

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)

> **

> Miscellaneous ... Misc

> **01hr_AC-CE_Misc_pt03**



**Wisconsin Speaker Pro Tempore
Representative Stephen J. Freese**

MEMO

TO: Members, Committee on Campaigns & Elections

FROM: Terri S. Griffiths, Committee Clerk

DATE: January 19, 2001

RE: Written testimony from public hearing January 18, 2001

Attached is written testimony that presented to the committee yesterday. Also included are additional testimony received via the website.

Rep. Freese does intend to hold an executive session on Tuesday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m. in room 415 NW. The executive session will include Assembly bills 10, 11, 12 and the newly introduced and referred Assembly bills 39, 40, and 41. An official notice is forthcoming.

Fifty-First Assembly District

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(608) 266-7502 • Toll-Free: (888) 534-0051 • Fax: (608) 261-9474 • Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
District: 310 E. North • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533 • (608) 935-3789

Robert L. Dohnal R.PH
 11324 West Potter Road
 Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53226-3407

Phone: (414) 258-1719

Fax: (414) 259-9326

J. Gov. Robert McCallum

Memo to Governor Tommy Thompson and Speaker Scott Jensen

We in Milwaukee County appreciate your interest in some election reform to prevent fraud in future elections. Mark Neumann lost his first election in Kenosha because of irregularities and recently the mayoral race in Wauwatosa was filled with irregularities.

You cannot count on local Democrats to prosecute or even investigate irregularities involving Democrats. It will not happen. Kurt Benkley in the Milwaukee DA's office has failed to investigate obvious irregularities, possible fraud, use of City Hall employees and the interferences of MMSD in the election. James Madison wrote the Constitution in less time than it has taken Kurt Benkley to investigate fraud in an election.

Election day registration needs to be brought under control, properly staffed and poll watchers put into problem areas with large number of Election day registrations.

Further, we must clarify state statutes regulating election signs in local municipalities. The state law must include a mechanism that allows the state to force compliance by local municipalities.

Before the recent election, I had to hire brilliant young attorney Chris Carson to get an injunction against Wauwatosa to prevent the city building inspector from confiscating yard signs in citizen's yards. I believe the following changes need to be made.

1. Eliminate limits on size of signs in yards or at the minimum allow the size of 4' x 8', the size of a piece of plywood. The power to limit the size is the power to destroy.
- 1.5 Eliminate restrictions on signs in windows or buildings on commercial property
2. Signs on private property are legal on election day
3. No limits on number of signs
4. Define residence as that area owned and maintained by the owner
5. A \$100 fine for theft of a yard sign and that it be a "misdemeanor"

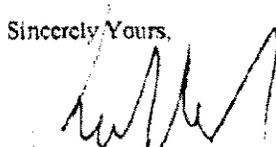
There is a regularly organized effort by people to steal signs. In the recent Tosa Mayor's race contributors and supporters of one candidate organized an effort to steal 100's of signs and were apprehended by police.

The theft of yard signs disrupts a campaign, costs money and forces candidates to spend time replacing signs instead of working productively.

Hundreds of Bush signs disappeared out of neighborhoods in what I believe was an organized effort.

We need to give the election board some teeth to enforce the law.

Sincerely Yours,


 Robert L. Dohnal

The Milwaukee County Republican Party

Resolution Concerning Election Problems

Whereas the proper conducting of elections is in the forefront of the protection of our freedom.

Therefore, we the leaders of the Milwaukee County GOP petition the governor and the legislature to adopt the following measures to ensure the proper conduct of elections.

1. Require photo identification or two pieces of identification to register.
2. Allocate state funds to properly train election workers.
3. Allocate state funds to provide adequate workers in areas with large on-site registration and provide bipartisan supervisors.
4. Double salaries of election workers to attract top quality people.
5. Encourage companies to adopt same policy they have for jury duty for poll workers.

Petitioners

*Passed unanimo
12/5/00
Edward Schultz
Milwaukee County Republicans*

384-1832

The Milwaukee County Republican Party

Resolution:

State Regulations Concerning Election Signs

The placing of election signs on the property of voters is one of our most basic political freedoms and should be strongly encouraged by all levels of government.

Therefore, we recommend the following change in state regulations.

1. Eliminate limits on size of yard signs or at minimum allow signs to be 4'x8', the size of a piece of plywood. The power to limit size is the power to destroy
2. Eliminate restrictions on signs in windows of commercial buildings.
3. Allow signs on private property on Election Day.
4. No limits on number of signs
5. Define residence as that area owned or maintained by the resident.
6. Make the theft of an election sign a misdemeanor with \$100 fine per sign.
7. Design a mechanism for enforcement of state statutes to reimburse citizens who force local municipalities to conform to state law

Therefore we, the leaders of the Milwaukee GOP urge the governor and state legislature to adopt these changes to state statutes.

Passed unamously 12/5/00

*Edward Schultz
Chairman Milwaukee County Republican*

384-1732

*Received by
1/17/01
11:19 AM
Robert Dohnal*

Richard, Rob

From: Tom Neill [TNEILL@ci.waukesha.wi.us]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2001 1:35 PM
To: Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Elections

As a municipal clerk in charge of voting, I would like to see the elimination of on-site registration. In the City of Waukesha we had over 11,000 on-site registrations (30%) of our turnout. I don't think a statewide registration system would be effective unless it is like the motor-voter system used by some states.

I would strongly encourage the use of an ID for voting, but question the effectiveness of a computer card system. We provide training before each election to our poll workers, but in elections such as the Presidential because of the volume of voters and the stress involved, mistakes are bound to happen and with 15 voting locations it is impossible to supervise. As you know, it is also very difficult to get poll workers to commit to a long day with little pay. Anything I can do to help find a solution, feel free to call! Tom Neill Clerk-Treasurer

Richard, Rob

From: Kileughter@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2001 6:10 PM
To: Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us; Rep.Stone@legis.state.wi.us
Cc: Sen.Lazich@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Comments on Public Hearing of January 18th.

From: Thomas P. Westgaard, 8559 S. 35th Street, Franklin, WI 53132

To: Representatives Stephen J. Freese and Jeff Stone
CC: State Senator Mary Lazich

Reference: Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, Public Hearing of Jan 18, 2001

While I was not able to speak at the morning session, I was pleased to hear some of the items of discussion and to gain a grasp of some the problems and legislative difficulties. Following are some my comments regarding various proposed pieces of legislation and related items.

LRB-1032. Concur with most of the changes which (I believe) will help to reduce the workload

on local elections officials and poll workers.

a. I do not favor "same day registrations" as it is an inducement to confusion, turmoil, and potential voter fraud during the several peak elections (Presidential, Gubernatorial, and some of the Spring elections in and about Milwaukee). I advocate strongly for the severance of registration and voting so that persons who are registered prior to the election date are allowed to vote. I firmly believe that all voters should bear the individual responsibility to register properly and in advance of the election. Persons who do not register or change registration prior to the election disenfranchise themselves by their lack of understanding and commitment. Rather than continuing to degrade the voting process to the lowest common denominator, I suggest upgrading the process to instill individual sincerity and responsibility.

b. I favor the use of the "voter registration ID cards" as described by Representative Freese. This includes the means (presumably electronic): to determine and inhibit duplicate/multiple voting; correct/change registration quickly with minimal opportunity for error or manipulation; and provides a statewide voter registration database with sufficient identity information so as to screen for felons and the incompetent.

c. I concur with the remarks of District Attorney E. Michael McCann, in that the means to screen for felons should be developed. Based on

his description of the activities of his office after the November election, the apparent area of on-going concern is voter fraud by felons whose civil rights have not been returned.

LRB-1033: Concur.

LRB-1034: I do not object, but have a preference for "voter registration ID cards," above.

LRB-1848: Concur. See above.

LRB-1849: Concur. Suggest that provisions be implemented to assure that training and certification are carried out through the use of standards and "spot" inspections to insure consistency of training and consistency of process.

LRB-1850: Concur.

Related: 1. Is there a means by which incidents, such as the lady who was not allowed to vote because someone had already voted under her name, are mandatorily

reported to the State Elections Board?

2. Information received from the State Elections Board indicates that there is no apparent means of data collection with regard to error rates incident to voting;

i.e., of the types of errors (over- and under-voting as in Florida). The use of advanced voting machines (as opposed to punched card machines as in Florida) appears to reduce the rate of errors dramatically.

3. While I believe that correction/modification/improvement of the voting processes in Wisconsin should be accomplished, I do not believe that merely throwing either manpower or dollars will dramatically improve the present difficulties. I suggest that the three primary factors for potential voter fraud are:

a) attempting to accomplish "same day registration" which dissipates polling worker resources on an activity which can and should be accomplished in

advance to voting, and,

b) insufficient training of poll worker, and,

c) the lack of responsibility on the part of the voting population.

Throwing more poll workers and dollars at the problem is a standard governmental solution.

4. The liberal (and over) use of "the race card" at today's activities was most enlightening and an apparent impediment to reaching a solution which requires initiative, commitment, and responsibility on the part of the voting public.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN

SOUTH SHORE REPUBLICAN CLUB

Cudahy · South Milwaukee · Oak Creek

Milwaukee County 4th Congressional Dist.

8540 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., OAK CREEK, WI 53154 • (414) 762-8946



January 27, 1998

Phone/Fax 414/762-8946

TO: THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.
Congratulations for enduring 100 years

HISTORY: Organized Dec. 13, 1956 by Atty. Clarence J. O'Brien, Secretary, South Milwaukee, with Glenn A. Fisler, Chairman, to afford the Milwaukee County South Shore suburbs of St. Francis, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, and Oak Creek a base for conservative Republican political activities. Formerly, the elected Republican committeemen in each community provided Republican leadership. Upon reorganization of the Milwaukee County Republican Party, Charter No. 85 was issued March 30, 1973.

OUR MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

Members of this organization shall be those American citizens over 18 years of age who believe in the principles and policies of the Republican Party, who have been approved by the Executive Committee and who are current in payment of dues (Single \$10 Couple \$12, Seniors over 65-\$6/duo-\$8). Total of 93 individuals are paid 1997 members

OUR OBJECTIVES:

- A. To develop an intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable Republican organization
- B. To provide through this organization a practical program for the betterment of the Republican Party.
- C. To aid in every honorable way fundamental Republican principles and policies.

THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE REPUBLICAN CITY COMMITTEE:

Composed of the elected and appointed Committeemen who submit to the Mayor by Nov 30th biennially for appointment a list of Election Inspectors/Alternates and Nursing Home Registrars from the membership or proposed members bearing the signature of the Chairman and Secretary of the City Committee and countersigned indicating approval by the Chairman of the South Shore Republican Club. South Milwaukee has 27 members.

Committeemen:

1st Aldermanic District	Jack Lentz, 600 Lake Drive	Chairman
2nd Aldermanic District	Karen Gray, 805 Lakeview Ave.	Secretary
3rd Aldermanic District	Orvin Matteson, 1404 Drexel Blvd.	
4th Aldermanic District	James Fuller, 1775 Poplar Ave.	

Civic Endeavors:

Encouraged conservative Republicans for partisan elective offices and campaigned in their behalf. Appointed Members serve as Election Inspectors at every polling place during elections providing partisan oversight. Members represented South Milwaukee at caucuses of the South Shore Republican Club, Milwaukee County Republicans, 4th Congressional District Republicans, and the Republican Party of Wisconsin.

With dispair for Freedom: (1)of Sancity of Life from womb to grave, (2)of religion, (3)of property use/control, (4)to bear arms, (5)of parental rights to discipline/medicate/educate/control their children, (6)of confiscatory taxation, (7)of massive regulations, (8)of swarms of enforcing officers, (9)of fines exacted for every whim (10)of privacy as computers/cameras record every transaction and movement.

I, Arden C. Degner, remain your conservative servant standing for Freedom and Truth.

Arden C. Degner

Arden C. Degner [762-8946]	John Zodrow [769-7677]	Jack Lang [764-7340]
Chairman	1st Vice-Chairman	2nd Vice-Chairman
Herbert Ripka [421-4261]	Carl Baranek [769-6969]	

SOUTH SHORE REPUBLICAN CLUB

Cudahy · South Milwaukee · Oak Creek

Milwaukee County · 4th Congressional Dist.

8540 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., OAK CREEK, WI 53154 • (414) 762-8946



May 22, 1984

Mayor Chester Grobschmidt
Common Council of the City of South Milwaukee
2424 15th Ave.
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Subject: Continuation of South Milwaukee Aldermanic District
Committeemen comprising the City Committee

Reference: Resolution adopted by the South Shore Republican Club
May 21, 1984

To Whom It May Concern:

WHEREAS, each Aldermanic District was afforded a Republican
Committeeperson in the past; and

WHEREAS, 1983 Wisconsin Act 484 intends to change this to
one person for the entire City of South Milwaukee, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City
of South Milwaukee adopt an ordinance prior to June 1,
1984 retaining one committeeman/committeewoman for
each Aldermanic District in accordance with s. 8.17(1)
Wis. Statutes.

Note: Attached form for nomination of election officials would be
identical.

Respectfully submitted,

Arden C. Degner
Chairman

Arden C. Degner [762-8946]
Chairman

Elroy Honadel [761-2572]
1st Vice-Chairman

Jim Hamilton [761-0074]
2nd Vice-Chairman

Evelyn Elmer [762-1095]
Secretary

Rhoda Lemanski [481-8809]
Treasurer

John Mackey [482-0643]
Campaign Chairman

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN

SOUTH SHORE REPUBLICAN CLUB

Cudahy · South Milwaukee · Oak Creek

Milwaukee County · 4th Congressional Dist.

8540 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., OAK CREEK, WI 53154 • (414) 762-8946



November 16, 2000

Gov. Tommy Thompson
Republican Legislators,
Wisconsin State Capitol
Madison, WI

Subject: URGENT action to restore Election Integrity ·

Ref: Milwaukee Presidential Election Fraud, Oct.-Nov. 7, 2000

Dear Republicans:

Please act now on our attached resolutions to restore Milwaukee election integrity. Also our April 11, 2000 letter to the Milwaukee County Board of Election Commissioners requesting Ballot Improvements for Fall 2000 elections.

All of the efforts of the elected Milwaukee County Republican Committeemen/women to obviate election fraud have been ignored by all those in authority. You have been repeatedly confronted by Milwaukee County Republican Unit resolutions, the 4th Congressional District Resolutions and the State Convention Resolutions:

Res. 2000-23 Voter Registration (Chicago Style)

Yearly, since 1985 our caucus has approved prohibiting registration on-site or within 10 days of an election. Also approved by the Wisconsin Republican Party convention in a 1997 resolution.

Return to 1971 Wis.Sec.6.23 When to register.

(1) Registration for any election shall close at 5 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday preceding the election in cities having a population of 200,000 or more,...

1971 Wis.Sec.6.50 [pg.129 attached] Revision of Registry.

(1) City of Milwaukee. [include all that follows, notably]

(c) Submitting all applications for registration received by the board to the chief of police for verification of the statements contained therein. The police department shall also report to the board the names of registered electors who have died or moved from the ward.

Res. 2000-25 No Taxpayer Funding of Political Campaigns

Yearly, since 1994 our caucus has objected to this tax. Also concurred by the Wisconsin Republican Party conventions in 1997 and the 1999-18 resolution.

Res. 2000-22 Party Committeeman Appointment of Election Inspectors.

Gone! GONE! IS OUR FORMERLY HONEST Milwaukee and Wisconsin Elections. You have voted to eliminate elected unpaid Committeemen to be rid of a conscience in Milwaukee County. You have ignored us, and lost the 2000 Election. And 2004 is coming!
Sincerely yours,

Arden C. Degner,
Chairman
Formerly Vice-Chairman Milwaukee County Republican Statutory Committee

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN

SOUTH SHORE REPUBLICAN CLUB

Milwaukee County 4th Congressional Dist.

8540 S. PENNSYLVANIA AVE., OAK CREEK, WI 53154 • (414) 762-8946



April 11, 2000

Mr. Webster Harris, Jr.; Mr. James Heidenreich; Mr. James L. McFarland
The Milwaukee County Board of Election Commissioners
Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

SUBJECT: Ballot Improvements for Fall 2000 elections
REF: April 4, 2000 Spring General-Presidential Primary with State and Local Offices

Gentlemen:

We request improvement of the following items prior to the fall 2000 elections:

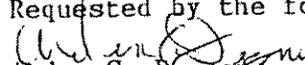
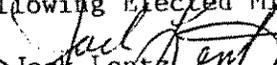
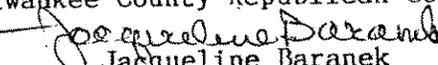
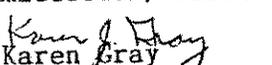
- I. The OPTECH IIIP EAGLE ballot tabulator initially rejected numbers of properly voted ballots, many were turned over/around 3 or more times before acceptance.
 1. Expressed Fault - Poor ballot printing registration.
REMEDY Ballot quality control be instituted using the expertise of the IMSD Manager prior to delivery to the community clerks.
 2. Expressed Fault - Sharp creases in absentee ballots due to folding.
REMEDY a. Modify paper stock to obviate deep creasing, and, or
b. Modify OPTECH to blank out ballot areas that are creased.

- II. Miniaturized lightface type size of party designation is illegible on the Fall General Election Ballot having all the candidates listed under a sole elective office heading.
Expressed Fault - Voters are unable to select their party candidates.
REMEDY a. Party designation type size to be identical to the given name type size of the candidate(see 10/30/98 ltr. to WEB attached).
b. Surname of all candidates to be larger boldface type similar to former So. Milwaukee machine ballots(see 10/30/98 ltr. attachments).
c. Modify OPTECH to accept boldface surnames and smaller given names.

- III. Official Ballot for Presidential Preference vote that combined candidate lists from both parties in parallel adjacent columns caused many rejected ballots.
Expressed Fault - Confusing duplicate instructions to mark each party column
REMEDY Add words in large boldface above horizontal line VOTE FOR ONE ONLY.

Our Milwaukee County optical/electronic ballots must be modified for easy voting. See the 10/30/98 ltr. to WEB with the former So. Milwaukee ballot attachment. The changes requested are acceptable, according to Mr. Kennedy, Ex.Dir. WEB.

Requested by the following Elected Milwaukee County Republican Committeemen/women:

 Arden C. Degner City of Oak Creek	 Jack Lentz City of So. Milwaukee	 Jacqueline Baranek City of Cudahy	 Karen Gray City of Milwaukee
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NOMINATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS BY SOUTH MILWAUKEE REPUBLICAN CITY COMMITTEE
TO MAYOR KIECK

I, Jack Lentz, Chairman of the SOUTH MILWAUKEE City Committee, South Shore Republican Club, 4th Congressional District, of the Milwaukee County Republican Party, do hereby nominate to the Mayor of the City of South Milwaukee the following persons to be Inspectors of Election in the following Aldermanic Districts and Wards, for the term of two years commencing in January 1999.

FIRST ALDERMANIC DISTRICT - Wards 1, 2. (E.W. LUTHER SCHOOL)

Blaine Schultz	536 Elm Ave.	762-1071
Muriel Schultz	536 Elm Ave.	762-1071
Enid Logan	429A Hawthorne Ave.	762-7494

ALTERNATES

Joseph Schuster	531 Oak St.	762-2221
Kathy Schuster	531 Oak St.	762-2221

Wards 3, 4. (LIBRARY)

Jack Lentz	600 Lake Dr.	764-1733
Ruth Lentz	600 Lake Dr.	764-1733
Josephine Logic	921 Michigan Ave.	762-0180

SECOND ALDERMANIC DISTRICT - Wards 5, 6. (LAKEVIEW SCHOOL)

Rose Hoffa	3812 - 3rd Ave.	762-8839
Joseph Hosmanek	306 Menomonee Ave.	762-6151
Nancy A. Danielson	316 Marion Ave.	762-1125

ALTERNATES

Dawn Hosmanek	306 Menomonee Ave.	762-6151
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Wards 7, 8. (LAKEVIEW SCHOOL)

Donna Munson	815 Manistique Ave.	762-4637
Beverly O'Neill	3809 - 9th Ave.	762-6529
Eva Scritsmier	305 Brookdale Dr.	762-7645 from ward 1

THIRD ALDERMANIC DISTRICT - Wards 9, 10. (BLAKEWOOD SCHOOL)

Ruth Burrage	1221 Columbia Ave.	762-4886
Lawrence Burrage	1221 Columbia Ave.	762-4886
Dolores Wink	1217 Blake Ave.	762-0782

Wards 11, 12. (CITY COUNCIL ROOM)

Ann Monson	1413 Marquette Ave.	762-1091
Irma Loeffler	1513 Menomonee Ave.	762-1081
Alvin Loeffler	1513 Menomonee Ave.	762-4886

ALTERNATES

Laura Erwin	1219 Madison Ave..	762-1254
Nancy Schoman	1817 Milwaukee Ave.	764-4624

FOURTH ALDERMANIC DISTRICT - Wards 13, 14. (RAWSON SCHOOL)

Mary C. Nelson	713 Michigan Ave.	762-4844 from ward 4
James A. Nelson	713 Michigan Ave.	762-4844 from ward 4

Wards 15, 16. (HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS)

James Fuller	1775 Poplar Ave.	764-4946
Loretta Hintz	1709 Beech St.	762-7159
Michael Kablau	1315 Milwaukee Ave.	571-0193 from ward 3

ALTERNATES

Note: Elections Inspector Alternates appointed from other polling places shall be reassigned by the Municipal Clerk to fill any insufficiency in Party representation per 17.15(1)k.Wis.Statutes. These have been indicated by the phrase "from ward _."

SPECIAL VOTING DEPUTY FOR RETIREMENT HOMES, NURSING HOMES, AND CBRF HOMES

Joseph Hosmanek 306 Menomonee Ave. 762-6151

ALTERNATE

Jack Lentz 600 Lake Dr. 764-1733

~~CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE~~

Jack Lentz 1st Aldermanic District
Jack Lentz, Chairman
600 Lake Drive., 764-1733

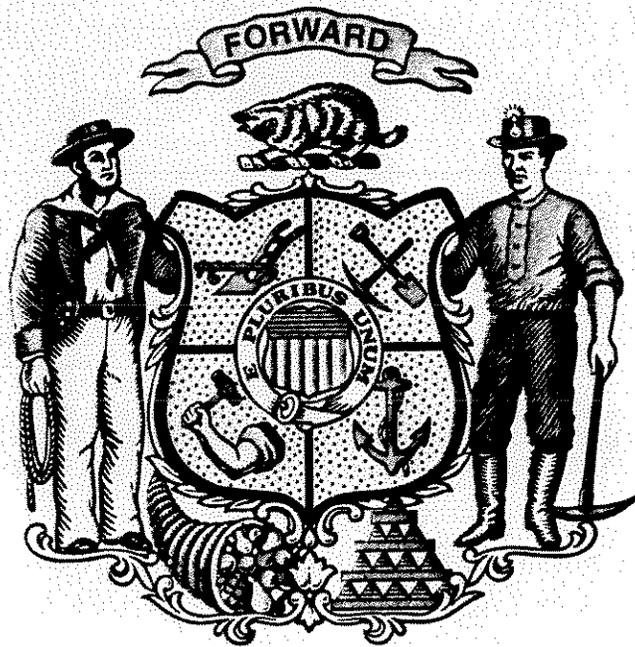
Joseph Hosmanek 2nd Aldermanic District
Joseph Hosmanek
306 Menomonee Ave. 762-6151

Alvin Loeffler 3rd Aldermanic District
Alvin Loeffler
1513 Menomonee Ave., 762-1081

James D. Fuller 4th Aldermanic District
James Fuller
1775 Poplar Ave., 764-4946

DATED, November 21, 1997

CONCUR: Arden C. Degner
Arden C. Degner, Chairman
SOUTH SHORE REPUBLICAN CLUB
8540 S. Pennsylvania Ave.
Oak Creek, WI 53154
Ph/Fax 414/762-8946



Felon voting numbers surprise officials

But no consensus develops on solution

By JESSICA McBRIDE
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Last Updated: Jan. 21, 2001

State and local officials expressed surprise Sunday to learn that at least 361 felons had voted illegally in the Nov. 7 election. But they differed on what should be done to prevent it from happening again.

None backed District Attorney E. Michael McCann's suggestion that poll workers could ask voters if they are felons on probation or parole. There were mixed reactions to McCann's announcement that he would file charges against felon voters in cases he could prove.

A Journal Sentinel investigation found 361 illegal felon voters. As part of its review, the newspaper analyzed 203,000 records from 14 of the city's 17 aldermanic districts, using computers to compare the city voting database with records from the state Department of Corrections and criminal courts.

Three central city aldermen whose districts had large numbers of illegal felon voters - and a Democratic state senator - advocated an educational approach rather than prosecution.

"Forty-one felons voted in my district? Wow," said Ald. Terrance Herron, whose second aldermanic district was one of five where more than 35 illegal felons voted this November.

"I don't think it's appropriate."

Different solutions

Two Republican lawmakers said the findings underscored the need for photo identification cards or voter identification cards at the polls, along with a statewide voter registration list that could be vetted for felons on probation and parole and others not allowed to vote. They believe illegal felon voters also should be prosecuted.

"It's a concern," said state Sen. Margaret Farrow (R-Pewaukee). "If we have a law where felons can't vote, we better make sure none do."

Farrow said she would "applaud McCann" for charging illegal felon voters "if it's proven they committed another crime by voting."

She believes that asking voters if they are felons at the polls could be "intimidating to law-abiding citizens." Rather, she said the number of felons voting illegally shows the need for voter identification cards.

City officials have not finished entering data from the final three aldermanic districts. The Journal Sentinel found widespread confusion by felons who illegally voted.

An extrapolation of the aldermanic districts analyzed to cover the state suggests that more than 1,100

illegal ballots could have been cast in November. Ninety-percent of the illegal voters in Milwaukee were black, the newspaper found, and demographics, expert studies, and field interviews with illegal voters indicate many of them likely voted Democratic.

The numbers of illegal voters would not have been high enough to give Vice President Al Gore the 5,708 vote margin with which he won Wisconsin. But the numbers are large enough to affect small-margin aldermanic races.

Former Alderman E. Fay Anderson believes the illegal felon vote could have swung a tight race she had in 1996 with Ald. Willie Hines. Anderson lost by 22 votes.

She requested a recount, but said Sunday that the voters were not checked to see if they were felons on supervision.

The Journal Sentinel found that 20 illegal felons voted in Hines' aldermanic district in November, but that is a partial number because his district is one of three where the city had not finished entering data.

Hines said it would be unfair to prosecute illegal voters who didn't know they were not allowed to vote.

"Each case should be dealt with on its own merit, not as a collective group in a heavy-handed fashion," he said.

He and others said they would support posting signs at polling places alerting felons on supervision that they are not allowed to vote.

State Sen. Gwendolynne Moore (D-Milwaukee) said there needs to be an "educational campaign" to clear up confusion about the law among felons.

Moore believes that tightening up voting rules would deter more people from voting legally than are voting illegally now. She called the 361 number relatively small and said she is opposed to photo or voter identification cards being required at the polls.

Moore did not care for McCann's approach.

"I guess if everybody is asked that question when they register maybe it would be appropriate," Moore said. "I don't want people singled out because they're a black male and kind of look like a felon."

Reynolds Honold, vice chairman of the State Democratic Party, said he was "shocked" to read that 361 felons voted illegally.

Honold said he would "hate to see" people charged, however, if they legitimately didn't know they couldn't vote. He said that more study of possible solutions should be done.

State Rep. Bonnie Ladwig (R-Racine) said she was "not happy with the number, needless to say.

"We aren't calling them voter fraud, because I don't think a lot of them were," she said. "But it shows there were irregularities and if we had a statewide voter list, it could be checked against the felon list and for duplicate voters."

Ladwig is vice chairwoman of the state Assembly committee that on Thursday held a hearing in Milwaukee on three pending Legislative proposals that would require voters to give a reason for voting absentee, would require voters to show photo identification cards at the polls, and would eliminate allowing other people to corroborate that people are legal voters at the polls.

Legislative proposals for the statewide voter registration list and a voter identification card are still being drafted.

Appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Jan. 22, 2001.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

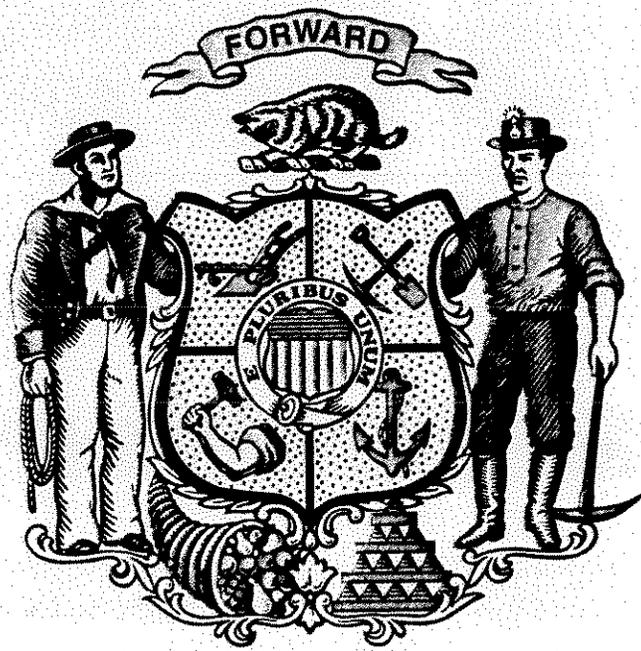
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12 votes attributed to dead people

Most of them are explained as honest mix-ups over names

By JESSICA McBRIDE and DAVE UMHOEFER
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Last Updated: Jan. 21, 2001

Lorraine Claybaker is recorded by the city as voting in last spring's mayoral election. But Claybaker has been dead since 1997.

Her purported "vote" from the grave was one of 12 instances in which Milwaukeeans are recorded as voting after their dates of death, a Journal Sentinel investigation found.

Although a few cases, including Claybaker's, remain unexplained, interviews revealed honest mistakes occurred in most cases. One woman was upset to learn that the federal government had erroneously marked her as being dead; two men had been unwittingly voting under their dead fathers' registrations.

By far, felons casting illegal ballots appears to be the biggest problem in city elections. The Journal Sentinel reported Sunday that at least 361 felons on supervision cast illegal ballots this November; some of those same felons also cast at least 139 more illegal ballots dating back to 1992.

In its review of 370,000 voting records dating back those eight years, the newspaper also found:

- Four non-citizens voted before their naturalization dates.
- No instances of double voting, despite unsupported reports at election time that double voting was a problem.

City Elections Commission Executive Director Julietta Henry said Milwaukee's elections didn't deserve bad press, and the overall numbers prove it.

"This is a clean system," she said.

Unexplained ballots

Some of the relatives of so-called "dead voters" remain baffled, however.

"This sort of thing is what goes on in Chicago," said Claybaker's bemused son-in-law Ferdinand Bahr, a retired pastor.

"She must have come back from heaven," he joked. "I wonder who she voted for."

Bahr said Claybaker voted once from the address on her registration, by absentee ballot in 1992. That vote also comes up in city records.

Felon Voting

- **Voting:** 361 felons voted illegally in Milwaukee (1/20/01)
- **Reaction:** Officials surprised

"I'm disturbed about it," Bahr added in all seriousness.

The newspaper's review was based on a computer cross-check of voters with Social Security Administration death records. Reporters then tracked down relatives for interviews.

Henry believes that human error explains most - if not all - of the 12 "dead" voters, including Claybaker. To record those who voted, city workers scan bar codes next to the names. If they unwittingly scan the wrong bar code, it can indicate that someone voted who didn't, Henry said. This happens about four times in each of the city's 335 wards each election, Henry estimated.

Frank A. Olszewski was surprised to learn that his father of the same name, who died in 1987, is recorded by the city as voting in the 2000 and 1992 presidential elections.

It appears the son voted without realizing poll workers had checked off his father's registration.

"I gave them (poll workers) my name and address and they supposedly found it (on their list)," said Olszewski, 54, who lives at the same address where his father had lived.

"My dad hasn't been voting from the grave," Olszewski said. "I must have voted half a dozen times. I thought he (the father) would be off the list."

Henry said poll workers are not given dates of birth at the polls. In fact, she said, voters are not even required to provide dates of birth before voting.

Howard Harder, who was born in 1913, is listed as having voted in four elections since his 1997 death. But there's another Howard Harder in the city, of no relation, who was born nine years later.

The living Harder is an active voter who assumes his registration got mixed up with that of the other man, even though they have different addresses and different ages.

"There's something really screwed up," he said. "You're not talking to a ghost. I'm not dead yet."

The living Harder's name does not appear in city voting records with his date of birth.

And one local woman was pretty upset to learn that she's listed as being dead by the federal government.

"That's awful," said Ernestine Woods, 63, who's listed as having died in 1996.

"That upset me so bad I could hardly do anything," she said. "I just had triple bypass surgery. Maybe I'm supposed to be dead."

The federal database erroneously recorded Woods as dying when it was her husband who had passed away.

To look for non-citizen voters, the newspaper matched nearly 1,000 names of Milwaukeeans naturalized between the years of 1996 and 1999 with city voting records.

Just four non-citizens voted before their naturalization dates.

It's impossible to do a comprehensive check for non-citizen voting in the November election, because federal officials will not release citizenship information on specific voters, citing privacy rules.

Double voting

In the case of double voting, the newspaper found that no people with the same names and dates of birth come up as voting twice in Milwaukee in the November election. The newspaper checked for the double votes by computer.

In the wake of the election, concerns about double voting arose because a Marquette University student newspaper reported that an informal survey found 174 students who admitted double voting.

The claim was picked up by the local and national press, and the scrutiny intensified when a student told reporters he had voted four times - for himself - in November. The student later retracted that claim.

Not in dispute were reports of a loose and chaotic situation at some polling places, where short-staffed poll workers - many of them elderly - were deluged with record numbers of new voters.

An earlier check by the Journal Sentinel of new registration cards showed many of them were incomplete, lacking such information as addresses, naturalization data, even full names. A Republican Party hotline was flooded with complaints of purported election fraud, and some lawmakers said election laws should be toughened.

The computer check used to identify double voters would not identify those who used a different name or voted in Milwaukee while also casting ballots in other municipalities or states.

The newspaper analyzed about 80% of the November election voting records for the search. The City of Milwaukee is still entering the data on the rest into its voter database.

Although the city doesn't check its registration list with those on felony probation and parole or check for citizenship, Henry said it does make a concerted effort to weed out dead registrants and to identify double voters.

State law requires that voters who haven't voted for the past four years be purged 90 days after every general election; that an audit of election day registrants be conducted by sending each a postcard verifying addresses; and that dead voters be removed from poll lists based on vital statistics reports from the city Health Department. City residents who die outside Milwaukee would not be included on that list.

Henry said the city does all those things.

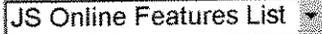
“ My dad hasn't been voting from the grave. I must have voted half a dozen times. I thought he (the father) would be off the list. ”

- Frank A. Olszewski, whose deceased father with the same name is recorded as voting in 1992 and 2000

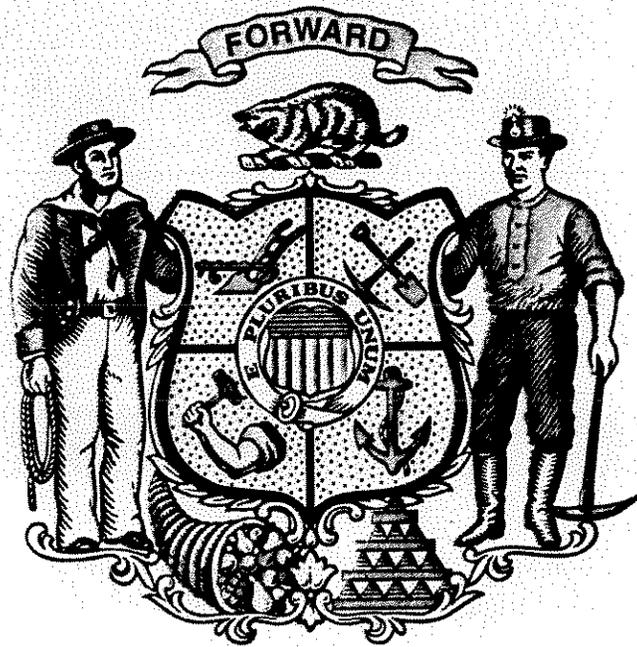
State law also requires that the city check for double voting. Henry said that is also done, and when instances are found, they are forwarded to the district attorney's office.

Appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Jan. 22, 2001.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

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Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 19, 2001

Voting reform plans draw fire

Disenfranchisement predicted as the result

By **DAVID UMHOFER**
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Milwaukee officials attacked proposed statewide voting reforms Thursday as misguided efforts that would disenfranchise the poor and racial minorities here and across Wisconsin.

Suggested new requirements for proving identity with a driver's license or other official credential, as well as limits on absentee balloting, came under fire during a public hearing downtown, held by the Assembly Campaigns and Election Committee.

Democrats, led by state Sen. Gwendolynne Moore and Rep. Spencer Coggs, complained that renters who move frequently, and low-income people without driver's licenses, would be discouraged from voting under the provisions of several draft bills in the Legislature. One of the proposals would end the legal practice of having a friend or relative "vouch" for the identity of a would-be voter who lacks proof of residence.

"This is a design for disenfranchisement," Coggs testified. "Let's not rush to judgment."

The City of Milwaukee officially registered against the proposed bills on absentee balloting and identification.

In a hearing that had sharp par-

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Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 19, 2001

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tisan overtones, both Democrats told the Republican committee chairman, Rep. Stephen Freese, that record turnout of blacks and Hispanics to register at the polls in November should not be viewed as a negative thing.

Freese, a southwest Wisconsin lawmaker, gently responded that his support for tougher identification rules was not intended to discourage voting, but to prevent fraud.

Retorted Moore, "I don't care what the intent is, the effect is racist."

Moore's staff said later that drafters of the proposed bill on showing official identification had pointed out that the bill would affect homebound residents' ability to vote. The bill conflicts with current registration-by-mail provisions used by the elderly and others, according to the state's Legislative Reference Bureau.

Freese emphasized that rather than requiring a driver's license, he supported issuing a free, high-tech identification card to registered voters. The card's bar code would be swiped at the polls to show a vote and prevent anyone from using another voter's name.

Republicans made charges of widespread fraud after George W. Bush's defeat in Wisconsin. The allegations, collected on a party-sponsored phone hotline, drew national attention after a Marquette University student told reporters he had voted multiple

times. The student later recanted.

A crush of election day registration led to long lines at polls in municipalities across the state. Identification checks suffered as a result when understaffed polling places were overwhelmed in some cases, according to testimony from election clerks Thursday.

DA cites problems at polls

Milwaukee County District Attorney E. Michael McCann told the committee that an extensive investigation by his office confirmed that registration requirements were ignored in the city of Milwaukee in a "substantial number" of cases.

As for the double-voting rumors that spread after the election, nothing has panned out despite an investigation of whether 500 Marquette and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee students voted more than once, McCann said.

McCann, however, has charged two city men, and plans to charge a Shorewood man, with illegally voting while on probation or parole for a felony conviction. He said extensive computer matching would have to be done to determine how many ineligible felons cast ballots. Two of the cases were revealed in a Journal Sentinel report.

He is considering charging a poll worker who because of fatigue decided not to count 200 to 300 absentee ballots on election day, McCann said. The ballots were never opened and counted. McCann said the worker "basically said the hell with it." No decision on charges has been made.

McCann assured the committee that even though he is a Democrat, his investigation was free of any political taint. Three attorneys assigned to the inquiry are Republicans, he said.

Call for more training, workers

Julietta Henry, Milwaukee's top elections official, agreed with proposals to get more training for poll workers. She faulted the two major political parties for failing to provide such workers, as they used to in great numbers.

She said the GOP charges of widespread irregularities were political in nature and unnecessarily created a "frenzy" in the media about the election.

"This is Milwaukee, Wisconsin, not Tallahassee, Florida — please keep that in mind," Henry said.

Henry, too, expressed concern that some of the draft bills would hinder turnout.

There was widespread support at Thursday's hearing for better voting equipment and increased staffing of polling sites.

Jane Wilms, the village clerk in Germantown, said she had mixed feelings about the reform plans. She said making voters show more I.D. could make waits even longer on election day.

But Wilms said citizens had a responsibility to register in advance of election day. In the name of convenience, Wisconsin has let slip some of the safeguards it had in place, she said.

"If Wisconsin has a reputation for clean elections, why make it easier for people to commit voter fraud?" Wilms asked.

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 21, 2001

361 felons voted illegally in Milwaukee

Law is poorly understood, rarely invoked here

By **DAVE UMHOEFER** and **JESSICA McBRIDE** of the Journal Sentinel staff

At least 361 felons voted illegally in Milwaukee on Nov. 7, breaking an often-misunderstood state law that disqualifies felons from voting until they are off probation and parole, a Journal Sentinel investigation has found.

The votes almost certainly sweetened Al Gore's narrow margin of victory in Wisconsin over George W. Bush, but by themselves did not put him over the top, according to the paper's review of 203,000 Milwaukee votes.

If disqualified felons elsewhere in the state voted illegally at the same rate as they did in the Milwaukee votes that were

examined, as many as 1,100 votes could have been wrongly cast, according to the newspaper's analysis.

Gore topped Bush statewide by just 5,708 votes, or 0.2%, briefly causing Republicans to consider seeking a recount.

The findings raise questions beyond the recent presidential election. As one example, two aldermanic races in the last four years have been decided by just a few votes — one by 17, one by 22. Five of the city's 17 aldermanic districts this November had more than 35 illegal felon voters each.

African-Americans living in central-city neighborhoods cast nearly 90% of the illegal votes. Most of the illegal voters were women convicted of welfare fraud, and men and women guilty of forgery and other property offenses. But the list also included murderers, child molesters, robbers and other vio-

"It's a crime to vote?"

Woman convicted of welfare fraud who has voted illegally four times, city records show.

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Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 21, 2001

...cont. from prev. page

lent criminals. Some also voted illegally in past elections.

Records show that 34 of the felons were considered absconders — offenders whom probation or parole agents couldn't find.

In its two-month investigation, the newspaper analyzed records from 14 of the city's aldermanic districts, using computers to compare the city voting database with records from the state Department of Corrections and criminal courts. City officials are still entering 42,000 votes from the three other districts into their database.

Kevin Kennedy, executive director of the State Elections Board, said the number of felons voting illegally "undermines the process and people's confidence in it. Knowingly or not, it's a violation. It's not a complicated law to understand."

Told of the findings, Milwaukee County District Attorney E. Michael McCann vowed to prosecute each case his investigators can prove. McCann said he would even go so far as to seek fingerprints on voting registration cards. The violation is a felony.

"If they polluted the voting stream and are not supposed to vote, that's a crime," McCann said. Prosecution of the violation, he said, "sends a message" that election integrity is important. Ignorance of the law is not an excuse, but it likely would rule out prison time for the crime, he added.

Poll workers, McCann suggested, should be required to ask all new registrants whether they are on supervision.

But Milwaukee's top election official, Julietta Henry, said she feared that African-Americans would be targeted under McCann's idea.

"We don't want to get into election profiling," Henry said.

Henry called the illegal voting a concern, but said it was a small number considering that "no one is telling them not to vote."

Barbara White, a consultant on local voter registration drives, believes the law is unfair.

"Black people died to simply have the right to vote and then they just take it away like this? This has to change," she said. "If a felon is out here being a productive citizen, has a job, is paying taxes, he should be able to vote."

It's impossible to know who all the illegal voters supported — or even whether they made a selection for president on their ballots.

But very few Milwaukee voters skipped the presidential race, and Gore won 90% or more of the vote in Milwaukee's overwhelmingly black central city, an earlier Journal Sentinel study found. In addition, a 1998 national study of felon voting laws by two Midwestern professors found that the demographics of felons would make most of them very likely Democratic voters. Interviews with a sampling of illegal voters here backed up the experts' conclusion.

Milwaukee went for Gore by 96,000 votes, with the Democratic candidate taking 68% of the total.

Wisconsin's felon voting law disqualifies a higher percentage of voting-age black residents than 37 other states — 10.6%, according to the study. Wisconsin's law excludes 1.3% of all its voting-age residents, placing the state in the middle nationally.

Ignorance of law

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other groups helped drive what they are calling the best black and Hispanic turnout in city history. Record numbers of voters registered on Election Day and shortly beforehand. Many of the recruits were young minorities. The NAACP, in conjunction with organized labor, made a push to get out not only regular voters, but the previously apathetic and the very poor.

Joan Hollingsworth Harrington, Milwaukee coordinator for the NAACP voting drive, said the organizers did not seek out felons to vote.

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Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 21, 2001

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"There were enough people who haven't voted who weren't felons," she said, adding: "It's insane for anyone to think we'd go around asking people, 'Are you a felon and do you want to vote?'"

The newspaper's review found no evidence that ineligible voters were knowingly steered to the polls by any political party or voter-turnout organization.

Rather, the newspaper found that:

- There is widespread ignorance of Wisconsin's law prohibiting voting until after a felon is off supervision — among convicts and among those who register voters.

- There are virtually no safeguards or notification requirements to prevent or discourage ineligible voters from participating. It's an honor system.

- State officials do not provide names of the convicts to elections clerks. Felons are not warned against voting by their sentencing judges or by probation and parole agents. Poll workers are not told to inform voters about the law when they register, and no polling-site signage explains the law.

- The tight presidential election brought a surge of first-time voters in Milwaukee, and the pool of felons has grown in recent years because of fast-rising incarceration rates. Those factors led to overworked poll workers letting many voters register without listing an address, naturalization data or even a full name.

Felon voters surprised

One 20-year-old northwest side woman, a first-time voter who cast a ballot illegally for Gore, said she was asked by a poll worker for identification because she looked underage.

She was surprised to learn her vote had been illegal, not because of age but because she is a felon and still under supervision. She said no one ever told her she couldn't vote until she was off probation.

"This is the first time I'm hearing of it," said the woman, who

works at a clothing store and is raising a young child. Her forgery conviction is a first-time offense; she is paying restitution. The woman, like other illegal voters interviewed, would comment only if her name was not printed.

"If I had known, I wouldn't have voted," she said.

A 47-year-old man on probation for child molestation answered his holiday-festooned door on the city's north side and admitted voting for Ralph Nader. City records show the man also has cast three other illegal votes during his probation period.

"I thought every citizen could vote," the man said. "No one ever mentioned that to me. I think it's a personal right. I pay taxes. I think it stinks."

At sentencing, the judge told the man he couldn't be around children or possess a gun and had to provide a DNA sample. But he was not told he could not vote until his sentence was served.

One 51-year-old felon on supervision used a registration address that is now a vacant lot, city records and a trip to the neighborhood showed. State law says that voters must live at their voting address for at least 10 days.

The man, a mechanic known for his singing voice and handyman skills but also his alcohol problem, was convicted in 1999 for torching the house he owned on that now vacant lot — with his estranged wife inside, records show. She escaped unharmed.

Corrections officials say the man is living at an address in another ward. A man who answered the door at that house said the felon was not home and quickly shut the door.

And another 51-year-old voter also was not at her voting address.

"She doesn't live here. She stayed here sometimes," a woman who identified herself as the voter's mother shouted from an upstairs window.

The voter, who has a 1999 drug conviction, is an absconder, according to the Department of Corrections.

City records show she has voted in each election — including primaries — since 1992. Four of those votes were illegal.

A 43-year-old woman convicted of welfare fraud in 1987 also has voted illegally four times, according to city records. The woman

**ELECTION
DISENFRANCHISED
FELONS**

Compared with Wisconsin, only 12 states have a higher rate of disenfranchisement among African-American voting-age residents. Among the top 15, only Wisconsin, New Jersey and Rhode Island allow all ex-offenders to vote after completing their sentence.

THE TOP 15:	RATE
New Mexico	25%
Iowa	23
Nevada	17
Delaware	16
Wyoming	15
Kentucky	15
Florida	14
Virginia	14
Alabama	12
Arizona	12
Rhode Island	12
Washington	12
Wisconsin	11
Mississippi	10
New Jersey	10

Source: Uggen-Manza study **BOB VEIERSTÄHLER** using Dec. 31, 1998 data Journal Sentinel

said her problems started when the father of her children left. She started working but kept "that last (welfare) check to get on my feet and I got caught."

In Wisconsin, completing your sentence includes paying court-ordered restitution as a condition of probation. In a number of welfare fraud cases involving mostly women, the Journal Sentinel found that probation can last 10 to 15 years.

The woman, who voted for Bush, said she thought she was off supervision; corrections officials said she has to pay off the less than \$200 she still owes first.

"It's a crime to vote?" the woman asked.

A 20-year-old man on supervision for possessing a firearm said he wouldn't have voted had he known it was illegal.

But he added, "It's fair. That's the consequences of a felony."

And Andre Wilson, 40, a felon on supervision, said he knew that he wasn't supposed to vote — and didn't.

"Somewhere in the system, I

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 21, 2001

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was told you can't vote if you are a felon if you're not off parole," he said.

White — the voter registration consultant — said she believed many felons understood the law.

"In most cases people on probation or parole will tell you they can't vote. Most know they can't," she said.

Law rarely enforced

In December, McCann charged two men — Nemencio Rivas and Rodney L. Marshall — with voter fraud after the men told the Journal Sentinel that they voted while on felony supervision. They now face possible penalties of four years in prison and \$10,000 fines because of the felony charges. Both Rivas, 20, and Marshall, 28, argue that they weren't aware of the law.

Since the election, Marshall has landed in the House of Correction on an alleged driving offense, and Rivas has been charged with two armed robberies.

Statewide, not a single other criminal case has been filed against an illegal voter since at least the mid-1990s, according to a search of criminal cases from 69 of the 72 Wisconsin counties. McCann said he had never before charged such a case in his 32 years in office.

Peter Goldberg, the public defender representing Rivas, thinks McCann should have kept his streak alive.

"I think it's absolutely absurd to charge someone when you're trying to aid people's integration back into society and they do something we consider a civic duty," he said.

Goldberg said McCann reacted to political pressure. After the election, the state Republican Party sent a list of voting fraud allegations to McCann, a Democrat.

"It was a foolish use of discretion," Goldberg said.

McCann denied that political pressure played a role in his decision.

Issue has racial edge

The evidence of illegal voting by felons in Milwaukee comes at a time when felon voting laws are under attack in several states by civil rights groups. The issue has a distinct racial edge.

Such laws are more than a century old and in many states have roots in the Jim Crow era, the clean government movement or both, said Chris Uggen, the sociologist from the University of Minnesota who co-authored the 1998 study on felon voting laws.

Wisconsin's law dates to early statehood: 1849.

But the issue has heated up because an estimated 3.9 million Americans are currently or permanently barred from voting because of a felony record. More than half are white, but blacks' voting strength is diluted more. An estimated 13% of black men can't vote nationwide, some 1.4 million people, according to a study by The Sentencing Project, a national non-profit group that advocates alternative sentencing programs.

Wisconsin's law, on the whole, is "a little stricter than other states," Uggen said.

Fourteen states are tougher, barring some or all felons even after they are off probation or parole. And 22 are more lenient, with most of those allowing felons to vote once out of prison and two (Maine and Vermont) allowing those behind bars to vote, according to the Sentencing Project.

Wisconsin is in a group of 15 states where felons must be "off paper" — completely off probation or parole — before they are allowed to vote again.

'System is wide open'

Although illegal voters interviewed in Milwaukee said they thought they could vote, some get-out-the-vote organizers said they believe there is at least as much confusion among felons who are off supervision and could vote, but don't because they are unsure about the Wisconsin law.

Ella Smith, co-manager of the NAACP's voter drive, was shocked to learn that felons can

vote in Wisconsin after they are off probation and parole.

"I heard they could vote as long as they are off probation for five, seven or 10 years," she said.

At the same time, she believes it's easy for ineligible felons to vote.

"The system is wide open — it's a liberal system," she said. "Probably a lot of felons voted and nobody knows."

John Gaudet, 35, of West Milwaukee is a felon who works as a prison minister at the Salvation Army in Milwaukee. Gaudet said he didn't vote in at least three elections because he mistakenly thought he couldn't.

Gaudet said he walked into a polling place this November and asked whether his felony conviction disqualified him from voting. He said the poll workers made some calls and then let him vote.

"I know I'm on good standing now with society and the Lord," Gaudet said. "I wanted to do this (vote). It's a patriotic and good thing to do."

George Dunst, legal counsel for the state Elections Board, said he received about two dozen calls last year from felons off supervision for as long as 20 years wanting to know whether they could vote.

"They were so afraid to come forward," he said. "It almost felt like I was baptizing them. They were so excited — almost galvanized."

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Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 21, 2001

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Solutions?

Officials agree on one thing: Felons should be given more information on the voting law.

Henry said state law should require a line on voter registration cards asking if the applicant is a felon on supervision.

And Kennedy, the state elections head, said it might be a good idea for municipalities to compare their registration lists with Department of Corrections data, if financially feasible.

In light of the Rivas and Marshall cases, the Department of Corrections now requires that all felons beginning supervision sign a form that tells them they can't vote until they are "off paper."

"The problem never came to our attention before," said John Barian, a top official with the Milwaukee probation and parole office. "Clearly, we don't see it as a public safety issue. But it is felonious behavior, so we plan to take steps to counsel them."

Craig Mastantuono, a local criminal defense attorney, said judges should warn felons.

"It's an issue of fairness," he said. "If they're going to be prosecuted for voting, they should be informed they can't vote."

ELECTION
HOW WOULD FELONS VOTE?

A new study says **Democratic Party candidates lose when felons are barred from voting.** Estimates are based on the voting behavior of people matching felons on a variety of socioeconomic factors.

CANDIDATE	PROJECTED SUPPORT AMONG FELONS
Bill Clinton 1996	93%
Clinton 1992	86
Michael Dukakis 1988	76
Walter Mondale 1984	76
Jimmy Carter 1980	73
Carter 1976	87
McGovern 1972	72

DEMOCRATIC U.S. SENATE CANDIDATES

1998	69%
1996	80

Source: "The Political Consequences of Felon Disenfranchisement Laws in the U.S.," January 2001

BOB VEIERSTÄHLER/
Journal Sentinel

How the votes were analyzed

To trace ineligible voters, the Journal Sentinel obtained a city Election Commission computer database listing the voting history of 148,159 pre-registered voters and 55,134 new registrants who cast ballots on Nov. 7 in Milwaukee.

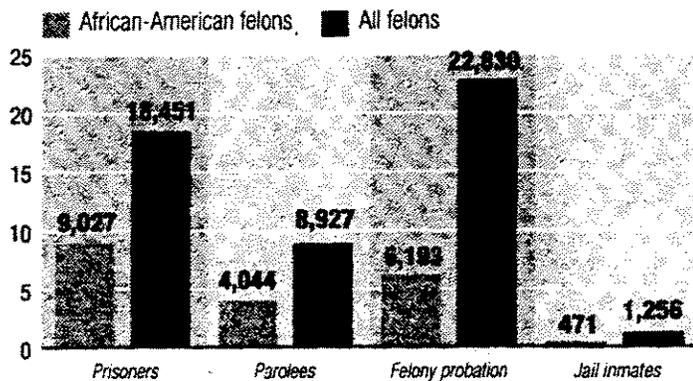
Reporters matched name and date of birth information from that database with statewide criminal court records available online, and with a Department of Corrections database of all people on probation or parole as of Election Day in the county. A state database of prison inmate histories was used to supplement gaps in information.

City election officials use dates of birth as a key identifier when purging voter rolls of ineligible voters.

Probation and parole officials personally confirmed the probation status and birth dates of matches found by the paper.

ELECTION
THE WISCONSIN PICTURE

Wisconsin is among 48 states that prohibit felony inmates from voting. It's one of 29 states that exclude felony probationers and felons on parole. A breakdown of those ineligible to vote under Wisconsin law:



Source: Uggen-Manza study using Dec. 31, 1998 data

BOB VEIERSTÄHLER/Journal Sentinel

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 22, 2001

12 votes attributed to dead people

Most of them are explained as honest mix-ups over names

By **JESSICA McBRIDE** and **DAVE UMHOEFER**
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Loraine Claybaker is recorded by the city as voting in last spring's mayoral election. But Claybaker has been dead since 1997.

Her purported "vote" from the grave was one of 12 instances in which Milwaukeeans are recorded as voting after their dates of death, a Journal Sentinel investigation found.

Although a few cases, including Claybaker's, remain unexplained, interviews revealed honest mistakes occurred in most cases. One woman was upset to learn that the federal government had erroneously marked her as being dead; two men had been unwittingly voting under their dead fathers' registrations.

By far, felons casting illegal ballots appears to be the biggest problem in city elections. The Journal Sentinel reported Sunday that at least 361 felons on supervision cast illegal ballots this November; some of those same felons also cast at least 139 more illegal ballots dating back to 1992.

In its review of 370,000 voting records dating back those eight years, the newspaper also found:

■ Four non-citizens voted before their naturalization dates.

■ No instances of double voting, despite unsupported reports at election time that double voting was a problem.

City Elections Commission Executive Director Julietta Henry said Milwaukee's elections didn't deserve bad press, and the overall numbers prove it.

"This is a clean system," she said.

Unexplained ballots

Some of the relatives of so-called "dead voters" remain baffled, however.

"This sort of thing is what goes on in Chicago," said Claybaker's bemused son-in-law Ferdinand Bahr, a retired pastor.

"She must have come back from heaven," he joked. "I wonder who she voted for."

Bahr said Claybaker voted once from the address on her registration, by absentee ballot in 1992. That vote also comes up in city records.

"I'm disturbed about it," Bahr added in all seriousness.

The newspaper's review was based on a computer cross-check of voters with Social Security Administration death records. Reporters then tracked down relatives for interviews.

Henry believes that human er-

...cont. next page

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 22, 2001

...cont. from prev. page

ror explains most — if not all — of the 12 “dead” voters, including Claybaker. To record those who voted, city workers scan bar codes next to the names. If they unwittingly scan the wrong bar code, it can indicate that someone voted who didn’t, Henry said. This happens about four times in each of the city’s 335 wards each election, Henry estimated.

Frank A. Olszewski was surprised to learn that his father of the same name, who died in 1987, is recorded by the city as voting in the 2000 and 1992 presidential elections.

It appears the son voted without realizing poll workers had checked off his father’s registration.

“I gave them (poll workers) my name and address and they supposedly found it (on their list),” said Olszewski, 54, who lives at the same address where his father had lived.

“My dad hasn’t been voting from the grave,” Olszewski said. “I must have voted half a dozen times. I thought he (the father) would be off the list.”

Henry said poll workers are not given dates of birth at the polls. In fact, she said, voters are not even required to provide dates of birth before voting.

Howard Harder, who was born in 1913, is listed as having voted in four elections since his 1997 death. But there’s another Howard Harder in the city, of no relation, who was born nine years later.

The living Harder is an active voter who assumes his registra-

tion got mixed up with that of the other man, even though they have different addresses and different ages.

“There’s something really screwed up,” he said. “You’re not talking to a ghost, I’m not dead yet.”

The living Harder’s name does not appear in city voting records with his date of birth.

And one local woman was pretty upset to learn that she’s listed as being dead by the federal government.

“That’s awful,” said Ernestine Woods, 63, who’s listed as having died in 1996.

“That upset me so bad I could hardly do anything,” she said. “I just had triple bypass surgery. Maybe I’m supposed to be dead.”

The federal database erroneously recorded Woods as dying when it was her husband who had passed away.

To look for non-citizen voters, the newspaper matched nearly 1,000 names of Milwaukeeans naturalized between the years of 1996 and 1999 with city voting records.

Just four non-citizens voted before their naturalization dates.

It’s impossible to do a comprehensive check for non-citizen voting in the November election, because federal officials will not release citizenship information on specific voters, citing privacy rules.

Double voting

In the case of double voting, the newspaper found that no people with the same names and dates of birth come up as voting twice in Milwaukee in the November election. The newspaper checked for the double votes by computer.

In the wake of the election, concerns about double voting arose because a Marquette University student newspaper reported that an informal survey found 174 students who admitted double voting.

The claim was picked up by the local and national press, and the scrutiny intensified when a student told reporters he had voted four times — for himself — in November. The student later retracted that claim.

Not in dispute were reports of a loose and chaotic situation at some polling places, where short-staffed poll workers — many of them elderly — were deluged with record numbers of new voters.

An earlier check by the Journal Sentinel of new registration cards showed many of them were incomplete, lacking such information as addresses, naturalization data, even full names. A Republican Party hotline was flooded with complaints of purported election fraud, and some lawmakers said election laws should be toughened.

The computer check used to identify double voters would not identify those who used a different name or voted in Milwaukee while also casting ballots in other municipalities or states.

The newspaper analyzed about 80% of the November election voting records for the search. The City of Milwaukee is still entering the data on the rest into its voter database.

Although the city doesn’t check its registration list with those on felony probation and parole or check for citizenship, Henry said it does make a concerted effort to weed out dead registrants and to identify double voters.

State law requires that voters who haven’t voted for the past four years be purged 90 days after every general election; that an audit of election day registrants be conducted by sending each a postcard verifying addresses; and that dead voters be removed from poll lists based on vital statistics reports from the city Health Department. City residents who die outside Milwaukee would not be included on that list.

Henry said the city does all those things.

State law also requires that the city check for double voting. Henry said that is also done, and when instances are found, they are forwarded to the district attorney’s office.

“My dad hasn’t been voting from the grave. I must have voted half a dozen times. I thought he (the father) would be off the list.”

Frank A. Olszewski, whose deceased father with the same name is recorded as voting in 1992 and 2000

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel January 22, 2001

Felon voting numbers surprise officials

But no consensus develops on solution

By JESSICA McBRIDE
of the Journal Sentinel staff

State and local officials expressed surprise Sunday to learn that at least 361 felons had voted illegally in the Nov. 7 election. But they differed on what should be done to prevent it from happening again.

None backed District Attorney E. Michael McCann's suggestion that poll workers could ask voters if they are felons on probation or parole. There were mixed reactions to McCann's announcement that he would file charges against felon voters in cases he could prove.

A Journal Sentinel investigation found 361 illegal felon voters. As part of its review, the newspaper analyzed 203,000 records from 14 of the city's 17 aldermanic districts, using computers to compare the city voting database with records from the state Department of Corrections and criminal courts.

Three central city aldermen whose districts had large numbers of illegal felon voters — and a Democratic state senator — advocated an educational approach rather than prosecution.

"Forty-one felons voted in my district? Wow," said Ald. Terrance Herron, whose second aldermanic district was one of five where more than 35 illegal felons voted this November.

"I don't think it's appropriate."

Different solutions

Two Republican lawmakers said the findings underscored the need for photo identification cards or voter identification cards at the polls, along with a

statewide voter registration list that could be vetted for felons on probation and parole and others not allowed to vote. They believe illegal felon voters also should be prosecuted.

"It's a concern," said state Sen. Margaret Farrow (R-Pewaukee). "If we have a law where felons can't vote, we better make sure none do."

Farrow said she would "applaud McCann" for charging illegal felon voters "if it's proven they committed another crime by voting."

She believes that asking voters if they are felons at the polls could be "intimidating to law-abiding citizens." Rather, she said the number of felons voting illegally shows the need for voter identification cards.

City officials have not finished entering data from the final three aldermanic districts. The Journal Sentinel found widespread confusion by felons who illegally voted.

An extrapolation of the aldermanic districts analyzed to cover the state suggests that more than 1,100 illegal ballots could have been cast in November. Ninety-percent of the illegal voters in Milwaukee were black, the newspaper found, and demographics, expert studies, and field interviews with illegal voters indicate many of them likely voted Democratic.

The numbers of illegal voters would not have been high enough to give Vice President Al Gore the 5,708 vote margin with which he

won Wisconsin. But the numbers are large enough to affect small-margin aldermanic races.

Former Alderman E. Fay Anderson believes the illegal felon vote could have swung a tight race she had in 1996 with Ald. Willie Hines. Anderson lost by 22 votes.

She requested a recount, but said Sunday that the voters were not checked to see if they were felons on supervision.

The Journal Sentinel found that 20 illegal felons voted in Hines' aldermanic district in November, but that is a partial number because his district is one of three where the city had not finished entering data.

Hines said it would be unfair to prosecute illegal voters who didn't know they were not allowed to vote.

"Each case should be dealt with on its own merit, not as a collective group in a heavy-handed fashion," he said.

He and others said they would support posting signs at polling places alerting felons on supervision that they are not allowed to vote.

State Sen. Gwendolynne Moore (D-Milwaukee) said there needs to be an "educational campaign" to clear up confusion about the law among felons.

Moore believes that tightening up voting rules would deter more people from voting legally than are voting illegally now. She called the 361 number relatively small and said she is opposed to

photo or voter identification cards being required at the polls.

Moore did not care, for McCann's approach.

"I guess if everybody is asked that question when they register maybe it would be appropriate," Moore said. "I don't want people singled out because they're a black male and kind of look like a felon."

Reynolds Honold, vice chairman of the State Democratic Party, said he was "shocked" to read that 361 felons voted illegally.

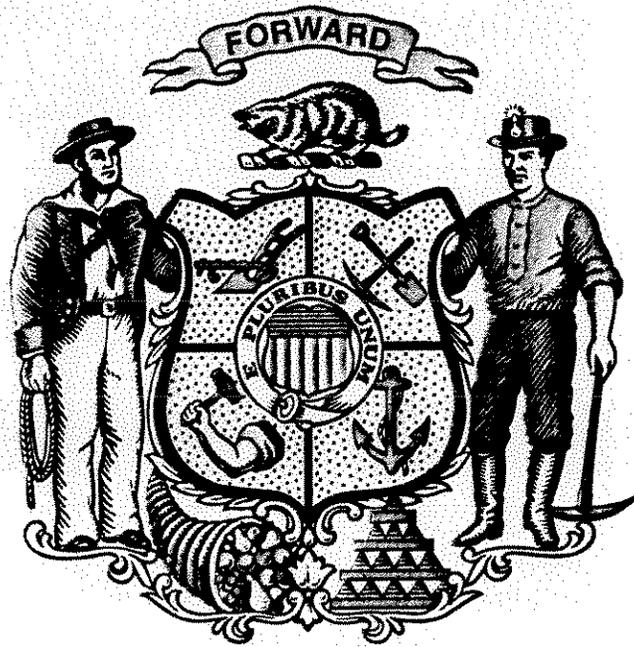
Honold said he would "hate to see" people charged, however, if they legitimately didn't know they couldn't vote. He said that more study of possible solutions should be done.

State Rep. Bonnie Ladwig (R-Racine) said she was "not happy with the number, needless to say."

"We aren't calling them voter-fraud, because I don't think a lot of them were," she said. "But it shows there were irregularities and if we had a statewide voter list, it could be checked against the felon list and for duplicate voters."

Ladwig is vice chairwoman of the state Assembly committee, that on Thursday held a hearing in Milwaukee on three pending Legislative proposals that would require voters to give a reason for voting absentee, would require voters to show photo identification cards at the polls, and would eliminate allowing other people to corroborate that people are legal voters at the polls.

Legislative proposals for the statewide voter registration list and a voter identification card are still being drafted.





Griffiths, Terri

From: Richard, Rob

Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2001 4:48 PM

To: Griffiths, Terri

Subject: FW: Voting problems

**Wisconsin Speaker Pro Tempore
Representative Stephen J. Freese**

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

From: Pettis, Mark

Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2001 7:54 AM

To: Freese, Steve

Subject: FW: Voting problems

Steve,

I got this e-mail from a constituent and thought you might be interested in it.

Mark

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

From: Larson's [<mailto:ardl@centurytel.net>]

Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2001 8:05 PM

To: rep.pettis@legis.state.wi.us

Subject: Voting problems

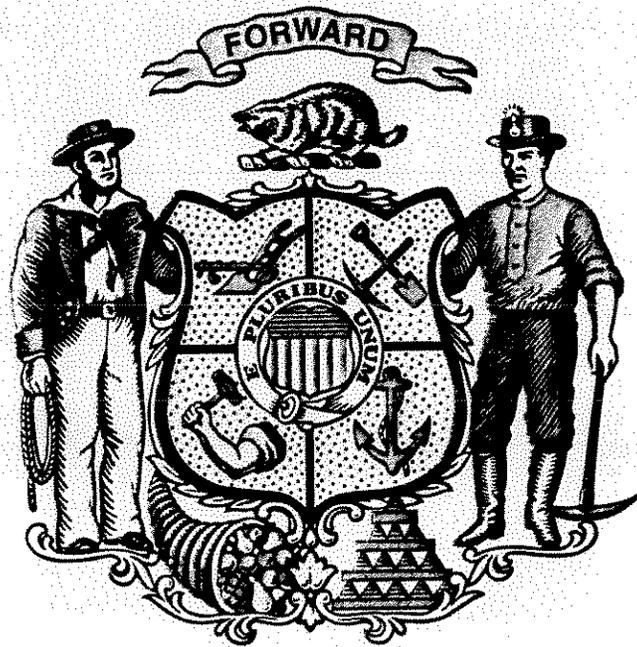
Mark,

I heard on the radio that the Assembly is looking into voting irregularities during the November election. Why aren't the ballots numbered with an official numbering sequence, and then issued to the voting group that is responsible for being able to track every number in the group of ballots they received? The reason I say that is our town clerk was making copies of ballots on the copy machine where we registered. For some reason, I don't get a comfortable feeling when I see stacks of new ballots being created on a copy machine in the polling place.

Thanks,
Arvin

Fifty-First Assembly District

Capitol Office: P.O. Box 8952 • Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8952
(608) 266-7502 • Toll-Free: (888) 534-0051 • Fax: (608) 261-9474 • Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
District: 310 E. North • Dodgeville, Wisconsin 53533 • (608) 935-3789



Griffiths, Terri

From: Richard, Rob
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2001 9:18 AM
To: Griffiths, Terri
Subject: FW: Stadium tax?

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

From: kkmk [mailto:markevk@chorus.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2001 8:12 PM
To: Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Stadium tax?

Dear Representative Freese:

I was listening to Wis. Public Radio the other morning, and the topic of discussion really hit a nerve. They had a guest on, who I believe was someone from the Green Bay city council, or something on that order, and the discussion was about a possible statewide county tax being proposed to help finance the Lambeau Field project. I did not catch all the details, but I did hear enough to make my blood pressure rise. I don't know if you are the proper person to be contacting with regard to this, but I felt the need to express my complete and total opposition to such a ridiculous idea, and you seemed a logical place to start.

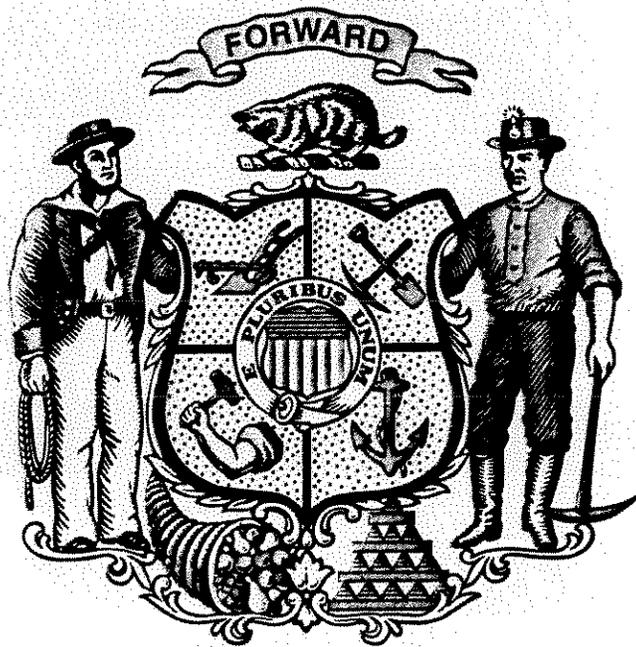
I've grown very tired of the way professional sports seem to have become a top priority in this country. There is definitely something wrong when you look at the outrageous sums of money that athletes are paid for playing a game, and yet, when they think deserve the latest and greatest facility to play that game in, they turn to the taxpayer to help foot the bill. First the Brewers, now the Packers. I'll admit, I don't recall many details regarding the deal that was struck for the stadium renovation, but I feel that when the Packer organization signed on the dotted line, that should have been the end of it. We all have to make do and live within our means, why don't they? I believe the dollar figure that was being talked about on the radio program was an additional \$35 million they were looking for. How on earth could anyone possibly underestimate the cost of a project by that amount of money, absolutely unbelievable. The plea that they were making was that if it wasn't raised, they may have to resort to selling the naming rights. Well, I for one, could care less what the stadium is called, it's just a name. I couldn't afford to take the family to a game, even if we could get tickets, so I certainly have no desire to be paying taxes for something I'll never get anything out of. I'm sure there are lots of people who would have a problem with changing the name, but they can be the ones to shell out the money to save it, I want no part of it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kvigne
3155 County Rd. Y
Dodgeville, WI 53533

03/01/2001



Griffiths, Terri

From: Richard, Rob
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2001 4:25 PM
To: Griffiths, Terri
Subject: FW: Protect and strengthen Wisconsin's voting laws

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

From: greenoe1@firstva.com [<mailto:greenoe1@firstva.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2001 4:06 PM
To: Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Protect and strengthen Wisconsin's voting laws

Stephen Freese
State Capitol, Room 115 West
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 537088952

Dear Stephen Freese,

Wisconsin's electoral system is a model for other states. Our present laws promote democracy and encourage voter participation.

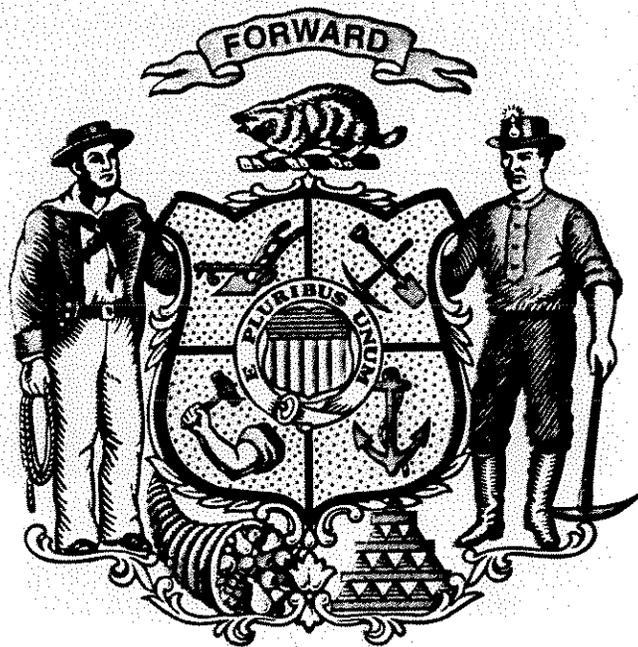
I am concerned that Legislators are using problems that occurred during the Presidential elections to weaken, not strengthen, Wisconsin's voter laws. I urge you and your committee to oppose all attempts to weaken voting laws, including requiring identification to vote, eliminating the existing registration system that allows another person to vouch that you are a resident, and putting stricter limitations on who is allowed to vote absentee.

I also urge you to support proposals that would strengthen voting laws, such as increased poll hours and more training for pollworkers and other election officials.

Wisconsin has a strong tradition of democracy. Let's keep it that way.

Sincerely,

Jason J Green
451 Pine Hill Dr
Stanardsville, Virginia 22973



Griffiths, Terri

From: Richard, Rob
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2001 7:00 AM
To: Griffiths, Terri
Subject: FW: Protect and strengthen Wisconsin's voting laws

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

From: maryjof@genevaonline.com [<mailto:maryjof@genevaonline.com>]
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2001 8:16 PM
To: Rep.Freese@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Protect and strengthen Wisconsin's voting laws

Stephen Freese
State Capitol, Room 115 West
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 537088952

Dear Stephen Freese,

Wisconsin's electoral system is a model for other states. Our present laws promote democracy and encourage voter participation.

I am dismayed that legislators are using problems that occurred during the Presidential elections to weaken, not strengthen, Wisconsin's voter laws.

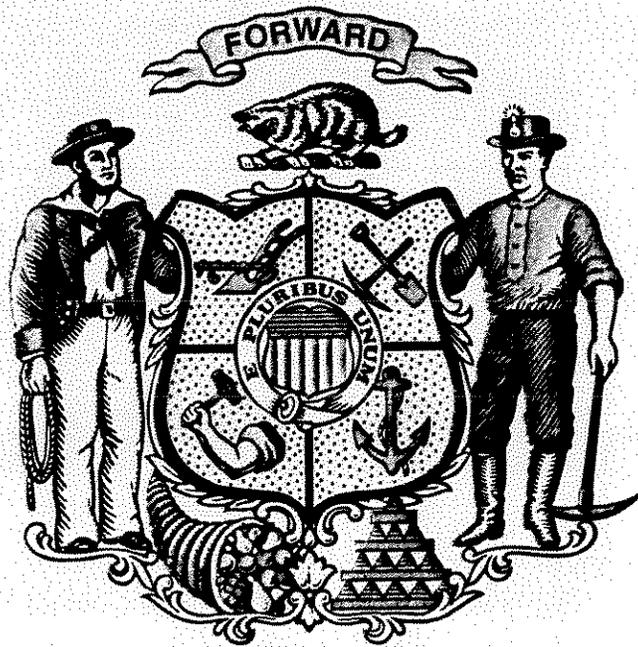
I urge you and your committee to oppose all attempts to weaken voting laws including eliminating the existing registration system that allows another person to vouch that you are a resident and putting stricter limitations on who is allowed to vote absentee.

I also urge you to support proposals that would strengthen voting laws, such as increased poll hours, making sure voters who are already in line are not turned away, use of PUBLIC facilities (not private such as churches or businesses) for voting and more training for pollworkers and other election officials.

Wisconsin has a strong tradition of democracy. Let's keep it that way.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Fesenmaier
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin 53147



Griffiths, Terri

From: Richard, Rob
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2001 8:58 AM
To: Griffiths, Terri
Subject: FW:

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

From: Pettis, Mark
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2001 7:59 AM
To: Freese, Steve
Subject: FW:

Steve,

FYI,

Pettis

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

From: Pettis, Mark
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2001 7:58 AM
To: 'Wm n Flo McEachern'
Subject: RE:

Dear Florence,

Thank you for your letter regarding the voting process. It is always nice to hear from constituents that have thoughts on issues. I will pass your suggestion on to the chairman of the committee that is in charge of election procedures.

Sincerely,

Rep. Mark L. Pettis

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

From: Wm n Flo McEachern [mailto:billnflo@spacestar.net]
Sent: Monday, February 19, 2001 11:33 PM
To: Rep.Pettis@legis.state.wi.us
Subject:

Dear Representative Pettis,

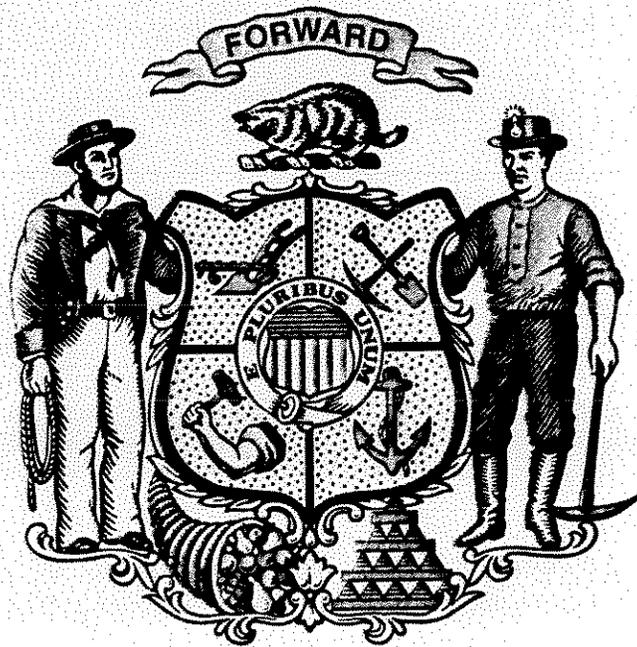
Since you represent me, I would like you to consider seeing to it that any voter who votes, must first present I.D.

Also, the number of votes should be compared with the

number of I.D. registered voters.

This is just common sense, especially now, there are so many people who are dishonest.

Sincerely,
Florence McEachern



**NOTICE OF SPRING PRIMARY AND
SAMPLE BALLOT**

February 20, 2001

OFFICE OF THE DANE COUNTY CLERK

TO THE ELECTORS OF DANE COUNTY:

Notice is hereby given of a spring primary election to be held in Dane County on the 20th day of February 2001, at which the officers named below shall be nominated. The names of the candidates for each office, whose nominations have been certified to or filed in this office, are given under the title of the office, each in its proper column in the sample ballot below.

INFORMATION TO ELECTORS

Upon entering the polling place, an elector shall give his or her name and address before being permitted to vote. Where ballots are distributed to electors, the initials of two inspectors must appear on the ballot. Upon being permitted to vote, the elector shall retire alone to a voting booth and cast his or her ballot except that an elector who is a parent or guardian may be accompanied by the elector's minor child or minor ward. An election official may inform the elector of the proper manner for casting a vote, but the official may not in any manner advise or indicate a particular voting choice.

At the spring primary election, where paper ballots or marksense systems are used, the elector shall connect the arrow next to the name of the candidate of his or her choice for each office for whom he or she intends to vote. To vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, the elector shall write in the name of the person of his or her choice in the space provided and connect the arrow next to the write-in line.

The vote should not be cast in any other manner. If the elector spoils a ballot, he or she shall return it to an election official who shall issue another ballot in its place, but not more than three ballots shall be issued to any one elector. If the ballot has not been initialed by two inspectors or is defective in any other way, the elector shall return it to the election official, who shall issue a proper ballot in its place. Not more than five minutes' time shall be allowed inside a voting booth. Unofficial ballots or a memorandum to assist the elector in casting his or her vote may be taken into the booth and copied. The sample ballot shall not be shown to anyone so as to reveal how the ballot is marked.

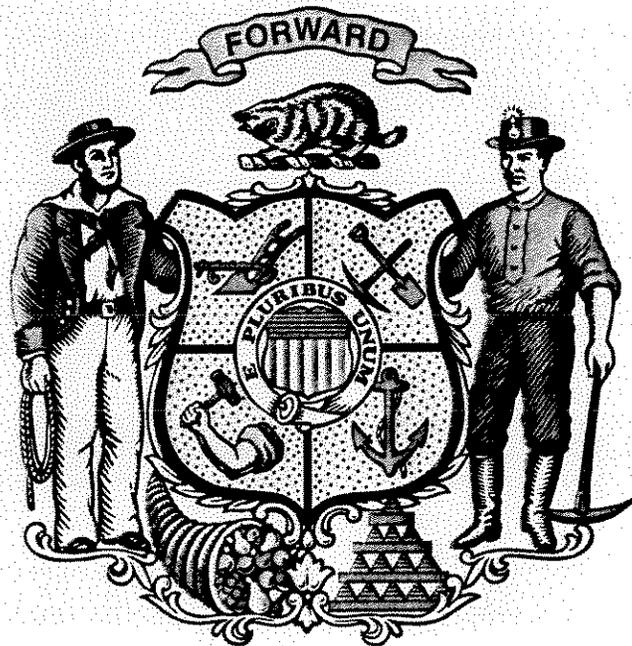
After an official paper ballot or an official marksense ballot is marked, it shall be inserted in the secrecy sleeve so the marks do not show. After casting his or her

vote, the elector shall leave the booth, insert the ballot in the voting device and discard the sleeve, or deposit the ballot in the ballot box or deliver it to an inspector for deposit. The elector shall leave the polling place promptly.

An elector may select an individual to assist in casting his or her vote if the elector declares to the presiding official that he or she is unable to read, has difficulty reading, writing or understanding English or that due to disability is unable to cast his or her ballot. The selected individual rendering assistance may not be the elector's employer or an agent of that employer or an officer or agent of a labor organization which represents the elector.

The following is a sample of the official ballot:

Joseph T. Parisi
Dane County Clerk



Griffiths, Terri

From: Richard, Rob
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2001 3:47 PM
To: Griffiths, Terri
Subject: FW: voting

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

From: Bernie [mailto:BernieK@centurytel.net]
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2001 5:26 PM
To: Repr Freese
Subject: voting

I heard you speak on Thursday at the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks meeting in Madison. I didn't get a chance to express all my concerns so here it is.

Thank you

Bernie Kahl, MMC

Village Admin/Clerk/Treas

berniek@centurytel.net

262-363-6420

Village of Mukwonago

Waukesha & Walworth Counties

Just a thought about on site registration:

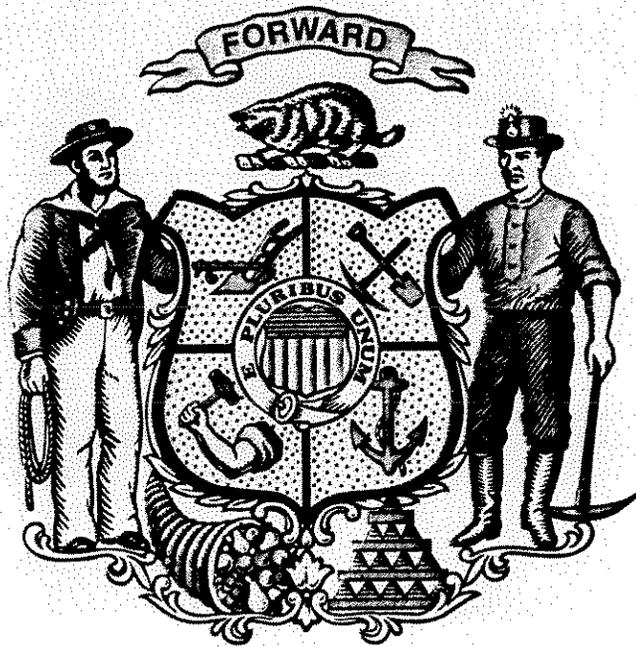
We have done so much to encourage people to vote:

- We let them register on election night; we help them register by trying to locate proof for them from our office even though the office is closed. We check water/sewer billing and tax roll statement. I know we don't have to go that far but we try and be as helpful as possible.
- Not we made it easier to vote absentee. This is more costly for the municipalities because we put postage on for delivery and for return mail. It is hard to understand that people don't want to come in to vote when we have people in wheelchairs and crutches coming to the polls. Up until last year we had a lady drive here to vote, two election officials would take a ballot to the car so she could vote. She was missing one leg. Older people who have to have chairs to sit because the lines are too long.
- Soon we will make it so they don't have to leave the television couch, just phone your vote in or email it.

People in other countries take their responsibilities serious, they know it is their duty to vote and they take the risk of being shot and killed. Here, we complain about having to stand in

line for ½ hour or longer. Other countries it could be a day to stand in line and then they may not make it alive. Something is wrong here. And your big concern is getting the number of electors to the polls. These people can't make it on time to register before an election and they only vote when it's convenient for them. Then you have a group who vote for all elections [not counting primaries] and those people you don't give a lot of concern to voting. Now which group would you want standing up with you on an issue or supporting you? You are no different that the DNC who is accused of supplying cigarettes to homeless people during the presidential election; aren't you trying to entice votes. Think about it. People have to be responsible; they have to want to express their right to vote. Why should I as a taxpayer have to pay more in taxes to mail absentee ballots out to people who have no interest in voting only to have numbers?

And Further more; the Clerk is responsible for elections as part of their duties as specified in the State Statute and local code; why should we have to be appointed.



Griffiths, Terri

From: Richard, Rob
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2001 9:01 AM
To: Griffiths, Terri
Subject: FW: My experience with "voter irregularity"

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

From: Tom Winter [mailto:talqwin@execpc.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2001 10:26 PM
To: rep.freese@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: My experience with "voter irregularity"

On election day, I voted at Morgandale School, on the 3600 block of S 17th St. in Milwaukee. It was a little after 9a.m. I noticed 2 poll workers standing by the machine that takes your ballot. They looked to be in their 20s or 30s. They had baseball caps on. I was in line to get my ballot, when I noticed one of them take a ballot to the registration table, and use an eraser on it (our votes are cast by filling in an arrow with a pencil)!! I said to the elderly lady behind the table, "What is he doing with that ballot?!" She said "Oh, he's just doing that so the machine will accept it." I thought that to be a legitimate explanation, so I just went on with my voting. Later, when all the reports of fraud and irregularities came out, I thought I'd better report this incident. Probably there was helpful intent, but it doesn't seem right that a poll worker uses an eraser on someone else's ballot.

Hope this helps. Sorry it took so long to get it to you.

Amy Winter

talqwin@execpc.com

414-645-9781
3706 S. 17th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53221