



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

KATHY BERNIER

January 23, 2014

Testimony on Assembly Bill 419

Senate Committee on Elections and Urban Affairs

Chairman Lazich and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding a hearing today on Assembly Bill 419. Counting write-in votes is a very time consuming process at the end of a very long Election Day. Most often, write-ins are by nature a protest vote and the candidate being voted for has no chance of winning (and may not even know they are being voted for). Often times someone casting a vote for a write-in candidate is more interested in showing off their sense of humor than casting a serious vote.

To provide a little background on this proposal, Representative Richards circulated a bill over the summer that would require not counting write-in votes in cases where the ballot was incorrectly marked. His idea for the proposal came from a poll worker in Milwaukee who felt that it was very time-consuming to sort ballots and to look for write-ins that had been incorrectly sorted by electronic voting equipment.

After several discussions with Rep. Richards, we agreed that problems indeed existed with counting write-ins, but that the problem was not necessarily with marking the ballot, or connecting the line. The problem is with the process by which write-in votes are tabulated and the requirements for individuals to become 'registered' to be write-in candidates.

It has long been discussed that only votes for registered write-in candidates should be counted. Under this bill, when there is no certified candidate for office on the ballot, and no registered write-in candidate then all write-in votes will be still counted. In the unusual and rare occasion when a registered write-in candidate dies or withdraws from a race prior to the election, then similarly, all write-in votes will be counted.

Further, if a certified candidate withdraws from a race their name remains on the ballot. In this case it is possible that a write-in candidate, at the last minute, may gather enough votes to win the election. This bill allows for write-in ballots to be counted in these situations.

Assembly Bill 419 is an idea that is long overdue. It will save time at polling places and money in local budgets. By enacting this legislation polling places will save, at minimum, one hour of time on election night. Generally, poll-workers earn \$8 per hour and most polling locations have 8 workers. By those numbers, and by using

(608) 266-9172
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0068
Fax: (608) 282-3668
Home: (715) 720-0326

P.O. Box 8952 • Madison, WI 53708-8952
Rep.Bernier@legis.wi.gov

the 1-hour time-savings on election night, each polling location would see a saving of \$64.

Again, thank you for scheduling AB 419 for Hearing this morning. Thank you for your time and attention. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

NOVEMBER 6, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL & GENERAL ELECTION

OFFICE OF CANDIDATE NAME OF CANDIDATE	Total in Figures		Total in Figures	Totals in Words
	Eagle	Edge		
COUNTY				
COUNTY CLERK				
JAMIE JOHN AULIK Democratic	1443	104	1547	One thousand Five hundred Forty Seven
Dave Seger	1	0	1	one
Stephanie Hartman	2	0	2	two
Louis Houde	1	0	1	one
Milan Fischer	1	0	1	one
Scotty Meyer	1	0	1	one
Tim Petri	1	0	1	one
Vic Meyers	2	0	2	two
James meyer	1	0	1	one
(Write-In Candidates)				
TREASURER				
CHERYL M. DUCHOW Democratic	1382	106	1488	One thousand Four hundred Eighty Eight
Laurie Virnoche	1	0	1	one
Trent Jameson	1	0	1	one
Alvin Young	1	0	1	one
Paul Goswitz	1	0	1	one
Lily Meyer	1	0	1	one
Tim Petri	1	0	1	one
Vic Meyers	2	0	2	two
James Meyer	1	0	1	one
(Write-In Candidates)				
REGISTER OF DEEDS				
PRESTON F. JONES Democratic	1404	106	1510	One thousand Five hundred Ten
Erik boy	1	0	1	one
Josh Becker	1	0	1	one
Alvin Young	1	0	1	one
Lily Meyer	1	0	1	one
Tim Petri	1	0	1	one
Vic Meyers	2	0	2	two
James meyer	1	0	1	one
Bill Vendetti	1			
(Write-In Candidates)				
Mike Lambert			1	one
Jewel Schambrook	1	0		
Bob Feller	1	0	1	one

NOTE: TOTALS MUST BE SET FORTH IN WORDS AS WELL AS FIGURES. NAMES OF WRITE-IN CANDIDATES MUST BE LISTED INDIVIDUALLY ALONG WITH THEIR VOTE TOTALS

<u>County Clerk</u>	Eagle	Edge	Totals in no. + word
Alvin Young	1		one
Libby Kalbes	1		one
James Blaha	1		one
Bob Nelson	1		one
James Fahey		1	one

<u>Co. Treasurer</u>			
Brian Blashka	1		one
Ann Larson	1		one
John Lukas	1		one
Renee Olson	1		one

NOVEMBER 6, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL & GENERAL ELECTION

OFFICE OF CANDIDATE NAME OF CANDIDATE	Total in Figures Eagle Edge		Total in Figures	Totals in Words
LEGISLATIVE & STATE				
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSEMBLY - DISTRICT 25				
PAUL TITTL Republican	705	32	737	Seven hundred thirty seven
JIM BREY Democratic	642	43	685	Six hundred eighty five
Kerry Trask	1	0	1	one
Bernie Starzewski	1	0	1	one
Allen Schemm	1	0	1	ONE
Doug Jones	1	0	1	ONE
Cathy Halverson	2	0	2	TWO
(Write-In Candidates)				
DISTRICT ATTORNEY				
MARK ROHRER Democratic	948	65	1013	One thousand thirteen
Any Republican	1	0	1	ONE
Nancy Grace	1	0	1	ONE
Steve Smith	1	0	1	ONE
Randy Uodg	1	0	1	ONE
Adam Luchsinger	1	0	1	ONE
(Write-In Candidates)				

NOTE: TOTALS MUST BE SET FORTH IN WORDS AS WELL AS FIGURES. NAMES OF WRITE-IN

NOVEMBER 6, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL & GENERAL ELECTION

OFFICE OF CANDIDATE NAME OF CANDIDATE	Total in Figures Eagle Edge		Total in Figures	Totals in Words
COUNTY				
COUNTY CLERK				
JAMIE JOHN AULIK Democratic	1041	65	1106	One thousand one hundred and six
J. Krejcarek	1	0	1	ONE
Steve Smith	1	0	1	ONE
Rick Jan Kousky	1	0	1	ONE
Randy Uoda	1	0	1	ONE
(Write-In Candidates)				
TREASURER				
CHERYL M. DUCHOW Democratic	991	63	1054	ONE thousand and fifty four
B Heizen	1	0	1	ONE
Jon Borlee	1	0	1	ONE
Steve Smith	1	0	1	ONE
Rick Jan Kousky	1	0	1	ONE
Randy Uoda	1	0	1	ONE
(Write-In Candidates)				
REGISTER OF DEEDS				
PRESTON F. JONES Democratic	998	63	1061	ONE thousand six hundred one
Ed Rappi	1	0	1	ONE
Steve Smith	1	0	1	ONE
Rick Jan Kousky	1	0	1	ONE
Randy Uoda	1	0	1	ONE
(Write-In Candidates)				

NOTE: TOTALS MUST BE SET FORTH IN WORDS AS WELL AS FIGURES. NAMES OF WRITE-IN

NOVEMBER 6, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL & GENERAL ELECTION

OFFICE OF CANDIDATE NAME OF CANDIDATE	Total in Figures		Total in Figures	Totals in Words
	Eagle	Edge		
LEGISLATIVE & STATE				
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSEMBLY - DISTRICT 25				
PAUL TITTL Republican	1,142	77	1,219	One thousand two hundred nineteen
JIM BREY Democratic	735	56	791	Seven hundred ninety-one
James M. Kocian	1	0	1	one
No Name (Blank) 11	2		2	two
Ron Greening	1		1	one
Tim Salutz	1		1	one
Andrew Zommers	1		1	one
Rachel Keehan	1		1	one
(Write-In Candidates)				
DISTRICT ATTORNEY				
MARK ROHRER Democratic	1,324	92	1416	One thousand four hundred sixteen
Nicholas Roedell	1		1	one
Michael Griesbach	1		1	one
D. Moore	1		1	one
Angene 11	2		2	two
Sue Thronson	1		1	one
Mike Tyson	1		1	one
Philip Hoff (11)	2		2	two
Blank	1		1	one
Bob Dewane	1		1	one
John Bilka	1		1	one
Terry Fox	1		1	one
Alecia Heenan	0	1	0	one
(Write-In Candidates)				

NOTE: TOTALS MUST BE SET FORTH IN WORDS AS WELL AS FIGURES. NAMES OF WRITE-IN

NOVEMBER 6, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL & GENERAL ELECTION

OFFICE OF CANDIDATE NAME OF CANDIDATE	Total in Figures		Total in Figures	Totals in Words
	Eagle	Edge		
COUNTY				
COUNTY CLERK				
JAMIE JOHN AULIK Democratic	1451	107	1558	One thousand five hundred fifty eight
Richard Roedell	1		1	one
No Name (Blank)	1		1	one
Jim Larson	1		1	one
Sue Thronndson	1		1	one
At Bundy	1		1	one
At Peter	1		1	one
Gregg Lulloff	1		1	one
Sara Aulik	1	1	2	two
Deborah Bolland (Write-In Candidates)	1		1	one
TREASURER				
CHERYL M. DUCHOW Democratic	1,394	100	1,494	One thousand four hundred ninety-four
Mary Roedell	1		1	one
No Name (Blank)	1		1	one
Sue Thronndson	1		1	one
Homer Simpson	1		1	one
Tanya Lulloff	1		1	one
(Write-In Candidates)				
REGISTER OF DEEDS				
PRESTON F. JONES Democratic	1,430	104	1,534	One thousand five hundred thirty-four
Cathy S. Groelle	1		1	one
Tupac Shaker	1		1	one
No Name (Blank)	1		1	one
Sue Thronndson	1		1	one
Ted Nugent	1		1	one
Jordan Lulloff	1		1	one
Andrew Zommers (Write-In Candidates)	1		1	one

NOTE: TOTALS MUST BE SET FORTH IN WORDS AS WELL AS FIGURES. NAMES OF WRITE-IN