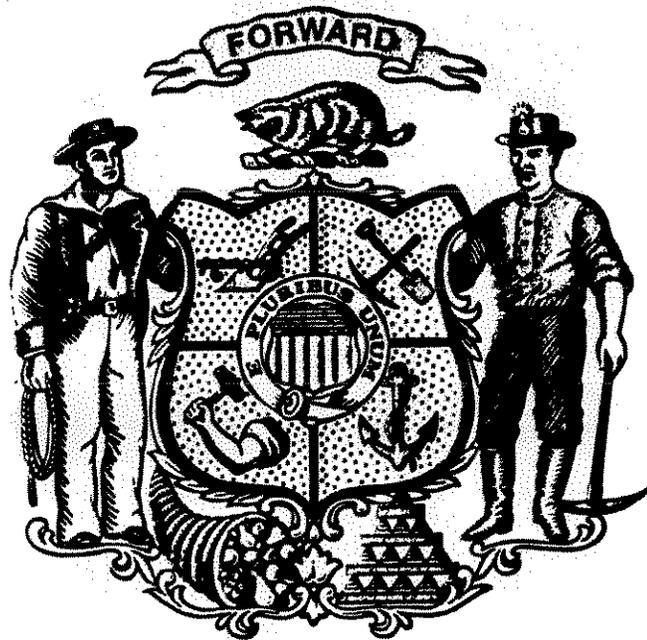
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### Residual Vote Rate

Wisconsin does not collect and report statewide data on residual vote rates. Thus, the public lacks the information necessary to assess the effectiveness of the state's voting systems.

www.commoncause.org \* 202-833-1200 \* November 2001





# MINNESOTA

## Grades

Election Day

# A

November 7, 2000

One Year Later

# A

November 7, 2001

## Facts

**2000 Turnout:**  
68.8% (national average 50.4%)

**2000 Residual Vote:**  
0.8%\* (national average 2.0%)

**Statewide Voter Registration System:**  
Yes (online, real-time)

**Provisional Balloting:**  
Same day registration

**Rate of Disenfranchisement:**  
1.1% (national average 2.1%)

**Registration Deadline:**  
same day registration

**Poll Hours:**  
13, 7 am - 8 pm

## The Report

The state legislature passed sound election reform legislation this year, but it did not increase Minnesota's grade because the state already had earned an "A" grade heading into the November 2000 elections.

While the legislature had previously addressed all four basic protections covered by this Report Card, it made even further improvements.

It created an account this year that will provide grants to local jurisdictions to purchase precinct-count optical scan equipment and initiate testing of touch-screen DREs (direct recording electronic equipment). The legislation also includes provisions to facilitate voting by people who are visually impaired and other provisions for voters whose primary language is not English.

Minnesota's use of same-day registration, which made national news when voters registering on election day gave Jesse Ventura the boost he needed to vault into the governorship, makes provisional balloting unnecessary.

Unlike some other states, however, Minnesota's same-day registration is accompanied by a sophisticated statewide registration database. The state's integrated statewide list helps prevent potential voter fraud.

Finally, Minnesota also restores the voting rights of citizens who have been convicted of a felony upon completion of their sentence.



### Statewide Voter Registration

Minnesota has an integrated, computerized statewide voter registration list that jurisdictions can access and update directly in real-time. This can be a useful tool for protecting the integrity of elections in states employing same-day registration.



### Disenfranchisement

Minnesota restores voting rights to citizens who have been convicted of a felony in the past upon the full completion of their sentence (including probation and parole).



### Provisional Balloting

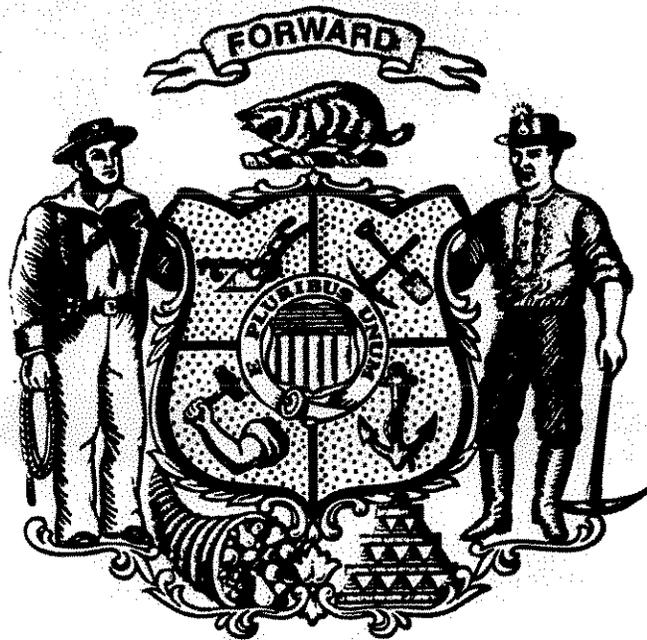
Minnesota does not have a provisional ballot, but it does have same-day registration. As such, citizens can vote on election day even if they have not registered previously. Therefore, the kind of registration errors that provisional ballots are intended to safeguard against are not a problem.



### Residual Vote Rates

Minnesota had one of the best residual vote rate in the country in November 2000. The 0.8% result from last fall's election matched its strong showing in the 1996 Presidential election.

www.commoncause.org \* 202-833-1200 \* November 2001



## **Senate Bill 110**

Relating to: polling hours, time off from work for service as an election official, training of election officials, voting by felons and immigrants, requiring studies and recommendations with regard to voter registration and multilingual voting needs, establishing satellite stations for purposes of conducting voter registration and absentee voting, and granting rule-making authority.

Representative Freese asked unanimous consent that Assembly amendment 1 to **Senate Bill 110** be laid on the table. Granted.

Assembly amendment 2 to **Senate Bill 110** offered by Representatives Freese and Walker.

Assembly amendment 3 to **Senate Bill 110** offered by Representatives Freese and Travis.

Assembly amendment 4 to **Senate Bill 110** offered by Representative Freese.

Assembly amendment 5 to **Senate Bill 110** offered by Representatives Freese and Walker.

Assembly amendment 6 to **Senate Bill 110** offered by Representatives Freese and Travis.

Assembly amendment 7 to **Senate Bill 110** offered by Representative Freese.

Assembly amendment 8 to **Senate Bill 110** offered by Representative Powers.

Assembly amendment 1 to Assembly amendment 8 to **Senate Bill 110** offered by Representative Powers.

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## **POINT OF ORDER**

Representative Black rose to the point of order that Assembly amendment 2 to **Senate Bill 110** was not germane under Assembly Rule 54.

The Chair (Representative Duff) took the point of order under advisement.

Representative Rhoades in the chair.