

Voter ID Act Compliance Task Force Report Executive Summary

A Task Force was convened in July 2011 to research the requirements of 2011 Wis. Act 23, commonly referred to as the Voter ID Act, and make recommendations to the Campus leadership and the Student Government Association about steps that could be taken to facilitate student voting by providing identification that would be compliant with the provisions of the legislation.

The essence of compliance with Wis. Act 23 requires that a voter prove:

- 1) Identification, using an ID card that meets very specific criteria (issue and expiration date, photo, signature, etc.)
- 2) Residency (proof of eligibility to vote in the district/precinct in which the voter seeks to cast a ballot)

The Task Force recommends that the university should:

- 1) Produce an official verification of enrollment and address form. The verification shall pull enrollment and address information from the Student Information System. Security will be assured by requiring standard SIS authentication. Students will be able to print the verification document themselves.
- 2) Cease the current practice of providing lists of on-campus residents to the city clerk, unless required to maintain on campus polling place. Since the verification solution serves all categories of students (on and off-campus residents), and the provision of lists will henceforth create FERPA compliance problems, there is no need to continue this practice.
- 3) Use existing ID card technology to produce compliant voter ID cards on demand for students who do not have any other form of compliant ID.
- 4) Work with SGA to develop educational literature to teach students about the new service and inform them of *their* responsibilities and obligations with regard to registration and voting.

Background and rationale for this recommendation is found in the attached Task Force Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Starney, Dean of Enrollment Services and Task Force Chair

Voter ID Act Compliance Task Force Summary and Recommendations

Task Force Charge: Research and recommend university actions to be taken to facilitate student voting that are compliant with 2011 Wis. Act 23. Present and implement recommendations in time to facilitate student voting by February of 2012.

Task Force Membership:

Rick Warpinski, Director, University Union and University ID Card Services

Glenn Gray, Director of Residence Life

Amanda Hruska, Registrar

Brenda Amenson-Hill, Dean of Students

Dan Spielmann, Special Assistant to the Chancellor

Jeffrey Mayefsky, University Governance Chair, SGA Executive Board

Michael Stearney, Dean of Enrollment Services (chair)

Resources and Process:

The Task Force met four times and utilized the following resources to understand the provisions of Wis. Act 23 and assess alternatives for compliance:

- a. Government Accountability Board resources related to 2011 Act 23
<http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id>
- b. UWS legal Memorandums; 6/2/2011, 7/15/2011, 9/26/2011
- c. Consultation with City Clerk of Green Bay and Brown County Clerk
- d. Consultation with Matthew J. Lind, Associate System Legal Counsel, UWS
- e. Consultation with other UW campuses

The Task Force researched the requirements of the new statute, evaluated UWGB's current practice/protocol with respect to issuing of ID cards and facilitating registration and voting. The committee then assessed alternatives for compliance with the new provisions of 2011 Act 23.

Criteria for a Solution:

The Task Force established the following criteria for acceptable compliance solutions:

- 1) **Enable voting:** Democracy is, by definition, participatory. Part of the university's mission is to produce engaged citizens. Therefore, the university should take deliberate steps to enable and encourage this fundamental right and responsibility of citizenship for UWGB students.
- 2) **Maintain a polling place on the UWGB campus:** The on-campus polling place is critical to enabling students to vote. The compliance solution should honor all conditions necessary to maintain the on-campus polling place.
- 3) **A single solution:** One solution should serve all students (on and off-campus residents, students from local communities as well as out-of-area students).
- 4) **Minimize costs:** The solution should be compliant with the lowest possible cost to the university and to students.

The Problem:

The essence of compliance with Wis. Act 23 requires that a voter prove:

- 3) Identification, using an ID card that meets very specific criteria (issue and expiration date, photo, signature, etc.)
 - 4) Residency (proof of eligibility to vote in the district/precinct in which the voter seeks to cast a ballot)
- The UWGB campus ID card in its current form does not meet all the requirements to serve as identification for voting purposes. The cost of new ID card technology to produce a compliant ID card is prohibitive.
 - Proving residency for students is generally more difficult than it is for an established community resident/homeowner. Students are more transient; they move more often and many live here part of the year and at home for other parts of the year. Finally, the common forms of ID that a student might have (driver's license, passport, etc.) display a permanent address, not a local address.
 - Historically, the university supplied the city clerk with a list of on-campus resident students to facilitate registration. The new law requires that any list of on-campus residents that is provided must include *only US residents*. Thus, the provision of lists henceforth would require a signed FERPA waiver from every resident student to allow *de facto* disclosure of resident status, which is FERPA-protected information. This is possible, but bureaucratically onerous.

Task Force Recommendation:

Based on its research, discussion and consultation, The Task Force recommends the following:

- 5) Produce an official verification of enrollment and address form.
 - a. Allocate university resources (CIT/MIS staff time) to do the necessary programming to extract data from the SIS and format it into an official printable document (see example, attachment 1)
 - b. Provide students a secure way (using SIS authentication) to produce the official verification of enrollment and address.
 - c. As part of the process, include an opportunity for students to update their local address.
 - d. Make the verification of enrollment form available to students via self-service.
 - e. If feasible, provide a kiosk with a printer adjacent to the polling place to serve same-day voter registrants.
- 6) Cease to provide lists of on-campus residents to the city clerk, unless required to maintain on campus polling place.
- 7) Use existing ID card technology to produce compliant voter ID cards on demand for students who do not have any other form of compliant ID. (see example, attachment 2)
- 8) Working with SGA, develop educational literature to teach students about the new service and inform them of *their* responsibilities and obligations with regard to registration and voting.

The Task Force offers the following points for consideration. The proposed solution;

- 1) Enables student voting by producing an official, accurate and current verification of enrollment and address.
- 2) Assures security of confidential student information.
- 3) Assists the university in collecting/updating local address information.
- 4) Is cost-effective; only 8-12 hours of MIS programming time will be required.
- 5) Appropriately shares responsibility between the university and the student voter.
- 6) Is compliant with FERPA.
- 7) Provides an alternative ID card option for the relatively small number of students who have no other form of compliant ID.