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Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Assembly Bill 1037

February 7, 2024

Thank you Chair Krug, Vice-Chair Maxey, and members of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections for holding this hearing on Assembly Bill (AB) 1037. If passed, AB 1037 would require absentee ballots to include a witness certification with the following criteria, the witness's printed first name, last name, house or apartment number, street name, and municipality, state, and ZIP code.

This Bill was introduced following a 2024 ruling by a Dane County Circuit Court Judge. The ruling stated that clerks are allowed to accept absentee ballots that contain errors or missing parts of the witness's address on the outside of the ballot envelope because "address" is undefined in statute. AB 1037 rectifies this by including the components required to constitute an acceptable address. Those required components are listed above. AB 1037 also prohibits anyone from correcting any mistake or blank sections of the absentee ballot envelope, except for the voter or witness (for their portion) themselves. Whoever violates this provision is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by fine not to exceed \$500, or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both. A substitute amendment has been introduced to remove state and ZIP code from the requirement list.

Witnessing absentee ballots is a necessary process to ensure our elections remain free and fair. The witness is used to confirm the voter made their decision free from undue influence or coercion. To oppose AB 1037 as amended, or accountability regarding the absentee voting process, is to threaten the integrity of the absentee ballot process.

Thank you for your kind attention and support of this Bill as amended. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



CORY TOMCZYK

STATE SENATOR • 29TH SENATE DISTRICT

AB 1037

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections
Wednesday, February 7, 2024

On January 2, 2024, the Dane County Circuit Court ruled in favor of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin which will allow clerks to accept absentee ballots that contain errors or missing parts of witness addresses on the outside of the ballot envelope. This means that if a clerk receives an absentee ballot that has an incomplete witness address, it will not be rejected and can be counted. Previously, a Waukesha County Circuit Court ruled that guidance used to fix small witness address errors without contacting the voter was unlawful.

This ruling rejects guidance from the Wisconsin Elections Commission that requires a street number, street name, and municipality in order for a clerk to accept a ballot. This means that clerks cannot reject an absentee ballot that does not have a witness's full address.

Judge Nilsestuen, an appointee of Governor Tony Evers, said in his ruling, "*The problem at hand could be resolved if the Legislature passed a bill to define 'address.'* Instead, it is up to the judiciary to make sense of an undefined word used in a variety of different contexts in a convoluted and poorly written statute."

AB 1037 takes the advice of Judge Nilsestuen and attempts to pass such a bill to define exactly what an address is so that there are no longer any questions regarding what must be present in the witness address portion of an absentee ballot envelope. AB 1037 specifies that an absentee ballot that is returned with a witness certification that does not include ALL of the following may not be counted: printed first name, printed last name, house or apartment number, street name, municipality, state, and ZIP code. The bill also prohibits anyone other than the voter or witness (for the witness portion) from correcting any mistake on the absentee ballot envelope.

In Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 1037, we made two changes: removed the requirement to provide the state and the requirement to provide a ZIP code. The sub now makes AB 1037 identical to the language in 2021 SB 935/AB 1004, which was passed by both houses of the Legislature. That bill had many other unrelated provisions in it and was ultimately vetoed. This bill/sub only takes the "address" language from 2021 SB 935/AB 1004.

**Assembly Committee on Campaign and Elections
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, 10:00am, 300 NE
Testimony for LRB 5620 Companion to 2023 SB 966**

Good Morning Chairman Krug and committee members. I am Claire Woodall, Executive Director of the City of Milwaukee Election Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding LRB 5620.

The City of Milwaukee (City) opposes this bill because, as drafted, it will result in the inadvertent and technical nullification of countless legally cast ballots across the state based on immaterial omissions by a voter's witness or a voter.

Under this bill, an absentee ballot that is returned with a witness certification that does not include completed versions of all of the following may not be counted:

1. The witness's printed first name.
2. The witness's printed last name.
3. The witness's house or apartment number.
4. The witness's street name.
5. The witness's municipality.
6. The witness's state.
7. The witness's zip code.

In addition to the above information, witnesses must also sign the witness attestation on the certificate envelope. The purpose of having a witness print their name and provide their address is presumably so that they can be located if there are challenges or questions regarding the absentee voter whom they witnessed casting the ballot.

The City recognizes that the legislature is attempting to provide greater clarification to municipal clerks across the state who have been left in limbo for years regarding what qualifies as a "complete witness address." However, the above guidance is overly prescriptive and creates what could easily become a literacy test for voters' witnesses.

The City supports requiring witness house numbers and street names. That information is essential to knowing where the witness resides. The City however believes requiring the municipality, state, AND zip code is overly prescriptive and unnecessary to locate the witness in most, if not all, circumstances.

I can easily determine the municipality of a witness and locate them if they provide their municipality or zip code. I do not need both to determine where to find the witness nor does the post office need both to deliver a piece of mail. Furthermore, I do not need a listed state at all to locate them. In many cases, I can determine the municipality of the witness based on their street number and name and comparing it to the voter's address that is also printed on the envelope.

I would estimate that over 60% of the time, the witness for an absentee voter either lives in the same household or apartment building as the voter, or is a neighbor on the same block. It is not unreasonable of a witness to presume that if the election official were in need to contact them, we are capable of determining their municipality because it is at the same address or an address on the same block as the voter. The omission of minor information, often found elsewhere on the envelope, is immaterial to the validity of the voter's ballot.

In addition to opposing the prescriptive address requirements, the City also opposes the definition of what a witness must write as their printed name. I was introduced to you today as Claire Woodall. If I printed Claire Woodall as my witness name on a ballot, the ballot would not be valid under the bill's current definition of having to provide a first name and last name. I have gone by my middle name my entire life and only use my first name when completing legal paperwork. Again, the purpose of the witness printing their name is to be able to determine whom the witness is if their signature is illegible.

Clerks across the state have been following clear and consistent guidelines for a proper signature and printed name for nomination papers for over a decade. In 2014, the Government Accountability Board provided guidelines for what it construed a sufficient printed name and signature combination, which carefully balanced the need and ability to identify the elector with real world behavior of citizens filling out paperwork. Under the current, narrow definition of a printed name, the following very common scenarios would result in uncertainty as to whether an otherwise valid ballot should be rejected:

- The witness abbreviated their first name with an initial
- The witness did not print their name, but signed twice with signatures that are legible
- The witness's handwriting is difficult to make out but I can ascertain their likely their name; I search the voter registration database by address and the sloppy handwriting is then clarified. I have not corrected or cured anything on the envelope, but can I count it since I can now read the poor penmanship after consulting an extrinsic source?

Voters who are receiving an absentee ballot by mail are registered to vote, have met or are exempt from the photo identification requirement, and their address has been confirmed by the receipt of their absentee ballot through the mail. These are the essential checks to ensuring that their ballot is legally cast. To specify witness requirements that are narrowly defined and easily overlooked serves no material purpose and stands in opposition to an inclusive democracy.

I again thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Testimony of Wisconsin Elections Commission Chairman Don Millis

I'm Don Millis, chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission. First, I want to thank Representative Krug for inviting me to testify this morning.

As some of you know I am Speaker Vos' appointee to the Elections Commission. In the past I had the honor to serve as former Senator Fitzgerald's appointee on the Commission—from the Senate Side—and before that, in the olden days of the 1990s, I was Governor Thompson's designee on the old Wisconsin Elections Board. In fact, I started my career working in the State Senate in 1981, when the chair was 6 years old.

Today I am speaking for myself, not for the Commission and not for Speaker Vos. Primarily, I want to provide background for the committee as it considers AB 1037.

AB 1037 concerns the absentee ballot certificate envelope. This certificate has two addresses. One of these is the voter's address. If you look at section 2 of the bill, it reprints section 6.87(2) of the statutes up to the colon on line 4 of page 3 of the bill. In the statutes the form that follows clearly describes the requirements of the voter's address: municipality, street address, county, state, zip code, ward, and aldermanic district. The absentee ballot certificate also contains the address of the voter's witness, that's what's at issue in AB 1037. The statutes provide little guidance on what constitutes the witness's address. But, to be sure section 6.87(6d) of the statutes provides that:

If a certificate is missing the address of a witness, the ballot may not be counted.

This one sentence in statute has generated more than its share of litigation as parties have disagreed over what "address" means in this statute and how many components of an address a ballot must have to be counted. Over the past 8 years, the Wisconsin Elections Commission has sought to interpret the witness address requirement.

In 2016, the Commission issued guidance to municipal clerks on the witness address requirement, defining "address" as consisting of a street number, street name, and municipality. The guidance also directed clerks to add information to the witness address if it could be reasonably ascertained from other information or other reliable outside sources and to cure immaterial errors on the envelope either by correcting information on the envelope themselves or contacting the voter.

This guidance was in place for 31 elections.

Just prior to the November 2022 election, the Waukesha County Circuit Court prohibited the Commission from directing clerks to add information to witness addresses.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

Don M. Millis, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Ann S. Jacobs | Carrie Riepl | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

However, the court did not alter the Commission's definition of an address, which again was a street number, street name, and municipality.

More recently, a Dane County court ruled in two cases that the Commission's interpretation of a witness address requirement violates federal and state law, in *Rise, Inc. v. WEC*, and *League of Women Voters vs. WEC*. Those cases are now on appeal.

For the past 18 months, the staff and the members of the Commission have spent a lot of time and resources to make sure that the Commission's guidance, as well as the design of the absentee envelope certificate complies with the statutes, the case law—including the more recent decisions—as well as the Legislative Audit Bureau's 2021 audit of the Commission. Another part of the effort has been to provide clarity and consistency for clerks and voters in the design of the envelope.

It is important to remember, the Commission's guidance can be changed in reaction to court decisions and changes in the law. Numerous times during my tenure as chair of the Commission we have been ordered to withdraw or alter previously issued guidance and we have done so. In fact, during the Commission's meeting tomorrow, we will have to address the recent Dane County court decisions I mentioned earlier.

What cannot be readily changed in response to court decisions or changes in the law is the design of the absentee voter envelope certificate. Working with clerks, the Commission approved the final version of these certificate envelopes last year. Clerks across the state have printed hundreds of thousands of these newly designed envelopes for the elections that will occur this year: February, April, August and November. These envelopes have been sent to voters for the upcoming February 20th Spring Primary and ballots for the April Presidential Preference Primary will be sent to military and overseas voters, using the new envelope, on February 15, 2024.

My personal view—not speaking for Speaker Vos or the Commission—is that it would be good to have a better statutory definition of the witness address and statutory guidance on what a clerk can or must do if the address is not complete, whether it is this bill or another bill. That would be much better than having to react to court decisions seemingly every month.

However, if the Legislature is going to change the law to alter the design of the absentee vote envelope, I would suggest providing a delayed effective date. Your clerks have printed hundreds of thousands of these envelopes and many plan to use these beyond 2024. To give you an idea of the strength of clerk concerns, as we were designing the new envelope last year, we had many clerks pleading with the Commission to allow them to use old envelopes that had been printed years before. Because the Commission felt it was necessary to have uniform standards, the Commission unanimously voted to require the new design. If the legislature were to change the law to require new envelopes printed this year or even for the 2025 nonpartisan elections, it would likely force many clerks to scrap the envelopes that have already been printed. It is important to note that there are few printers with the ability and capability to print these envelopes. The expense is considerable. For these reasons, whatever the Legislature decides, whether it is in this bill or something similar, I suggest a delayed effective date until at least the 2026 election cycle.

With that, if you have any questions, I'd be happy to take them.

Reinemann, John

From: Debbie Morin <kdmorin6@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 8:32 AM
To: Rep.Krug
Subject: I support Assembly Bill 1037

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chairman Krug,

I am writing in support of AB-1037. Please register me in support of AB-1037 for today's public hearing. I am a long-time election observer in various municipalities in Wisconsin. I recently served on the Wisconsin Elections Commission's Election Observer Advisory Committee to assist the commission in establishing administrative rules for election observers.

This is a good bill. It will clarify Wis.Stat. 6.87 (6d), eliminating the confusion of different interpretations and producing uniformity in its application by election officials around the state.

When looking at the proposed text of the bill, there may be a few amendments to consider:

1.) In second lines 7 & 8 - If a certificate is missing the address of a any of the following witness information at 8 pm on election day, the ballot may shall not be counted Also, in the list of witness information, it would be good to include the witness's signature, which conforms to the witness's printed first and last name.

2.) It might be worthwhile to clarify Wis. Stat. 6.87 (6); "The ballot shall be returned so it is delivered to the polling place or in municipalities where absentee ballots are canvassed under s. 7.52, to the absentee ballot canvassing board location no later than 8 p.m. on election day. ~~Except in municipalities where absentee ballots are canvassed under s. 7.52,~~ if the municipal clerk receives an absentee ballot on election day, the clerk shall secure the ballot and cause the ballot to be delivered to the polling place serving the elector's residence or to the absentee ballot canvassing location serving the elector's municipality before 8 p.m. on election day. Any ballot not mailed or delivered as provided in this subsection ~~may~~ shall not be counted."

3.) In the first line 2 - Wis. Stat. 6.86 (5) is referenced --"Whenever an elector returns a spoiled or damaged absentee ballot to the municipal clerk,...**and the clerk believes** that the ballot was issued to or on behalf of the elector who is returning it, the clerk shall issue a new ballot to the elector..."

Rather than relying on the belief of a clerk, it would take pressure off clerks to have the elector returning the spoiled ballot show their Voter ID before receiving a replacement absentee ballot from the clerk. In every other voting situation, Voter ID is required to receive a ballot. In polling places and alternate absentee ballot sites, a voter is not allowed take a ballot out of the location. There is a public clear chain of custody of every ballot. With mailed absentee ballots, the chain of custody is broken. The simple act of having an absentee elector voting by mail show identification before receiving a replacement ballot would protect clerks and electors.

4.) In lines 19 & 20, possible wording: On the elector's absentee ballot certificate, only the elector may correct the certification of voter section and only the witness may correct the certification of witness section. Having both the elector and the witness present identification before making any corrections is, as stated above, good election administration for mail-in absentee voting.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on AB-1037.

Debra Morin
West Allis, Wisconsin

To: Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections
From: Disability Rights Wisconsin (Contact: Lisa Hassenstab, Public Policy Manager,
lisah@drwi.org)
Date: February 7, 2024
Re: AB 1037 - relating to: witness address requirements on absentee ballot certificates,
curing defects on absentee ballot certificates, and providing a penalty

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) is the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy system for the State of Wisconsin, charged with protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and keeping them free from abuse and neglect. DRW is charged with protecting the voting rights of people with disabilities and mandated to help ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities (Help America Vote Act, 42 U.S.C. § 15461 (2002)). With this responsibility, DRW offers the following comments in opposition of AB 1073.

Having long supported having standard practices to allow municipal clerks to correct or add missing witness information to absentee ballot certificates, DRW is concerned about the potential impact of AB 1037 on voters with disabilities; of primary concern is that a restriction on curing by anyone but the voter or the witness proposed in this bill would disenfranchise voters and disproportionately affect voters with disabilities. Current statute states that when a certificate envelope has missing information the clerk may return the ballot to the elector; the time and effort required to receive, correct, and return a ballot could very well make it impossible for a voter to ensure timely return of their ballot. This may particularly impact voters with disabilities who may have limited transportation options, limited mobility to be able to retrieve and return their ballot, or limited access to the individual who served as their witness. Through contacts with voters with disabilities via our voter hotline, DRW has heard from and assisted many voters for whom it has been very helpful for clerks to correct a defect on the absentee ballot certificate envelope, such as completing the witness address, to honor the voter's intent. A more inclusive approach would be development of standard practices to allow municipal clerks to correct or add missing witness address information to absentee ballot certificates. This would provide a uniform approach in which clerks are allowed to correct errors or complete missing components of the witness address based on reliable information. Guidance should also be in place for all clerks to monitor returned absentee ballots and notify voters of deficiencies in a timely manner to ensure there is time for the voter to cure the deficiency if a clerk is unable to do so.

In addition, what information is required for a complete witness address on an absentee ballot certificate is of concern to DRW. The inclusion of multiple fields of information on a document with limited print space may lead to an increase of missed fields; this could result in an increase in rejected ballots due to the inability of voters, particularly voters with disabilities, to be able to correct that information. If a witness signature and address is to be required, it should consist of only the minimum amount of information that would allow contact to occur with the witness; the substitute amendment offered on this bill is a welcome improvement in this regard.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Reinemann, John

From: Bart Williams <bartwilliamsforschoolboard@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:03 AM
To: Rep.Allen; Rep.Armstrong; Rep.August; Rep.Behnke; Rep.Binsfeld; Rep.Bodden; Rep.Born; Rep.Brandtjen; Brooks, Rob; Rep.Callahan; Rep.Dallman; Rep.Dittrich; Rep.Donovan; Rep.Duchow; Rep.Edming; Rep.Goeben; Rep.Green; Rep.Gundrum; Rep.Gustafson; Rep.Hurd; Rep.Johnson; Rep.Katsma; Rep.Kitchens; Rep.Krug; Rep.Kuglitsch@legis.wisconsin.gov; Rep.Kurtz; Rep.Macco; Rep.Magnafici; Rep.Maxey; Rep.Melotik; Rep.Michalski; Rep.Moses; Rep.Murphy; Rep.Mursau; Rep.Nedweski; Rep.Neylon; Rep.Novak; Rep.O'Connor@legis.wisconsin.gov; Rep.Oldenburg; Rep.Penterman; Rep.Petersen; Rep.Petryk; Rep.Plumer; Rep.Pronschinske; Rep.Rettinger; Rep.Rodriguez; Rep.Sapik; Rep.Schmidt; Rep.Schraa; Rep.Schutt; Rep.Snyder; Rep.Sortwell; Rep.Spiros; Rep.Steffen; Rep.Summerfield; Rep.Swearingen; Rep.Tittl; Rep.Tranel; Rep.Tusler; Rep.VanderMeer; Rep.Vos; Rep.Wichgers; Rep.Wittke; Rep.Zimmerman
Cc: Sen.Ballweg; Sen.Bradley; Sen.Cabral-Guevara; Sen.Cowles; Sen.Felzkowski; Sen.Feyen; Sen.Hutton; Sen.Jacque; Sen.Jagler; Sen.James; Sen.Kapenga; Sen.Knodl; Sen.LeMahieu; Sen.Marklein; Sen.Nass; Sen.Quinn; Sen.Stafsholt; Sen.Stroebel; Sen.Testin; Sen.Tomczyk; Sen.Wanggaard; Sen.Wimberger
Subject: URGENT: Please speak and vote STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF AB 1037!!

Dear Wisconsin Representatives to the Assembly,

You have a golden opportunity (and a civic duty, as well as a consent-of-the-governed responsibility) to stop all the criminal election fraud now being pushed by Extreme Radical Leftists intent on legislating from the bench to steal the April, summer, and Nov. 2024 elections – AND ALL ELECTIONS GOING FORWARD!! They truly want to radically and illegally (i.e., completely ignoring the clearly enumerated, carved in the Constitution and Wis. Stats., control-over-OUR-elections power of the Wisconsin Legislature) seize control over our elections from We the People and from OUR Wisconsin Legislature! We are all at grave risk now, including you, your spouses, children, grandchildren, and everyone else you know and love!

PLEASE speak and vote strongly in support of AB 1037 today!!

I personally saw Wis. Stats. 6.87(6d) violated repeatedly at Central Count (FRAUD) in Milwaukee on 11/3/2020 to allow illegal ballots that were missing the statutorily-required witness address to be illegally counted, and undoubtedly the vast majority were for illegitimate, criminal, corrupt, election-law-breaking frauds Biden and Harris.

Between those crimes in Milwaukee, the 139,000 illegal ballots that were illegally processed through and counted from the illegal ballot drop boxes, and the 17,000-plus illegal ballots illegally collected and counted at Madison's two "FRAUD in the Park" events on Saturdays

9/26/2020 and 10/3/2020 (I was an election observer there on this day with two colleagues and I witnessed those criminal Democrats that were involved deliberately commit serious, election-outcome-changing, criminal election fraud firsthand), nursing home election fraud, and more – Joe Biden and Kamala Harris illegally and criminally STOLE THE 11/3/2020 ELECTION, AND WE HAVE ALL BEEN LIVING THE NIGHTMARE/HELL EVERY DAY SINCE!!

Please make this election fraud stop NOW! Speak and vote strongly in support of AB 1037 today!! Thank you.

Sincerely signed to save our Republic (doomed by Nov. 2024 if the criminal election stealing is not stopped NOW),

Bart & Jodi Williams, all their voting-age adult children, other family members, friends, neighbors, and colleagues

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February 7, 2024

Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections:

Testimony for Public Hearing

Chair Krug and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing testimony today.

Assembly Bill 1037 – Relating to: witness address requirements on absentee ballot certificates, curing defects on absentee ballot certificates, and providing a penalty.

INFORMATIONAL

This bill is an attempt to answer the ultimate question that has plagued voters and clerks since the passage of 2015 Wisconsin Act 261. "What is an address?"

Act 261 created "§6.87 (6d) *If a certificate is missing the address of a witness, the ballot may not be counted.*" What the Act did not do is define what is an address is. There have been many attempts to define "address" through guidance, administrative rules, bills and to quote a recent court case "to make sense of an undefined word used in a variety of different contexts in a convoluted and poorly written statute". (Dane County Case No. 22022CV2446)

That recent court case also stated the problem at hand could be resolved if the legislature passed a bill to define "address." Again, this bill is an attempt to answer that ultimate question.

Though I applaud the attempt to clarify "address", I believe the description in this bill is too restrictive.

- I believe the original intent of requiring the witness address was to be able to find the witness.
- This bill requires municipality, state and zip code. As we know, one can easily find a zip code if we have the municipality and state. We can also find the municipality and state with the zip code.
- Will clerks be allowed to use their municipal office address as the witness address for in-person absentee voting? Or will we be ignoring the bills from this session working to protect our election officials by adding their residential address to a public record.
- Concerns with implementation of the bill.
 - This bill does not contain an implementation date. Clerks have already mailed their absentee ballots for the February Primary and by February 15th clerks will be mailing military and overseas absentee ballots for the April 2, 2024 Spring Election and Presidential Preference. Will we be changing rules mid-election and disenfranchising voters.
 - New absentee ballot designs were implemented for use beginning January 1st of this year. The current envelopes are clearer and easier for voters to understand. But they list the Witness address as (number, street name, city). Zip code is not listed. Clerks do not wait to the last minute to order envelopes for April. They already have those envelopes are prepping to them mail as soon as they have ballots.
- This bill reminds me of when you were in school and had to do a team project. Sometimes one person did the majority of the work. You may have been that person. You did the majority of the work and then your partner failed to add one number the report and now you have failed, and your vote is not counted.

Thank you for your consideration, Lisa Tollefson

Trenta, Andrew

Subject: FW: Assembly Bill 1037

From: Bonnie Held <bonniejheld@yahoo.com>

Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 9:20:48 AM

To: Rep.Krug

Subject: Assembly Bill 1037

Dear Rep Krug,

Was hoping to attend this hearing this morning, but a paying job commitment called last minute and got in the way. Being a senior, with SS and a small pension no longer barely covering rent and food, it takes priority. Elections have consequences, hence the inflation I'm not able to sustain since Biden's (illegal) presidency. I beseech you and your members in committee to get Bill 1037 to the floor as soon as possible. Though this bill is only a SMALL PART of shoring up the integrity of our elections, every little bit counts.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Held
Madison, WI

Getting Assistance

If you need help reading or filling out your ballot or absentee return envelope, you may ask for assistance from anyone who is not your employer or a representative of your labor union. **Your assistant may also serve as your witness.** Explaining how to fill out your ballot or return envelope is not "assistance."

With your absentee return envelope

- If someone signs your absentee return envelope on your behalf, make sure they also sign in the *Certification of Assistant* section.
- Your assistant may also serve as your witness.

With your ballot

- Your assistant must sign in the *Certification of Assistant* section.
- Your assistant can read your ballot to you or fill out your ballot under your direction but cannot tell you how to vote.

Ballot Damage & Mistakes

If you make a mistake while marking your ballot or completing the return envelope, **please contact your municipal clerk.** They can also field questions about how to request a new ballot and return it if you make a mistake.

You can find their information below or by scanning the QR code.



myvote.wi.gov/en-us/My-Municipal-Clerk

Voter Photo ID

- If you have received your ballot, then a copy of your photo ID is already on file or you are exempt from the requirement. You do not need to provide another copy of photo ID unless instructed by your clerk.

If you have any questions, please contact your municipal clerk for assistance.

Municipal Clerk Contact Information

(Name of Municipal Clerk)

(Name of Municipality)

Phone:

Email:

Fax:

State Election Official Contact Information Wisconsin Elections Commission

Help Desk: (608) 261-2028

Email: elections@wi.gov



**Check absentee ballot return status, find voter information, and more on
MyVote.wi.gov**

Uniform Instructions for Wisconsin Absentee Voters

EL-128 | Rev 08-2023 | Wisconsin Elections Commission, P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984 |
(608) 261-2028 | elections.wi.gov | elections@wi.gov