

CITY OF REEDSBURG

FEB 22 2005

JAN 28 2005

134 SOUTH LOCUST STREET
P.O. Box 490
REEDSBURG, WI 53959

PHONE: 608-524-6404

FAX: 608-524-8458

January 27, 2005

RE: 1999 Wisconsin Act 182 - Absentee Voting

Dale Schultz
State Senator
State of Wisconsin
PO BOX 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Dale,

The Reedsburg City Council, at their regular meeting on January 24, 2005, approved the enclosed resolution regarding the procedure for absentee voting. This resolution is requesting the State legislature to reinstate the law requiring a reason for requesting an absentee ballot. The previous process was designed to enable elderly and disabled voters and people who were going to be absent from the City on Election Day to vote early.

I thank you as always for listening and representing us well in the State Senate.

Sincerely,

Carl H. Stolte
Mayor

Enclosure (1)

cc: Dan Thompson, League of Wisconsin Municipalities

RESOLUTION
PETITIONING STATE OF WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE
TO AMEND ABSENTEE VOTING LAWS

File No. 3675-05

WHEREAS, the absentee voting process was originally designed to enable elderly and disabled voters, and people who were going to be absent from the City on Election Day an alternate means to cast their ballot; and

WHEREAS, due to changes in the law, any voter may now request an absentee ballot be mailed to their home or vote early in the City Clerk's office without having to give a reason; and

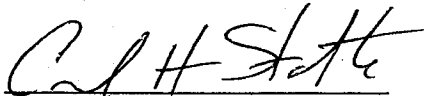
WHEREAS, various political parties and special interest groups are encouraging electors to vote by absentee ballot merely for the sake of convenience; and

WHEREAS, postage costs alone are \$.97 per absentee ballot, plus the cost of the envelopes and the labor involved, not to mention the extra burden put on the poll workers on Election Day;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Reedsburg petition the State of Wisconsin legislature to reinstate the law requiring a reason for requesting an absentee ballot; and authorize appropriate penalties for persons requesting absentee ballots when there are no obstacles preventing them from casting their votes at the appropriate polling place on Election Day.

Dates this 24th day of January, 2005

Approved:

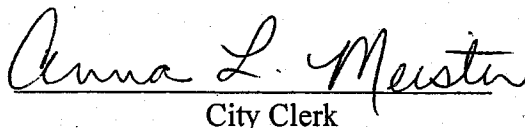


Carl H. Stolte, Mayor

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
COUNTY OF SAUK)

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true, correct and complete copy of a resolution duly and regularly passed by the Common Council of the City of Reedsburg on the 24th day of January, 2005 and that said resolution has not been repealed or amended, and is now in full force and effect.

Dated this 25th day of January, 2005.


City Clerk

ASSEMBLY BILL 700

1 6.80 (2) (e) Upon voting his or her ballot, the elector shall publicly and in person
2 deposit it ~~in~~ into the ballot box or deliver it to an inspector ~~for, who shall~~ deposit ~~in~~
3 the ballot into the ballot box.

4 (f) In the presidential preference primary and other partisan primary elections
5 at polling places where ballots are distributed to electors, unless the ballots are
6 prepared under s. 5.655 or are utilized with an electronic voting system in which all
7 candidates appear on the same ballot, after the elector prepares his or her ballot the
8 elector shall detach the remaining ballots, fold the ballots to be discarded, and fold
9 the completed ballot unless the ballot is intended for counting with automatic
10 tabulating equipment, The elector shall then either personally deposit the ballots
11 to be discarded ~~in~~ into the separate ballot box marked “blank ballot box”, and deposit
12 the completed ballot ~~in~~ into the ballot box indicated by the inspectors, or give the
13 ballots to an inspector who shall deposit the ballots directly into the appropriate
14 ballot boxes. The inspectors shall keep the blank ballot box locked until the canvass
15 is completed and shall dispose of the blank ballots as prescribed by the municipal
16 clerk.

17 SECTION 90. 6.85 of the statutes is amended to read:

18 **6.85 Absent elector; definition.** An absent elector is any otherwise qualified
19 elector who ~~is or expects to be absent from the municipality in which the absent~~
20 ~~elector is a qualified elector on election day whether by reason of active service in the~~
21 ~~U.S. armed forces or for any other reason, or who because of age, sickness, handicap,~~
22 ~~physical disability, jury duty, service as an election official or religious reasons~~
23 ~~cannot~~ is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place in his or her ward. No
24 ~~person under the age of 70 qualifies as an absent elector solely because of age.~~ Any
25 otherwise qualified elector who changes residence within this state by moving to a

ASSEMBLY BILL 700

SECTION 90

1 different ward or municipality later than 10 days prior to an election may vote an
2 absentee ballot in the ward or municipality where he or she was qualified to vote
3 before moving. An elector qualifying under this section may vote by absentee ballot
4 under ss. 6.86 to 6.89.

5 **SECTION 91.** 6.86 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 6.86 (1) (b) Except as provided in this section, if application is made in writing,
7 the application, signed by the elector, shall be received no later than 5 p.m. on the
8 Friday immediately preceding the election. If application is made in person, the
9 application shall be made no later than 5 p.m. on the day preceding the election. If
10 the elector is making written application and the application indicates that the
11 reason for requesting an absentee ballot is that the elector is a sequestered juror, the
12 application shall be received no later than 5 p.m. on election day. If the application
13 is received after 5 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election, the
14 municipal clerk or the clerk's agent shall immediately take the ballot to the court in
15 which the elector is serving as a juror and deposit it with the judge. The judge shall
16 recess court, as soon as convenient, and give the elector the ballot. The judge shall
17 then ~~notarize the affidavit~~ witness the voting procedure as provided in s. 6.87 and
18 shall deliver the ballot to the clerk or agent of the clerk who shall deliver it to the
19 polling place as required in s. 6.88. If application is made under sub. (2), the
20 application may be received no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday immediately
21 preceding the election.

22 **SECTION 92.** 6.86 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 6.86 (3) (a) Any elector who is registered, or otherwise qualified where
24 registration is not required, and who ~~qualifies under ss. 6.20 and 6.85 as an absent~~
25 ~~elector because the elector is hospitalized~~, may apply for and obtain an official ballot