

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 6.28 (1) and 6.33 (1); and *to create* 6.28 (4) of the statutes;
2 **relating to:** conducting registration at offices of the county clerk and the county
3 election commissioners.

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 may be conducted at a number of different locations, including the municipal clerk's office, the city board of election commissioners, and the office of the register of deeds. This draft authorizes registration to be conducted at the offices of the county clerk and the county election commissioners.

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

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

5 **6.28 (1) REGISTRATION LOCATIONS; DEADLINE.** Except as authorized in ss. 6.29, 6.55 (2),
6 and 6.86 (3) (a) 2., registration in person for any election shall close at 5 p.m. on the 2nd
7 Wednesday preceding the election. Registrations made by mail under s. 6.30 (4) must be
8 delivered to the office of the municipal clerk or postmarked no later than the 2nd Wednesday
9 preceding the election. An application for registration in person or by mail may be accepted
10 for placement on the registration list after the specified deadline, if the municipal clerk
11 determines that the registration list can be revised to incorporate the registration in time for
12 the election. All applications for registration corrections and additions may be made
13 throughout the year at the office of the city board of election commissioners, at the office of
14 the municipal clerk, at the offices of the county clerk, [at the office of any register of deeds
15 or at other locations provided by the board of election commissioners or the common council

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

COMMENT: A different draft eliminates registration at high schools and
at the register of deeds office. Language is bracketed here to call
attention to that possible change.

10 **SECTION 2.** 6.28 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

11 6.28 (4) AT THE OFFICES OF THE COUNTY CLERK. Any person shall be given an opportunity
12 to register to vote at the office of the county clerk for the county in which the person's residence
13 is located. An applicant may fill out the required registration form under s. 6.33. Upon receipt
14 of a completed form, the clerk shall forward the form within 5 days to the appropriate
15 municipal clerk, or to the board of election commissioners in cities over 500,000 population.
16 The clerk shall forward the form immediately whenever registration closes within 5 days of
17 receipt.

NOTE: This SECTION authorizes registration to be conducted at the
offices of the county clerk and at the offices of the county election
commissioners. Although the language does not specifically mention the
county election commissioners, s. 7.21, stats., grants the county election
commissioners all of the powers and duties of the county clerk.

18 **SECTION 3.** 6.33 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

6.33 (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 at the office of the register of deeds under s. 6.28 (3).]. Each county clerk shall obtain sufficient registration forms for completion by an elector who desires to register to vote at the office of the register of deeds under s. 6.28 (4).

NOTE: This SECTION requires each county clerk to obtain registration forms to allow any elector to register to vote.

COMMENT: 1. Does the draft need to specify who bears the cost of obtaining the registration forms?

2. A different draft eliminates registration at the offices of the register of deeds. The bracketed language would be deleted by that draft.

SECTION 4. Effective date. This act takes effect on January 1, 2006.

(END)