



State of Wisconsin
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0189/1
MPG:skw

2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 1198

March 10, 2022 - Introduced by Representative BOWEN. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 7.30 (2) (a); and **to create** 7.30 (2) (ag) of the statutes; **relating**
2 **to:** qualifications of election officials.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a person may serve as a poll worker at an election only if he or she is qualified to vote in Wisconsin. Also under current law, a person convicted of treason, felony, or bribery is not eligible to vote unless the person's right to vote is restored through a pardon or until the person completes his or her sentence, including extended supervision or parole, or any term of probation imposed.

Under this bill, a person who is not eligible to vote due to a conviction for treason, felony, or bribery may still serve as a poll worker at an election if the person is not incarcerated for that offense at the time of the election.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 7.30 (2) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:
4 7.30 (2) (a) Only election officials appointed under this section or s. 6.875 may
5 conduct an election. Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph or par. (ag) and
6 in ss. 7.15 (1) (k) and 7.52 (1) (b), each election official shall be a qualified elector of

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1 a county in which the municipality where the official serves is located, and each chief
2 inspector shall be a qualified elector of the municipality in which the chief inspector
3 serves. If no qualified candidate for chief inspector is available or if the chief
4 inspector is appointed to fill a vacancy under par. (b), the person so appointed need
5 not be a qualified elector of the municipality. If a municipal clerk or deputy clerk is
6 appointed to fill a vacancy under par. (b), the clerk or deputy clerk need not be a
7 resident of the county, but shall be a resident of the state. No more than 2 individuals
8 holding the office of clerk or deputy clerk may serve without regard to county
9 residency in any municipality at any election. All officials appointed under this
10 section shall be able to read and write the English language, be capable, and be of
11 good understanding, and may not be a candidate for any office to be voted for at an
12 election at which they serve. An individual holding a local public office, as defined
13 in s. 19.42 (7w), may be appointed to serve as an election official under this section
14 without having to vacate the local public office. In 1st class cities, they may hold no
15 public office other than notary public. Except as authorized under subs. (1) (b) and
16 (4) (c), all inspectors shall be affiliated with one of the 2 recognized political parties
17 which received the largest number of votes for president, or governor in
18 nonpresidential general election years, in the ward or combination of wards served
19 by the polling place at the last election. Excluding the inspector who may be
20 appointed under sub. (1) (b), the party which received the largest number of votes is
21 entitled to one more inspector than the party receiving the next largest number of
22 votes at each polling place. Whenever 2 or more inspectors are required to perform
23 a function within a polling place and both parties that are entitled to submit
24 nominees have done so, the chief inspector shall assign, insofar as practicable, an
25 equal number of inspectors from the nominees of each party.

