



RACHAEL A. CABRAL-GUEVARA

STATE SENATOR • 19TH SENATE DISTRICT

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection

Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara

December 12, 2023

Hello, Chairman Knodl and members of the Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection. Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony on Senate Bill 685, a bill that will dramatically improve the efficiency of processing absentee ballots and clean up critical components of election law.

First, I would like to clarify an important difference between “processing” and “counting” ballots. “Processing” absentee ballots means that inspectors review the certificate envelope for sufficiency, verify the voter is eligible, announce the voter’s name and address, and input the absent voter’s ballot into the tabulator—all of which currently happens after 7:00 A.M. on Election Day. This bill would simply allow processing to start a day earlier. “Counting” ballots means the inspectors press “close polls” on the tabulator, results are tallied, and the results report is printed. This bill does not change anything on the timeline for “counting” ballots.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 38 states allow the processing of absentee ballots prior to Election Day—including a bi-partisan makeup of states such as Florida and Washington. Wisconsin is in the minority of states that do not allow processing until the polls open. This has resulted in states much larger than Wisconsin, such as Florida, reporting results hours earlier on election night. For those questioning the comparison to Florida as a state without same-day voter registration, there are several others that allow the processing of absentees before Election Day that do have same-day voter registration, including: Iowa, Maine, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming.

The delay in getting results has often been met with skepticism on both sides of the aisle and has resulted in early morning calls after most went to bed. It has also extended the hours election inspectors and observers need to be present at polling places and boards of absentee ballot canvassers. This bill intends to change that.

Allowing municipalities to process absentee ballots the Monday prior to Election Day will accomplish three important goals: boost confidence in the process, improve efficiency, and deliver election results for candidates and voters alike hours earlier on Election Day.

I would like to address some of the security concerns around processing absentee ballots prior to Election Day. This bill specifies safe storage requirements for all materials used during Monday processing, including requirements on audits and recounts if inspectors discover any tampering of the materials or tabulators.

Additionally, for those concerned about someone getting their hands on results before the polls close on Election Day, this bill makes it a felony. There were some questions raised during the Assembly hearing about inspectors tallying results prior to Election Day and informing political parties for turnout purposes. That is not permitted under current law and the penalties for doing so are strengthened under this bill.

This proposal also cleans up language on incompetency adjudications for voting purposes. Currently, there is minimal action required on these determinations in statute. This bill clarifies that the court must notify the Elections Commission on the adjudication, the commission must deactivate the registration, and the commission must include the individual on the ineligible elector list.

There are other provisions of the bill which clean up processes not in use by any municipality according to the Elections Commission (non-absentee central counts) and add reporting requirements for the status of processing absentee ballots—both of which clear up confusion and increase transparency.

This bill passed the Assembly on a voice vote and I am hopeful for a strong bi-partisan vote in the Senate. This is a process taking place in both red and blue states alike, and there is no reason Wisconsin should be reporting results later than a state with nearly four times our population merely due to restrictive statutes. Let's get this done.



RON TUSLER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 3rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Assembly Bill 567/Senate Bill 685 Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection Public Hearing December 12, 2023

Chair Knodl and committee members – thank you for having a public hearing on my bill, Assembly bill 567 (AB 567), regarding the Monday Processing of absentee ballots.

In 2018, voters in Wisconsin went to bed with one gubernatorial candidate in the lead. After the processing of all ballots was completed, the lead flipped to another candidate. In 2020, the same event took place. In 2022, some states much larger than Wisconsin reported results more rapidly. The events of the 2018, 2020, and 2022 elections in Wisconsin, where initial results changed after the processing of all ballots, underscore the need for reform. Voters deserve timely and accurate results to maintain trust in our electoral system. The proposed bill, which allows clerks to process absentee ballots the day before the election, is a significant step toward achieving this goal. Early processing of absentee ballots not only expedites the vote-counting process but also ensures that results are available in a timely manner, reducing uncertainty among candidates and voters alike.

This introduced bill has important safeguards for early processing of absentee ballots:

- **Safe-Storage Requirements:** The legislation mandates specific safe-storage requirements for election materials used during "Monday Processing." This ensures the security and integrity of the process.
- **Reporting of Absentees Processed:** The bill requires reporting the total number of absentee ballots processed on Monday, further promoting transparency.
- **Tallying Result Rules:** It maintains rules that prohibit anyone from accessing election results before 8:00 PM on Election Day. This helps prevent leaks and ensures a fair and transparent election process.

Additionally, AB 567 allows various agencies, including the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC), and local clerks to collaborate in monitoring voter eligibility. This coordination is essential in maintaining the accuracy and integrity of the voter rolls. As well as, the bill streamlines the process across the state in which court determinations for ineligibility to vote by order of incompetency are handled by clarifying who is told what, when, and how to take action.

Finally, the legislation eliminates processes that are not in use by any municipality, reducing confusion and improving clarity in election procedures.

AB 567 addresses key issues that have affected recent elections in Wisconsin, providing solutions that enhance the efficiency, transparency, and security of our electoral system. By permitting the early processing of absentee ballots, improving collaboration among state agencies, and reducing confusion, this legislation is a crucial step toward ensuring that Wisconsin voters have the elections they deserve.

Wisconsin voters deserve elections that can be as efficiently as possible. I strongly encourage support and advancement of AB 567, as it reflects a commitment to the principles of fairness, accuracy, and accessibility in our democratic process. I welcome any insights and dialogue to help improve this bill and get it over the finish line. Thank you for taking my testimony.



DAVE MAXEY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 15TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony before the Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protections

Representative Dave Maxey

December 12, 2023

Chairman Knodl and members of the Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protections.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Assembly Bill 567, a crucial step towards enhancing the efficiency of Wisconsin's elections while upholding their safety and security.

In 2018, Wisconsin voters went to bed with one gubernatorial candidate leading; however, after absentee ballots were processed, the other candidate had prevailed. The same phenomenon occurred in the 2020 election. Due to the widespread coverage of a presidential election and the greatly increased use of absentee ballots, the issue of late returns was greatly amplified and created a sense of distrust in our electoral process. While the 2022 election was decided earlier than in 2018 and 2020, the issue still remained that states much larger than Wisconsin reported election results more quickly than Wisconsin.

Across the nation, only four states require that absentee ballots can only be processed on Election Day: Maryland, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. As you may remember, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin were at the forefront of the 2020 election's criticisms towards absentee ballot returns. However, one other state comes to mind when looking back at the 2020 Election, and that state is Georgia. Prior to 2021, Georgia also began processing absentee ballots on Election Day. However, due to the events that occurred in 2020, Georgia decided that it was time to make their elections more efficient by processing ballots before Election Day, resulting in election reporting coming more rapidly than it had in 2020.

Assembly Bill 567 aims to give our clerks more time to process absentee ballots, along with restoring faith in our electoral process by attempting to stop 2 A.M. ballot dumps. I would like to make it clear that processing absentee ballots doesn't include the tabulation or counting of absentee ballots. Under Assembly Bill 567, absentee ballots canvassed early may not be tallied until after the polls close on Election Day. Assembly Bill 567 also provides that no one can act in a manner that would provide them with any information on tallied election results from absentee ballots that were canvassed early before the close of polls on Election Day. If an individual does violate this prohibition, they will be guilty of a Class I felony, which could result in a significant fine or imprisonment.

I hope you can all join me in supporting Assembly Bill 567. This legislation offers the opportunity to restore faith in our electoral process by enhancing efficiency while maintaining safety and security. Thank you for your time and consideration.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection

FROM: Marcie Rainbolt, Government Affairs Associate

DATE: December 12, 2023

SUBJECT: Support Senate Bill 685: Early Canvassing of Absentee Ballots

Wisconsin has seen a significant increase in the utilization of absentee voting over the past several elections. According to the Wisconsin Elections Commission, any qualified elector who is registered to vote may request an absentee ballot. No reason or excuse is required to receive an absentee ballot.

During the global pandemic that began in 2020, Wisconsin held two significant elections which both saw an unprecedented number of requests for absentee ballots. The 2020 General and Presidential Election, clerks from across Wisconsin sent over two million absentee ballots to registered voters. Of those, 1,957,514 absentee ballots were returned, setting a new record for absentee ballots in Wisconsin. The previous record was set in the 2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary. Clerks sent out 1,282,097 absentee ballots with 1,138,491 ballots returned.

For many municipal clerks, this growing number of absentee ballots is becoming overwhelming and burdensome causing an impact on the completion of the election canvassing process. Ultimately, with the absentee ballot increasing in popularity, election results will be delayed without changes to the canvassing process.

Currently, in Wisconsin absentee ballots cannot be counted until the day of the election. SB 685 would give municipalities the option to canvass absentee ballots between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the day prior to the election. SB 685 has several requirements that must be met including: equipment where the absentee ballots are housed must be secure and kept in a double-locked location; the municipality must use automatic tabulating equipment; if any evidence of tampering is discovered certain steps must be taken before canvassing continues; absentee ballots canvassed may not be tallied until after the polls close on election day; and no person may tally absentee ballots or report results before the canvass is complete or the person could be guilty of a class I felony.

Overall, SB 685 is a viable option for municipalities that will allow election results to be returned in a timely manner while keeping elections safe and secure. The Wisconsin Counties Association, on behalf of its county members, respectfully requests your support of SB 685.



JANEL BRANDTJEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 22ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Chairman Knodl and Members,

I am opposed to SB 685, which allows the processing of absentee ballots the day before the election, for several reasons, as listed below.

1. **Creates an Incentive for More Central Counts:** No chain of custody laws are on the books for handling central count ballots.
2. **Costly:** Additional expenses incurred for setting up on Saturday and Sunday before a Monday start, including equipment and personnel costs. The extended timeframe necessitates an increase in the number of personnel.
3. **Issues with District Attorneys:** The District Attorney in Milwaukee does not prioritize election law enforcement seriously. Despite the conviction of the deputy clerk for sending fake absentee ballots to my home, justice remains delayed. Additionally, the District Attorney does not recognize me as a victim in the case.
4. **Security Concerns:** The security of the process is questionable due to the handling of flash drives in and out of machines, uncertainties surrounding unprocessed ballots, and insufficient details regarding overnight security measures.
5. **Concerns about Equality:** Historical disparities raise concerns about achieving near-equal representation of Republicans and Democrats in ballot processing. This could potentially require a significant increase in personnel over a two-day period.
6. **Potential for Leaks or Early Release of Information:** If absentee ballots are processed before the election day, there is a risk that information about the early results may be leaked or released prematurely. This could influence voter behavior or perception of the election outcome.
7. **Fairness and Equity:** Processing absentee ballots early could create an uneven playing field. In some cases, the results of early-processed absentee ballots might be known to certain individuals or groups before the polls officially close, potentially impacting voter turnout or motivation.
8. **Unforeseen Events and Voter Decisions:** Last-minute events or developments may influence voters who vote on election day. If early results from absentee ballots are known, it might affect the decisions of voters who have not yet cast their ballots.
9. **Maintaining the Integrity of the Process:** To ensure the integrity of the election process, it is essential to maintain a transparent and uniform system. Processing absentee ballots too early might raise concerns about the consistency and fairness of the election process.

10. **Public Confidence:** If there is a perception that absentee ballots are being processed too early, it may undermine public confidence in the electoral process. Transparency and adherence to established procedures are crucial for maintaining trust in the democratic system.

In conclusion, my opposition to SB 685 stems from a multifaceted concern encompassing various aspects of the election process. The bill presents significant challenges from the potential compromise of ballot security to the financial implications of an extended processing period and the worrisome lack of attention to election law enforcement. Moreover, the disparities in party representation during ballot processing, the risks of leaks, and the potential erosion of public confidence further underscore the need for caution in altering the current absentee ballot processing timeline. It is crucial to strike a delicate balance between the pursuit of efficiency and the steadfast commitment to maintaining our electoral system's integrity, fairness, and transparency.

I appreciate your consideration of this significant issue, and I sincerely hope that the committee will take decisive action to reject and end this bill's passage.



State Representative Janel Brandtjen



Wisconsin County Clerk Association

December 12, 2023

Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection:

Chair Knodl and Committee Members:

Wisconsin County Clerks Association (WCCA) REGISTERING IN

SUPPORT: of Assembly Bill 567 as approved by the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections

Lisa Tollefson, Rock County Clerk, Co-Chair WCCA Legislative Committee

Meg Wartman, Waukesha County Clerk, Co-Chair WCCA Legislative Committee

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Lisa Tollefson, Rock County Clerk

December 12, 2023

Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection:

Testimony for Public Hearing

Chair Knodl and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing testimony today.

Assembly Bill 567 – relating to: transmitting and canvassing absentee ballots, use of central counting locations, election night reporting, whistleblower protection for municipal clerks, notifications and verifications concerning citizenship status, court determinations of incompetency and ineligibility to vote, and providing a penalty.

SUPPORT of AB567 as approved by the Assembly with substitute Amendment 2

As many of you have heard numerous times, it takes longer to process an absentee ballot than it does for a voter to cast a ballot at the polls. As Wisconsinites continue to choose to vote absentee, the time it takes to process absentee ballots will also be a factor in receiving timely results on election night. Currently, absentee ballots cannot be processed prior to 7:00 a.m. on Election Day. If the goal is to have results as soon after the polls close at 8:00 p.m., then moving the start time is the most viable option.

The reality of our current system is expecting someone to run a 15-minute mile in 7-minutes or to drive the entire length of Wisconsin in two hours.

The version of AB567 approved by the Assembly Committee gives municipalities an option to ensure they are finished processing ballots as close to the closing of the polls as possible.

These are the advantages of this bill:

- Timely results on election night.
- Helps with election inspector shortages. Election inspectors who help with processing absentee ballots the day before the election may be freed up to help at polling locations on election day.
- Less election inspector exhaustion at central count from working extensive hours.
- Adds a reporting requirement to help the public understand the volume of absentee ballots being processed.

The proof that this is a viable option was proven in April of 2020. Wisconsin was the first state to run a Presidential Preference Primary during COVID. For the April Spring Election and Presidential Preference, a judge ordered municipalities to shutdown their machines without tabulating to wait for any additional absentee ballots to be returned. On election night the entire state shutdown their tabulators without tabulating (counting), then security sealed and lockdown their machines and ballots. The Monday after the election, clerks were allowed to finish processing absentees and tabulate the totals on their machines. It worked and it worked well. Our election systems in Wisconsin use strong passwords, security codes, unique identifier seals, and physical security to protect our systems.

Thank you for your consideration in improving our elections,

Lisa Tollefson

State Senate Committee Testimony On 12/8/2023

JAY STONE
President
Hot Government

I. Jay Stone

a. President of HOT Government

b. HOT is acronym for Honest Open Transparent Government

c. 400 to 800 people watch HOT government's bi-weekly meetings live or on demand.

II. On November 10, 2023 I won a lawsuit against the WEC.

a. I acted as my own attorney.

b. The question before the court was, is it legal for the WEC to use its MyVote website to process absentee ballot requests?

c. Judge Schroeder ordered the WEC to follow the law.

d. The AAG said, "The WEC does not need to be told to follow the law. The WEC knows it must follow the law.

e. In spite of the AG's objections, Judge Schroeder ordered the WEC to follow the law.

f. The state legislature passing new election laws won't do any good if the WEC will not follow the elections laws that you prescribe.

III. On October 5, 2023 The WEC submitted its 2021-2023 biannual report to the state senate and state house.

a. Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 15.04(1)(d), the WEC's 2021-2023 biannual report was required to provide information on the performance and operations of the Commission.

b. The WEC's 2021-2023 biannual report is one huge lie.

c. Nowhere, I repeat nowhere in the WEC's 2021-2023 report is the five lawsuits that the WEC lost. The five lawsuits that the WEC lost all involved the WEC's unlawful guidance and actions.

d. The five lawsuits that the WEC lost amounted to over 1.5 million unlawfully cast votes in 2020. Voters did not deliberately cast unlawful ballots; it was the WEC's fault.

e. Nowhere, I repeat nowhere in the WEC's 2021-2023 report is the on-going lawsuits against the WEC. I, alone, have three more lawsuits against the WEC.

JAY Stowe
President Hat Wadsworth

f. State senators and state representatives can't evaluate the WEC's performance and operations because the WEC deliberately failed to report the five lawsuits that it lost and the current unresolved lawsuits.

g. How will this state senate committee respond to the WEC for not disclosing the five lawsuits it lost? Here is my answer. This state senate committee should require WEC Administrator Meagan Wolfe, chief legal counsel Jim Witecha, and Chair Don Milis to testify before this committee about the five lawsuits that the WEC lost.

h. This senate committee should also invite the five lawyers who won their cases against the WEC to testify.

i. Until you hold the WEC's staff and commissioners who are responsible for losing the five lawsuits that allowed over 1.5 million unlawful votes to be cast, we cannot support any sweeping changes to Wisconsin election laws.

Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 10:01am, 411 S

Testimony for SB685

Relating to: transmitting and canvassing absentee ballots, use of central counting locations, election night reporting, whistleblower protection for municipal clerks, notifications and verifications concerning citizenship status, court determinations of incompetency and ineligibility to vote, and providing a penalty.

Good Morning Chairperson Knodl and committee members. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB685. The City of Milwaukee has registered for information only on this bill, and we are here to provide general background on the impact of this bill and the improvements it could make to our Central Count operations.

As I'm sure you are aware, the City of Milwaukee is the largest jurisdiction that utilizes Central Count to process absentee ballots on election day. SB685 provides the authority to allow municipalities to add the Monday preceding an election to the allowable timeline for clerks to process absentee ballots. The ability to process ballots just one day early significantly increases the City's capacity to efficiently and accurately meet practical and statutory deadlines for processing absentee ballots, especially in high turn-out elections.

As a staff member of the Election Commission and former manager of our Central Count operations from 2013-2022, I have experienced first-hand the overwhelming improvements in efficiency and accuracy of absentee ballot counting through the utilization of Central Count. Audits and recounts have continuously proven that absentee ballots are handled accurately and uniformly at Central Count, which is of the utmost importance when processing a voter's ballot in their absence. At the same time that our operations continue to run more efficiently, we have seen steady growth in the use of in-person absentee voting and absentee by-mail, especially since 2020 due to the COVID19 pandemic. This trend is not unique to the City of Milwaukee. The convenience of voting absentee by-mail continues at nearly 400% of the levels that we saw pre-pandemic and we believe this trend will remain a new constant. The data below provides an approximate number of absentee ballots, both in-person and by-mail, the City of Milwaukee processed on Election Day during the last four general elections:

2016: 64,000 2018: 47,000 2020: 170,000 2022: 61,000

Under current state statutes, no part of canvassing absentee ballots can begin before 7:00am on Election Day. On Election Day, each absentee ballot is reviewed for sufficiency, opened, assigned a voter number in the absentee log and then prepared for processing through the tabulators. Tabulators process ballots in batches by ward. This meticulous process occurs for every ward in alphabetical order to ensure every eligible ballot is counted. Even with a significant investment of staff and resources, in 2016 for example, the City of Milwaukee was unable to complete all processing of absentee ballots until 1:30 a.m. In the 2018 midterm, the processing of absentee ballots was not complete until after midnight. In 2020, which saw unprecedented volume but also unprecedented staffing and machine resources, we finished at 3:30am.

Our dedicated Central Count staff work well over 14 hours on Election Day. This is an extreme commitment for many who work full-time and more than likely will have to go back to work the next day on only a few hours of sleep. Allowing communities that utilize a Central Count to process absentee ballots prior to Election Day will help reduce strain on staff, increase efficiency and allow for results reporting earlier than the current practice. In General Elections, when staff must work over 20 hours straight, an environment is created that presents unnecessary risk for human error. The efficiency and accuracy that already exists will undoubtedly increase if we are able to eliminate the need for these grueling hours.

While it is difficult to do an “apples-to-apples” comparison of election administration with other states, there are over forty (40) states that allow the processing of mail ballots to begin before Election Day. Expanding local capacity with an additional day of processing allows election administrators to increase efficiency without sacrificing security and quality. The security protocols that are laid out in this bill give a clear roadmap to all clerks on how to secure equipment and ballots at the end of the night on Monday. A clear chain of custody and audit trail has been established, and I am certain that efficiency is not being prioritized over security and transparency.

Just like at the polls, the tabulators used in Central Count processing do not display results. An election official would have to go through two screens, including one that is password protected, in order to access results. These actions would appear in the audit log of the machine, should someone access them prior to the closing of the polls. To date, we have never had any incident that called into question the security of the election results, including in 2020 when there was an 8-day delay in releasing results due to the COVID19 pandemic.

We appreciate the work that has been done with this complex bill and anticipate any amendments that mirror those made in Assembly would strength the bill further as it moves forward. Addressing the issue of early absentee ballot processing is important for not only the City of Milwaukee, but to ensure we proceed in a way that works for communities throughout the State of Wisconsin. Creating a process that will allow us to report our absentee results on Election Night will continue to strengthen transparency and trust in our democratic process. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Claire Woodall
Executive Director
City of Milwaukee Election Commission

An Open Letter to Wisconsin's Republican State Legislators

State Capitol Building
Madison, WI 53703

October 30, 2023

Dear Legislators:

It has come to our attention that LRB 4464, a bill that would give any Wisconsin municipality performing a “central count” of absentee ballots the ability to open and count such ballots on the Monday prior to an election. We strongly oppose this legislation and we strongly advocate that you also oppose it.

First, to grant *any* municipality the unprecedented permission to pre-count absentee ballots would invite official malfeasance and open a new floodgate for election fraud. LRB 4464's authors pretend to eliminate the inevitability of this clear danger by placing upon it the pretend armor of guidelines and restrictions. Restrictions and guidelines *never* guarantee that a law will not be abused, ignored, twisted, or broken.

Second, we know that Wisconsin Democrats have eagerly sought for some time to expand into many more municipalities the practice of centrally counting absentee ballots—precisely because it grants officials more centralized power over vote counts. There are already serious problems that such procedure already creates in cities such as Milwaukee and Green Bay. This bill would guarantee more of the same by encouraging bad actors to embrace central counting.

Language quite similar to LRB 4464 deservedly failed in 2022, when an attempt was made to insert it into SB 214 as an amendment. For all of these reasons, we urge your opposition to this bill.

Most sincerely, the undersigned:

Republican Party of Dane County

Executive Committee

Neville, William

From: Farrand Andria <andria.farrand@co.taylor.wi.us>
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 3:47 PM
To: Sen.Knodl; Sen.Feyen; Sen.Quinn; Sen.Spreitzer; Sen.Smith; Neville, William
Subject: Assembly Bill 567

Good Afternoon Senators and Mr. Neville-

Just a quick email to let you know as a County Clerk, I am in support of Assembly Bill 567 as approved by the Assembly committee on Campaigns and Elections.

Just a few items, we as Clerks would like to point out....

- If we are looking to receive our results as close to after the polls close as possible, then we need to move the time to start processing absentee ballots earlier to finish sooner.
- Our systems are secured with passwords, security seals, encryption and physical security to ensure the tabulation of votes will not occur prior to the close of polls on election night.
- Wisconsin has already proven that we can secure and lock down our systems to not tabulate votes. In the April Spring Election and Presidential Preference in 2020, the entire state was court-ordered to lockdown our equipment and not tabulate on election night. The final tabulation was not allowed until the Monday following the election.
- Allows for election officials to spread out the work over two days, instead of pushing election officials to complete the detailed work needing to be done in an unrealistic timeframe.
-

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards-

Andria Farrand
Taylor County Clerk
224 S. Second St.
Medford, WI 54451
Ph: 715-748-1460
email: andria.farrand@co.taylor.wi.us
county website: www.co.taylor.wi.us

Neville, William

From: Trent Miner <Trent.Miner@woodcountywi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 5:16 AM
To: Sen.Knodl; Sen.Feyen; Sen.Quinn; Sen.Spreitzer; Sen.Smith
Cc: Neville, William
Subject: Support of Assembly Bill 567, as amended - Public Testimony

Good Morning - - -

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on one of the bills coming before you today. As President of the Wisconsin County Clerks Association, I, as well as our organization, am in full support of AB 567 as amended in the Assembly for the reasons listed below:

This bill allows for municipalities to process absentees, by ordinance, before election day – not count or tabulate. Tabulation would still not take place until after the polls close. If we are looking to receive our results as close to after the polls close as possible, then we need to move the time to start processing absentee ballots earlier to finish sooner. Anyone who knows anything about election administration knows that there are safeguards in place to ensure only those ballots able to be processed will be. By allowing processing during the day, it allows for more observation by different entities to ensure the laws of the State of Wisconsin are being complied with.

Our systems are secured with passwords, security seals, encryption and physical security to ensure the tabulation of votes will not occur prior to the close of polls on election night. This is not even a concern in that Wisconsin has already proven that we can secure and lock down our systems to not tabulate votes. In April Spring Election and Presidential Preference in 2020, the entire state was court-ordered to lockdown our equipment and not tabulate on election night. The final tabulation was not allowed until the Monday following the election. That process was seamless.

This bill also allows for election officials to spread out the work over two days, instead pushing election officials to complete the detailed work needing to be done in an unrealistic timeframe. By getting the results closer to the poll closing, it takes away the unsubstantiated arguments that there are ballot dumps in the middle of the night and allows the work to be done when election workers and observers are at their peak, during the day.

I am appreciate the leadership of Assembly Campaigns and Elections Committee Chair Scott Krug, as well as his entire committee for their hard work in getting the bill to this point. I respectfully ask that this committee, and the entire Senate, proceed and ensure this bill becomes law.

Thank you.

Trent Miner
President – Wisconsin County Clerks Association
County Clerk
Wood County Courthouse
P.O. Box 8095
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495-8095
Phone: 715-421-8460
Email: Trent.Miner@woodcountywi.gov

Neville, William

From: Jaclyn Sadler <jsadler@co.chippewa.wi.us>
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 8:52 PM
Subject: Support for Assembly Bill 567

Importance: High

Greetings:

I would really like to appear in person to show my support for Assembly Bill 567 but the committee meeting is on the day we have our County Board meeting.

For the record I support Assembly Bill 567 as amended and approved by the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections.

Even though most municipalities in Chippewa County are not affected by a large amount of absentee ballots there are a few Chippewa County municipalities that I know would really benefit from being allowed to process absentee ballots the day before the election. This would allow the ballots to be processed but no results would be released until the polls closed on election day. All the municipalities not only in Chippewa County but in all of Wisconsin were able to successfully show that this can be done as it was done in the April 2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Election.

Also, the intense media scrutiny and the public wanting/demanding results as fast as possible this would allow for results to be released earlier on election night. A prime example of results being delayed was in November 2020 in the Town of Wheaton. They were so busy with voters during the hours that the polls were open that they were unable to process the absentee ballots until after the polls closed. All of Chippewa County results were released by midnight with the exception of the Town of Wheaton. At the County we did not receive their results until 3 am. As we have seen in the media from other municipalities when there is a long delay in results being released, especially when it's one municipality in a county it creates questions and suspicions by the public; even though the municipality is following all the election laws. If the Town of Wheaton had been allowed to process the absentee ballots on the day before the election all of Chippewa County results would have been released by midnight.

By allowing the process of absentee ballots the day before an election would also allow the election process to be spread out over two days. Currently, we are asking election workers and clerks to potentially work 14+ hours on election day. In the example I referenced above the Town of Wheaton works, myself and my staff worked from approximately 6 am on Tuesday, November 3rd until 3:30 am on Wednesday, November 4th. For myself and my staff we were back to work by 8:00 am on Wednesday, November 4th to complete our statutory duties that are required the day after an election. I really can't understand how anyone expects "humans" that have been working for 21.5 hours to not make mistakes.

Again, I support Assembly Bill 567 as amended and approved by the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections and I hope you will support it as well.

Thank you.
Jackie

Jaclyn J. Sadler
County Clerk
Chippewa County Courthouse
Room 109

The Way I See It...Observations of WI Election Integrity from a Common Citizen

Background:

After observing the Milwaukee County recount of the 2020 Presidential race, I was inspired to seek firsthand experience regarding potential vulnerabilities to free and fair elections in Wisconsin. Over the past few years, I have assessed the process through hands-on participation and general observation of Washington County elections. The purpose of this report is not to revisit results of previous elections; nor is it to accuse individuals of any wrongdoing or election fraud. This report is intended to summarize potential vulnerabilities as identified by a common citizen, with the objective of having them addressed prior to future elections. The process was assessed for Washington County for no other reason than logistics. However, the information in this report can and should be applied to other counties throughout Wisconsin based on the similarity of voting equipment used and the standardized process guidelines provided by Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC).

Election Process Participation Included but Not Limited To:

- *Badger Book/Election Training – Poll Worker for Trenton Township*
- *Observation of Milwaukee County 2020 Presidential Election Recount*
- *Public Test of Voting Equipment – Trenton Township*
- *Public Test of Voting equipment – City of West Bend*
- *Observation of Board of Canvassers- Washington County*
- *Participation in Washington County Audit of Senate/Governor Midterm Races*
- *Observation of Elections at West Bend Memorial Library*
- *Observation of Elections at West Bend Central Count and City of West Bend*

Conclusion:

In my opinion, the use of high tech Dominion ICE electronic tabulators represents a significant risk to election integrity. As demonstrated during the public test of equipment, these units are capable of generating completed ballots using the ADA compliant Voter Accessibility (VA) feature. The ink jet cartridge associated with the VA feature is virtually identical to the felt tip markers provided to voters, making it difficult to determine whether machine error could potentially lead to votes being cast in under-voted races (for any ballots cast). Currently, post-election audits of voting equipment may be delayed whenever the *potential* for a recount is communicated. The number of used and unused ballots prior to and immediately after elections needs to be recorded and audited, along with consumables associated with the electronic tabulators such as thermosetting tape rolls and ink jet cartridges. And finally, same day registration ballots currently contribute to election results prior to statewide database verification, which occurs post-election.

Recommendations:

Voter accessibility ink jet cartridges should differ in color from the felt tip markers issued at poll locations. Top of the ticket races (at a minimum) should be hand sorted/hand counted immediately after polls close for post-election machine verification on site at each municipality (including central count locations). This action would also help determine whether recounts will be requested. And finally, ballots cast by same day registered voters should be considered provisional until statewide registration database information is updated/compiled and verified.



Sue True

June 16, 2023

SUMMARY OF NOTES

Milwaukee Recount of 2020 Presidential Race (11/20/20 - 11/27/20 Wisconsin Center)

I decided to observe the Milwaukee County recount of the Presidential election in order to ease my concerns regarding election integrity. I was aware of reports regarding “switched” or “flipped” votes like that reported in Antrim County, Michigan, or the (Peter) Navarro Report, or the statistical impossibilities reported by Capt. Seth Keshel or Dr. Shiva Ayyadurai – to name a few. Although I had election training experience at my local municipality; I had never participated in/observed any formal recount process. My expectation was simple: ballots would be sorted into piles per candidate, (i.e., one pile “Biden”, one pile “Trump”, one pile “Other”) before being hand counted, and possibly loaded into electronic tabulators for comparison. Instead, what I saw was the total number of ballots being hand counted (not sorted), then loaded into electronic tabulators, which would determine the distribution (i.e., election results).

This method of “recounting” did not rule out machine error, especially concerns regarding weighted distribution issues. Specifically stated, “Could an electronic tabulator mistakenly assign a weighted value to each candidate?” For instance, Candidate A=0.95, Candidate B=1.05. The total number of ballots would still be 2.00, but the long-term distribution (i.e., election results) would be skewed. Only a sorted hand count of the original paper ballots cast would identify any possible discrepancy between original machine tapes and actual ballots cast.

In the end, I left the Milwaukee recount with more questions than answers. Why would so much attention be focused on sorting envelopes for “Indefinitely Confined” absentee voters, while the greatest opportunity to confirm election results with raw data (simultaneously confirming machine output) was disregarded? Considering the amount of resources/personnel associated with the event, I believe both objectives could have been accomplished in a similar time frame.

Washington County Process

I began sharing my concerns and asking questions about the equipment with my municipal (Trenton Township) clerk as well as my (Washington) county clerk. It is noteworthy to mention that numerous voters had voiced their skepticism of the electronic tabulators during subsequent elections. In other words, I wasn’t the only one with questions.

I was happy to learn about the post-election Board of Canvassers meetings, which would include randomly selected races to be hand sorted/hand counted to verify machine results (unlike the Milwaukee recount). In fact, Washington County has voluntarily performed audits of randomly drawn races as part of the Board of Canvassers practice, regardless of being selected by WEC for post-election audits (required by the state). Unfortunately, I learned that the Presidential race of 2020 was reportedly excluded from this voluntary random audit due to the potential for a statewide recount.

After observing countless Board of Canvassers meetings over the past few years, I believe they contribute very little to election integrity. With the exception of the voluntary random audits that take place, these meetings will only catch human error/typos. Most hours (sometimes extending over multiple business days) are spent comparing actual machine tape results with a spreadsheet of data produced using those same machine tape results. I have often asked the County Clerk and Board of Canvassers team members, “Why would they ever be different?”

Voluntary random audits associated with the Washington County Board of Canvassers practice could contribute to election integrity in theory. However, after observing the election process for several seasons, I believe that random audits can only safeguard elections if performed in a timely manner (i.e., immediately after polls close/ on site at municipalities).

Public Test of Equipment

If there is one process that I recommend everyone observe, it is the public test of voting equipment. It was here that I first recognized the full capability of the electronic tabulator used to process my ballot. These machines (Dominion Image Cast Evolution series) are capable of generating completed ballots by literally coloring in the oval-shaped “bubbles” of candidates that are selected using an audio-assistance control pad to accommodate voters with special needs. I believe that most in-person voters would likely remember whether this feature was utilized in a Washington County election, because it would require some time for the device to be set up, and for the voter to listen to the audio instructions before choosing candidates. In short, unless there is a dedicated machine, the use of this feature would likely hold up the line of other voters trying to cast their ballots.

This ADA-compliant Voter Accessibility feature may have been designed with good intentions of accommodating voters with special needs. However, there is one aspect that I find alarming, and I would argue that voters with special needs would likely agree. This feature utilizes a dedicated ink jet cartridge, which is virtually identical to that of the black felt tip markers issued to in-person voters. Furthermore, the machine-generated oval is designed to actually appear imperfect in order to mimic human markings. What real-time safeguards are currently in place to prevent the potential exploitation of this feature? For example, if the machine erroneously filled in the under-voted races of other ballots, wouldn't the disabled voter be disenfranchised along with every other voter?

During the public test of the Voter Accessibility feature, you may observe what I refer to as “perfectly imperfect” machine generated ballots. I recommend taking the time to closely examine the perfectly imperfect ballots, because I believe that some “patterns” can still be distinguished. You may also learn that the ink jet cartridge is unrelated to the machine tape used to print election results. That paper is actually thermosetting paper which does not require an ink jet cartridge. With that said, what safeguards/documentation are in place to confirm that the ink jet cartridge “life” is monitored and that the pre- and post-election (as well as the pre/post-election machine verification) contents are consistent with usage?

Public Test of West Bend Central Count

I attended the public test of equipment for the City of West Bend on April 1, 2023. This was a larger event than my local municipality (Trenton Township) since the City of West Bend would be testing eight (8) electronic tabulators. There was one other woman observing in addition to me, who asked if we could look at the zero tape on the first machine to be tested. The reason for the inquiry was clarified by the observer who was wondering if each candidate was listed individually and set to “0” on the initial tape. It should be noted that the City Clerk was not present. I believe the individual performing the test was the Deputy Clerk. However, this individual informed the observer that she would need to fill out a Freedom of Information Request. I was quite surprised that we were not allowed to look at the zero tape at this public test of equipment.

I took the opportunity to examine the machine generated “perfectly imperfect” samples from the first machine (as did the other observer). However, I needed to attend a holiday-related personal activity and could not observe the test in its entirety. When I returned (with a family member), there were two machines left to be tested, and the other observer had left. When I asked to review the machine generated ballots, I noticed that at least one ink jet cartridge had been replaced. The alignment/test page appeared to have been printed on the back of a sample ballot and it caught my eye since I had recently observed it at another municipality. When I asked how many of the six (6) tabulators required fresh ink jet cartridges, I was told that I would need to complete a Freedom of Information Request. That seemed strange considering the answer would literally have been observed if I had stayed the entire duration. I also learned that the VA feature would not be tested on the two remaining machines since they would be used at the Central Count facility, with no in-person voting. This made sense, since there are no in-person voters at Central Count. However, I am still unclear regarding the answer to the following questions...Do the two (2) machines at West Bend Central Count have ink jet cartridges installed? If so, how often have they been replaced? If so, could it be determined whether they were dried out vs empty?

During the public test of equipment at Central Count, I noted the question was asked whether Central Count ever needed to obtain ballots from in-person locations (should absentee ballots get damaged during the opening of envelopes)? I learned that Central Count reportedly has enough of their own stock of ballots. Perhaps this is not the case for every election (see below).

General Elections Observer-West Bend Library 11/8/22 Midterms

I decided to observe several poll locations during the morning, prior to working at my municipality. Most of the morning was spent observing the West Bend Memorial Library voting process; however, I also took some time to visit/observe the nearby City of West Bend (in-person) process as well as the West Bend Central Count process (located in the same building). My main takeaway regarding the Midterms/based on all observations/election work experience was...Same day voter registration was off the charts! I was amazed by the virtually constant influx of voters needing assistance.

The most “eyebrow raising” activity that I witnessed occurred that morning at the WB Memorial Library. As an observer, I was seated next to a table where two election workers (one female, one male) were responsible for initialing/distributing ballots to voters. A woman caught my attention as she hastily approached the table and literally said, “I need a stack of twenty-five.” The male election worker then counted twenty-five ballots, handed them to this woman, and I watched her leave the room (voting for this election took place in the Children’s Storytime room).

I immediately (yet gently) asked the male election worker to clarify what I had just seen/heard. I was told that it was someone from Central Count and that it was common for Central Count workers to request ballots due to potential damaging of the ballots during the opening of the envelopes. When I asked specifically if there was a formal procedure to document the removal of ballots, he informed me that the woman had probably talked with the Election Chief. It was possible (since I had not been paying attention to the woman until the “stack of 25” comment) that something more formal had preceded the observed activity. However, the Election Chief (an 80+ year old woman) was constantly busy addressing same day voter/other registration issues throughout the morning. In fact, I had to wait patiently for her to become available in order to ask about the incident. In my opinion, she did not initially appear familiar with the incident that I was describing; however, she did confirm the reasoning that the male election worker had shared with me. She explained that whenever this occurred, they simply noted it on the inspector’s log sheet.

Washington County Audit of November 2022 Senate and Governor Races

Washington County conducted a post-election audit of the November 2022 general election nearly a month after ballots were cast. The audit took place the week of 12/5/22 and included the hand sorting/counting of 70,000+ ballots for Governor and Senate races, which had been cast 11/8/22. Rather than focusing solely on the task of sorting into piles per race in the quickest manner, I used the opportunity to more closely examine every ballot. After all, what other opportunity exists to actually see so many ballots post-election? I noted that very few ballots exhibited under-votes in any of the races. Again, this wasn't surprising-it was simply noted. I was surprised by the handful of ballots that were accepted by the tabulator, including "x" marks made with a graphite pencil, or green colored ballpoint pens. (I had always used the black felt tip marker provided at my polling location for fear of my ballot being rejected/ unreadable by the machine.)

What did catch my attention were the ballots that appeared "perfectly imperfect". In my opinion, these ballots resembled machine-generated perfectly imperfect markings that could be observed only during the testing of the voter accessibility feature. If you hadn't observed the public test of equipment and you're focused on sorting/ counting ballots in a reasonable amount of time, it would likely never catch your eye. The best description of these marks would be: perfectly symmetric unfilled slivers along both sides of the oval-yet perfectly within the top/bottom lines, with a much lighter/ unfilled dot at the center. The unfilled center dot looked virtually identical for all races on the ballot. I felt confident enough on day two of reviewing ballots, that I gently shared an example with several individuals at my table (including an Election Chief from Richfield, and an election worker from Kewaskum). I simply asked something along the lines of, "Isn't this wild? How does a person fill out every race on the ballot to look like this?"

Perhaps the Voter Accessibility feature was utilized by a substantial number of voters for the midterm elections. Perhaps these unique ballot markings were produced by artistic individuals at the polls. Either way, there needs to be a transparent way of safeguarding this high-tech capability from potential malfunction.

 6/16/23

Sue True
West Bend, WI
June 16, 2023

Why all of this matters...*If I Were a Bad Guy...*

Foreword:

If I Were a Bad Guy is provided in order to engage the reader by oversimplifying the topic of election integrity in a fictitious way. Potential vulnerabilities that I have observed firsthand are compiled into a "perfect storm" of activity that illustrates how "easy" I imagine it could be to exploit those vulnerabilities. *If I Were a Bad Guy* is fictitious and does not represent firsthand observations of, or participation in any wrongdoing.

If I Were a Bad Guy...

First, I'd go for the low hanging fruit. What would prevent me from programming a high-tech electronic tabulator with simple "IF race is under-voted THEN fill in CANDIDATE A" type code? Perhaps it could be buried within many levels of computer code...it wouldn't require internet access and I'd make certain that the rule would not apply during any public testing period. (Maybe it'd be applied after a certain number of ballots cast until polls close.)

Next, I'd insert more complicated internal computer code to produce a weighted distribution (again, set up to occur outside the period of public testing). Maybe something like, when a ballot is inserted, Candidate "A"=0.95, Candidate "B"=1.05. A total of 2.00 ballots cast is accounted for on election night; however, the election results (i.e., total distribution) would be skewed in favor of my selected candidate.

If I were a bad guy, I'd prefer any skewed results to approximate a 49/51 type distribution in order to communicate that a potential recount may occur. But not *too* close, since I don't really wanna bring too much attention to a recount. I just wanna delay potential post-election machine verifications as much as possible. Because keep in mind...as a bad guy...time is of the essence. Rather than store the ballots during any postponement period, I'd more than likely print fresh ballots using the Voter Accessibility feature to match a predetermined machine output. *Voila!* I'm prepared for any future hand counts since my ballots now match my distribution.

Now don't forget voter registration...If I were a bad guy, let's pretend I'm a college student that grew up with mom and dad in Happyville. I am likely registered to vote in Happyville. But when I'm living near my college/university in Smiletown, what would prevent me from using my proof of Smiletown residency for same day registration, while still voting (maybe absentee?) in Happyville? If I get caught post-election...At least the election results, technically, have come and gone...and my selected candidate won!



Sue True
June 16, 2023


TO: The Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Shared
Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection

12/12/23

Claire Woodall-Vogg committed perjury in her affidavit filed to the Wisconsin Election Commission on December 7, 2020. She deceitfully lied by not disclosing a large volume of ballots were brought in at 1:15am on November 4, 2020. She further lied by stating there were observers present at that time, when in fact she forced all of them out about 3 hours earlier.

Ret. Army Col. David Bolter was telling the truth where Claire did announce at 12:30am November 4, 2020 more ballots would come. Other eyewitnesses saw the ballots be brought in at 1:15am on November 4th, 2020. Ballots were still being counted at 2:30am. No observers were present. Claire and Kimberly Zapata also looked for low turnout wards and then fed Joe Biden ballots through the tabulators twice, sometimes three times.

Meagan Wolfe covered for Claire by not conducting any investigation, then denying Mr. Bolter's § 5.06 complaint.



Peter Bernegger
President
Election Watch, Inc.
www.electionwatch.info

STATE OF WISCONSIN
ELECTIONS COMMISSION

P. 4
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COMPLAINT FORM

Please provide the following information about yourself:

Name David J. Bolter, COL US Army (ret)

Address 2761 South 43rd Street, Milwaukee WI 53219

Telephone Number (414) 902-3433

E-mail david.bolter@va.gov

State of Wisconsin
Before the Elections Commission

The Complaint of David J. Bolter

_____, Complainant(s) against
Claire Woodall-Vogg, Executive Director, and Brenda Wood, Respondent, whose
address is Milwaukee Election Commission, City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Rm 501, Milwaukee WI 53202

This complaint is under Ch. 6 (e.g., 6.87), 5, and others (Insert the applicable sections of law in chs. 5 to 10 and 12 and other laws relating to elections and election campaigns, other than laws relating to campaign financing)

I, David J. Bolter, allege that:

The US Constitution (Article. II and Amendment. XII, Wisconsin Constitution, and relevant sections of Wisconsin Statutes (e.g., 6.87, 5.05, and 5.06) govern elections in Wisconsin. Despite our and other ballot-counters objections, Ms. Woodall-Vogg and Ms. Wood allowed without authority: tens of thousands of ballots to be tampered with by red-ink cross-outs by election staff of the certificate's "10 days before the election" and writing in by staff of "28 days" (in violation of S.S>6.87(2)); staff to look up, assume without verification, and tamper with by writing in unconfirmed addresses of the alleged ballot witness (in violation of S.S> 6.87(6d) and 6.87(9)) on numerous ballots; and no physical or reasonably readable access to 80% of all ballots by designated observers, in violation of free & fair elections. In addition, numerous ballot envelopes failed to have witness signatures, further covered in my affidavit dated 11NOV2020.

Attached are two (2) supporting declarations
and my previous affidavit.
RB

(Set forth in detail the facts that establish probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred. Be as specific as possible as it relates to dates, times, and individuals involved. Also provide the names of individuals who may have information related to the complaint. Use as many separate pages as needed and attach copies of any supporting documentation.)

Date: 11/30/2020

[Signature]
Complainant's Signature

I, David J. Bolter, COL US Army (ret), being first duly sworn, on oath, state that I personally read the above complaint, and that the above allegations are true based on my personal knowledge and, as to those stated on information and belief, I believe them to be true.

[Signature]
Complainant's Signature

STATE OF WISCONSIN

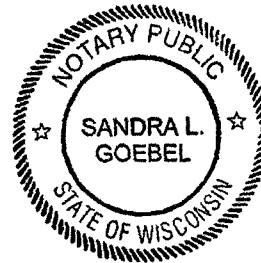
County of Milwaukee
(county of notarization)

Sworn to before me this 30th day of
November, 2020.

[Signature]
(Signature of person authorized to administer oaths)

My commission expires 11-15-22 or is permanent.

Notary Public or Milw. County
(official title if not notary)



Please send this completed form to:

Mail: Wisconsin Elections Commission
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984

Fax: (608) 267-0500

Email: elections@wi.gov

DECLARATION

1. My name is David J. Bolter. I am over the age of 18. All the facts stated herein are true and based on my personal knowledge.

2. I am a resident of Milwaukee County and live at 2761 South 43rd Street, Milwaukee WI

3. I was employed by the Milwaukee County Election Commission at Central Count, 501 West Michigan Avenue.

4. I served as a paid ballot counter/inspector in the November 3rd, 2020 election. I worked three (3) shifts, from 0530hrs Tuesday to 0145hrs Wednesday, November 4th, 2020

5. While at the Central Count location, 501 West Michigan Avenue, I observed the following irregularities:

- a. Hundreds of ballot envelopes had the 10-to-28 day (or 28-to-10 day) statute issue, where one date was written in red over the other., in conflict with Statute 6.87(2). I had initially informed Ms. Claire Woodall-Vogg, as a 'challenge'. It was dismissed as not-important by Ms. Woodall-Vogg, which later I complained further as an 'objection' with Ms. Woodall-Vogg. Again the objection was noted but ultimately ignored.
- b. Dozens of ballot envelopes had no witness signature properly in the allocated envelope location; instead a few had a signature under 'Assistant'; in response to this, Ms. Woodall-Vogg announced on the loudspeaker that it was allowed as long as there was a 2nd signature found on the envelope, many were written in red ink.
- c. Several envelopes had no witness (or assistant) signature and was given to who I believe was an Election Commission employee, but not returned.
- d. Election Day Observers were kept behind small orange cones, typically 15-20 feet away from ballot inspection tables (grouped in 'Pod' locations). Few if any observers came near tables due to stated 'COVID concerns'.
- e. I had personally seen several dozens of ballots with only 'Presidential Candidate' selection marked (no other votes indicated). A few of the ballots also had all of the 'Presidential

Candidate' selections marked, except for Donald J. Trump. When I brought this to the attention of the Election employees running the 'tabulator' they informed me that the intent of the voter would be sorted out by the tabulator. The virtue of several presidential candidates (except Donald Trump) seem more of a prankish attempt by the voter, but was nevertheless brought to attention.

True { f. At around 1230am on 4NOV2020, it was announced that a huge truckload of ballots were going to be delivered shortly. Workers were urged to stay on for them to be counted. I cannot attest to whether that was part of standard delivery procedures from external polling locations, but it seemed odd.


6. I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to that the forgoing is true and correct. (28 U.S.C. § 1746)

Executed on 11NOV2020.


David J. Bolter, COL USAR (ret)

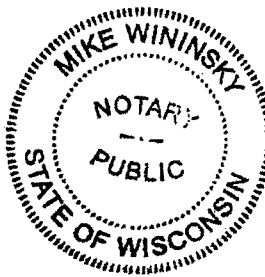
11 NOV 2020

State of Wisconsin
County of Milwaukee
Subscribed and sworn before
me this 11 day of November
2020 by David J. Bolter.


Notary

my commission expires!

05-28-2022





DECLARATION

1. My name is Bartholomew R. Williams. I am over the age of 18. All the facts stated herein are true and based on my personal knowledge.
2. I am a resident of Wisconsin and live at 2420 Skyline Drive, West Bend, WI 53090.
3. I was appointed as a watcher for Central Count in Milwaukee, 501 W. Michigan St., Milwaukee, WI 53203, as an independent election/poll observer.
4. I arrived at the above address at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 but was not allowed to go to the Central Count area/floor until 7:00 a.m. Then, I had to wait in line, present photo identification, sign in, and await instructions from the ballot processing/counting leadership/staff. As a result, I was not able to actually start observing ballot processing/counting until at least 7:30 a.m., and therefore, I was excluded from the first full 30 minutes of observing the ballot processing/counting.
5. I did not enter or attempt to enter restricted places at Central Count. I did not interfere in any way with the process of ballot processing/counting, nor mark or alter any official election record.
6. As mentioned in paragraph number 4 above, Claire Woodall-Vogg, Brenda Wood, and several supervisors (none had a visible name badge nor told me their name) refused to allow me access to Central Count in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from the time that the ballot processors/counters met prior to the opening of Central Count at 7:00 a.m. until approximately 7:30 a.m.; refused to allow me to remain in an unobtrusive area of the ballot-processing/counting location from which I reasonably could see and hear what was occurring for the vast majority (at least two-thirds) of the tables being used for ballot processing/counting; stopped allowing me to keep a list of voters – beyond the five I logged – with ballot defects that I genuinely believe were tampered with (in

violation of the State of Wisconsin Constitution and/or applicable *Wisconsin Statutes*) by the ballot processing/counting leadership and/or staff; refused to allow me to challenge several of the qualifications of a legal, valid, and complete ballot (including proper, accurate, and complete voter certification and required witness information) for any ballot; and refused to require the ballot processors/counters to announce the names of electors in a way that allowed me to hear each name and ballot number. In addition, it is my genuine belief Ms. Woodall-Vogg, Ms. Wood, and other members of their supervisory staff violated numerous other applicable laws, regulations, and/or other rules – as well as reasonable intent – associated with the ability and rights of election observers/watchers to have meaningful physical and visually-close [i.e., close enough for an average person to see the ballot details such as whether or not the voter signed the ballot, whether or not all required voter certification and witness information (including signature and address) was present, whether or not any pre-printed ballot information (e.g., the number of days (for example, 10 vs. 28 days) the voter certified he/she was a resident of the district he/she voted in), etc.] access to all the ballots. Also, I believe Ms. Woodall-Vogg, Ms. Wood, and other supervisors deliberately, seriously, and repeatedly violated my rights and/or access as an election observer/watcher in the numerous other ways (for example, since the ballot processing/counting is a highly manual process subject to significant variation (i.e., substantial differences in the process) – and other election observers/watchers and I were not allowed to access/inspect the vast majority of the ballots – we therefore were truly not allowed to observe most of the process) included in the three-page document entitled, “Continuation Pages of Bartholomew R. Williams’ Declaration as an Election Observer/Watcher at Central Count in Milwaukee, WI on November 3, 2020,” and a sketch of some table configurations at Central Count referred to therein, both of which together are an integral part of this Declaration (Affidavit) and are incorporated herein by reference.

7. As a result of Claire Woodall-Vogg's, Brenda Wood's, and other supervisors' acts, I was unable to fulfill my responsibilities or exercise my rights to meaningful observation as an election/ballot-processing/counting observer/watcher.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to that the forgoing is true and correct. (28 U.S.C. § 1746).

Executed on November 16, 2020.

Bartholomew R. Williams
Signature of Declarant (Bartholomew R. Williams)

**Continuation Pages of Bartholomew R. Williams' Declaration as an Election
Observer/Watcher at Central Count in Milwaukee, WI on November 3, 2020**

1. My partial sketch of the table configuration at Central Count (see the top sketch of observation #1 of the attachment to this Continuation Pages document, is an integral part of it, and is hereby incorporated by reference) shows how Claire Woodall-Vogg (Executive Director of the Central Count operation), Brenda Wood, and maybe others made it difficult for election observers to truly observe all ballots being processed at all times. First, they only allowed one chair for every four tables, and if more than one person was at that chair (standing or sitting), Claire, Brenda, or one of the supervisors under them made us go to the edge of the bank of tables (i.e., even further away). One would have to have eyes in the back of her/his head to continuously monitor all four tables at ones. Second, we were restricted from observing entire rows of tables two and three deep [please note that the third row of tables is not included in my attached sketches due to limited space in the small notebook I had with me, but they existed and were actively used throughout my shift for ballot processing/counting at Central Count in Milwaukee on 11/3/2020] from where we were allowed to observe, which was at least 6' from the inner (closest) edge of the nearest (first row) of tables. We were repeatedly not allowed to access observing the second and third rows deep of tables away from our observation line. Those tables were at least 22-24' and 32'-34' (and possibly even further) from where we were allowed to observe from, respectively. We (and anyone with average eyesight) could not possibly see any of the ballot or ballot envelope details from those distances. In the top diagram (observ. #1), from that chair, I could only see ballot and envelope details at the four nearest tables to/around me. Looking to the upper right, I could not see (it was too far away) ballot and envelope details at Pod 9's Table 9 (in the second row of tables deep, away from us), the next (third row) of tables after that (not pictured in my diagram because I could not even see the Pod and Table # details from that distance, let alone any ballot and ballot envelope details). I listed the wards those tables were working on at the time of my observations, but as you know, the wards change as the tables finish working those ballots. Overall, since ballot processing is a highly manual process, there is real variation in how each of the pairs of ballot processes were doing their jobs. My best estimate of the total percentage of all ballots that we were not allowed to observe either because we physically could not access them (i.e., second and third rows of tables deep away from us) and/or could not see them because they were too far away (due to being at the second and third row of tables deep away from us, and when we not the one person allowed to access the one chair in the middle of the four tables in the first row of tables) is between 67% and 75%, at least.

2. Since only ONE person - i.e., a GOP, Democratic, OR independent observer - was allowed by Claire W. and Brenda Wood to be at each chair surrounded by four tables, that meant effectively no GOP observer could watch those four tables (and again, one cannot watch four tables at a time since we do not have eyes in the back of our heads) while a Democratic observer was in/at that chair. This actually happened to me, and other election observers, several times (e.g., I had to leave for a few minutes to go the bathroom, and this Democratic observer (a lady) would grab the chair and stay there for a long time). Jean Weymier (of West Bend, WI) witnessed this, too. So effectively, we were barred observation access to those four tables for as long as a non-Republican observer was at that chair. Now multiply this by all the tables thusly restricted (i.e., dozens and dozens of tables), and it is a major (and I believe unreasonable) restriction on access to observing.

3. We were only allowed 15 total Republican observers in the Central Count area per shift. I can tell you this was way too low of a number to allow anything approaching full observation access to all

the tables. At best, I would say we could maybe only cover (observe) 20-25% of all the tables, with 15 observers - again, at best. So, I believe this small total number of observers of each party was also a huge and illegal access restriction. Yes, it was equal (i.e., 15 for the Dems) for all affiliated observers, but truly they should have allowed many more observers of each affiliation in at the same time. I guarantee you that with more like 45-60 observers of each affiliation allowed in at one time, social distancing still could have been maintained, so I hereby dispute as false any excuse by election officials to the contrary.

4. In the bottom diagram (observation #2), the chair was the chair nearest the end of the tables area. From that chair, I could observe Pod 8, Table 8 - with a man closest to me and a woman on the other side of the table. However, at the next table in (second row), a man and woman were working seated next to each other at the far side of the table (I assume they live together and were exempt from social distancing). However, at that distance, neither I nor anyone else (e.g., Jean W.) could see any ballot or envelope details. Plus, they held the document up at an angle towards them (makes sense, for them) to be easier to read, but this then only allowed me to see the back of each document - completely useless for observation purposes. Again, I wrote the ward numbers they were working on at time of my observation.

5. Brenda Wood (second in charge, I believe) and a supervisor both acknowledged to me verbally that "many" of the ballots had the election staff-performed red ink cross-outs of the 10 days and red-ink write-ins of the 28 days residency requirement on the ballot envelope/certification. The best estimate by my fellow election observers of the total percentage of all ballots that had this defect is at least 20% of all ballots processed at Central Count in Milwaukee. Claire W. made a loudspeaker announcement to all early in the day that this issue is not a basis to challenge the ballot. She also made a separate similar announcement that if a witness' address was missing from the ballot envelope/certification, a ballot processor could go to the computer set up for the staff, look it up, and write it in, and they did not need to find and write in a ZIP code for the witness. Claire at no point stated that the ballot processor had to verify the witness' address with the witness or voter. She also did not address the possibility of common names (e.g., John Smith) and that there can be multiple addresses for that common-name person (i.e., which address is the correct one?). Here is a very partial list (due to the many physical and visually-observable access restrictions detailed above) of wards with this 10 vs. 28 days issue, and it is the absolute minimum in each ward (there are very likely many more; again, I believe this is at least a 20%-of-all-ballots issue):

<u>Ward no.</u>	<u>No. of ballots</u>
187	23
186	38
189	20
190	18
211	4 [I had just started observing this table near the very end of my shift.]
219	1 [I had just started observing this table near the very end of my shift.]

6. I picked up a form to start tracking the voter name and ballot ID number of each ballot envelope on which I saw the situation listed above in item #5. Occasionally, I had to ask an election worker (they were talking through masks) to repeat a name or part of a name. After I documented five such instances, one of the workers got up and brought Brenda Wood over, who told me I could no longer do this because it was slowing them down. She insisted, so I could no longer document any more such instances. My best estimate of how many ballot envelopes fell in to this situation is about 20%.

and I observed for over 6 hours. Overall, Claire, Benda, and the rest of the election staff seemed hostile to our questions and observing in every interaction we had with them.

7. The election officials had told us not to expect that many "skinny" or express ballots, but there many. I would estimate they comprised 25-35% of the ballots I saw. I asked and was told by a supervisor (wearing orange vests) that express ballots came from one of two places - the Ziedler building and one other place (she did not say). She said they were for people who had a hard time writing. They could use a special keyboard/machine at one of those two buildings to generate an express ballot. This seems suspicious to me - unlikely there were that many people who have a hard time writing. Plus, two supervisors acknowledged there were a lot more express ballots than they expected.

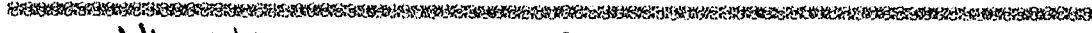
Sincerely/signed,



Bartholomew R. Williams
2420 Skyline Drive
West Bend, WI 53090

(262) 353-3154

JURAT WITH AFFIANT STATEMENT



State of Wisconsin }
County of Washington } ss.

See Attached Document (Notary to cross out lines 1-7 below)
 See Statement Below (Lines 1-7 to be completed only by document signer(s), not Notary)

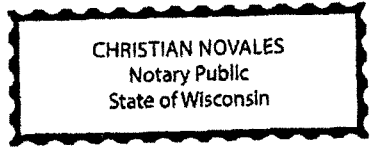
1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____

Signature of Document Signer No. 1

Signature of Document Signer No. 2 (if any)

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me
this 16th day of November, 2020, by
Date Month Year

Bartholomew Williams
Name of Signer No. 1



Place Notary Seal/Stamp Above

Name of Signer No. 2 (if any)

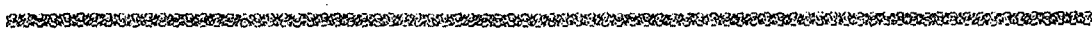
Signature of Notary Public

My Commission Expires
March 29, 2022
Any Other Required Information
(Residence, Expiration Date, etc.)

OPTIONAL

This section is required for notarizations performed in Arizona but is optional in other states. Completing this information can deter alteration of the document or fraudulent reattachment of this form to an unintended document.

Description of Attached Document
Title or Type of Document: Declaration of Bartholomew R. Williams, Continuation Pages, Sketches
Document Date: November 16, 2020 Number of Pages: 7
Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: none



DECLARATION

1. My name is Jean M. Bury Weymier. I am over the age of 18. All the facts stated herein are true and based on my personal knowledge.

2. I am a resident of 1372 Bobolink Lane, West Bend, WI 53095 and live at [address].

3. I was appointed as a watcher for Precinct **Central Count**, located at **501 W Michigan Street, Milwaukee, WI 53203** and was named as 'Independent'.

4. I arrived at the above address at **6:00 a.m.** and checked in at 7:00 a.m.

5. I did not enter or attempt to enter restricted places within **Central Count**. I did not interfere in any way with the process of voting, nor mark or alter any official election record.

6. **Claire Woodall-Vogg, Brenda Wood and other supervisors who were not identified refused to allow me physical and visual-inspection access to the vast majority of ballots; did not allow an adequate number of observers to cover all of the ballot processing tables; stated that certain ballot defects were acceptable; and did not allow writing down of our specific objections or even ask name, address and ballot number of the particular ballot. See the two-page document entitled, "Jean M. Bury Weymier – key points of affidavit regarding being an election observer at Central Count in Milwaukee, WI on election day (11/3/2020)," which is an integral part of this Declaration and is incorporated herein by reference.**

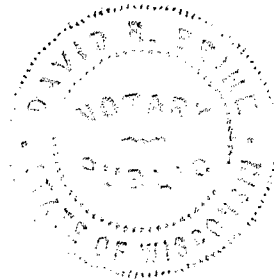
7. As a result, of Claire Woodall-Vogg's and Brenda Wood's and other supervisors' acts, I was unable to fulfill my responsibilities and/or exercise my rights to meaningful observation as a poll Watcher.

8. I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to that the forgoing is true and correct. (28 U.S.C. § 1746).

Executed on November 16, 2020

Jean M. Bury Weymier
Jean M. Bury Weymier

David R. Beine
DAVID R. BEINE
NOTARY PUBLIC
PERMANENT COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 16, 2020



****Jean M. Bury Weymier – key points of affidavit regarding being an election observer at Central Count in Milwaukee, WI on election day (11/3/2020)**

1. Claire Woodall-Vogg (Executive Director of the Central Count operation), Brenda Wood, and maybe others made it difficult for election observers to truly observe all ballots being processed at all times. First, they only allowed one chair for every four tables, and if more than one person was at that chair (standing or sitting), Claire, Brenda, or one of the supervisors under them made us go to the edge of the bank of tables (i.e., even further away). Second, we were restricted from observing entire rows of tables two and three deep from where we were allowed to observe, which was at least 6' from the inner (closest) edge of the nearest (first row) of tables. We were repeatedly not allowed to access observing the second and third rows deep of tables away from our observation line. Those tables were at least 22-24' and 32'-34' (and possibly even further) from where we were allowed to observe from, respectively. We (and anyone with average eyesight) could not possibly see any of the ballot or ballot envelope details from those distances

2. Since only one person - i.e., a GOP, Democratic, OR independent observer - was allowed by Claire W. and Brenda Wood to be at each chair surrounded by four tables, that meant effectively no GOP observer could watch those four tables while a Democratic observer was in/at that chair. Bart Williams (of West Bend, WI) witnessed this, too as we worked in close proximity of each other. We were barred observation access to those four tables for as long as an observer of a different party was at that chair. Multiply this by all the tables thusly restricted (i.e., dozens and dozens of tables), and it is a major, and unreasonable, restriction on access to observing. I feel that there should have been one Democrat and one Republican at each table (or pair of tables) observing.

3. We were only allowed 15 total Republican observers, 15 Independent and 15 Democrat in the Central Count area per shift. This was way too low of a number to allow anything approaching full observation access to all the tables. We could maybe observe 20-25% of all the tables, with 15 observers - at best. I believe this small total number of observers of each party was also a huge and illegal access restriction. Yes, it was equal (i.e., 15 for the Dems) for all affiliated observers, but truly they should have allowed many more observers of each affiliation in at the same time. With more like 45-60 observers of each affiliation allowed in at one time, social distancing still could have been maintained, so I hereby take issue with any election officials claiming otherwise.

4. There were a few announcements made to the whole room. 1) If there were any addresses missing, they were to **take the ballot to the computer in the back of the room and look up the address and fill it in.** We were told to disregard any red marks on the envelope such as the spot where they say how long they have lived at an address. Everything we were trained to be watching for they told us to ignore – that it didn't make a difference. These other Democrat observers kept bullying us and 'telling' on us whenever we wanted to hear a name or address again so that we could challenge what we were seeing on the envelope. (see below)

5. Brenda Wood and a supervisor both acknowledged to both me, and Bart, verbally that "many" of the ballots had the election staff-performed red ink cross-outs of the 10 days and red-ink write-ins of the 28 days residency requirement on the ballot envelope/certification. The best estimate by my fellow election observers of the total percentage of all ballots that had this defect is at least 20% of all ballots processed at Central Count in Milwaukee. Even with that, the poll workers covered the envelopes with their hands so it was very difficult to see anything. Claire W. **made a loudspeaker announcement to all** early in the day that this issue (the red marks) is not a basis to challenge the ballot. She also made a separate similar announcement that if a witness' address was missing from the ballot envelope/certification, a ballot processor could go to the

computer set up for the staff, look it up, and write it in, and they did not need to find and write in a ZIP code for the witness. Claire at no point stated that the ballot processor had to verify the witness' address with the witness or voter. She also did not address the possibility of common names (e.g., John Doe) and that there can be multiple addresses for that common-name person (i.e., which address is the correct one?). Here is a very partial list (due to the many physical and visually-observable access restrictions detailed above) of wards with this 10 vs. 28 days issue, and it is the absolute minimum in each ward (there are very likely many more; again, I believe this is at least a 20%-of-all-ballots issue):

6. Occasionally, I had to ask an election worker (they were talking through masks) to repeat a name or part of a name. After hearing me ask the poll worker, one of the democrat observers got up and brought Brenda Wood over, who told me I could no longer do this because it was slowing them down. She insisted, so I could no longer document any more such instances. My best estimate of how many ballot envelopes fell in to this situation is about 20%, and I observed for at least 6 hours. Overall, Claire, Benda, and the rest of the election staff, including the Democrat poll observers, seemed hostile to our questions and observing in every interaction we had with them. Since Bart and I worked closely together in this same room, we were addressed at the same time by both Brenda and Claire. We were definitely in a hostile environment and we were discouraged in any way to be able to complete the job we were there to do. We were purposely delayed until 7:00 a.m. after arriving at 6:00 a.m. to go up to the room where the poll watching would take place. By the time they started the process we were then delayed another half hour so they could explain their rules. We ended up missing the first half hour of poll watching. (END)

Jean M. Bury Weymier
1372 Bobolink Lane
West Bend, WI 53095



Election Commission

Commissioners
Stephanie Findley
Carmen Cabrera
Jess Ripp

Executive Director
Claire Woodall-Vogg

December 7, 2020

Mr. James Witecha, Staff Attorney
Wisconsin Elections Commission

Claire's perjury

Sent via Email to james.witecha@wisconsin.gov

RE: Complaint Filed by David J. Bolter

This letter is in response to the November 30, 2020 (received by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission on December 3, 2020), complaint filed by David J. Bolter alleging that the City of Milwaukee Election Commission knowingly violated elections law by allowing ballots to be tampered with when deadlines were manually changed, witness information was added/modified, and observers were not given reasonable access to ballots at Central Count.

- A. Mr. Bolter asserts that I declined his “challenge” of envelopes where my staff, prior to mailing the envelope and ballot to the voter, had crossed out “10” days and written “28” days to reflect current law. First, these ballots were marked out according to Wisconsin Election Commission guidance issued on July 29th which reads:

Absentee Ballot Certificate Envelope: State law requires the certification language on the absentee ballot return envelope to include the residency requirement in the voter affirmation section. Wis. Stat. § 6.87(2). Existing stock of return envelopes that list the 10-day residency reference may still be used, but the clerk should manually change the reference to the 28-day residency requirement, and initial this change, before issuing the return envelope to an absentee voter.

Additionally, the process for challenging a ballot focuses on the voter’s qualifications, not on the formatting of the ballot or of the accompanying envelope. Any challenger must show cause to believe that the voter is not a “qualified elector.” See Wis. Stat. §§ 6.02, 6.03. As a result, I correctly issued guidance to the room that challenges based solely on the marking out of “10” and writing of “28” days on the envelope would not be heard based solely on these grounds.

- B. Per a phone call with Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC) Administrator Meagan Wolfe on Election Day, WEC staff instructed that envelopes that had an assistant signature and address but not a witness signature on the correct line should be counted. I instructed the room accordingly. Mr. Bolter asserts that many of these envelopes had an assistant signature in red ink. The majority, if not all, of envelopes were signed in black ink in the incorrect spot by an in-person absentee voting worker. The Milwaukee County recount did not reveal any ballots with assistant signatures in a different color ink to my knowledge.



- C. The City of Milwaukee Election Commission staff operate under a vision statement that “every eligible City of Milwaukee voter who wishes to participate in our democracy is able to successfully vote.” Because of this commitment, we continued to contact voters whose ballots were to be rejected on Election Day if we had phone numbers on file for those voters, giving them or their witness an opportunity to come in by 8:00pm and have their envelope corrected and counted. As a result, several envelopes lacking a witness signature were likely removed from Mr. Bolter’s table so that phone calls could be placed.
- D. The November 3, 2020 General Election took place in the midst of global pandemic. In Wisconsin, we have experienced a surge that has garnered national attention. As a result, Central Count was set-up with worker and observer safety in mind when figuring out how to accommodate over 500 people safely. We limited observers to 60 at a time on Election Day to ensure that we did not overcrowd the room and create an unsafe environment. Each political party was allotted 15 spaces, unaffiliated or independent observers were allotted 15 spaces, and media were allotted the remaining 15 spaces.

We placed workers into 12 pods in order to limit their movement through the room and limit their interaction. These pods were set up around tabulating machines to ensure that wards were processed on the correct machine; machines had to be laid out in the room according to electricity availability. Observers were asked to remain behind orange cones, which were spaced throughout the room. Observers had access to every single area of the room. In the interior areas of pods that did not allow for freedom of movement due to the number of workers and tables in the area, we accommodated observers by placing them at stationary chairs within 6-8 feet of tables. As with any polling place, there is not an obligation to allow an observer freedom of movement, although we did allow free movement in approximately 80% of the room.

Per the Wisconsin Observer “Rules At A Glance”:

Observers may ask the chief inspector or designee to view other documents, such as the poll list, that are available when doing so will not delay or disrupt the process, but this may not be possible when polls are busy, and they may not view confidential information. The chief inspector or designee has sole discretion to determine whether such documents may be viewed or photographed

The statute related to observers reads, 7.41(2): “The chief inspector may restrict the location of any individual exercising the right under sub. (1) to certain areas within a polling place. The chief inspector shall clearly designate such an area as an observation area. Designated observation areas shall be so positioned to permit any authorized individual to readily observe all public aspects of the voting process.”

These measures of observer access were both met, despite pandemic conditions. To assert that observers had access to only 20% of the tables has been disproven by the plethora of media images and video footage from Central Count:

Photo credit to Jeremy Jannene:

https://www.amazon.com/photos/shared/GbUBPKYIRBa3w_78orE09w.3Aez7S0FQ1VNX0ioKDKPqV/gallery/7I_1ZTkkT-u9s3ObtGTXaw

Photo credit to Lee Matz:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1564711320396895&type=3>

Video Credit to Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:

<https://www.jsonline.com/videos/communities/lake-country/news/2020/11/03/inside-central-count-milwaukee/6147356002/>

In this particular photo by Jeremy Jannene of Urban Milwaukee, Mr. Bolter is in the black square on the right-hand side of the frame. His table was able to be accessed within 6 feet to his left (to the right on the photo), exactly in the same way that the observers in the left of this photo are shown observing from the aisle.



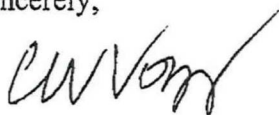
- E. Mr. Bolter states that he saw several dozen ballots with only the Presidential contest completed, as well as some that were overvoted. He is correct that the Election Commission teaches and continued to instruct on Election Day that staff at tables should not be looking at how voters completed the ballots. At Central Count, staff are announcing voters' names and recording voter numbers on ballots. In order to preserve a voters' right to a secret ballot, we instruct that the table pairs should not be looking at how the person voted. Instead, the tabulator machine will kick out anything problematic such as an overvote. Tabulators only

LIE!

see a voter number, not a voter name, so the vote remains anonymous. Tabulators work in pairs to review the ballots to see if intent is clear; they then give any ballots that need to be reconstructed according to voter intent to a pair of reconstructionist.

F. Mr. Bolter's assertion that around 12:30am on November 4th it was announced that "a huge truckload of ballots were going to be delivered" is outlandish and not factual. Central Count was livestreamed and media were present at all times for additional transparency. No announcement was made regarding truckloads of ballots. Our last delivery of ballots was made by 13 separate teams of ballot runners shortly before 8:00pm. These teams completed chain of custody logs for each transport between a drop box and Central Count, documenting box seal numbers and the seal numbers put on the bags to transport the ballots.

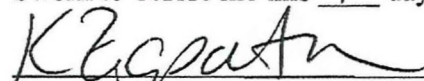
Sincerely,



Claire Woodall-Vogg
Executive Director

STATE OF WISCONSIN
County of Milwaukee

Sworn to before me this 7 day of December,



Notary Signature

My commission expires 6-9-2024, or is permanent



Chairman Knodl and members of Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 685. My name is Sharon Bemis. In the past five years, I have served as a municipal clerk and voter registrar who administered municipal, state, and federal elections, led volunteer observer teams as an Election Integrity State Director, and I am now a Policy Analyst with the Election Protection Project.

I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 685. I believe that Monday early processing and the provisions surrounding its application, although another task for the municipal clerks to learn, will add to the transparency in the election process and further restore the faith in elections in Wisconsin.

As a former municipal clerk, I can attest to the advantage of having early processing of absentee ballots prior to Election Day. Many people do not realize that elections, while essential, are not the only duties of municipal clerks. Clerks have multiple essential functions which they perform throughout the year in addition to elections. And for many, keeping up with new laws and guidance can be overwhelming. Having additional days prior to Election Day, even if it is just one day as proposed in this bill, provides the municipal clerks the ability to focus on thoughtfully reviewing absentee ballot returns, verifying voter's eligibility, and processing returned ballots. Without early processing days, clerks are forced to process absentee ballots during the chaos on Election Day while voters are voting in-person, last minute absentee ballots are being returned, and observers are attempting to track all the activities going on.

The mid-term elections in 2022 showed Wisconsin returning to a more traditional use of absentee ballots with 28.6% of the ballots being returned by mail. Even so, there is growing interest in addressing the issues caused by waiting until Election Day to process mail-in ballots. In Wisconsin, participation rates of absentee voting have decreased from 59.5% in 2020 to 28.6% in 2022. Taking these percentages into consideration, I am confident a single full day of early processing should be sufficient time for clerks to process ballots received by Monday.

When I recruited, trained, and placed observers at polling locations on Election Day, I also worked with seasoned election professionals to develop a training program for observers to take part in the early processing of absentee ballots. I participated in the observation of early processing of absentee ballots at our state's capital, during the 2022 General Election. I was able to collaborate with the municipal clerk and her team during processing. Our teams of observers had the ability to review returned envelopes prior to them being opened and look for discrepancies. We found a few discrepancies which were addressed immediately, and the resolutions were discussed in front of our volunteer team. The whole process was very transparent and gave the volunteer observers the ability to get to know the election workers and ultimately have a better appreciation of all the work that they had ahead of them.

Transparency builds confidence in the election process among all stakeholders from candidates to parties, and ultimately the voters. To be a free people, we must have free elections, and our citizens must have confidence in the safety and security of their ballots. Having transparency in the election process increases that confidence, and being able to report election results more quickly will also boost confidence in our elections. That confidence is fundamental to the maintenance and defense of our democracy. As we like to say at the Election Protection Project, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

Senate Bill 685's focus on both efficiency and security reflects a balanced approach to election reform. However, its successful implementation will hinge on the allocation of adequate resources, comprehensive training for election officials, and rigorous enforcement of security measures.

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit my written testimony in favor of the bill.

