

Voter Registration Legislation

Your help is needed NOW to improve voter registration.

This week, Representative Terese Berceau and Senator Tim Cullen sent to all state legislators a proposal for to allow county clerks to appoint county-wide Special Registration Deputies (SRD), seeking co-sponsors.

Currently, SRD's often must register with multiple municipalities within a single county in order to register new voters at high schools, farmer's markets and other public gatherings. Quite often, they must turn away someone who wants to register because they are not authorized by the municipality in which the potential voter lives. Full information is at www.fairelectionswi.org

In the next few days, please contact both of your state legislators (Representative and Senator) and ask them to co-sponsor LRB 1518/2. This is a busy time for them, so they will need some encouragement to find time to look at it. Find them at

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/Pages/waml.aspx>

Email is a good first step, but by itself is not enough. They get many, many emails. Follow-up with a phone call. Or write a real letter, find a postage stamp, and mail it. They will be impressed! The best method is to meet with the legislator or a staff member for 20 minutes. Find out if they will meet with you while they are in your district, usually Fridays through Mondays. For best results, bring along a friend or two.

Include your name, address, phone, and email address with your communication to your legislator.

If you were involved in registration drives last year you clearly understand and can explain the need; or go to www.fairelectionswi.org to develop your talking points. There you will find a copy of LRB 1518/2.

Please report your efforts to contact your legislators to me at malischke@yahoo.com

Let's keep track of who we reach and who needs further constituent contacts. Co-sponsors must contact Rep Berceau by Friday May 3, and then it will be submitted for publication and will get a bill number.

I have set up a special email group just for the purpose of promoting this bill. Please subscribe by sending a blank email to

VotingRightsWisconsin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Cheers,
Paul Malischke