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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd Assembly District Majority Sergeant At Arms

For Immediate Release: November 14th, 2023 Contact: Rep. Treig E. Pronschinske (608) 266-7015

This week in session: Election Integrity

This past Thursday, November 9th, the Wisconsin State Assembly was in session. There were a barrage of bills heard regarding most importantly, election integrity. Election integrity has been a growing concern for many voters not just in Wisconsin, but around the nation. A variety of states have taken steps to improve confidence in their elections and Wisconsin is finally taking those steps.

One of the bills we took up was Assembly Bill 567 (AB 567). AB 567 was focused heavily on allowing central count voting districts to start processing votes the Monday before Election Day. During the 2020 election, many citizens around our state were concerned about the amount of votes that seemingly came in late election night. Central count voting requires that all votes be tallied and then released at the same time which is why so many of the votes were released later because as stated previously, central count voting districts release all of their results at the same time. There is nothing illegal or illegitimate about it. AB 567 would allow processing to begin on Monday and if the tallying is not finished, that processing would continue on Tuesday. Results from districts would be released at an earlier time and not in the middle of night. An important note to make, is that it will be against the law to release actual poling data on Monday; it must still be released on Tuesday after polls are closed.

One other bill that I want to focus on is Assembly Bill 577 (AB 577). This bill would protect whistleblowers who alert authorities to potential election irregularities. Currently election workers or municipal clerks are often discriminated against, ridiculed, harassed, and berated if they bring up any suspicious activities in terms of election counting. This bill would allow workers to come forward without fear of varying levels of persecution. This bill is so crucial in restoring integrity in our elections. We must have people come out to vote and growing confidence in the election process is a wonderful step to ensure a large turnout.

These two bills especially will be crucial in reassuring faith to every voter throughout Wisconsin. We have heard the concerns of Wisconsin voters everywhere and that is why these bills were heard last week and will be signed by Governor Evers. Bills and session days like these are the reason I continue to want to represent you down in Madison.

As always, feel free to contact my office at (608) 237-9192 or email me at <u>Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wi.gov</u> with questions, comments, or concerns.

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