

WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

**2005-06**

(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)

➤ **05hr\_ab0513\_AC-CE\_pt01**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ \*\*



STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JOSH ZEPNICK**  
WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

September 1, 2005

To the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections:

Mr. Chairperson and fellow committee members, thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony on Assembly Bill 513. I am sorry I cannot personally be in attendance today, but have asked my staff to present this testimony to your committee.

I think it is incredibly important for us to have a holiday commemorating the very foundation of our democracy: our constitutional right to vote. It is ironic that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others fought for expanding voting rights and we have a holiday for King's work in the civil rights movement and American history... yet we have no holiday to actually get people to the polling booths.

Working-class folks (sometimes juggling two or three jobs), people with disabilities or limited transportation options, as well as those with plain old busy lives, means there are two congestion points in the City of Milwaukee polling booths: 7am-9am before work; and after 4pm when most long lines start. These long lines not only burden the voter, but often entirely disenfranchise many from voting. It is exactly those kinds of bottlenecks that increase the odds of mistakes being made and frankly requiring a photo ID card would add even more waiting time.

Creating a holiday not only adds some measure of convenience, it also highlights the importance of voting in a free society, and that we inside government want to do whatever it takes to serve citizens in a responsible manner. Remember, citizens are not customers, we own the store.

Stability and openness in our elections are just as important to our Nation's well being as our national security. Unfortunately, we do not put the same time, funding and civic importance into voting as we do with national security. Just as none of us would be here today without adequate national security, none of us would be here today were it not for our constitutional right to vote which forms the very foundation of what it means to be an American.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Josh Zepnick  
State Representative  
9<sup>th</sup> Assembly District