

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_pt05**

D1: Mr.

Contact_FirstName: Dennis

Contact_LastName: Shaw

Contact_StreetAddress: 2820 Edgewood Dr #1

Contact_City: Menomonie

Contact_State: WI

Contact_ZipCode: 54751

D2: Other

Contact_StreetAddress1: City of Menomonie, Ward 6

Contact_Email: dshaw@goddessfiona.com

Election-Reform: I thank the committee for the opportunity to testify via the Internet. I hope you consider doing more of this.

As background let me first say that I am the Chairman of the Dunn County Republican Party and as such have had many people come to me and express concerns. And it is not just Republicans but Democrats, and Independants are also concerned!

Since the November 7 election, I have spoken to many voters, poll workers, and municipal clerks.

I have been heard several stories of "a friend who claims he voted 4 times" right here in Dunn County. I have been told of a man who tried to vote but fled when a local poll worker stated that a relative owned the address the man claimed to live at. Another poll worker told of six young men coming in without being previously registered. One had a utility bill to prove who he was and after registering with only that for identification, vouged for the other 5 friends as none were carrying any ID. One municipal clerk asked me if it is really prudent to allow voters to receive absentee ballots by fax or email as allowed this year by 1999 Act 182 when that opens up additional possibilities for irregularities.

I feel we need some "common sense" reforms. These reforms should include:

Local changes needed:

- Better efforts to educate the public that voting more than once is a felony.
- Increase pay for poll workers. A shortage of poll workers in our towns and villages may be caused by the low pay (typically minimum wage).
- Provide county wide training for poll workers.

State legislation changes needed:

- Require voters to show a photo ID to verify residence before a person votes. All but 2 of the states already require this. The state of Wisconsin already requires ID for many state programs. This requirement would not be out of line.
- Eliminate same day voter registration. All but 6 states have eliminated same day registration as a way of decreasing the potential for voter fraud; so should Wisconsin.

We need to address this problem before it really gets out of hand. And I would hope that the legislature would look at using technology to address some of the problems.

There is no reason why, in the future, we cannot present our drivers license (or state ID card), swipe it in a card reader at the polls which would then verify that the person is eligible to vote and votes only once.

This past election has showed us that every vote counts, and it is up to us to ensure that every vote is counted but counted only once!

It is critical we all have faith in our electoral system.

I applaud your efforts to address the problems. Please call on me if you have questions or if I can assist in any way.

Dennis Shaw
dshaw@goddessfiona.com
715-235-6783

id: 979771838 [Wed Jan 17 16:50:38 2001] ***** acce-1

D1: Title

Contact_FirstName: Donna

Contact_LastName: Rynders

Contact_StreetAddress: 7325 W. Forest Home Avenue

Contact_City: Greenfield

Contact_State: Wisconsin

Contact_ZipCode: 53220

D2: Voter Registration Problems

Contact_Email: donna_r@ci.greenfield.wi.us

D1: Mr.

Contact_FirstName: Majid

Contact_LastName: Allan

Contact_StreetAddress: 5138 Tomahawk Trl

Contact_City: Madison

Contact_State: WI

Contact_ZipCode: 53705

D2: Other

Contact_Email: majidallan@hotmail.com

Election-Reform: I'm writing on behalf of Fairvote Wisconsin, a new group dedicated to fundamental electoral reform at every level of government in the state.

Wisconsin should take the lead in instituting democratic electoral reforms like:

-- a voting holiday

-- updated voting technology, using optical scanning devices

-- requiring a majority of votes to win office (rather than the current plurality system)

-- Instant Runoff Voting as a means to efficiently ensure majority winners in races with more than 2 candidates

-- Proportional Representation (PR). Proportional representation would ensure that the majority of citizens are fairly represented by candidates/parties that reflect their interests. Currently, republicans with democratic representatives are effectively denied representation. This is fundamentally wrong, and can be easily remedied with PR. PR would require larger, multi-representative districts, with those seats apportioned on the basis of the popular vote (i.e., in a 10 seat district, if republicans win 50% of the vote, they win 5 seats, if the dems win 30%, they win 3 seats, and so on). PR effectively eliminates the contentious issue of redistricting and gerrymandering.

These are but three fundamental reforms, that far more than simple tinkering with voting technologies, are required if we are to have a government truly of, by, and for the people.

Thank you for your consideration.

id: 979511484 [Sun Jan 14 16:31:24 2001] ***** acce-1

Contact_FirstName: Tim

Contact_LastName: Wong

Contact_StreetAddress: 161 Jackson

Contact_City: Madison

Contact_State: WI

Contact_ZipCode: 53704

Contact_Email: timwong@mailbag.com

Election-Reform: I strongly oppose the suggestion by Rep. Freese that voters be required to have an ID to vote. We should be encouraging people to vote, not putting barriers in their way. I don't have a driver's license or state ID. If this asinine legislation passes, I will be disenfranchised. Which is, of course, the intent of this Republican legislation is: to decrease the number of voters, as voters without "acceptable" types of ID tend to be lower-income and tend to vote Democratic.

There is nothing wrong with the voting system as it exists in Madison at this time. If there are problems with the ballots (punchcards, etc.) in other parts of the state, then fix that.

But do not require photo IDs for voting. It is just a Republican idea to disenfranchise voters.

Thanks for reading.

tim wong

id: 979334414 [Fri Jan 12 15:20:14 2001] ***** acce-1

Contact_Title: mrs
Contact_FirstName: Carol
Contact_LastName: Olson
Contact_StreetAddress: 211 Nautilus Dr #3
Contact_City: Madison
Contact_State: Wisconsin
Contact_ZipCode: 53705
Contact_Email: carolo@gdinet.com

Election-Reform: The lines were too long at Velma Hamilton high school on Segoe Rd. I am elderly, but the workers were too old & not sharp enough to handle it. Many voting booths were empty while they diddled around. That was the reason for the lines, also there was a special spot for people to register, which I am sure was a help would you consider a table for handicapped /over 60 persons who have a hard time standing in line? I sat up front while my friend stood in line and that is why I observed the reason for the slowness. I am so disgusted with the election process, especially the Florida Idiots that after voting for almost 50 years I am not sure I will ever vote again. In my youth politics was not a dirty word, but it has become one. Thanks for listening

id: 979501129 [Sun Jan 14 13:38:49 2001] ***** acce-1

Contact_Title: MRS
Contact_FirstName: JUDITH
Contact_LastName: MEYERS
Contact_StreetAddress: W2980 COUNTY RD X
Contact_City: WAUSAUKEE
Contact_State: WI
Contact_ZipCode: 54177
Contact_Email: quick@cybrzn.com

Election-Reform: I am the clerk for the Town of Wagner in Marinette County Wis. Because we are small, we had no registration problems. My mother-in-law is elderly , never drove and does not have a photo ID. Will a voter have to pay more money out just to vote??
Our problem was having the Fed, State and County voting all on one page. A ballot for the Rep and one for the Dem would be easier for the voters. Some forgot their bifocals, others could not read the small print for other reasons. This is the first years since I have been clerk that we had 17 ballots that we couldn't figure out what the voter intent was. Other years we did not have any questionable ballots.

id: 979505662 [Sun Jan 14 14:54:22 2001] ***** acce-1

Election-Reform: I was not requested to show ID when voting, and I could have voted in more than one district, as I know some people did.

id: 979406663 [Sat Jan 13 11:24:23 2001] ***** acce-1

Contact_Title: Ms

Contact_FirstName: Lisa

Contact_LastName: Martin

Contact_StreetAddress: 3639 Milano Ct. #6

Contact_City: Middleton

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/cgi-bin/surveyread.pl?survey=acce-1>

01/17/2001

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Contact_State: WI

Contact_ZipCode: 53562

Election-Reform: After waiting an hour in line to register, I was not allowed to register because my address changed. I stopped and asked at the front table before entering the hour long line and I was assured that I would be allowed to register. My neighbors, who were in the same situation with a new address were allowed to register without showing an updated license or mail-- they simply went to a different attendant. How about having everyone follow the same rules and having all the officials accurately informed?

Contact_Title: ms
Contact_FirstName: Kris
Contact_LastName: Schmidt
Contact_StreetAddress: 1270 Adelman Av
Contact_City: Brookfield,
Contact_State: WI
Contact_ZipCode: 53045
Contact_Email: schmidt@ci.brookfield.wi.us

Election-Reform: I am the City Clerk of a municipality of 37,000 plus citizens. I had approximately 3,000 absentee ballots and 4,000 new registrations in the last three weeks of the election. Over 3,000 of those new registrations came on election day. We have approximately 26,000 registered voters and 22,000 of those voted. We are still cleaning up after that election.

With all of that said. I believe in same day registration. I know the problems citizens face when they have recently moved or their registration information is lost. This is a state with a progressive tradition and we should continue to make voting open to our citizens. Same day registration is a safety net. I also believe our same day registration keeps our participation numbers high.

Thank you for your time.

id: 979569290 [Mon Jan 15 08:34:50 2001] ***** acce-1

Contact_Title: Ms.

Contact_FirstName: Carol

Contact_LastName: Stamm

Contact_StreetAddress: 1110 18th Ave.

Contact_City: Monroe

Contact_State: WI

Contact_ZipCode: 53566

Contact_Email: mnroclerk@utelco.tds.net

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/cgi-bin/surveyread.pl?survey=acce-1>

01/17/

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Election-Reform: As Deputy Clerk for the City of Monroe, I feel that the state should do away with election day registrations. The last election was a total chaos. We had to have one of our police officers escort one person out the door at the end of the night who could not provide proper identification for registering. She would just not give up. We had to keep the polls open almost an extra hour to get everyone registered and allow them to vote. I really question some of the registrations that were taken on election day, but everyone was in such a hurry and tempers were flaring from having to wait in a long line. There is a definite need for laws requiring picture ID's. Other forms of identification are just too vague. Some would be registered voters have told me that they drove by the polling place on election day and decided not to stop and vote because of the congestion of the people standing in line to register.

Election-Reform: I am the City Clerk for the City of Greenfield located in Milwaukee County with a population of approximately 36,260.

I have worked in the Clerk's Office for 33 years. The November 7th election was probably the busiest I've ever encountered, not only on election day, but the weeks leading up to that day.

A great concern I have is with the on-day registration process. Over 4,600 people registered to vote at the polls. After data entering this information, verification cards were mailed to each of these electors. To date, 129 of the verifications cards were returned to our office as being undeliverable to that person at the address provided when registering to vote. While I realize some of these people may have moved since the mailing of the cards, it still raises a question of concern.

I realize on-day registration was instituted to increase voter turnout, but feel in previous years when there was a deadline by which to register in the Clerk's Office, there was less of a chance for errors to occur. If onday registration is to continue, I would request consideration be given to changing the type of identification allowed to only permit a photo ID that includes the voter's current name and address. This change may implement some safeguards that I feel are needed when registering to vote. Another concern is that no identification is required when a pre-registered elector goes to vote.

Other concerns with election laws include:

1. Voter registration by mail no longer requires a witness
2. Turning the Clerk's Office into a polling site by allowing anyone to vote absentee just because they don't want to stand in line at the polls.

2.8%

1. Voter registration by mail no longer requires a witness
2. Turning the Clerk's Office into a polling site by allowing anyone to vote absentee just because they don't want to stand in line at the polls.

id: 979848004 [Thu Jan 18 14:00:04 2001] ***** acce-1

D1: Mr.

Contact_FirstName: Don

Contact_LastName: Gander

Contact_StreetAddress: Jones House

Contact_Address2: 215 Ridge St.

Contact_City: Mineral Point

Contact_State: Wi

Contact_ZipCode: 53565

D2: Voter Registration Problems

Contact_StreetAddress1: Madison

Contact_Email: daviddel@mhtc.net

Election-Reform: Honored Committee Members:

I have a long interest in Wisconsin voting law and practices. I have been a proud resident of the great State of Wisconsin for 50 years. I was even a resident of Wisconsin during the year I attended college in Illinois.

Which brings me precisely to my point. When I was in school in Greenville, Illinois I could have voted in Illinois (assuming Illinois had the same voting laws as Wisconsin). I did not vote in Illinois because even at that time I realised that I had no interest in the local or state politics and governance except for my own very narrow financial (educational) interests. I also could have legally (I believe) voted in Wisconsin.

I believe students do vote in Wisconsin and I believe this is in error for two reasons:

1. Students interests are most generally in their hometown and their immediate financial wants. Not the general wellbeing of a community.
2. Students often can (and should) vote in their respective hometowns.

I appreciate very much what you are attempting to accomplish. The recent election compels us to refine our state laws and to remove some noble experiments that have proven divisive and non-productive. I support you in this necessary endeavor.

Respectfully,
Don Gander

id: 979850659 [Thu Jan 18 14:44:19 2001] ***** acce-1

D1: Mr.

Contact_FirstName: Stephen

Contact_LastName: McManus

Contact_StreetAddress: 2618 N. 71st Street

Contact_City: Wauwatosa

Contact_State: WI

Contact_ZipCode: 53213

D2: Voter Registration Problems

Contact_StreetAddress1: Wauwatosa

Contact_Email: sjm@hallingcayo.com

Election-Reform: Dear Committee Members:

I moved to Wisconsin in July 2000. I have lived in several different states and countries and have never see voter registration be more ripe for fraud than in Wisconsin. While an officer in the Air Force, I served as a Voting Action Officer. I assisted people in registering to vote and applying for absentee ballots.

I registered to vote in Wisconsin before the November election. However, when I went to the poll on election day, there was a line two hours long so people could register to vote.

Moreover, I possessed documents which would have allowed me to same day register in three different precinct and by absentee from my prior state of resident. I only voted once, but that is because I am honest & since living in Wisconsin, I have learned that many people are not. (The documents I possessed were a driver's license using a Mail Boxes Etc address, a telephone bill from an apartment I temporary rented, an electric bill from a house I just bought, and an absentee ballot from WA state. My wife possessed similar documents and could have voted multiple times.

Same day registration is a burden on the pollworkers and allows fraud - there is no way to prevent absentee voting in other states, to keep noncitizens or felons on parole from voting, or keeping citizens from using different pieces of paper to vote in different precincts. To prevent fraud and allow same day registration, the pollworkers must have a computer database which allows them to cross reference the information.

I believe same day registration needs to be changed. Getting a fishing license, taking a driving test, or buying a gun are harder than voting in Wisconsin. To allow this to continue actually disenfranchises the WI residents who register ahead of time and how are honest and vote only once.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen J. McManus

id: 979876547 [Thu Jan 18 21:55:47 2001] ***** acce-1

D1: Title

Contact_FirstName: David

Contact_LastName: South

Contact_StreetAddress: 3621 E Carpenter Avenue

Contact_City: Cudahy

Contact_State: WI

Contact_ZipCode: 53110

D2: Other

Contact_StreetAddress1: Kosiesko school 2nd ward

Contact_Email: DSOUTH@wi.rr.com

Election-Reform: Cars parked in close proximity to polling place promoting their candidate. I thought there were 300 foot restrictions to control these practices, that I saw violated. Also, want universal closing times for the polls strictly enforced, and saturday or sunday voting to reduce absentee ballots. But a national uniform closing time for the polls in a presidential election would prevent media influence on voting outcomes and should be vigorously sought. Above all lets get it done now, not await another voting fiasco as we've just experienced. Thanks for the input.

id: 979910665 [Fri Jan 19 07:24:25 2001] ***** acce-1

D1: Mr.

Contact_FirstName: Herbert

Contact_LastName: Ripka

Contact_StreetAddress: 5806 Euston Street

Contact_City: Greendale

Contact_State: WI

Contact_ZipCode: 53129

D2: Voter Registration Problems

Contact_StreetAddress1: Greendale

Contact_Email: hripka@execpc.com

Election-Reform: I was a poll worker in Greendale in November

1. Eliminate same day voter registration. This would eliminate long lines, and harried poll workers.

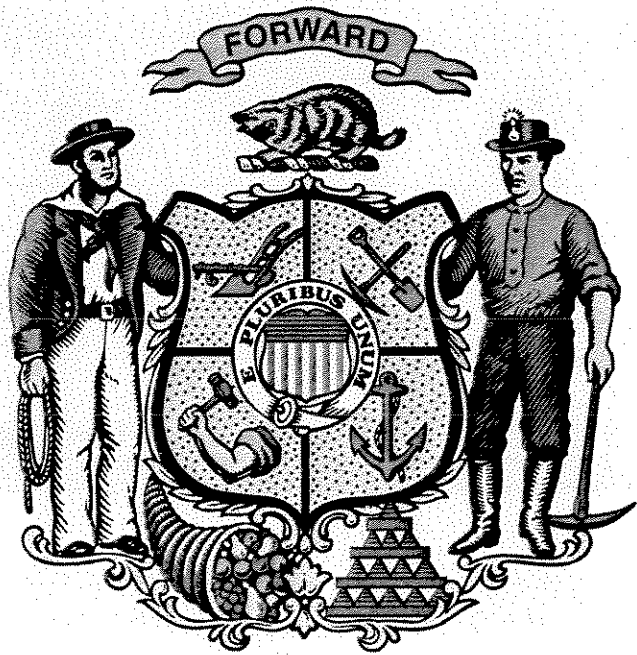
2. Require WI driver's license or some other official voter card. What if I walked in 10 minutes before you did and said I was you. Do the poll workers know you by name? Later, you walk in, but the poll worker says you just voted. What do you say to that?

3. Are thousands of ineligible voters still registered?

See <http://www.knoxstudio.com/shns/story.cfm?pk=BADLISTS-12-14-00&cat=AN>

Is this a problem in Wisconsin? Do we purge voter registration rolls periodically?

4. What has been done in the "Smokes for Votes" case against the Democrat activist woman from New York City??





Wisconsin Speaker Pro Tempore
Representative Stephen J. Freese

- I. Allegations of election process irregularities has caused great concern and corroded the confidence of citizens in their democracy. We need to look at ways to ensure the integrity of our electoral process and restore voters' confidence in the electoral system.
- Taking the committee to the Milwaukee area where by nature of the high population – there were numerous allegations of fraud
 - Poll worker training/Photo ID Voters not allowed to vote because their name was crossed off as having voted
 - Poll worker training Reports of stacks of completed ballots on top of tabulator machines
 - Statewide registration list/Photo ID Numerous reports of voters who registered on election day because of a recent move within the same voting precinct. Was not required to provide any proof of identification.
 - Statewide registration list/Photo ID Voter pre registered and the name was recorded twice in the voter list – once with the wrong address
 - Poll worker training Voters uncertain of their polling location, poll worker allowed them to vote.

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

- Poll worker training Young children given slips and allowed to vote
- Poll worker training Voters carrying backpacks with political stickers on them and walking into the polling place and voting.
- Poll worker training Ballots not fitting into the box because ballot boxes were over stuffed. Poll workers opened machine and removed ballots
- Poll worker training Polling place doors remained open at 9:30 pm. Voters joined the line past 8:00 pm
- We recognize that these occurrences were not limited to the Milwaukee area and for that reason we are opening a committee website to allow residents statewide to register their concerns directly to the committee at www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/committees/campaignselections