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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **BILL PREVENTING REPEAT OF LAST-MINUTE GREEN BAY POLLING SITE CLOSURES SIGNED INTO LAW**

*Bipartisan measure protects our right to vote with spring elections days away*

MADISON, WI... With the spring elections just days away, bipartisan legislation protecting our right to vote by preventing local officials in Green Bay and across the state from closing polling places at the last minute with virtually no public notice was signed into law today.

State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), lead co-author of the Keep the Polls Open Act, said the measure would prevent a repeat of polling site closures in the City of Green Bay, which made it difficult for voters, and in some cases prevented them from casting their ballots.

“In the 2020 Spring Primary, the City of Green Bay closed all but two polling places at the eleventh hour,” Sen. Jacque said. “Unprecedented long lines and the lack of efficient public notice kept many waiting to vote past midnight, while others were unable to turn in a ballot or could not make it to their proper polling location on time.”

Sen. Jacque said that under the bill:

- A municipality may close no more than 50% of its polling locations unless voted on by its legislative body more than 30 days prior to an election, and after a public hearing on the proposed discontinuation. The municipality is required to provide proper notice to the public in accordance with public notice law.
- The majority of the members-elect of the governing body may also make a finding of emergency. If both the majority of the members-elect of the governing body and the municipal clerk approve the emergency closure, the municipal clerk must take certain steps to ensure that the public is notified about these changes, including posting the notice on line or in a local newspaper, well ahead of Election Day.

“These steps will help prevent officials in cities like Green Bay from disenfranchising their citizens with surprise polling location closures,” Sen. Jacque said. “This bill will protect our right to vote by making sure local officials notify us early about proper polling locations so we can submit our votes on time.”

The measure ([Assembly Bill 298](#)/[Senate Bill 366](#)) was into law as 2023 Act 124.

*Senator André Jacque represents Northeast Wisconsin's First Senate District, consisting of Door and Kewaunee Counties and portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc, and Outagamie Counties.*

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