



RESOLUTION # 9-4/11

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 4-26

BOARD ACTION

Adopted: ✓
For: 23
Against: 1
Abstain: —
Abs/Excd: 11
Vote Req: —
Other Action: —

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
ACTION**

Adopted: X
For: 7
Against: —
Abstain: —
Abs/Excd: 2

**LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE
ACTION**

Adopted: X
For: 4
Against: —
Abstain: —
Abs/Excd: 3

RE: OPPOSING CHANGES TO SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION AND OPPOSING VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS IN WISCONSIN AND SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 6

WHEREAS, same day voter registration in the State of Wisconsin contributes to record participation in democracy with high levels of voting and civic participation, increases voter turnout without compromising the integrity of elections or increasing their costs, reduces the need for costly and oftentimes uncounted provisional ballots, and maintains voters' confidence in the electoral system; and,

WHEREAS, same day voter registration does not increase the incidence of voter fraud. Voter fraud committed during same day voter registration, or otherwise, is virtually non-existent in the State of Wisconsin. An investigation into statewide voter fraud in the 2008 general election by Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen found a fraud rate of roughly .00066 percent of the approximately three million votes cast in Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation implements changes that would negatively impact Wisconsin's high rate of voter participation and threaten to disenfranchise eligible voters by:

- Requiring government-issued "proof of identification" in order to vote, but not accepting college or university ID
- Requiring absentee voters to submit photo ID to receive an absentee ballot, and submit copies of approved photo ID with completed ballots or the ballot will not be counted
- Increasing the residency requirement from 10 days to 28 days
- Eliminating the use of corroboration as an alternative to providing initial proof of residence
- Placing numerous new burdens on poll workers, many of whom are already working long election days due to the lack of available poll workers

WHEREAS, the restrictions of the proposed legislation stand to potentially disenfranchise hundreds of thousands Wisconsin residents, with minorities, the elderly, the disabled, and college students being the most negatively impacted. According to a study dated January 2011 by the University of Wisconsin - Madison, approximately 180,000 Wisconsinites aged 65 and older are without a driver's license or state photo ID. The same UWM study found exit polling to show that Wisconsin is frequently first in the nation in the percentage of voters who are under 30, many of whom are students. Between 80% and 90% of Wisconsin college students do not have a driver's license that matches their campus residence. Senate Bill 6, as drafted, would create additional and unnecessary transportation, witnessing, and financial barriers for Wisconsin's 600,000 residents with disabilities, a population which already votes 10 to 15% less than other voters according to Disability Rights Wisconsin; and,

WHEREAS, in a fiscal note attached to the legislation, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has estimated Voter ID would result in implementation costs to taxpayers of approximately \$1.7 million and annual net loss of \$2.7 million in revenue, further hindering that agency's already strained fiscal position. Furthermore, there would be additional costs to the GAB and clerks to educate the public, train election inspectors, and provide IDs that are truly free; and,

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WHEREAS, Article III, Section I of the Wisconsin State Constitution guarantees the right to vote to all Wisconsin residents age 18 and over.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors hereby opposes changes to same day voter registration and opposes voter ID requirements in Wisconsin and specifically expresses opposition to Senate Bill 6.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, local legislators and all Wisconsin County Clerks.

FISCAL NOTE: The financial impact is difficult to estimate. The Governmental Accountability Board (GAB) estimates the change will cost approximately \$2 million for education, training and ad campaign. While there will be additional municipal costs for more copies, training election inspectors, educating the public, and perhaps additional temporary clerks, perhaps \$500 per municipality. The impact on the County Clerk's budget would be for provisional ballot paperwork and a countywide training session, approximately \$1,000. Also, there is a potential impact on individuals to obtain copies of birth certificate to verify identity to apply for state issued identification cards, if the person doesn't hold a drivers license, which would perhaps increase revenue in the Register of Deeds office.

Date: April 11, 2011

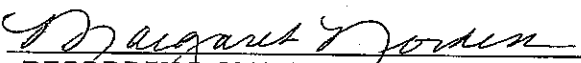
Date: 4-14-11





COMMITTEE CHAIR

COMMITTEE CHAIR






RECORDING CLERK

RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	_____	<u>SD</u>	_____	Requested By: County Clerk Date Requested: March 29, 2011 Drafted By: Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk
Fin. Director	_____	<u>SDT</u>	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>WAS</u>	_____	_____	
Board Chair	<u>SD/MA</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 19 Day of April, 2011

STATE OF WISCONSIN
 COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
 I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 19th day of April, 2011.



 Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk