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Rodriguez Supports Common-Sense Election Reforms

MADISON – Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek) voted today for a package of bills and resolutions that will ensure secure elections in Wisconsin.

“Voting is a constitutional right, and part of my job as a legislator is to protect that right. I’d like to highlight a few bills we passed today that will improve the administration of elections in our state,” began Rep. Rodriguez.

Senate Bill 283 ([SB 283](#)) requires that, if a municipality broadcasts ballot-canvassing proceedings live in any election, that municipality must record the broadcast and the municipal clerk must retain the recording for at least 22 months.

Assembly Bill 298 ([AB 298](#)) puts an accountable system in place when a municipality seeks to close polling locations. Under the bill, a municipality may close no more than 50% of its polling locations, unless voted on by the common council more than 30 days prior to Election Day after a public hearing on the proposed closure. Additionally, AB 298 provides that if any closures do occur, the municipality is required to provide proper notice to the public.

“Recently, we have seen multiple attempts by local officials to close polling locations at the last minute. This undoubtedly disenfranchises voters. AB 298 will prevent last-minute mass closures of polling places, keeping voting accessible to all Wisconsinites,” commented Rodriguez.

Assembly Bill 567 ([AB 567](#)) will allow for the canvassing of absentee ballots to begin the Monday before Election Day. “As absentee voting has gained popularity, many municipal clerks have been asking us to allow for early processing – not tallying – of absentee ballots. This will create efficiencies in the reporting of election results,” stated Rep. Rodriguez.

“[The Election Worker Protection Act](#) provides necessary safeguards and protections to election workers,” said Rodriguez. “Specifically, I’d like to highlight that this bill provides whistleblower protections. In order to maintain the integrity of our electoral process, we must encourage election officials to come forward when they witness election fraud or irregularities. Assembly Bill 577 will protect those who do come forward.”

“The bills I’ve highlighted here all received broad, bipartisan support. I hope to see them signed into law in the future,” Rep. Rodriguez concluded.

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