

AB-389 / SB-295 Overview

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Elections Administration as a Profession:

"Every election official I've ever met is involved in the same general struggle: to follow the law and serve their voters in the face of politics, changing laws and dwindling or uncertain budgets. It results in this odd blend of idealistic optimism and weary realism that understands that the daily work is a combination of pushing the good and stopping the bad.

But if nothing else, it creates a hardness (the good kind, like a diamond) that prepares one for whatever comes next - because something will be coming next."

Doug Chapin, Election Academy Director,
University of Minnesota Humphrey School of
Public Affairs



Changes under AB-398 / SB-295

- Absentee Data Subscription
- Absentee Ballot Tracking
- Absentee Witness Address
- Chief Inspector Training
- Contribution Limits
- Election Night Reporting
- Electronic Poll Books
- Elimination of SRDs / Election Registration Officials
- Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)
- Late Absentee Ballot Return
- Online Voter Registration
- Proof of Identification
- Proof of Residence
- Voting Equipment



Absentee Data Subscription

- G.A.B. to create a subscription process for absentee voting data
- Updates available semi-weekly
- Fee to be determined



Absentee Ballot Tracking

- Municipal Clerks are required to track all absentee ballots in WisVote
- Data entry required within 48 hours of:
 - Receiving an in-person absentee ballot request
 - Mailing an absentee ballot
 - Issuing an absentee ballot in-person
- WisVote reliers must forward the information to their provider within 48 hours
- WisVote providers must enter the data from reliers within 24 hours of receipt



Absentee Witness Address

- The witness to an absentee ballot has always been required to provide their address below their signature on the absentee certificate envelope
- Previously, if the address was missing, the absentee ballot could still be counted
- Under this bill, if the address of the witness is missing, the ballot is to be rejected
- This change is NOT effective for April

Chief Inspector Training

- Chief Inspectors are required to attend Baseline Chief Inspector Training
- Previously an exam could not be required as part of that training
- Under this bill, an exam may be used
- Plan to use exam as a training tool much like existing webinar quizzes



Contribution Limits

- Creates “other person” contribution limits
- Essentially, if a person or organization is not otherwise covered by campaign finance contribution limits, these limits apply
- Primarily will be used for organizations that do not have a major purpose of express advocacy

Election Night Reporting

- Municipal clerk must report returns to the county clerk no later than two hours after votes are tabulated
- County clerk must post returns by ward or reporting unit on their website within two hours of receiving them
- G.A.B. to provide links on our website to each county’s election results page



Electronic Poll Books

- Authorizes G.A.B. to facilitate the use of electronic poll books by entering into contracts with vendors and/or creating programs for development and testing
- Specifies that if electronic poll books are used, only ONE election inspector is required to maintain the list



Elimination of Special Registration Deputies (SRD)

- Replaced by Election Registration Officials (ERO)
- EROs will only be able to operate at the polls, at the clerk's office, and at care facilities
- EROs will have the same training requirements as regular election inspectors
- SRDs not eliminated until Online Voter Registration system is ready

Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

- ERIC is a consortium of states which compare voter registration data in order to improve the accuracy of their voter registration systems and to identify individuals who may be eligible to vote but are not currently registered
 - AL, CO, CT, DE, IL, LA, MD, MN, NV, OR, PA, RI, UT, VA, WA, DC
- Wisconsin will be joining ERIC
- Mailings to go out to unregistered voters with information on how to register to vote



Late Absentee Ballot Return

- Currently, an absentee ballot may be counted if postmarked no later than Election Day and received no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Friday following Election Day
- Under this bill, all absentee ballots must be received by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day to be counted
- This change is NOT effective for April

Online Voter Registration

- Major IT initiative
- Would allow any qualified elector who has a WI-issued driver license or state identification card to register to vote or update their voter registration online
- Will be part of MyVote.wi.gov website
- Voter's license/ID number, name, date of birth, and address must match DMV information
 - Voter can update address online with DMV

Online Voter Registration

(Continued)

- Registration and Voting Statistics Report (GAB-190) to include number of online registrations
- Online registrations are not required to be printed and retained in physical form
- Registrants using OVR system will not have to provide proof of residence
- G.A.B. to provide quarterly updates to Legislature until the system is ready for use (no later than 2017 Spring Primary)

Proof of Identification

- New Proof of Identification option for veterans



Not Expired
(all cards currently issued have not expired)

No Expiration Date

- May accept this POI starting now

Proof of Residence

- New Proof of Residence option for occupants of residential care facilities
- A contract or intake document prepared by the facility that specifies that the occupant currently resides at the facility
- May be used only for registering to vote at the facility address
- May begin accepting this form of POR now

Voting Equipment

- May use override functionality of electronic tabulator for overvote situations
 - Election inspectors should offer in-person voters the opportunity to spoil their ballot and be issued a new one before resorting to the override
 - If voter is not present, two election inspectors should review the ballot to determine if voter intent can be determined
 - If voter intent cannot be determined, may override
 - Machine will not count any marks in the overvoted contest

Voting Equipment

(Continued)

- Currently the G.A.B. only tests and certifies equipment that has already been tested and certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (US EAC)
- Under this bill, the G.A.B. may choose to test and certify equipment that does not have U.S. EAC certification

Timeline

- May accept new POI/POR now
- Most changes are effective the day after publication (expected mid-late March).
- Changes effective starting this fall:
 - Elimination of late absentee ballot return
 - Mandatory rejection of absentees that are missing the address of the witness
- Changes effective when Online Voter Registration is ready (no later than 2017 Spring Primary):
 - Elimination of SRDs
