



August 2, 2005

The Honorable Joe Leibham
Room 127 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Senator Leibham:

Awhile back, I shared with you a letter from Don Norrell, City Manager for the City of Eau Claire, regarding a proposal to help save taxpayer dollars in administration of elections. Mr. Norrell suggested that municipalities be allowed to verify addresses of voters registering at the polls through a mail processor using the U.S. Postal Service's National Change of Address System.

In response, your staff investigated the issue and pointed me in the direction of s. 6.50 (8) of state statutes. Under this provision of state law, municipalities are authorized to establish a system with the U.S. Postal Service by which the municipality receives complete change of address information for addresses throughout the municipality, on an automatic basis, for verification of the existing voter registration list. The provision allows for regular receipt, or at least once every two years during the 60 days preceding the close of registration for the September primary. Further, if the municipality chooses this procedure, it is not required to comply with the procedure for verifying voter registration by mailing address verification cards under s.60.50 (1) and (2). This procedure applies to address verification of the existing voter list.

However, for voters not appearing on the list, municipalities are required to conduct a costly process by which they mail postcards to verify addresses for those who register on election day. As pointed out by Mr. Norrell, this is an expensive effort and municipalities could save money utilizing the data from the U.S. Postal Service in a manner similar to that outlined in s.6.50 (8).

I urge the Special Committee to consider this proposal. Given the precedent in use for verifying addresses for the existing voter list, it seems reasonable to consider this method for those voters who register on election day.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature of Ron Brown in black ink.

Ron Brown
State Senator
31st District

Cc: Don Norrell, City Manager, City of Eau Claire