

1       **AN ACT** *to amend* 6.32 (1) and 6.36 (2) (c) 2. of the statutes; **relating to:** registering  
2           to vote by mail.

*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, when a municipal clerk receives a voter registration form by mail, the clerk must examine the form for sufficiency. If the form is insufficient to accomplish registration or if the clerk knows or has reliable information that the proposed elector is not qualified, the clerk must notify the proposed elector and request that the elector appear at the clerk's office or other registration center to complete a proper registration or substantiate the information presented. Similarly, if the form is submitted after the close of registration, the clerk must attempt to notify the elector that registration may be completed in the clerk's office or at the polls on election day. Under current law, if the form is sufficient and the clerk has no reliable information to believe that the proposed elector is not qualified, the clerk must enter the persons name on the registration list and transmit a first class letter on postcard to the registrant identifying the registrant's proper ward or aldermanic district and polling place. If the letter or postcard is returned, the clerk must change the registrant's status to ineligible. The draft applies these requirements to any registration form not submitted in person by the person seeking registration in the office of the municipal clerk.

Additionally, under current law, certain electors who register to vote by mail at an election for national office must show identification before being allowed to cast a ballot if the elector has not previously voted in an election for national office in the municipality (or, effective January 1, 2006, in the state).

This draft applies this requirement to such electors who register to vote in advance of election day in any manner other than in person in the office of the municipal clerk.

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

3       **SECTION 1.** 6.32 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

6.32 (1) Upon receipt of a registration form which is submitted by mail under s. 6.30 (4) was not submitted in person in the office of the municipal clerk, the municipal clerk shall examine the form for sufficiency.

**SECTION 2.** 6.36 (2) (c) 2. of the statutes, as affected by 2003 Wisconsin Act 265, is amended to read:

6.36 (2) (c) 2. If the registration list is prepared for use at an election for national office, the list shall contain, next to the name of each elector, an indication of whether identification is required for the elector to be permitted to vote. Identification is required if the elector is not a military elector or an overseas elector and the elector ~~registers by mail~~ does not register in person in the office of the municipal clerk and has not previously voted in an election for national office in the municipality where the elector is voting.

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

**(END)**