



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Absentee Ballot Tracking Bill Clears the Assembly

Under proposal, absentee voters will receive text alerts on the status of their ballot

Madison, WI – Today, Assembly Bill 38, authored by State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) and State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) was passed by the State Assembly. This bill will allow absentee voters to receive text message updates on the status of their ballot.

AB 38, a bipartisan bill supported by a host of voter rights groups, will give absentee voters the option to enroll in text message updates to inform them of when their absentee application has been received and when their ballot has been received by the clerk. The text messaging service utilizes the state’s existing MyVote system to give voters another way to stay informed.

“As the number of absentee voters in Wisconsin continues to grow, we must utilize today’s technology to ensure voters remain informed and have full confidence in knowing that their ballot has reached its proper destination. We receive text message alerts on everything from prescriptions to dry cleaning—it just makes sense to get similar updates about something as critical as your vote,” said Rep. Steffen.

Under the proposal, when an absentee voter fills out their ballot application, they will be given the option to provide their mobile phone number to receive text updates. Once enrolled, they will receive text notifications regarding the status of their ballot in all elections moving forward.

“With absentee voting becoming more and more common, anything we can do to make the process more transparent is a step in the right direction,” said Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara. “This added layer of tracking will help boost confidence in the absentee voting process and give voters ample opportunity to identify any unusual delays in the receipt of their request or ballot.”

The bill now moves to the full Senate for consideration, before making its way to the Governor’s desk.

For more information please contact the office of Representative Steffen at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov or the office of Senator Cabral-Guevara at Sen.Cabral-Guevara@legis.wisconsin.gov.

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