

4825 Bayfield Terrace  
Madison WI 53705  
October 1, 2006

Dear Representative Terese Berceau:

Please consider initiating legislation to have a statewide school holiday on November election days.

In Kentucky, state law has closed schools statewide on November election days since 1984. This has been so successful that this year the primary election was added as a holiday.

A school holiday would accomplish the following:

- Polling places could be located in advantageous rooms. Many of our schools now serve as polling places, but the actual location is in a hallway, small room, or classroom space that disrupts the regular school day.
- Parking places normally filled by teachers near school polling places would be available for voters.
- Teachers would be able to work as pollworkers. Perhaps an incentive could be added to the bill.
- High school students would be available to work as pollworkers. This would help expand the current program of high school students over 16 working at the polls, which has been very successful.
- A school holiday would avoid the situation of significant traffic around schools during a school day, which may lead to accidents.
- Security of our students would be enhanced. Currently, schools with polling places have thousands of voters in the building during election day.

The suggestion has been made to declare a national holiday for the November election. A school holiday is a modest step towards elevating the status of our elections.

Thanks for considering this legislation to improve both our elections and the security of our students.

Sincerely,

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