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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

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Memo No. 7

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW REVIEW

FROM: Robert J. Conlin, Senior Staff Attorney

RE: Contents of Statewide Voter Registration List

DATE: February 23, 2005

This Memo identifies the statutorily prescribed content of the statewide voter registration list and the statutory limitations on access to certain information on that list.

### **STATUTORY CONTENT OF LIST**

Under current law, the Elections Board is required to compile and maintain an official voter registration list in electronic format. State law requires that the list must contain the following information:

1. The *name and address* of each registered elector in the state.
2. The *date of birth* of the elector.
3. The *ward and aldermanic* district of the elector, if any.
4. For each elector a *unique registration identification number* assigned by the board, a valid *driver's license number* issued to the elector, if any, or the *last four digits of the elector's Social Security account number*, if any.
5. Any *identification serial number* issued to an elector who is a victim of domestic abuse.
6. The *date of any election* in which the elector votes.
7. An indication of whether the elector is an *overseas elector*.
8. An indication of *any accommodation* required by law to permit the elector to vote.

9. An indication of the *method by which the elector's registration form is received*.

10. Such *other information* as may be determined by the board to facilitate administration of elector registration requirements. [See s. 6.36 (1) (a), Stats.]

### **ACCESS TO THE LIST**

The statutes provide that the list must be open to public inspection under the Open Records Law and must be electronically accessible by any person, except that no person other than an employee of the State Elections Board, a municipal clerk, or an election official who is authorized by a municipal clerk may make a change in the list. Further, state law provides that the lists must be electronically accessible by name and in alphabetical order of the elector's name for the entire state and for each county municipality ward and combined wards.

Finally, the public nature of the list notwithstanding, state law shields certain information on the list from public inspection. Under the law, no person other than an employee of the board, a municipal clerk, a deputy clerk, an executive director of a city board of election commissioners, or a deputy designated by the executive director may view the following information on the list:

1. The date of birth.
2. Registration identification number, driver's license number, or Social Security account number of an elector.
3. The address of an elector to whom an identification serial number is issued because he or she is a victim of domestic abuse.
4. Any indication of an accommodation required to permit voting by an elector.

[s. 6.36 (1) (b), Stats.]

RJC:tlu