

TO: All Legislators  
FROM: Senators Stroebel, Darling; Representative Neylon  
DATE: February 22, 2021  
RE: LRB-1841, requiring the Elections Commission to publish a copy of their meeting minutes online after each meeting of the commissioners  
**DEADLINE: March 1, 2021 @ 5PM.**

In February 2020, before the pandemic and before the presidential election, a [Gallup poll](#) found that [59%](#) of Americans lacked confidence in the honesty of our elections. By the end of the year, a significant number of Americans remained skeptical about the integrity of our elections.

Faith in elections is the foundation of our legitimacy as a government and is a prerequisite for the peaceful transfer of power. Transparency is key to building trust, and LRB-1841 increases transparency at the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Currently the Commission does not, and is not required to, publish meeting minutes from any meeting of the commissioners. These are meetings at which decisions are made about the conduct of elections in Wisconsin. LRB-1841 requires the Elections Commission to publish meeting minutes on their website.

State law already requires many units of government to post their meeting minutes online. This simply applies the same to WEC.

**Please contact Sen. Stroebel's office (6-7513) or Rep. Neylon's office (6-5120) by 5PM on March 1, 2021 to be added as a co-sponsor to this legislation.**

---

#### **Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau**

Current law requires the Elections Commission to permit inspection of records that are distributed or discussed during a meeting or hearing by the commission in open session. This bill requires the commission also to post on its Internet site the minutes of each of its meetings and hearings no later than 24 hours after the completion of the meeting or hearing. The posted minutes must include a summary of every action that the commission voted on, a record of each member's vote for or against every action requiring a vote, a record of all motions and seconds made by each member, and a record of each member's status as being present or absent for any part of a meeting or hearing. Finally, the bill requires the commission to maintain the minutes on its Internet site so that the minutes are accessible to the public at all times.