

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 6.26 and 6.28 (2) and (3); and *to amend* 6.28 (1) and 6.33 (1) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** eliminating registration at high schools, through special
3 registration deputies, and at the office of the register of deeds.

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

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

Current law provides numerous avenues for a qualified elector to register. Among those options, individuals can register at the register of deeds, public high schools must appoint a special registration deputy to register students and staff, and private high schools are permitted to have special registration deputies to register students and staff. In addition, current law authorizes the clerk to appoint special registration deputies for the purpose of registering electors of the municipality. This draft eliminates all 3 of these means of registering.

Current law also authorizes the appointment of special registration deputies to assist in registration at the polls. This draft does not affect these special registration deputies.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** 6.26 of the statutes is repealed.

NOTE: This SECTION deletes the provisions of the statutes that authorize the appointment of special registration deputies.

5 **SECTION 2.** 6.28 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

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

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

NOTE: This SECTION deletes the references to registration conducted at the office of the register of deeds and at high schools, and registration conducted by special registration deputies.

COMMENT: Is the committee's intent that registration be conducted only by mail or in person at the clerk's office? If so, it seems that the bracketed language should also be deleted.

15 **SECTION 3.** 6.28 (2) and (3) of the statutes are repealed.

NOTE: This SECTION repeals the provision in the statutes regarding registration at the office of the register of deeds and at public and private high schools. Section 6.28 (2) requires the appointment of a registration deputy at every public high school and allows the appointment of a registration deputy at certain private high schools. Section 6.28 (3) allows any person to register at the register of deeds for his or her county, and directs the register of deeds to forward the form within 5 days to the appropriate municipal clerk, or to the board of election commissioners.

SECTION 4. 6.33 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

6.33 Registration forms; manner of completing. (1) The municipal clerk shall supply sufficient registration forms as prescribed by the board printed on loose-leaf sheets or cards to obtain from each applicant information as to name, date, residence location, citizenship, age, whether the applicant has resided within the ward or election district for at least 10 days, whether the applicant has lost his or her right to vote, and whether the applicant is currently registered to vote at any other location, and shall provide a space for the applicant's signature. The forms shall also include a space where the clerk may record an indication of whether the form is received by mail and a space for the identification serial number of any elector who is issued such a number under s. 6.47 (3). ~~Each register of deeds shall obtain sufficient registration forms at the expense of the unit of government by which he or she is employed for completion by any elector who desires to register to vote.~~

NOTE: This SECTION eliminates the requirement that registers of deeds obtain registration cards. The draft eliminates registration at the register of deeds office.

SECTION 5. Effective date. This act takes effect on January 1, 2006.

(END)