



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2011 Senate Bill 269**

**Senate Substitute Amendment 1**

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### *Senate Bill 269*

**2011 Senate Bill 269** relates to the residency of election officials, commonly referred to as “poll workers.” Under current law, an individual must generally be a qualified elector of the ward or municipality in order to serve as an election official in that ward or municipality. Senate Bill 269 changes current law to allow an individual who is a qualified elector of the *county* to serve as an election official.

### *Senate Substitute Amendment 1*

Like the original bill, **Senate Substitute Amendment 1** changes current law to allow individuals who are qualified electors of the county, rather than the ward or municipality, to serve as election officials. However, the substitute amendment provides that the chief inspector at a polling location must still be a qualified elector of the municipality, unless other exceptions apply.

**Senate Substitute Amendment 1** allows political parties to recommend the ward where certain election official nominees should serve. Under current law, election officials are initially selected from lists of nominees provided by the political parties. The substitute amendment allows, for up to 50% of the positions to be filled, the parties to recommend the ward where a nominee should serve. The substitute amendment requires that the recommendations that specify a ward must be balanced to achieve geographic representation across the county.

**Senate Substitute Amendment 1** also allows a governing body to appoint a certain number of the recommended nominees to serve in a particular ward. Under current law, the city council, village board, or town board appoints election officials in the municipality. The substitute amendment allows the governing body to appoint up to 50% of the election inspectors serving in a particular ward from those nominees recommended by the parties for that particular ward.

**Legislative History**

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Lazich on January 12, 2012. On the same date, the Senate Committee on Transportation and Elections recommended adoption of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 3; Noes, 2.

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