

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 6.28 (1) and 6.29 (1) of the statutes; **relating to:** the deadline for
2 registration to vote.

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

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PREFATORY NOTE: This draft was prepared for the joint legislative council's special committee on election law review.

Under current law, registration for any election must close at 5 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday preceding the election (13 days). Registration may be accepted after this deadline if the municipal clerk determines that the registration list can be revised to incorporate the registration in time for the election.

A person may also register to vote after this deadline in-person in the office of the municipal clerk or at the polls on election day. An elector who is hospitalized may also register via an agent.

This draft changes the registration deadline from the 2nd Wednesday preceding the election to the 5th Monday preceding the election (29 days). Under the draft, registration after this deadline is limited to persons registering in person in the office of the municipal clerk, persons registering at the polls on election day, and hospitalized persons registering via an agent.

The draft contains an effective date of January 1, 2006.

3 **SECTION 1.** 6.28 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 6.28 (1) REGISTRATION LOCATIONS; DEADLINE. Except as authorized in ss. 6.29, 6.55 (2),
5 and 6.86 (3) (a) 2., registration in person for any election shall close at 5 p.m. on the ~~2nd~~
6 ~~Wednesday~~ 5th Monday preceding the election. Registrations made by mail under s. 6.30 (4)
7 must be delivered to the office of the municipal clerk or postmarked no later than the ~~2nd~~
8 ~~Wednesday~~ 5th Monday preceding the election. ~~An application for registration in person or~~
9 ~~by mail may be accepted for placement on the registration list after the specified deadline, if~~

1 ~~the municipal clerk determines that the registration list can be revised to incorporate the~~
2 ~~registration in time for the election.~~ All applications for registration corrections and additions
3 may be made throughout the year at the office of the city board of election commissioners, at
4 the office of the municipal clerk, at the office of any register of deeds or at other locations
5 provided by the board of election commissioners or the common council in cities over 500,000
6 population or by either or both the municipal clerk, or the common council, village or town
7 board in all other municipalities and may also be made during the school year at any high
8 school by qualified persons under sub. (2) (a). Other registration locations may include but
9 are not limited to fire houses, police stations, public libraries, institutions of higher education,
10 supermarkets, community centers, plants and factories, banks, savings and loan associations
11 and savings banks. Special registration deputies shall be appointed for all locations. An
12 elector who wishes to obtain a confidential listing under s. 6.47 (2) shall register at the office
13 of the municipal clerk of the municipality where the elector resides.

NOTE: This SECTION changes the registration deadline from 15 days prior to an election to 29 days prior to an election. In addition, this SECTION, and SECTION 2, effectively end the practice of mail registration after this deadline.

14 **SECTION 2.** 6.29 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 6.29 (1) No names may be added to a registration list for any election after the close of
16 registration, except as authorized under this section or ~~s. 6.28 (1)~~, s. 6.55 (2), or 6.86 (3) (a)
17 2. Any person whose name is not on the registration list but who is otherwise a qualified
18 elector is entitled to vote at the election upon compliance with this section.

19 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect on January 1, 2006.

20 (END)