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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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<b>2003 Wisconsin Act 121</b> [2003 Assembly Bill 120]	<b>Notice Regarding Ineligibility to Vote</b>
2003 Acts: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/">www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/</a>	Act Memos: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm">www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm</a>

Currently, a person convicted of treason, felony, or bribery is disqualified from voting until the person's civil rights are restored. Generally, a person's civil rights are restored when he or she serves out his or her term of imprisonment or otherwise satisfies his or her sentence, e.g., completes probation.

Act 121 clarifies that a person's right to vote is restored when the person completes a term of imprisonment or probation for the crime that led to the disqualification and provides that the right to vote is also restored upon a pardon. The Act also requires that persons who will lose the right to vote must be notified that the right to vote will be lost until the person's civil rights are restored. The notice must be given by a court when it imposes a sentence or places a defendant on probation; by the Department of Corrections (DOC) when a disqualified inmate is released to parole or extended supervision; and by DOC when it has a disqualified probationer under its jurisdiction. In addition, the Act provides that DOC or, if the person is sentenced to a county jail or house of correction, the jailer must inform the person in writing at the time the right to vote is restored.

**Effective Date:** The Act takes effect on February 21, 2004. However, the provisions of the Act requiring notification of an individual's ineligibility to vote at the time of parole, extended supervision, or probation, and requiring such notice at sentencing, take effect on May 1, 2004.

**Prepared by:** Robert J. Conlin, Senior Staff Attorney

February 10, 2004

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.