



# Wisconsin State Assembly

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

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**Testimony on Assembly Bill 225 (as amended)  
Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and Representative Cory Mason  
December 18, 2013**

Chair Lazich and members of the Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs:

Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 225; a bipartisan agreement to update our campaign finance laws and modernize our elections process.

We would like to begin by commending former Representative Stone, Representatives Bernier, Berceau, Kessler, Barca, and the members of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections for their work on this bill.

The substitute amendment before you today is the product of bipartisan cooperation and compromise. It is proof that lawmakers on both sides of the aisle can find middle ground.

At its core, AB 225 can be broken down into two main components: the modernization of the election process, and increased transparency in campaign finance. We are happy to answer any questions about the bill, but would first like to give you an overview of its major components, beginning with the increases to contribution limits.

• *Updates to Campaign Finance Laws*

The current contribution limits have been stagnant since the early 1970s. If your \$1,000 state senate limit was adjusted for inflation, it would be well over \$4,500 today. At first, one may think that the current limits would level the playing field and give a stronger voice to the little guy.

However, as a result of our outdated contribution limits, money that would otherwise go to candidates and political parties instead goes to anonymous 3<sup>rd</sup> party groups. By law, these groups cannot coordinate with candidates, yet they use independent expenditures to influence races.

While we believe that outside groups and committees have a place in election advocacy, political campaigns should primarily be about the voters and those seeking office.

AB 225 increases contribution limits so that individuals can donate more to candidates, thereby increasing transparency and accountability.

There are additional transparency measures in AB 225. The bill boosts the frequency and amount of campaign finance and ethics information provided to the public. Our plan would require default campaign finance reporting to be quarterly instead of biennially, and require an extra report between the fall primary and general election.

AB 225 would also mandate biennial ethics training for both lobbyists and legislators, and require state agency employees report specific bills on which they lobby the legislature.

We believe that all of these changes will empower voters by arming the public with information it needs to ensure that state officials are accountable to the citizens of our state.

### Modernizing Election Processes

AB 225, as amended, also contains many updates to election administration.

Most notably, the bill includes an important change to make voter registration simpler and more accurate by allowing voters to register through a secure online website. Roughly 20 other states, led by both Democrats and Republicans, have passed similar legislation, providing extra security, cost-savings, and greater efficiency compared to current methods.

The new online registration process will closely mirror the current mail-in registration process. However, unlike mail-in registrations, online registrants will be immediately cross-checked with DOT's database to verify their identity. If DOT records don't confirm the person's identity, the online registration won't be processed.

This sort of real-time identity verification is not available through current methods, and should decrease our reliance on less accurate methods of registration. Since online registration is also going to be more convenient, the result will be a significant reduction in the number of incomplete or invalid registration forms submitted to clerks.

Finally, the bill puts controls on the scheduling of referenda so that they are held on previously scheduled election days. This common-sense proposal will not only increase efficiency and save taxpayer dollars, but should also increase voter participation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important bipartisan legislation. We would be happy to answer any questions.

**Testimony of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign  
on Assembly Bill 225  
Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs**

**December 18, 2013**

Voters are divided on many issues. But there is at least one thing that unites voters of every political stripe. There is **tripartisan agreement** among voters – Democrats, Republicans and independents alike – that the money in elections needs to be reined in.

Poll after poll by academic institutions, media organizations and private survey research firms shows that a **supermajority of voters** now believe there is way too much money in politics and unlimited election fundraising and spending is corrupting our government.

Two dozen Wisconsin communities have approved referendums or passed resolutions calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United and other related court decisions and allow more vigorous anti-corruption measures to be put in place. Sixteen states and over 500 communities nationwide have done the same.

Assembly Bill 225 goes in exactly the opposite direction. The bill takes the position that there is not enough money in politics. As amended and passed by the state Assembly, AB 225 would double existing state limits on campaign contributions.

A tiny group of donors equal to **four one-thousandth of 1%** of Wisconsin's population are bumping up against the current limits. That is not to say these donors are all from Wisconsin. Many of them live outside our state. In 2012 a total of 243 wealthy donors – including 149 from out of state – reached Wisconsin's \$10,000 annual limit on campaign contributions.

In the Assembly, AB 225's supporters argued that raising the contribution limits would cause donors to give directly to candidates rather than steering so much money to outside interest groups that sponsor their own election advertising, thus reducing the influence of the outside groups. We've had 15 tests of this theory in Wisconsin. In the 2011 and 2012 recall elections, the limits weren't doubled, they were eliminated altogether for the officials targeted for recall. This did not result in less money going to outside groups. They raised and spent more than ever. Despite a single donor giving as much as \$510,000 to a candidate, outside groups outspent candidates by a substantial margin. Outside groups accounted for \$75.8 million of the overall recall election spending of \$137.5 million.

AB 225 makes the most powerful even stronger. For those who already have the loudest voices and the greatest influence in Wisconsin politics, AB 225 increases their capacity to influence candidates for state office by 100%. It is a gift to the **four one-thousandth of 1%** whose style is cramped by Wisconsin's limits. It is a kick in the gut for everyone else.

<http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2013/12/17/report-chinese-hackers-attacked-crucial-government-election-website/>

December 17th, 2013

08:59 AM ET

Report: Chinese hackers attacked crucial government election website

**Washington (CNN)** - Chinese hackers tapped into the Federal Election Commission's website during the federal government shutdown in October, a report released Tuesday by an investigative news organization says.

The report from the Center for Public Integrity, one of the country's oldest and largest nonpartisan, nonprofit investigative news organizations, indicates that hackers crashed the FEC's computer systems, which compiles federal election campaign finance information like contributions to parties and candidates, and how those billions of dollars are spent in each election by candidates, political parties, and independent groups such as political action committees.

The attack came as nearly all of the FEC's employees, except for the presidential-appointed commissioners, were furloughed due to the government shutdown, with not even one staffer being deemed "necessary to the prevention of imminent threats" to federal property. And it came a few months after an independent auditor hired by the government warned that the FEC's computer systems were at "high risk" to infiltration, a charge the commission disputed.

"Hackers from China, in Russia, Syria, you name it are constantly targeting U.S. websites. But what happened here with the Federal Election Commission, which is the independent watchdog sponsored by the government to keep elections fair and free, effectively got hit about as hard as it ever has gotten hit," David Levinthal of the Center for Public Integrity said on CNN's "New Day."

"It came as the FEC had absolutely no regular employees actually serving at the agency because of the government shutdown. It was one of the agencies that actually went completely dark during the government shutdown, only had the commissioners themselves manning the doors, manning the systems. They are not IT experts by any stretch of the imagination," Levinthal told CNN's Chris Cuomo.

The CPI says the hacking incident was confirmed by three government officials involved in an ongoing investigation that included the Department of Homeland Security.

"Here you have for days at a time, the FEC's website - which is part and parcel of the agency's mission to provide Americans with the ability to access information about their elections, access information about political campaigns and candidates - and nobody in America could do it during that time. So it was a huge black eye, not only for the agency but for the country's government in general," Levinthal added.

The FEC is not commenting at this time about the hacking incident.

Following the hacking incident, the FEC in November said it had moved certain data servers off-line and replace them with less powerful backup servers, that the agency said would slow the ability for users to navigate the website.

# WISPIRG

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**Standing Up  
To Powerful Interests**

To: Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs  
From: Bruce Speight, WISPIRG, (608) 268-0510, [bspeight@wispirg.org](mailto:bspeight@wispirg.org)  
Date: December 18, 2013  
Re: Assembly Bill 225

Good morning Chairman Lazich and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Bruce Speight and I'm the Director of WISPIRG, the Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group. WISPIRG is a statewide, non-partisan public interest organization. We represent members across Wisconsin.

I am here today to oppose AB225, and any effort to increase campaign contribution limits. Political power in Wisconsin and across the country is already concentrated in the hands of an elite fraction of the population. Less than 1/100<sup>th</sup> of 1% of Wisconsinites give to our current campaign limit of \$10,000 for state office. Increasing contribution limits will further drown out the voices of ordinary Wisconsin voters.

The federal 2012 election cycle displayed the ability of a miniscule fraction of Americans to dominate election spending using high contribution limits. In U.S. Senate races, \$233 million — 40% of all money spent — came from just 0.02% of Americans making contributions at the limit of \$2,500. The impact of average voters was tiny by comparison: In the Senate, donations of less than \$200 accounted for a mere 20% of all donations.

Increasing contribution limits will give an even bigger megaphone to this miniscule fraction of people who can write the biggest checks.

If preserving government of, by and for the people isn't reason enough to reject this bill, then I urge you to consider these other important implications. While money raised and spent isn't the only predictor of victory in our elections, it is undeniably key to every step of the process. As the cost of elections soars and the need to appeal to big donors rises, our candidate pool shrinks, cutting off opportunities to serve for average Wisconsinites, and narrowing the spectrum of views and perspectives offered at the polls. When the only candidates on the ballot are those who were able to appeal to large donors, our election system is fundamentally undemocratic.

Imagine if this legislature, rather than opening the floodgates to more big money influence, were to strengthen our democracy and empower average citizens — for example, Congressman Tom Petri's proposal to reinstate a \$50 federal tax credit for campaign contributions, a program

that would boost public participation in the campaign finance process; or the use of matching public funds to encourage state level candidates to depend on small donations from their constituents and not wealthy out-of-state interests; or lowering the donation limit to \$100, a level that all citizens—not just the wealthy few—can realistically afford.

On behalf of WISPIRG's members, we urge to reject this inherently undemocratic bill. If you believe our campaign finance laws should be changed, then we urge you to let the people decide - bring a statewide referendum to the people and ask the people of Wisconsin whether they want you to increase contribution limits and allow more money in our elections. One such resolution has already been introduced – Assembly Joint Resolution 50, which would allow the voters of Wisconsin to have their say on whether Wisconsin elected leaders should support a constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United. We urge you to approve this resolution and let the people decide.

Special interest money has long had a corrosive effect on our democracy, but increasing contribution limits will only worsen this problem. Please oppose AB225.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment today.

# 2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225

## Q1 County

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

County



Which county  
are you from?



# 2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

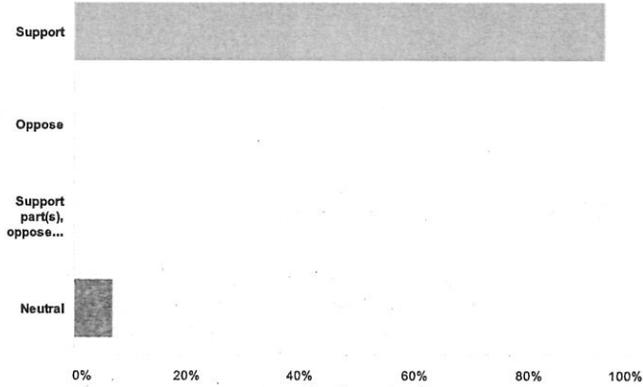
- Adams Ashland Barron Bayfield Brown Buffalo Burnett
- Calumet Chippewa Clark Columbia Crawford Dane Dodge
- Door Douglas Dunn Eau Claire Florence Fond du Lac Forest
- Grant Green Green Lake Iowa Iron Jackson Jefferson
- Juneau Kenosha Kewaunee La Crosse Lafayette Langlade
- Lincoln Manitowoc Marathon Marinette Marquette Menominee
- Milwaukee Monroe Oconto Oneida Outagamie Ozaukee Pepin
- Pierce Polk Portage Price Racine Richland Rock Rusk
- St. Croix Sauk Sawyer Shawano Sheboygan Taylor
- Trempealeau Vernon Vilas Walworth Washburn Washington
- Waukesha Waupaca Waushara Winnebago Wood

County	Adams	Ashland	Barron	Bayfield	Brown	Buffalo	Burnett	Calumet	Chippewa	Clark	Columbia	Crawford	Dane	Dodge	Door	Douglas	Dunn	Eau Claire	Florence	Fond du Lac
Which county are you from?	0%	0%	6.67%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6.67%	0%	0%	6.67%	6.67%	0%	6.67%	6.67%	0%	0%	
	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	

2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225

**Q2 Proof of residency for voter registration**  
**The substitute amendment adds to the list of qualifying identifying documents a bill for cellular or wireless telephone service for the period commencing no earlier than 90 days before election day, a credit card statement for the period commencing no earlier than 90 days before election day, and a statement from a financial institution.**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

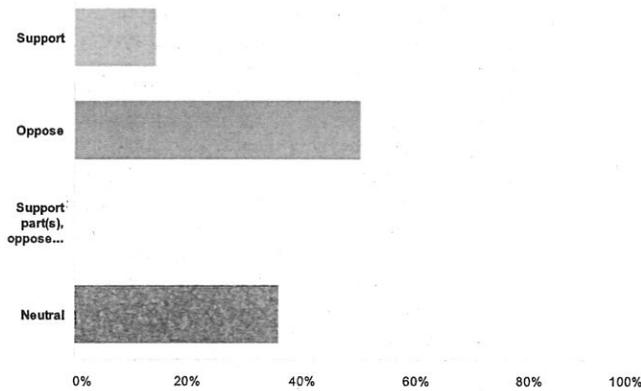


Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	93.33%	14
Oppose	0%	0
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	0%	0
Neutral	6.67%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	Makes too much sense - we live in 2013 (almost 2014). According to a CDC report from December 2012, just over half of all households used wireless (i.e. cellular) phones for all or nearly all phone calls — 35.9 percent were wireless-only, and 15.9 percent had a landline but rarely used it. That adds up to 51.8 percent of all households. Seems obvious that this should be law.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
2	I prefer to keep proof of residence restricted to bills that tie a person to that specific residence; for example, a utility bill, property tax bill, lease, etc. The types of documentation proposed in this bill could be sent anywhere — a parent's house, for example — and don't necessarily prove residence. However, I understand that widening the field of accepted documents makes it easier on voters and election inspectors, so I'm staying neutral on this.	12/16/2013 12:00 PM
3	I support this because something is better than nothing. I do not believe an affidavit is appropriate. If so, why even bother.	12/16/2013 8:41 AM

**Q3 Residency of election officials** This substitute amendment permits, for up to 50 percent of the positions to be filled, a political party officer to specify the ward for which an individual is nominated to serve. The substitute amendment requires municipalities to appoint individuals who are nominated to serve in a specified ward in the ward for which they are nominated for at least 50 percent of the positions to be filled, unless GAB or the attorney general permits nonappointment for good cause shown. The substitute amendment permits a nominee whose nonappointment is authorized by GAB to appeal the decision of GAB to the attorney general, who may affirm or reverse the decision of GAB. Under the substitute amendment, a high school pupil may serve as an inspector at a polling place located in the county in which the pupil's residence is located.

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



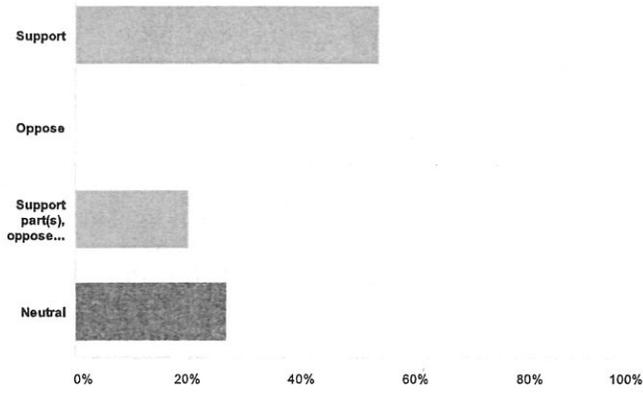
Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	14.29%	2
Oppose	50%	7
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	0%	0
Neutral	35.71%	5
Total		14

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	I don't understand this question, Political Party Officer??	12/17/2013 12:28 PM
2	The state should avoid politicizing the polling place. Many people who are unaffiliated with a political party wish to serve and have done so well for many years and would be excluded under this change.	12/17/2013 11:22 AM
3	I would rather have a municipal clerk make poll location assignments according to their needs in a municipality, not political party officers. You're asking for trouble...just sayin'. Let the election administrators do their job, they know what they're doing.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
4	Since this doesn't affect my office directly, I'm neutral. My thoughts, though: Why are we making this process more complicated and more partisan? My municipal clerks pride themselves on keeping the polling place a dignified, professional, nonpartisan environment. Voting processes are already too complicated for the typical muni clerk/poll worker.	12/16/2013 12:00 PM
5	too much complication. Election officials should simply be required to be residents of their municipality (ward) to work there.	12/16/2013 9:35 AM

**Q4 Electronic voter registration** This substitute amendment permits a qualified elector who has a current and valid driver's license or identification card issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to register to vote at an election electronically on a secure Internet site maintained by GAB. The substitute amendment requires an electronic registration to be completed no later than the twentieth day before an election in order to be valid for that election. Under the substitute amendment, a qualified elector enters the same information that appears on the current registration form and authorizes DOT to forward a copy of his or her electronic signature to GAB. The authorization affirms that all information provided by the elector is correct and has the same effect as if the elector signed the form personally. The substitute amendment also permits an elector who is currently registered to vote and who has a current and valid driver's license or identification card to electronically enter a change of name or address using a similar procedure. In accordance with the existing procedure for verifying registrations that are not received at the office of the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners, the substitute amendment provides that when an electronic registration is received, GAB or the clerk or board of election commissioners of the elector's municipality of residence must verify each electronic registration by sending a first-class letter or postcard to the registrant at the registrant's address. Except as otherwise permitted under the substitute amendment, if the registrant is voting for the first time in an election in this state, the registrant must provide proof of residence before voting in the election. The substitute amendment creates one exception which provides that, if an elector who registers electronically provides his or her Wisconsin driver's license number, together with his or her name and date of birth, and GAB can verify the information electronically at the time of registration by electronically accessing DOT's records, the elector need not provide proof of residence prior to voting. The substitute amendment directs GAB and DOT to enter into an agreement that permits GAB to verify the necessary information instantly by accessing DOT's electronic files.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

## 2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225



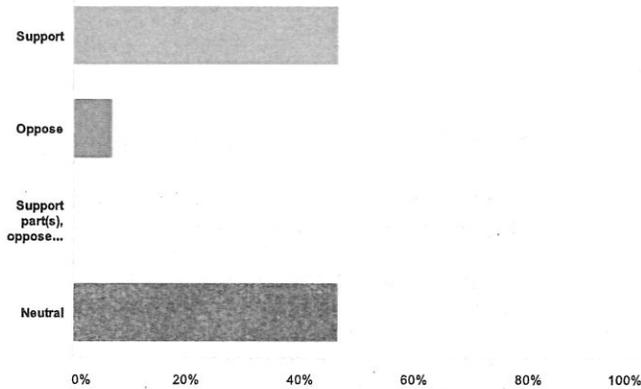
Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	53.33%	8
Oppose	0%	0
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	20%	3
Neutral	26.67%	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	I'm all about technology and efficiency, but other than sounding great I find myself asking if is this an improvement over the current system? First, it only applies to the open period, I'm not Brian Bell, I don't have the data in front of me, but anecdotally I have observed that voters don't think about registering until the closed period, or Election Day. That's when they REALLY get bombarded with negative ads and say to themselves, "oh yeah, I need to register." So is the potential cost worth what I would think are a low number of registrations? I don't know. This one confounds me. Plus, municipal clerks are the true voter registration experts. They are the pros, and quite honestly I wouldn't mess with them if they aren't on board with this.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
2	Sounds good in concept but would need to know the financial implications before could fully support. Has to be economically feasible.	12/16/2013 8:41 AM

2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225

**Q5 Verification of certain loans made to registrants This substitute amendment provides that if any campaign finance registrant reports that the registrant has received a loan in amount exceeding \$10,000, GAB must, upon request of any individual, require the registrant to substantiate the source and amount of the loan. Currently, GAB requires substantiation only in connection with a routine audit or an investigation of possible unlawful activity.**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



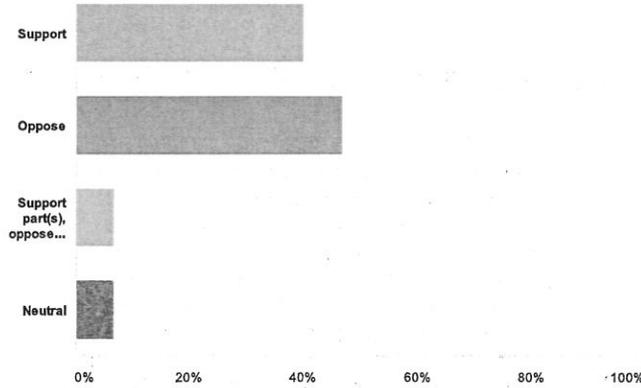
Answer Choices	Responses
Support	46.67% 7
Oppose	6.67% 1
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	0% 0
Neutral	46.67% 7
Total	15

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	I actually had a county executive candidate take out a \$15,000 loan last time around. She wasn't a good fundraiser and footed the bill for \$14,500 of it. I think that anything to clamp down on campaign loans, especially \$10,000+ is a good thing. The rule I tell every candidate, "If you can't raise the money or pay for it yourself, then the office isn't worth it."	12/16/2013 12:10 PM

2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225

**Q6 Failure of indefinitely confined electors to return absentee ballots** Currently, an elector who is indefinitely confined may direct the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners of the municipality where he or she resides to send an absentee ballot to the elector for every election. The clerk or board must discontinue this service if the elector fails to return an absentee ballot. Under this substitute amendment, the clerk or board must discontinue this service if the elector fails to return an absentee ballot for two successive regular elections.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

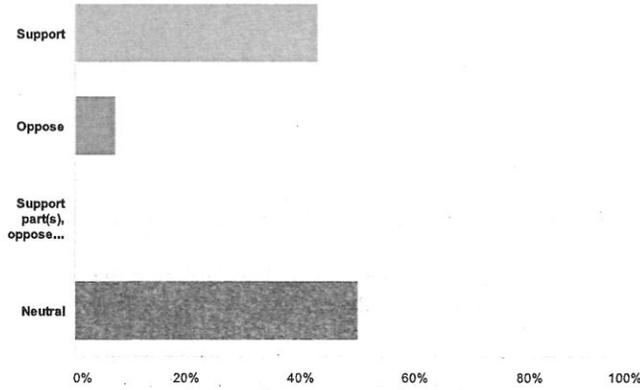


Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	40%	6
Oppose	46.67%	7
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	6.67%	1
Neutral	6.67%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	This is a common sense cost-savings measure.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
2	We cannot keep any segment of the population on our absentee lists for extended periods of time. We have discontinued doing this for military and overseas voters. In order to streamline the process for municipal clerks and keep our absentee lists current, this process should not be changed for the indefinitely confined.	12/16/2013 12:00 PM
3	That just makes for more paperwork for the municipal clerk. The voter can always request absentee again if they wish.	12/16/2013 8:41 AM

**Q7 Poll list signature format** Currently, GAB is directed to prescribe, by rule, the space and location for entry of an elector's signature on a poll list at a polling place. This substitute amendment deletes the rule-making requirement and instead directs GAB to determine the space and location for entry of an elector's signature on the poll list at a polling place.

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



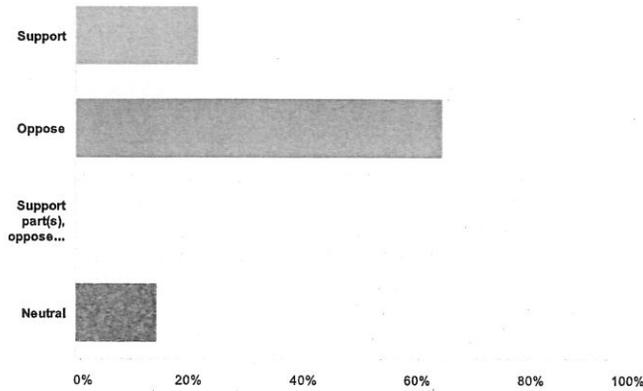
Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	42.86%	6
Oppose	7.14%	1
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	0%	0
Neutral	50%	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	Not sure what the change would be.	12/17/2013 12:28 PM
2	This one confuses the living daises out of me. I have no idea how this is different from what is currently taking place, but sure.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
3	if I can't understand it I can't support it	12/16/2013 8:48 AM

2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225

**Q8 Voting by assisted electors** Currently, if the inspectors (poll workers) are informed that an eligible elector is at the entrance to the polling place and cannot enter because of a disability, the inspectors must bring the elector's ballot together with the poll list to the polling place entrance and accept the elector's ballot at the entrance. This substitute amendment provides that the inspectors shall maintain a supplemental poll list for these assisted electors which shall be in the form prescribed by GAB.

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1

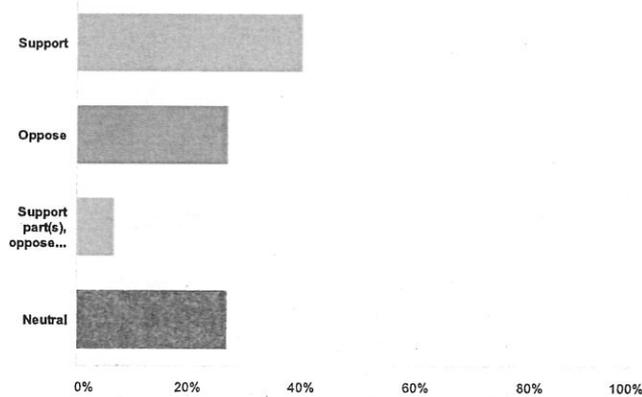


Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	21.43%	3
Oppose	64.29%	9
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	0%	0
Neutral	14.29%	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	I don't think the current system is in need of fixing. Seems like more work for poll workers than is necessary to accomplish the task	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
2	When we have no-fault absentee voting through the mail and are required to have handicapped-accessible polling places, I can only assume that curbside voting is extremely rare. I'm not sure why we'd have to create another piece of paperwork for these instances. We are already overwhelming municipal clerks and inspectors with Election Day paperwork	12/16/2013 12:00 PM
3	Poll workers currently now report on their log, any voters that were curb side assisted. No need to add another page to document. More work for poll workers	12/16/2013 9:35 AM

**Q9 Party representation at the polls This substitute amendment provides that whenever two or more inspectors are required to perform a function within a polling place and both parties that are entitled to submit nominees have done so, the chief inspector must assign, insofar as practicable, an equal number of inspectors from the nominees of each party.**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

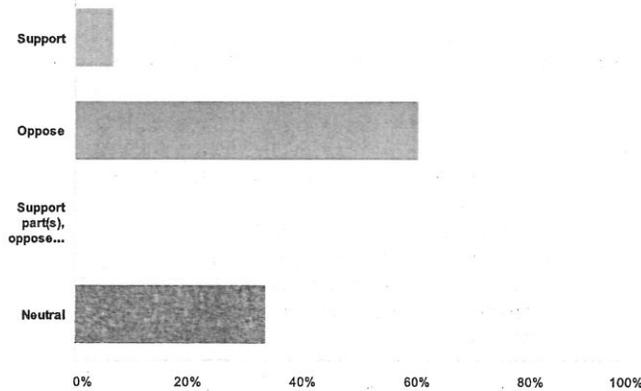


Answer Choices	Responses
Support	40% 6
Oppose	26.67% 4
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	6.67% 1
Neutral	26.67% 4
Total	15

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	Why does it matter what party the election workers are as long as the duties are being done correctly?	12/17/2013 12:28 PM
2	The state should avoid politicizing the polling place. Many people who are unaffiliated with a political party wish to serve and have done so well for many years and would be excluded under this change.	12/17/2013 11:22 AM
3	If partisans are there, then this makes sense.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
4	As long as the wording "insofar as practicable" is retained, I'm fine with this. The vast majority of clerks do not receive party nominees, and their poll workers often do not declare parties; they prefer to keep things nonpartisan.	12/16/2013 12:00 PM

**Q10 Securing Ballot Containers Under current law, election inspectors take all ballots counted by them and secure the ballots together so that they cannot be separated or tampered with without breaking a seal. The inspectors then put the secured ballots into a ballot container and secure the container so that it cannot be opened without breaking a seal or lock or without destroying the container. Under this substitute amendment, only the chief inspector and one other inspector whose party affiliation is different from the chief inspector's party affiliation may secure the ballot container.**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

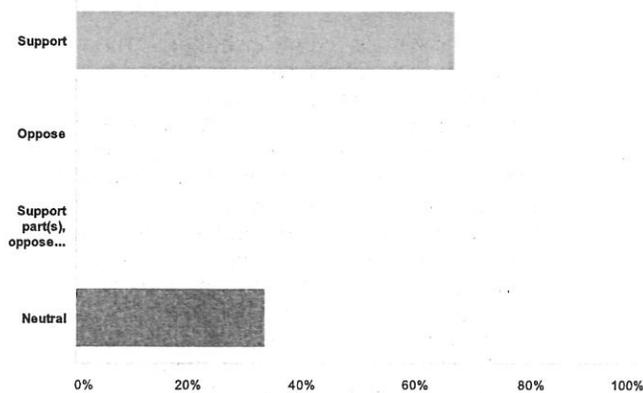


Answer Choices	Responses
Support	6.67% 1
Oppose	60% 9
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	0% 0
Neutral	33.33% 5
Total	15

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	The state should avoid politicizing the polling place. Many people who are unaffiliated with a political party wish to serve and have done so well for many years and would be excluded under this change.	12/17/2013 11:22 AM
2	We don't need to mix partisans with the performance of election administration at poll locations. Wisconsin has a proud tradition of open elections where anyone can observe the poll location/post-election procedures, regardless of political affiliation. But allowing declared partisans to be directly involved in the sealing of ballot bags is not an improvement. I might add, that in Russia the public can only view the post-election activities, i.e. vote counting by webcam. There, political parties handle all the vote counting. Getting back to ballot bag sealing and signatures on the ballot bag certificate with political party affiliation next to names...it begs the question, what's next for partisan involvement in election administration? Clerks take their role very seriously in being neutral. Again, I think we need to allow election administrators to do their job. Observe, fine. Be directly involved, not so much.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
3	I would only support this if the wording "if available" was added. For example: "Under this substitute amendment, only the chief inspector and one other inspector whose party affiliation is different from the chief inspector's party affiliation, IF SUCH AN INSPECTOR IS AVAILABLE, may secure the ballot container."	12/16/2013 12:00 PM

**Q11 Reporting of election returns by municipalities** Under this substitute amendment, any municipality having a population of 35,000 or more may provide that election returns for any ward having a population of 20 or less will be combined with returns for any adjacent ward, unless separate returns are required to determine the results of an election. A municipality, however, may not combine wards if the total population of the combined wards would exceed the applicable population range for wards in that municipality. The substitute amendment allows the municipal clerk to estimate ward populations for the purpose of combining returns if the population cannot be determined from census results.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

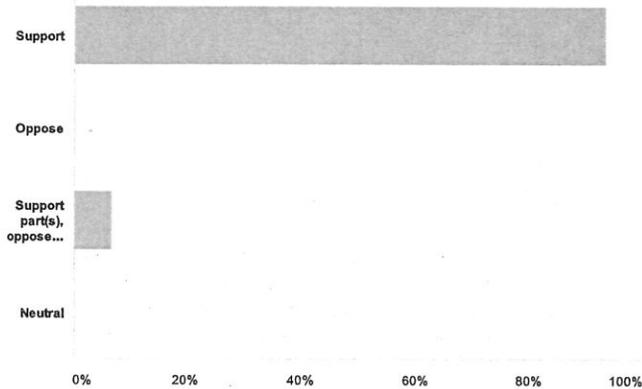


Answer Choices	Responses
Support	66.67% 10
Oppose	0% 0
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	0% 0
Neutral	33.33% 5
Total	15

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	Manitowoc can't seem to hit 35,000 but is very close. It would help.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
2	Flexibility for clerks is a good thing.	12/16/2013 12:00 PM

**Q12 Recounting votes cast with automatic tabulating equipment This substitute amendment permits the board of canvassers conducting a recount to determine to conduct the recount of a specific election by hand unless a court orders the recount to be conducted by another method. The board of canvassers may also determine to recount by hand for only certain wards or election districts.**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



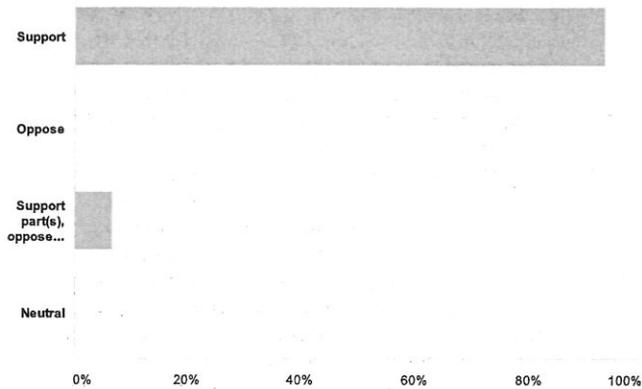
Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	93.33%	14
Oppose	0%	0
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	6.67%	1
Neutral	0%	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	Strongly support.	12/17/2013 12:28 PM
2	Yes! This will save money immediately.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
3	Flexibility for clerks is a good thing.	12/16/2013 12:00 PM
4	Have had specific cases where required to use electronic equipment to recount a very small number of ballots which proved to be very costly. Common sense would have been to simply hand count the ballots.	12/16/2013 8:41 AM

2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225

**Q13 Fees for election recounts** Currently, any candidate who receives votes in an election and any elector who votes in a referendum may petition for a recount of the votes cast. If the difference between the votes cast for the leading candidate and those cast for the petitioner or the difference between the affirmative and negative votes cast upon any referendum question is at least ten votes if 1,000 or fewer votes are cast or more than 0.5 percent but not more than 2 percent of the total votes if more than 1,000 votes are cast, the petitioner must pay a fee of \$5 per ward or \$5 per municipality if a municipality is not divided into wards. The substitute amendment increases that amount to \$25 per ward or \$25 per municipality if a municipality is not divided into wards.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0

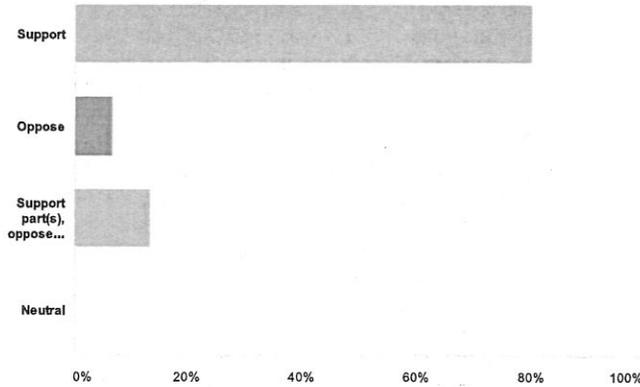


Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	93.33%	14
Oppose	0%	0
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	6.67%	1
Neutral	0%	0
Total		15

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	Please also include the amendments to the bill that went through the Assembly as part of AB-418!!!	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
2	Though I support this, I am MORE in favor of AB-418/AA-2 to AB-418, which not only increases the per ward fee, but also lowers the threshold for charging for a recount.	12/16/2013 12:00 PM
3	Even at that, doesn't begin to cover cost.	12/16/2013 8:41 AM

**Q14 Scheduling of referendums** This substitute amendment provides that a local governmental unit may schedule a referendum only concurrently with a spring primary (held in most election districts in each year), a spring election (held in each year), a partisan primary (held on the second Tuesday in August in an even-numbered year), or a general election (held in even-numbered years on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November) or at a special election held to fill vacancies. The substitute amendment generally permits a referendum to be held at any of the specified elections, including the next available election following the precipitating action if holding the referendum at that election would be consistent with any applicable restrictions on the number of days that must pass after a precipitating action or the general provision that a measure, question, or petition be filed with the official or agency responsible for preparing the ballots no later than 70 days prior to the election at which the measure or question will appear on the ballot.

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



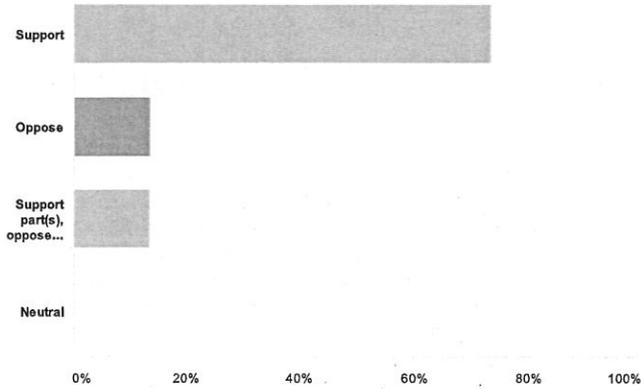
Answer Choices	Responses
Support	80% 12
Oppose	6.67% 1
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	13.33% 2
Neutral	0% 0
Total	15

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	referendums should be scheduled concurrently with other elections.	12/17/2013 11:22 AM
2	More money saved for local governments and possibly more important, HEADACHES saved for election administrators. Referendums (and I might add, special elections) held in the middle of nowhere is gaming the system and not necessarily a true reflection of society's preferences...which is what voting accomplishes. I had one last November. It failed. And it was painful to administer.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
3	I would take it a step further, and say that local governmental units may only schedule referenda at the spring election, partisan primary or general election, or a special election to fill vacancies (in other words, remove the spring primary from the list). Otherwise, I can see situations where a clerk could end up having a "spring primary" just because of referendum. I believe La Crosse County is currently in that situation; i.e. having to hold a spring primary simply because local governments want to have referendum elections.	12/16/2013 12:00 PM
4	This would eliminate all special elections for the purpose of a referendum? Then I support	12/16/2013 9:35 AM

2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225

**Q15 Assembly Amendment 1 to ASA-1 to AB-225 Up to 50 percent of the election officials at any one polling place may be qualified electors of a county within which the municipality where the election official serves is located, but each chief inspector shall be a qualified elector of the municipality in which the chief inspector serves. If no qualified candidate for chief inspector is available or if the chief inspector is appointed to fill a vacancy under par. (b), the person so appointed need not be a qualified elector of the municipality.**

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



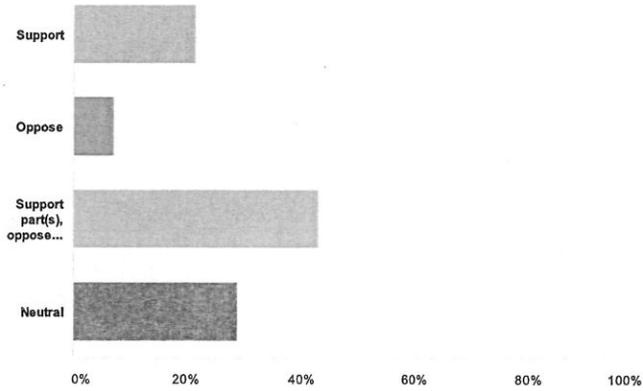
Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	73.33%	11
Oppose	13.33%	2
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	13.33%	2
Neutral	0%	0
Total		15

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	I think there should be first choice within a municipality before going outside to the rest of the county, so, this provision needs some adjustment in my opinion.	12/17/2013 11:22 AM

# 2013-12 - County Clerk Opinions on ASA-1 to AB-225

## Q16 Taken as a whole, what is your opinion of ASA-1 to AB-225?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Support	21.43%	3
Oppose	7.14%	1
Support part(s), oppose part(s) (see comments)	42.86%	6
Neutral	28.57%	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>

#	Any further comments on this provision? Note: this survey could be used as written testimony at the public hearing.	Date
1	I really wish, more than anything, that the Senate and Assembly would work together on common sense reforms to our election system using separate bills. I applaud the measures that help reduce our workload, like cutting down on referendums, option to hand count at a recount, etc. Thank you. But a big omnibus bill, which also includes increases in fundraising amounts (more money does NOT equal more democracy), it's a horse-pill to swallow.	12/16/2013 12:10 PM
2	There isn't much in this bill that I get really fired up about. The only provisions that I feel strongly about supporting are: giving clerks flexibility with regard to reporting returns and conducting recounts, and limiting referenda to elections that have to be held anyway. (I would like to see an amendment to the bill that removes spring primary from the list; sometimes you are spared from having to have a spring primary, and it would be very unfortunate if you don't have a primary contest and then be forced to have the election anyway because of a referendum.)	12/16/2013 12:00 PM
3	support most of it.	12/16/2013 8:41 AM