



**Senate Committee on Elections, Ethics and Rural Issues**  
**Testimony on Assembly Bill 342**  
**September 24, 2019**

Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 422, which is part of the Wisconsin Election Commission's legislative agenda for this session. In the times we live in, the sooner that the public can get information, the better. Under current law, all election results must wait three days until the period during which a recount can be requested passes before they can be certified. This delay applies even if there is no one eligible to request a recount.

Since 2017, a recount can only be requested if the results of the election are within one percent (or within 40 votes in the case of an election with under 4,000 votes cast). Needless to say, most elections are not that close and there is no reason to delay the results being certified for a recount that cannot happen. Senate Bill 422 would allow the County Clerk to certify the results immediately when a recount is not an option. If there is a possibility of a recount, then the Clerk must still wait the required time before certifying the results to see if anyone requests a recount.

Senate Bill 422 protects the rights of candidates who want to ensure that the results were correct under state law while allowing the public to know the official results of an election sooner rather than after an unnecessary delay. I hope you will support this common sense change to the laws governing our elections and help us make sure that elections in Wisconsin are as efficient, accurate and transparent as possible. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have about this bill.