



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 333
[2005 Assembly Bill 64]

Uniform Election Polling Hours

Under **prior law**, the polls at an election in a first, second, or third class city were required to be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. In a village, town, or fourth class city, the polls were required to be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. However, the village, town, or city could extend the opening hour to not earlier than 7:00 a.m.

2005 Wisconsin Act 333 requires the polls at every election to be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in all municipalities.

Act 333 also provides that any municipality that maintained polling hours that begin later than 7:00 a.m. prior to the effective date of the bill and that incurs additional costs to adjust its polling hours to begin at 7:00 a.m. at any election held after the effective date of the bill may file a claim with the Elections Board for reimbursement of those costs. The claim must be accompanied by appropriate substantiation of all costs incurred. The Elections Board is required to audit the claim and, if it finds that the costs have been incurred by the municipality and the costs would not have been incurred but for the requirement to open polling places at 7:00 a.m., the board is required to reimburse the municipality for those costs. To be payable, claims must be submitted within 60 days following the date on which the costs are incurred. Finally, the Act creates a sum sufficient appropriation for the Elections Board to pay claims submitted under the amendment.

Effective Date: Act 333 became effective on April 29, 2006.

Prepared by: Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorney

May 11, 2006

RW:rv

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.