

# Election Security Bills in the State Assembly 2023-24

Wisconsin State Representative Scott Krug April 2024

In 2023-2024 I chaired the [Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections](#). Election security is a huge and hugely-important issue.

It's worth asking, "What did the State Assembly do this session to increase election security?"

Below is a list of the main bills that I feel would have increased election security, that came before the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections this session. All these bills also appear in the other document I have placed on this site, which lists all the bills that passed out of my committee.

We had over 70 bills introduced and sent to our committee in 2023-2024. Many of them would not have increased election security in the eyes of everyone. Some did not really deal with election security at all; one example is 2023 AB 496 which would have required certain elected state officials to serve as election officials. Would it have increased participation in polling by elected officials? Maybe / probably. But would it have increased actual election SECURITY? Not really, not directly.

We did of course have some bills that would have increased election security. We had nine such bills that I put in the list below.

## LIST:

**AB 21 / SB 26**, Relating to: removing ineligible voters from the official voter registration list (Rep. [Bodden](#) and Sen. [Jacque](#)) (NOTE: municipal clerks may already remove these names if they so choose)

[AB 21](#): No hearing

[SB 26](#): Hearing in Senate Govt Ops, later moved to Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection

**AB 76 / SB 69**, Relating to: restoration of the right to vote to a person barred from voting as a result of a felony conviction (Rep. [Sortwell](#) and Sen. [Stroebel](#))

[AB 76](#): No hearing

[SB 69](#): Withdrawn from committee on Government Operations and re-referred to Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection but no hearing either place

**AB 93 / SB 98**, Relating to: verifying citizenship of individuals on the official voter registration list and contents of operator's licenses and identification cards (Rep. [Knodl](#), later Sen. Knodl, and Sen. [Stroebel](#))

[AB 93](#): Hearing, committee vote (passed in committee); see SB 98

[SB 98](#): Passed by both houses and **vetoed**

**AB 494 / SB 582**, Relating to: status as an indefinitely confined voter for purposes of automatically receiving absentee ballots and providing a penalty (Rep. [Duchow](#) and Sen. [Knodl](#))

[AB 494](#): Passed by both houses and **vetoed**

[SB 582](#): Hearing, committee vote (passed in committee); see AB 494

**AB 570 / SB 631**, Relating to: certain kinds of election fraud, defects on absentee ballot certificates, returning absentee ballots to the office of the municipal clerk, appointment of election officials, allowing an employee of a residential care facility or qualified retirement home to serve as a personal care voting assistant during a public health emergency or an incident of infectious disease, and providing a penalty (Rep. [Maxey](#) and Sen. [Jacque](#))

[AB 570](#): Passed by both houses, **vetoed** by the Governor on 3-21-24

[SB 631](#): Hearing, committee vote (passed in committee), see AB 570

**AB 572 / SB 593**, Relating to: absentee voting in certain residential care facilities and retirement homes and court determinations of incompetency and ineligibility to vote (Rep. [Kitchens](#) and Sen. [Quinn](#))

[AB 572](#): Passed by both houses, **vetoed** by the Governor on 3-21-24

[SB 593](#): Hearing, committee vote (passed in committee), see AB 572

**AJR 76 / SJR 71**, To renumber and amend section 1 of article III, and to create section 1 (1) of article III of the constitution; Relating to: eligibility to vote in Wisconsin (second consideration) (Rep. [August](#) and Sen. [Bradley](#))

[AJR 76](#): Hearing, committee vote (passed in committee), see SJR 71

[SJR 71](#): **Passed by both houses, will be on the NOVEMBER 2024 ballot for consideration by the voters.** If it passes that referendum vote it will become part of the State Constitution.

**AJR 77 / SJR 78**, Relating to: prohibiting state and local governments from using privately sourced moneys or equipment in connection with the conduct of elections and specifying who may perform tasks related to the conduct of an election (second consideration) Rep. [August](#) and Sen. [Wimberger](#))

[AJR 77](#): Hearing, committee vote (passed in committee), see SJR 78

[SJR 78](#): **Passed by both houses, this SJR (containing two questions) was on the APRIL 2024 ballot for consideration by the voters** and WAS PASSED and so now it will become part of the State Constitution.

**AJR 78 / SJR 73**, Relating to: requiring photographic identification to vote in any election (**first** consideration, so not on a ballot until SECOND consideration which could come during the 2025-26 session) (Rep. [Snyder](#) and Sen. [Wanggaard](#))

[AJR 78](#): Hearing, committee vote (passed in committee), see SJR 73

[SJR 73](#): **Passed by both houses**, this language **will NOT be on a ballot for consideration by the voters until it is passed again by both houses in the 2025-26 legislative session**. After second consideration, assuming the language is approved by the voters, it will become part of the State Constitution.

**I should mention a tenth bill, 2023 AB 567**. This is the “Monday process” bill that I worked hard to pass, and it DID pass in the Assembly but in the end we could not persuade the Senate to take it up. Basically 2023 AB 567 would have allowed clerks to process (NOT count, just process) absentee votes the day BEFORE an election. Currently this is not allowable under the law, and so absentee ballots are processed on Election Day, AFTER the in-person ballots.

The result has been that large numbers of ballots added to the counted results at the last moments of the count. In 2018 and again in 2022 we saw absentee ballots in Dane and Milwaukee Counties swell the vote counts AND impact the statewide totals in the early-morning hours of the day after the election. (Dane and Milwaukee Counties are our largest counties, so they have large numbers of absentee ballots; and on such things are conspiracy theories made. On that basis I’d like to start doing Monday processing in Wisconsin and relieve people’s anxiety about the counting process.

I believe Monday processing would enhance election CREDIBILITY when people stop thinking that elections are being stolen at the last moment by fabricated ballots. It’s worth doing.

[2023 AB 567 was passed by the Assembly](#) on a voice vote but the Senate neither voted on AB 567 nor acted on [its companion 2023 SB 685](#).