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SEN. JACQUE'S ELECTION INTEGRITY & POLLWORKER PROTECTION PROVISIONS SIGNED INTO LAW

Bipartisan initiatives enacted to protect election officials reporting fraud from retribution, support community volunteers who run elections

MADISON, WI... Legislation providing safeguards and protections for those hard-working citizens who make our elections run smoothly was signed into law today. The provisions passed the State Senate last week in a 31-1 vote after being unanimously approved by the Assembly in February.

State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere), co-author of the Election Worker Protection Act provisions, said he was pleased by the strong bi-partisan support from both legislators and county clerks from across Wisconsin.

“Free, fair, and peaceful elections are the bedrock of representative government,” Sen. Jacque said. “Voters who participate in our elections should expect these guarantees, as should those who work at the polls.”

Sen. Jacque said he developed the proposal after the events of the past few years and discussions with local clerks and poll workers. Provisions of the bill include:

- The legislation provides whistleblower protection to an election official’s employment if the election official lawfully reports what he or she believes are election irregularities. This provision became especially important after the pressure placed on the Green Bay City Clerk during the 2020 elections to alter election procedures and not adhere to state law in order to cater to the desires of the Green Bay mayor and an out of state political consultant, under fear of retribution;
- “Election official” means an individual who is charged with any duties relating to the conduct of an election;
- The bill prohibits the disclosure of personally identifiable information of election officials or election registration officials;
- Under the measure, it is a Class I felony to intentionally cause bodily harm to an election official acting in that person’s official capacity, simply trying to do their job the best they can; and

“Extending these protections to our public-minded friends and neighbors striving to perform their civic duty is not a partisan issue,” Sen. Jacque said. “Working at the polls should be as safe as it is rewarding to participate in the elections process.”

Sen. Jacque’s legislation ([Senate Bill 291](#)) was amended into a broader campaigns and elections package ([Senate Bill 822](#)) signed into law today as 2023 Act 126.

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.