
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



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2025 Assembly Bill 35

Assembly Amendment 1

2025 ASSEMBLY BILL 35

Under current law, the name of a person who qualifies for placement on a ballot as a candidate for office may not be removed from the ballot except in the case of the death of the candidate. Assembly Bill 35 (the bill) allows a person who qualifies for placement on the ballot for a partisan primary or a general election, except for a candidate for district attorney, to withdraw from consideration before the election. The bill establishes a deadline for withdrawal, requires the person to submit a sworn statement of withdrawal to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), and to pay a fee (\$1,000 for a federal or statewide office and \$250 for an office that is not elected statewide) to WEC. Under the bill, it is a Class G felony to intentionally make or file a false statement withdrawing a person's candidacy.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 pushes back by seven business days the deadline by which a candidate may submit a statement of withdrawal. Additionally, the amendment establishes the following requirements for submitting a statement of withdrawal:

- The statement must be sworn and notarized.
- The statement must include the reason for withdrawing.
- The statement must contain the date and the person's printed name and signature.
- The statement must be completed in person before a county sheriff, county clerk, or municipal chief of police and be signed by the witness.
- The statement must be submitted to WEC with a copy of the person's proof of identity. Under the amendment, proof of identity may be one of the following:
 - Driver's license or identification card issued in Wisconsin, unless the person qualified for candidacy for the Office of President or Vice President, in which case the license or identification card may be issued by another state.
 - U.S. passport.
 - Military identification card.

The amendment establishes a fee schedule for submitting a statement of withdrawal:

- \$2,500 for the Office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Attorney General, U.S. Senator, Vice President, or President.
- \$500 for the Office of U.S. Representative.
- \$250 for the Office of State Senator or State Representative.

The amendment establishes a deadline by which WEC must inform county clerks that a candidate has withdrawn and states that, if a candidate for the Office of either President or Vice President withdraws his or her candidacy, the joint ticket for those offices is withdrawn. Under the amendment, if WEC has already determined the order on which candidates' names appear on a ballot by the date on which a candidate submits a statement of withdrawal, the withdrawal does not affect the order established.

BILL HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was introduced on April 15, 2025 by Representative Steffen. On May 6, 2025, the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections recommended adoption of the amendment and passage of the bill, as amended, unanimously.

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature's [bill history page](#).

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