

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 7.51 (4) (a) and 7.51 (5) (a) of the statutes; **relating to:** election
2 inspector statements.

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, after ballots have been counted and votes recorded on appropriate tally sheets, inspector's statements must be completed in duplicate, and all materials secured and routed to the appropriate clerk. This draft deletes the requirement that inspector's statements be completed in duplicate. Under the draft, the chief inspector must make a copy of the inspector's statement unless the election relates only to municipal offices or referenda. If the election relates only to municipal or school district offices or referenda, the inspector's statement is sent to the municipal clerk. If the election relates to school district offices or referenda, the copy of the inspector's statement is sent to the school district clerk.

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

3 **SECTION 1.** 7.51 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:
4 7.51 (4) (a) The tally sheets shall state the total number of votes cast for each office and
5 for each individual receiving votes for that office, whether or not the individual's name
6 appears on the ballot, and shall state the vote for and against each proposition voted on. Upon
7 completion of the tally sheets, the inspectors shall immediately complete the inspectors'
8 ~~statements in duplicate~~ statement. The inspectors shall state the excess, if any, by which the
9 number of ballots exceeds the number of electors voting as shown by the poll list and shall state
10 the number of the last elector as shown by the poll lists. At least 3 inspectors, including the
11 chief inspector and, unless election officials are appointed under s. 7.30 (4) (c) without regard

1 to party affiliation, at least one inspector representing each political party, shall then certify
2 to the correctness of the ~~statements~~ statement and tally sheets and sign their names. All other
3 election officials assisting with the tally shall also certify to the correctness of the tally sheets.
4 When the tally is complete, the inspectors shall publicly announce the results from the
5 ~~statements~~ statement, and, unless the election relates only to municipal offices or referenda,
6 the chief inspector shall make a copy of the inspector's statement.

NOTE: This SECTION deletes the requirement that inspector's statements be completed in duplicate, and requires the chief inspector to make a copy of the inspector's statement unless the election relates only to municipal offices or referenda.

7 **SECTION 2.** 7.51 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 7.51 (5) (a) The inspectors shall make full and accurate return of the votes cast for each
9 candidate and proposition on tally sheet forms provided by the municipal clerk for that
10 purpose. Each tally sheet shall record the returns for each office or referendum by ward, unless
11 combined returns are authorized in accordance with s. 5.15 (6) (b) in which case the tally sheet
12 shall record the returns for each group of combined wards. After recording the votes, the
13 inspectors shall seal in a carrier envelope outside the ballot bag or container ~~one~~ the inspectors'
14 statement under sub. (4) (a), one tally sheet, and one poll list for delivery to the county clerk,
15 unless the election relates only to municipal or school district offices or referenda. The
16 inspectors shall also similarly seal ~~one~~ a copy of the inspectors' statement, one tally sheet, and
17 one poll list for delivery to the municipal clerk, unless the election relates only to municipal
18 or school district offices or referenda. If the election relates only to municipal or school district
19 offices or referenda, the inspectors shall seal in a carrier envelope outside the ballot bag or
20 container the inspectors' statement, tally sheets, and poll lists for delivery to the municipal
21 clerk. For school district elections, except in 1st class cities, the inspectors shall ~~similarly~~ seal

one a copy of the inspectors' statement, one tally sheet, and one poll list for delivery to the school district clerk. The inspectors shall immediately deliver all ballots, statements, tally sheets, lists, and envelopes to the municipal clerk.

NOTE: This SECTION specifies that if the election relates only to municipal or school district offices or referenda the inspector's statement is sent to the municipal clerk. If the election relates to school district offices or referenda, the copy of the inspector's statement is sent to the school district clerk.

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

(END)