

Special registration deputies are not authorized to register voters at the polls. Authority to do so rests solely with the inspectors.  
(Issued to Raymond H. Ott, May 12, 1976)

You have requested the Board's opinion whether it would be permissible for municipal clerks to appoint special registration deputies to assist inspectors in registering electors at the polls.

As you indicate, section 6.28, Stats., which becomes effective July 1, 1976, is the only provision which provides for the appointment of special registration deputies and said section deals only with registration prior to an election. Furthermore, as you also indicate, the statute which deals with voter registration at the polls, to-wit, sec. 6.55, Stats., which also becomes effective July 1, 1976, refers only to "the inspector" as the person who is authorized to register voters at the polls.

It is the Board's opinion that special registration deputies appointed pursuant to sec. 6.28, Stats., are only authorized to register voters until 5:00 P.M. on the 2nd Wednesday preceding an election, and that there is no statutory authorization for such deputies to register voters at the polls on election day. Statutory authority to register voters at the polls rests solely with the inspectors, as is made clear by sec. 6.55, Stats.