

Early Voting Listening Session – Public Session
Kenosha County Center
July 22, 2009
Kenosha, WI

Notes & Feedback
PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: (6)

- **Comments and Feedback on Early Voting in General**

1. Voting is a right, not a privilege, and anything that improves the voting process should be done.
2. Being able to vote early will help engage voters.
3. Early voting is an opportunity for younger people to vote more often.
4. Early voting is a good idea, because it allows the voter to know that when he or she votes, their ballot is counted, (i.e. it will be rejected immediately in real time, as opposed to being a spoiled ballot on Election Day).
5. Under the current practice, the lines & chaos cause tempers to flare and causes the experience to be a bad one.
6. Even though there's no empirical evidence that early voting increase turnout, it does give more options for the voter to cast their ballot. In particular, early voting makes voting more accessible to those working on Election Day/during clerk hours, and the disabled.
7. Early voting may help eliminate concerns about employers not allowing employees to exercise their right to take time off to vote. Early voting would help make sure that person is able to vote at a time most convenient for him or her.

8. Privacy is a concern in smaller municipalities, in terms of whether early vote booths would be set up, or whether early voting would just take place at the counter.

- **Comments and Feedback on Option A, Regional Early Voting Districts**

1. There is some concern about staffing regional early vote locations. Is there, in fact, enough poll workers that would be willing to travel to one of these regional centers, instead of working within their municipality?

- **Comments and Feedback on Option B, Municipalities Opt Into Early Voting**

1. Concern that with option B there is no uniformity across the state. Voters will be bothered that some may have more or less accessibility to early voting than someone who lives just a mile away in a different municipality.

- **Comments and Feedback on Option C, Streamlining In-Person Absentee Voting**

1. No comments or feedback about Option C.

- **Questions Asked about Early Voting**

1. Are electronic poll lists expensive?

Response: Currently no one has an e-poll list in Wisconsin. We estimate electronic poll lists could cost within our \$400,000 estimate if modified in-house at the G.A.B., or up to \$3 million, if we were to purchase from an outside vendor.

2. Can older machines be modified to take more ballot styles?

Response: Older vote machines can take a memory device that can handle up to seven ballot styles. With early voting more ballot styles maybe required.

3. What about registration numbers?

Response: When a person comes in to vote, they get registration numbers. With early voting, you may want to have a separate set of early voting numbers.

4. When would you have to test run the early voting machines?

Response: We would significantly have to move up the testing period, perhaps 10 days prior. And we admit there could be some issues, particularly with the narrower window to program the machines, and additional costs

5. How much of this is driven by political parties & the media, vs. actual voting needs?

Response: We do not know. This is something we are, in fact, still considering.

6. When do we expect a pilot program?

Response: We originally thought Spring 2010, but that looks increasingly unlikely. Currently, a pilot start date is still being considered.