



SVRS Project Update #38

Wisconsin State Elections Board

... because every voter counts!

March 31, 2006

Election Day Tasks and Procedures Relating to Same - Day Registrants

Last week's update was a special notice clarifying the use of a Wisconsin driver license number for same day registrants April 4. As a refresher, the State Elections Board changed its previous position with respect to listing a driver license number on the voter registration form (EB-131). The driving force is that voters arriving at the polls ought not to be turned away because they did not bring their driver license or their driver license number with them.

Essentially, if the registrant has a driver license but did not bring it to the polling place and does not know the number, the poll worker is to allow the voter to use the last four digits of their Social Security number on the voter registration form (EB-131), allowing them to register and vote. This procedure is acceptable on April 4 only. The Elections Board will review this procedure in the future.

Ask for a Wisconsin Driver License Number First and Proof of Residence

Poll workers must first ask for a driver license number. If a citizen is registering for the first time at the polling place and has their driver license number that is the appropriate number to enter on the voter registration form.

However, if the registrant has both a driver license number and a Social Security number and refuses to provide one or the other, (Note the emphasis) she/he is not allowed to register and vote. This is the same as if the person refuses to provide their name and address as stated in statutes S.6.79 (3), Wis. Stats.

Don't forget, the proof of residence requirement must be met by providing an acceptable form of proof of residence

Tip on filing out EB-131 (Part 1) on Election Day

Part 1 on the voter registration application form has 3 items listed: New WI Voter; Name Change and WI Address Change. Questions have been asked about when a poll worker checks an item in part 1.

- Check "New WI Voter" if the person does not appear on the poll list and is registering on Election Day. Proof of residence is required.
- Check "Name Change" if name appears on poll list and voter is changing their name only. Poll workers make the change on the poll list. The voter fills out an EB-131 so that the information is documented; no proof of residence is required.
- Check "WI Address Change" if the person's name and address appears on the poll list but the address is different. Poll workers make the change on the poll list. The person must complete an EB-131. Proof of residence is required because the address location has changed within the area covered by the poll list.

Have a sufficient supply of Voter Registration forms (EB-131) at the polls

One of the lessons learned from clerks who had a February primary election is to have an ample supply of Voter Registration forms (EB-131) readily available at each polling place for same-day registrants to fill out.

We wish each of you smooth sailing on Election Day.

Project Director Barbara Hansen and the SVRS Team