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The Morning Mail

From Journal Sentinel readers

VOTING

Collect election data to improve process

Here is a simple, low-cost way to help pinpoint where election errors might occur. This would help prevent problems such as those that occurred in Medford, the Town of Herman and Milwaukee.

Each municipal and county clerk should be required to publish the following ward-by-ward information along with the election results, before review by the board of canvassers: the number of undervotes at each ward; the total ballots cast at each ward; the serial number issued to the final voter at each ward.

This data will help to answer basic questions: Are voters being disenfranchised through technicalities, poor ballot construction or tabulator errors? Are polling place procedures adequate to ensure that the ballot count equals the voter count?

One of the best ways to ensure election integrity is to expose the entire process to sunlight. Publishing this data promptly, preferably on the Internet, will be a big step toward exposing situations that undermine confidence in the election process.

So far, good ideas for improving the process are getting caught in a battle between legislators and the governor. When will citizens stand up and demand action?

Paul Malischke
Madison

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