
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

January 9, 2012

Ald. Milele A. Coggs
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Recall Election would be Included in Tracking of Voter ID Law

Measure will be topic today at Judiciary and Legislation Committee (1:30 p.m.)

The Common Council's **Judiciary and Legislation Committee** will consider a file today that, among other things, would direct the city's Election Commission to provide the Council sooner with details about possible impacts of the state's new "Voter ID" law and to include related information after any recall election that may be held.

If approved by the committee, the resolution (**file #111220 – attached**), **sponsored by Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs**, would amend Common Council file #110204 which, among other things, requires the Election Commission to report, "as soon as is practicable," the numbers of rejected ballots after each election held beginning in 2012. The amendment replaces that requirement and directs the Commission to provide its report to the Common Council within **30 days** of each general election for both regular elections and recall elections, if any.

File #110204 – co-sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs and approved by the Council last year – directed the Election Commission to begin tracking the number of city resident ballots not counted during elections – and the reason or reasons why those ballots were not counted. The file also directed the Election Commission to notify all voters whose ballots were not counted.

The Judiciary and Legislation Committee meets at 1:30 p.m. today (Monday, January 9, 2012) in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

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Voter ID Tracking/ADD ONE

File #111220 further directs the Election Commission to provide the Common Council with information detailing the numbers of individuals who are denied registration or who are denied ballots due to the new documentation requirements of Act 23 (the “Voter ID” law), including proof of residency and photo identification requirements.

The resolution provides a final amendment directing the Election Commission to report the **direct and indirect costs** of implementing Act 23 for all elections held in 2012.

Aldерwoman Coggs said “the large and sweeping impact” Act 23 is having on local communities needs to be tracked and accounted for. “I believe we must be vigilant about doing all we can to ensure that no voters are disenfranchised by this new law, which also is carrying a huge price tag for taxpayers,” she said. “Therefore, it is important for the City of Milwaukee to keep track of how many ballots are not counted – and why they weren’t counted – so the city can analyze the causes and make plans to combat those issues with an eye toward changing the law.”

The original resolution includes a provision for a public information campaign to inform residents of the new law’s requirements (especially proper photo ID and proof of identification) and directs the Election Commission to advise city residents to report problems or irregularity or difficulties in voting, especially problems that may result in uncounted ballots.

The “Voter ID” law – 2011 Wisconsin Act 23 (Act 23) – revised state election laws relating to: requiring identification to vote at a polling place or to obtain an absentee ballot; absentee voting; late voter registration; proof of residence; a requirement that electors provide signatures when voting in person at an election; the duration and location of residency for voting purposes; and other matters.