

Milwaukee Labor
Early Voting Feedback and Listening Session –
Wednesday, August 19, 2009
Milwaukee, WI

Notes & Feedback

The public comments/questions are in initial caps. ADAMS RESPONSES (OR A PORTION OF THEM) ARE IN ALL CAPS.

A decision is already made, right? NO AN INTIRUM REPORT WAS GIVEN TO THE BOARD.

How do clerks feel? 90 10 POP IS EVEN, BUT MOST PREFER C
Long lines only at Presidential election? Cost factor; only have when there are long lines like Presidential. MORE COMPLICATED, BUT LIMIT BASED ON GOV AND PRES.
Smaller muni's will you let them use paper for ever and a day, upgrade them and get them a machine? THEY WOULD HAVE TO BUY A MACHINE.

Do you have a sense of where the in person absentee voting is taking place now? Smaller muni's do in person absentee now, right? YES, PART TIME CLERKS MAKE APPT AND USE THERE HOUSE, JUST A HANDFULL. LARGE 100'S OF PEOPLE COME IN EVERY DAY.

Who makes the determination of opting in? Clerk or governing body? WE PROPOSED THE GOVERNING BODY

Maine did pilot and decided against it? YES, PIOLET WENT WELL, BUT CHOOSE NOT TO DO IT. DIDN'T DISCUSS IN THEIR REPORT. LEG VOTED IT DOWN. I AM NOT SURE.

Early voting for 20 days. Clerks see push in last few days. Have you looked at where the timing of when the lines and demands of in person absentee is? LAST FULL WEEK MON TO MON. A FEW BEFORE THAT.

Strike me. Envelopes: early vote how many envelopes: MAIL OUT 2 ENVELOPES, IN PERSON 1 ENVELOPE

Convince for clerks and trust of voters. I have seen things go askew, so I don't vote absentee. Predict voter intent has poor training. Absentee ballots not being delivered or coming in at varying times. Envelope: is it possible that all of this conversation about envelopes is it inconvenience or is it cost? INCONVIENCE AND VOTERS FEEL LIKE IT IS MORE SECURE. SOME VOTES FELL THAT THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO

PUT IT IN THE MACHINE. I would lean on the side of going in the machine. That is why I always vote on Election Day. I usually observe inconvenience more than anything else. The way that sites are set up. All of those things obstruct that from happening. Had the staff listened to sue Edmond early voting would have been at the Midwest airlines center instead of the clerk's office because of the crush. All campaigns will push out the vote that last week. Glad to see that GAB is taking a step. I would say that it doesn't have to be every election, but should always be available for those with disabilities. Pres and Gov Milwaukee need more than one site. Suppression tactics in Milwaukee to challenge votes so that the vote doesn't count, not to help others vote. Get the votes in and counted so that they are not discouraged on Election Day. It has only escalated. Not ceased but peaked and more elaborate. Register voters on pda's and the difficult is that you can't flip as fast as you can on paper. Wonderful when you are slow, but not when you are under pressure. Looking at the candidates themselves and the way people vote, I can't see muni's work together, maybe for the sake of money, but I can not fathom that we would allow residents or people who are not residents in the city to join in and work our polls. That would be a political nightmare. Regional centers would be problematic, suppression tactics. There are a lot of ways that we have witnessed poll workers suppressing the tactics. Washington Elementary scenario (African American, berated voters, she didn't process ballots if she didn't like the way you looked. There was no one on the time that could call the city of Milwaukee because she was a chief inspector. We guaranteed that she should never work at that poll site again.) We had a legislator from a different senate district and plot himself at local schools to watch that nothing was going wrong. In Milwaukee we need the early vote. It needs to be more convenient for poll workers to do. I had one complaining about the folds (disallow). Almost tell that they didn't want to be bothered with the work. This year, 4 or 5, huge rush we were prepared for did not come; based on people wanted to hurry up and get it done and poor site set up cause long lines. She has had the conversation with sue. I think in the training, entrance and expedite egress. We don't need people to mill around. Regional districts a nightmare. Ballot box. Clerks have sole responsibility? Smaller ones?

ANYONE VOTE AT MILWAUKEES EARLY VOTE SITE/

I stood in line on Monday for 2 ½ hours. The site was not conducive to this type of voting. They found my ballot quickly. Mailbox with envelopes. They had a good system for that.

I voted the second day that I could. What was clear is that no one had thought out anything. I stood around, got sent between different people. At this point there started to be a line. It was in a small little area that made it really bad for moving around and getting out was a challenge.

Other city business going on around you: license.
A little separated from that.

Welcoming spirit for the inner city of uniformed officers around there.

Out right harassment and over protectiveness of M PD in those days. 15 minutes of parking free and they were ticketing and had a heavy presence. Electioneering in the lines but they didn't do that anywhere else. But on election day at the boys and girls club on Sherman blvd when there were 200 standing in line, they were nowhere to be found. Intolerance/

Logistics M PD will be there. But a place with no parking was a challenge.

People were determined to vote this election and were not going to be deterred. The sites we have watched for 20 years, they will get it right one year and fail the next. It wouldn't be tolerated at a basketball game or a theater. Fire marshal would never allow it. In the building out the door, through the park in the street; had them all in the front door and no one could see the polling place. You had to be told where to go and registration table was in the back corner. Polling place issues. Can't vote, can't get through the street.

Practically of sites discussed or just the laws? WIDE ENOUGH FOR WHEELCHAIR....

Greeters

When ballots are counted and how it works. MILWAUKEE WOULDN'T CHANGE, LIKE ABSENTEE CENTRAL COUNT. What about the rest of the state?

One of my colleges is Kenosha Clerk. Clerks raised concerns. I was shocked at the level of them not taking their role. The priority should be that voters have the opportunity to vote and we have a total disconnect. They feel like voting is a privilege, not a right. We feel that everyone's vote should be able to be cast and counted. Count as you go with early vote. I would be nervous about waiting for it to get counted. I would prefer a machine so I know it is secure and counted. For comfort level.

If you put it in the envelope, things could go wrong. You don't know that the machine voted. You don't know if someone showed up at the polling place and challenge it and you don't know.

2004 delivering ballot horror story about late night bin driving. CHAIN OF CUSTODY. In the moment at 7:54, central count should have addressed this. As a clerk, a machine would make me feel safer.

If my candidate implodes a week before Election Day, I took that information into account when I voted. I didn't know that beat that ballot existed.

Most people were shocked that their early ballot was not counted on early vote day. We gave out a lot of ACLU voter guides. Absentee ballot process information and VPA. Uneasy about ballots not being counted when I voted absentee. How do we know that they didn't double vote? Electronic idea might be good but concerned about internet crashes on busy days.

Not having to do double work on Election Day, poll workers were happy to be bored at 8 pm at the polls.

Publish where people vote should be in the newspaper or somewhere so people know where to vote would be good.