

October 29, 2013

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections
From: Senator Glenn Grothman
Re: Assembly Bill 378

Thank you for scheduling Assembly Bill 378 for a public hearing. AB 378 is a simple bill that changes the requirement that individuals who give over one hundred dollars to a political candidate in a state election must list their employer on Wisconsin campaign finance reports to individuals who give over five hundred dollars to a political candidate.

The idea for the bill was created after Wisconsin professional police and police firefighters and various local teachers unions called for boycotting various Wisconsin business. Individual local businesses were boycotted solely because they had employees who contributed to Governor Walker. This bill makes sense for many reasons.

First, it is important to maintain Wisconsin's business climate. Obviously, Wisconsin manufacturing and other businesses are more likely to have employees contribute in political campaign than businesses from out of state or out of country. When hysterical public employee unions call for boycotts of businesses whose employees contributed to republicans they put Wisconsin businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

Second, when teachers, firemen and police use the vast purchasing power that the taxpayer gives them to punish Wisconsin businesses, it creates a general dislike for Wisconsin government. Taxpayers believe that they are paying taxes for their children's education, and the public health and safety. Instead, they found out that the vast purchasing power from their taxes was actually used to enforce a political orthodoxy, so that any person who decides to express their prolife, pro first amendment or pro property rights views with a campaign contribution can expect that purchasing power of their taxes to be used to try to put some businesses in a state of financial ruin.

Third, the use of boycotts regarding a contributor's occupation will inevitably create friction between employees and employers. It is only human nature that if an employer is boycotted because of an employee's contribution some anger or distaste may arise. I find it highly unusual

when groups that purport to care about employee rights use the system to create a natural state of pressure between employer and employee.

Fourth, it creates a general level of incivility in society. Traditionally, I view Wisconsinites as people who have built an easy going civil society. This hatred espoused will eventually result in separate businesses known as “Republican” or “Democrat” – a Republican law firm and a Democrat law firm, a Republican funeral home and a Democrat funeral home, a Republican restaurant and a Democrat restaurant. This may be the type of society that Wisconsin firefighters, police, and teachers want but I don’t believe it’s the type of society that the legislature should encourage.

Fifth, the reason for a contribution may have nothing to do with the employer anyway. While I can’t speak for all elected officials in this building, the vast majority of the people who contribute to me do so for my general political beliefs, not for issues specific to their employer. To imply that the employees of a car dealership gives me money because of where I stand on car dealer legislation or that an employee of an insurance company gives me money because of where I stand on insurance issues is entirely false. While conduit and political action committee contributions are given for these purposes, individual contributions are not. Why not include information such as a contributor’s church, whether they a gun owner, a hunter, or whether they receive a form of public assistance. The idea of putting things on forms that may or may not be related to a person’s purpose in contributing is on its face absurd.

Finally, at a time when the legislature is putting more and more burdens on campaign treasurers and the Government Accountability Board, this is just one more thing they have to worry about. I’m sure my book keeper isn’t the only one wasting their time trying to track down contributors who didn’t include their employer on a check. Also, one hundred dollars today is nowhere near as significant as one hundred dollars was in 1973, when this amount was put in place.

We don’t ask people to publically declare who they are voting for because we are aware that some people would exact revenge on them if the ballot is not secret. After this bill is passed we will still know who gave money to which campaigns and what their address is. I can see no obvious purpose to include one’s employer. Please strike a blow for civility in our society and pass Assembly Bill 378 out of committee.

March 10, 2011

Mr. Tom Ellis, President
Marshall & Ilsley Corporation
770 N. Water Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

SENT VIA FACSIMILE AND REGULAR MAIL

Dear Mr. Ellis:

As you undoubtedly know, Governor Walker recently proposed a "budget adjustment bill" to eviscerate public employees' right to collectively bargain in Wisconsin. Collective bargaining has maintained labor peace between public employers and employees for more than 50 years, and according to every poll taken in the last few weeks, it enjoys overwhelming public support. In refusing to accept the willingness of many of the unions to be flexible on economic matters, Governor Walker has made it clear that his bill is really aimed at union busting, rather than "putting the state's fiscal house in order." This revelation has caused Wisconsin citizens to hold massive demonstrations at the State Capitol and throughout Wisconsin in adamant opposition to Governor Walker's attempt to destroy collective bargaining. Never before in our State's history have we witnessed such a massive and continued outpouring of opposition to any governor or issue.

As you also know, Scott Walker did not campaign on this issue when he ran for office. If he had, we are confident that you would not be listed among his largest contributors. As such, we are contacting you now to request your support.

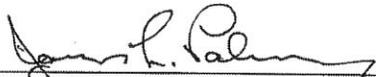
The undersigned groups would like your company to publicly oppose Governor Walker's efforts to virtually eliminate collective bargaining for public employees in Wisconsin. While we appreciate that you may need some time to consider this request, we ask for your response by March 17. In the event that you do not respond to this request by that date, we will assume that you stand with Governor Walker and against the teachers, nurses, police officers, fire fighters, and other dedicated public employees who serve our communities.

In the event that you cannot support this effort to save collective bargaining, please be advised that the undersigned will publicly and formally boycott the goods and services provided by your company. However, if you join us, we will do everything in our power to publicly celebrate your partnership in the fight to preserve the right of public employees to be heard at the bargaining table.

Wisconsin's public employee unions serve to protect and promote equality and fairness in the workplace. We hope you will stand with us and publicly share that ideal.

In the event you would like to discuss this matter further, please contact the executive Director of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, Jim Palmer, at 608.273.3840.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you soon.



James L. Palmer, Executive Director
Wisconsin Professional Police Association



Mahlon Mitchell, President
Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin



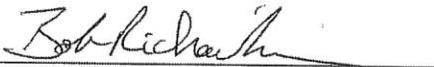
Joe Conway, President
International Association of Fire Fighters
Local 311



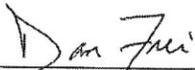
John Matthews, Executive Director
Madison Teachers, Inc.



Keith Patt, Executive Director
Green Bay Education Association



Bob Richardson, President
Dane County Deputy Sheriffs Association



Dan Frei, President
Madison Professional Police Officers Association

**Testimony of Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board**

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections

October 29, 2013

Room 328 Northwest, State Capitol

Public Hearing

Assembly Bills 378 and 396

Chairperson Bernier and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the two bills before you today. I am appearing here for information purposes and to answer any questions you or Committee members may have. The Government Accountability Board is not taking a position for or against any of these bills.

Assembly Bill 378

As I told the Senate Committee on Elections earlier this month about their version of this bill, Assembly Bill 378 is fundamentally flawed. It eviscerates the basic principle of disclosure on which campaign finance law is based. That principle was articulated by the Legislature as a Declaration of Policy when the campaign finance law was enacted in 1973 following the Watergate campaign funding abuses. A copy of that declaration of policy is attached for your consideration. The policy begins with this statement: "The legislature finds and declares that our democratic system of government can be maintained only if the electorate is informed."

The Legislature's Declaration of Policy goes on to say: "One of the most important sources of information to the voters is available through the campaign finance reporting system. Campaign reports provide information which aids the public in fully understanding the public

positions taken by a candidate or political organization. When the true source of support or extent of support is not fully disclosed, or when a candidate becomes overly dependent upon large private contributors, the democratic process is subjected to a potential corrupting influence.”

After the Senate committee’s hearing on its companion bill, there was some confusion in the news media about the impact. Let me be clear, AB 378 would eliminate the requirement for candidates and political committees to disclose the names and addresses of employers of people who contribute more than \$100 per year. Campaigns would never have to report who a contributor works for, or where their principal place of employment is. It would also raise the threshold for reporting of contributors’ occupations so that significantly less information would be available to the public. As a result, if a campaign contributor gave enough money, we might find out that she is a teacher, but not which school district she works for, or which school she teaches in.

This new standard for campaign finance reporting would greatly diminish the information available to members of the public about the sources of financial support for candidates for public office, and would undermine the right of the public to have a full, complete and readily understandable accounting of those financial activities intended to influence elections.

Because this bill raises the threshold for disclosing a contributor’s occupation, this information would never be available for most local races or Assembly contests because the individual contribution limit for those offices is \$500 or less.

My mother always told me you are judged by the company you keep. The fundamental purpose for campaign finance disclosure is to enable citizens to know who supports candidates for public office. Campaign contributors are more than just a name on a piece of paper. Knowing a contributor’s occupation, employer and place of employment provides vital information for evaluating the source of a candidate’s support.

Political campaigns are often defined not only by a candidate's position on the issues, but who supports the candidates. Campaigns proudly proclaim a list of their supporters as a measure for the voters weigh favorably. The proposed legislation hides the occupation and principle place of employment of modest contributors under a rock.

Such information is also important to avoid confusion between people with the same or similar names. Recently the Government Accountability Board completed its annual audit of prohibited campaign contributions by registered lobbyists. Our staff found 11 registered lobbyists with the same names as people who made legal campaign contributions. Having employer information about contributors allowed our staff to quickly exonerate those lobbyists with the same names.

Employer and occupation information also helps distinguish between contributors with similar names. Since 2008, there have been 537 campaign contributions to candidates and committees from people with some variation of the name David or Dave Johnson. Even middle initials are not always helpful, as there are multiple David E. Johnsons, David L. Johnsons, David M. Johnsons and David R. Johnsons. In many cases, employer information, when provided, helps distinguish one from another.

Employer information is also a critical enforcement tool. Just two years ago, the G.A.B. levied a record forfeiture of \$166,900 against Wisconsin Southern Railroad, and its CEO William Gardner pleaded guilty to two felonies for laundering illegal campaign contributions through several of his employees. We learned about the scheme through a tip from Mr. Gardner's former girlfriend, to whom he had given \$10,000 to make an illegal campaign contribution. But it was employer information in the campaign finance system that helped the G.A.B. investigate the case and identify the railroad employees who had also received payments from Mr. Gardner. We believe that disclosure of employer information from large donors serves as an effective deterrent to similar money laundering schemes.

Assembly Bill 396

Assembly Bill 396 would require local election officials to dispatch special voting deputies (SVDs) to certain adult-care facilities to conduct absentee voting instead of allowing discretion in determining whether to dispatch special voting deputies to those facilities. The facilities where such absentee voting would be required, upon the request of an absentee voter, include adult family homes, community-based residential facilities, and residential care apartment complexes. The requirement would not apply, however, to such facilities in which less than five registered electors are occupants.

The State currently licenses 1,568 adult family homes, 1,514 community-based residential facilities, and 309 residential care apartment complexes. Because the bill makes it mandatory to conduct absentee voting via special voting deputies at some of these facilities where it is currently optional, we anticipate some increase in local costs in the form of wages for local clerks and special voting deputies to correctly administer the new provisions. However, several factors make it difficult to estimate the local fiscal impact.

First, there is no statewide data reflecting the number of such adult-care facilities which are currently served by special voting deputies despite the fact that less than five registered voters are occupants, and therefore the increase in the number of facilities that would be served cannot be calculated. Second, the number of registered voters in individual facilities constantly fluctuates, making it impossible to calculate the effect of the exception based on the existence of five registered voters at specific facilities. Under both existing law and the proposed bill, we believe that local election officials may simply choose to dispatch special voting deputies to conduct absentee voting at the facilities upon receiving one request for an absentee ballot, regardless of the total number of registered voters who are occupants of the facility. Finally, wages for local election officials and special voting deputies are established at the local level and vary widely across municipalities.

The Government Accountability Board has received estimates of the anticipated local fiscal impact of the bill from two municipalities. The City of Sun Prairie anticipates that the bill would require its SVDs to serve an additional four facilities at a cost of \$380 per election, or

\$1,520 during a calendar year consisting of four regular elections.

The City of Appleton advised that the bill would require that SVDs conduct absentee voting at up to 22 additional facilities where it is currently optional and which SVDs currently do not serve, assuming that a request is received from at least one resident and the threshold of five registered voters is met. The City pays each SVD \$50 per visit, and SVDs typically must make two or three visits per facility to reach all electors who have requested an absentee ballot. The City of Appleton would expect an increase of between \$1,100 and \$3,300 per election, depending upon the number of requests received from residents of the additional facilities and the number of SVD visits required to complete absentee voting. The annual increase during a calendar year consisting of four regular elections would range between \$4,400 and \$12,200.

In addition to an expected increase in local costs, we have heard concerns from local clerks regarding the requirement to post a public notice at least five days prior to absentee voting at adult-care facilities, rather than the 24-hour notice required under current law. We understand the purpose of the five-day notice is to give family members adequate time to prepare their loved one to participate in voting

The five-day notice may cause administrative challenges because there is a limited time window for absentee voting to take place. Oftentimes a clerk needs to send special voting deputies to a facility a second time because a resident may not be available to vote during the initial visit. Requiring that a notice be posted five days before the second and any subsequent visits will make it difficult and sometimes impossible to accommodate voters in those facilities. This can be alleviated by setting the time and date of the return visit and including it in the initial posting.

We suggest modifying the notice requirement to provide more flexibility for clerks, by shortening it or possibly requiring the five-day notice only for the initial visit and a shorter notice for subsequent visits.

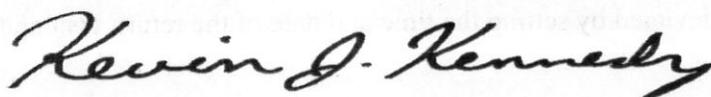
We also suggest clarifying whether the bill prohibits electors who reside in a facility served by special voting deputies are prohibited from casting an absentee ballot by mail or in the clerk's office. Section 10 of the bill repeals specific language stating that voting by special voting deputy is the exclusive means of voting for residents of facilities served by SVDs. The bill would also amend Section 6.875(4)(a) to require a municipal clerk to dispatch special voting deputies for the purpose of supervising absentee voting by occupants of a facility, upon receiving a request from an absentee elector in a qualified retirement home or residential care facility who desires to receive an absentee ballot.

The bill, however, does not either specifically permit or prohibit absentee voting by mail or in the clerk's office for residents of those facilities. If it is prohibited, indefinitely confined voters in a facility served by special voting deputies would be treated differently than indefinitely confined electors who reside at home and are permitted to cast an absentee ballot by mail or in the clerk's office. Whatever the policy decision on this point, we prefer to have it spelled out in the Statutes rather than leave it to the interpretation of our agency. Often when the Board attempts to apply statutory provisions that leave gray areas, it tends to attract criticism from one side or the other that disagrees with the policy interpretation.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I hope this testimony will help inform the Committee's consideration of these bills. As always, we are available to answer questions and work with you in developing proposed legislation.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

608-266-8005
608-267-0500 (Fax)

Kevin.Kennedy@wi.gov

11.001 Declaration of policy. (1) The legislature finds and declares that our democratic system of government can be maintained only if the electorate is informed. It further finds that excessive spending on campaigns for public office jeopardizes the integrity of elections. It is desirable to encourage the broadest possible participation in financing campaigns by all citizens of the state, and to enable candidates to have an equal opportunity to present their programs to the voters. One of the most important sources of information to the voters is available through the campaign finance reporting system. Campaign reports provide information which aids the public in fully understanding the public positions taken by a candidate or political organization. When the true source of support or extent of support is not fully disclosed, or when a candidate becomes overly dependent upon large private contributors, the democratic process is subjected to a potential corrupting influence. The legislature therefore finds that the state has a compelling interest in designing a system for fully disclosing contributions and disbursements made on behalf of every candidate for public office, and in placing reasonable limitations on such activities. Such a system must make readily available to the voters complete information as to who is supporting or opposing which candidate or cause and to what extent, whether directly or indirectly. This chapter is intended to serve the public purpose of stimulating vigorous campaigns on a fair and equal basis and to provide for a better informed electorate.

(2) This chapter is also intended to ensure fair and impartial elections by precluding officeholders from utilizing the perquisites of office at public expense in order to gain an advantage over nonincumbent candidates who have no perquisites available to them.

(3) This chapter is declared to be enacted pursuant to the power of the state to protect the integrity of the elective process and to assure the maintenance of free government.

History: 1973 c. 334; 1979 c. 328; 1985 a. 303; 2001 a. 109; 2005 a. 177.

Campaign finance in Wisconsin after *Buckley*. 1976 WLR 816.

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

212 East Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Post Office Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984
Voice (608) 266-8005
Fax (608) 267-0500
E-mail: gab@wisconsin.gov
<http://gab.wi.gov>



JUDGE TIMOTHY L. VOCKE
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

October 3, 2013

The Honorable Mary Lazich, Chair
Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs
Room 8 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Lazich:

At today's hearing on Senate Bill 282, Senator Leibham asked the Government Accountability Board to provide information to the Committee regarding the average amounts of campaign finance contributions in recent Assembly and Senate elections.

My staff has analyzed campaign contributions for calendar year 2012 from the Campaign Finance Information System, which contains every reported transaction. In contrast, the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign's database contains only donations in excess of \$100.

Assembly

There were a total of 53,461 contributions from all sources totaling \$6,653,925, with an average transaction amount of \$124. Of that total, 48,563 contributions came from individuals, with an average amount of \$96. Included in the 48,563 were 10,821 individual contributions through conduits averaging \$118 each. There were 9,003 contributions from individuals of more than \$100, and they averaged \$298.

Senate

There were a total of 71,538 contributions from all sources totaling \$5,334,647, with an average transaction amount of \$74. Of that total, 69,881 contributions came from individuals, with an average amount of \$64. Included in the 69,881 were 37,157 individual contributions through conduits averaging \$38 each. There were 6,845 contributions from individuals of more than \$100, and they averaged \$368. The campaign donation averages in the Senate elections were impacted by a large number of conduit contributions (30,741) through Act Blue, which averaged \$18 each. The 32,724 non-conduit contributions averaged \$94.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify about SB 282.

Government Accountability Board

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Kennedy".

Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel

cc: The Honorable Glenn Grothman
Members, Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs
The Honorable Kathy Bernier

Testimony of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign on Assembly Bill 378

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections

October 29, 2013

Chapter 11 of Wisconsin's state laws begins with the following declaration of policy: "**The legislature finds and declares that our democratic system of government can be maintained only if the electorate is informed.** It further finds that excessive spending on campaigns for public office jeopardizes the integrity of elections. It is desirable to encourage the broadest possible participation in financing campaigns by all citizens of the state, and to enable candidates to have an equal opportunity to present their programs to the voters. **One of the most important sources of information to the voters is available through the campaign finance reporting system.** Campaign reports provide information which aids the public in fully understanding the public positions taken by a candidate or political organization. **When the true source of support or extent of support is not fully disclosed, or when a candidate becomes overly dependent upon large private contributors, the democratic process is subjected to a potential corrupting influence.** The legislature therefore finds that **the state has a compelling interest in designing a system for fully disclosing contributions** and disbursements made on behalf of every candidate for public office, and in placing reasonable limitations on such activities. Such a system must make readily available to the voters complete information as to who is supporting or opposing which candidate or cause and to what extent, whether directly or indirectly. This chapter is intended to serve the public purpose of stimulating vigorous campaigns on a fair and equal basis and to provide for a better informed electorate."

Assembly Bill 378 does violence to the public purpose so eloquently articulated by your predecessors in the legislature by radically limiting campaign finance transparency.

AB 378 would do two things, both of which are dangerous and destructive to the public interest. First, this legislation would **blind the public to the financial interests of most campaign donors**. Current law requires the disclosure of both the occupation and employer of any donor giving more than \$100. AB 378 requires disclosure of only the occupation of donors giving over \$500. That means **no employer of any donor to an Assembly candidate would ever be disclosed**.

Since 1996, the Democracy Campaign has enabled the public to follow the money in Wisconsin politics by managing a searchable online donor database. There are 862,064 contributions from individuals in our database. Of those donations, 825,827 or 96% are \$500 or less. Contributions of more than \$500 total 36,237. If AB 378 had been state law when we launched this money tracking system back in 1996, the database would be 96% smaller and would show only the occupation but not the employer of each of the donors who made those 36,237 contributions.

The second thing AB 378 would do is **hinder law enforcement and make criminal activity easier**. In recent years Wisconsin has seen two wealthy campaign contributors – one a major Democratic donor and the other a major Republican supporter – convicted of money laundering. In both instances, the Democracy Campaign was contacted by law enforcement officials who asked for our assistance in identifying employees of their companies who made campaign donations. If AB 378 is enacted, such investigations would be next to impossible.

Your committee should take no further action on AB 378 and instead should go in exactly the opposite direction, strengthening rather than weakening disclosure laws.

131 West Wilson Street, Suite 303
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 630-9575



**Testimony of Lisa Subeck
Executive Director, United Wisconsin
AB 378
Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, 10/29/13**

Chair Bernier and Committee Members,

My name is Lisa Subeck, and I am the Executive Director of United Wisconsin, a grassroots organization of over 200,000 Wisconsin citizens committed to supporting Wisconsin's longstanding tradition of democracy in action. On behalf of our members, I am here today to urge you to reject Assembly Bill 378.

The proposed bill changes the threshold at which an individual's employer must be disclosed on campaign finance reports from over \$100 per calendar year to over \$500 in a two year period, more than doubling the minimum contribution for which such disclosure is required. This proposed increase works to diminish the public's right to know who is trying to influence our elections.

Even a quick look at campaign finance reports reveals patterns of giving among lobbyists and executives of various businesses and industries. No matter where we fall on the political spectrum, there is no denying that these contributions have influenced policy decisions made in our state Capitol. In a few instances, our current disclosure law has even led to the detection of illegal activity in which an employer avoided exceeding contribution limits by laundering donations through employees.

In addition to my role with United Wisconsin, I also serve on the City Council here in Madison. It appears that this change would apply not only to state races but also to our local elections. Contributions to a candidate in a City Council election in Madison are limited to \$250 per individual, meaning that if the current law is changed as proposed in AB 378, even the largest contributors to me and to my colleagues would never require disclosure of the donor's employer. The same is true for contributions to candidates for State Assembly where the contribution limit is \$500. Effectively, all special interest contributions directly to candidates for most offices would go undetected by the electorate.

In a post-*Citizens United* era where outside spending on our elections is at an all-time high, it is more important than ever that we strengthen our disclosure laws to ensure the public knows who is trying to influence our votes. AB 378 takes us in the opposite direction by weakening disclosure laws and is a giant step backward for democracy. While we continue to work for a day when the voice of the people reigns over the contributions of moneyed special interests, the very least we can do is implement strong disclosure policies.

Our elections should belong to the people, not to special interest groups or corporations. To make truly free and informed choices at the ballot box, the people of Wisconsin must have access to more – not less – information about who is trying to influence their vote. Again, I urge you not to gut one of our state's most important campaign finance disclosure laws by rejecting Assembly Bill 378.

Testimony on AB 378 and 396 Prepared by Roger Springman
October 29, 2013

To: Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Finance

From Roger Springman, PO Box 27, Wyocena, WI 53969

RE: Testimony on AB 378 and 396

AB 378 Testimony

Among the many requirements for a functioning democracy is citizen involvement in its many forms. Donating money to campaigns is but one form of citizen involvement. With this involvement comes the right and need for all citizens to know "where the money is coming from" . . . not just the amount. This bill represents a significant step backward as it sets a new higher limit at \$500 then removes all associated transparency to know where the money is coming from via name and address . **MAKE NO MISTAKE, THERE IS NOTHING DEMOCRATIC ABOUT THIS BILL.** It goes the wrong way. Knowing who is contributing to campaigns not only provides a clear measure of transparency, but assures that everyone knows where influence is coming from too. The legislature should be seeking reforms that provide **MORE TRANSPARENCY** in the post-Citizens' United era; not less!!

AB 396

I live in a small village in Columbia Co and know our local clerk well. Never in all of my years here in the village have I heard her talk of any significant absentee voting issues associated with our 200-person, county nursing home. Many residents are younger and without health issues and routinely vote, yet I see that this proposed legislation interferes with the process that she has used for many years without problems. **NO CLEAR REASON HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED** for the purpose or value of this legislation. It is tinkering with a problem that doesn't exist and, again, is an attempt at usurping or taking away local control. Moreover, it has significant ambiguous language written especially as regards the five-person requirement. So, a municipality has an option if fewer than five people wish to avail themselves of the right or vote. Can they ignore absentee voting or somehow expect that these people are supposed to come to the village hall on election day. **OUR SENIOR CITIZENS INSIDE COMMUNITY FACILITIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND THE LEGISLATURE SHOULD DO NOTHING TO CHANGE THE PROCESS ALLOWING FOR THIS RIGHT, ESPECIALLY IN THE ABSENCE OF COMPELLING INFORMATION BY MUNICIPAL CLERKS.**