

FEB 22 2005

**RESOLUTION NO. 127
2004-2005 Common Council**

A Resolution Supporting Amendment to Absentee Voting Law

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

WHEREAS, 1999 Wisconsin Act 182 was adopted which allows voters to request an absentee ballot to be mailed to their home or to vote early in the City Clerk's office without having to give a reason; and

WHEREAS, various political parties and special interest groups have mailed promotional material encouraging electors to vote by absentee ballot for the sake of convenience; and

WHEREAS, postage for each absentee ballot sent costs the City \$.95, plus the cost of the absentee envelopes, supplies and labor involved to process and track absentee ballots, in addition to the extra burden put on election workers on Election Day to process the absentee ballots; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Bend must absorb the cost of absentee voting for all elections without any financial assistance from the State of Wisconsin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of West Bend hereby petitions the State of Wisconsin Legislature to reinstate the law requiring a person to receive an absentee ballot only if they are elderly, disabled, hospitalized, in the military, living overseas, or absent from the City on Election Day.

Passed and adopted this 14th day of February, 2005.

Introduced by Alderperson Scott Frederick

Michael R. Miller, Mayor

Attest: Barbara A. Barringer, City Clerk