

Presidential Primary and Absentee Ballots

AB ____ (LRB 6072/1) / SB ____ (LRB 6077/1)

Summary of Provisions

Elections Commission

1. Establishment of a Separate Presidential Preference Primary Election. Require the presidential preference primary to be held on the second Tuesday in March rather than the first Tuesday in April. Under current law, the presidential preference primary is held concurrently with the spring election. Modify deadlines related to the selection of names for the ballot and the reporting of results to reflect the change in date of the election.

2. In-Person Application Dates for Absentee Ballots. Modify the dates during which a qualified elector may apply for an absentee ballot in-person such that applications may be made no earlier than the third Saturday preceding the election and no later than the Friday preceding the election. Modify the days during which an application may be received such that an application may only be received Monday to Saturday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Under current law, a qualified elector may apply for an absentee ballot in-person no earlier than the third Monday preceding the election and no later than the Friday preceding the election. Currently under statute, applications may be received Monday to Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. However, it should be noted that in *One Wisconsin Institute v. Thomsen*, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin ruled that the state-imposed limits on days and times for in-person absentee voting are unconstitutional, with the exception of the prohibition applicable to the Monday before Election Day.

3. Voting Procedures for Military and Overseas Electors. Modify current law to specify that an individual signing the witness certification for an absentee ballot cast by a military elector or overseas elector need not be a United States citizen. Provide that all overseas electors may receive absentee ballots electronically, regardless of whether such electors are considered permanently or temporarily overseas. The bill would modify current law so that it complies with the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act. This provision is identical to 2017 Assembly Bill 947, as introduced.