

### **Proposal for a Policy on Assigning Pollworkers**

The city clerk shall develop a policy for assigning pollworkers who are listed on a candidate's personal *Campaign Registration Statement EB-1*. The policy shall avoid assigning them to a polling place where and when the candidate is on the ballot. This shall also include the spring primary, if the candidate is to be on the ballot in April. This shall only apply to local (Madison and Madison School Board) non-partisan elections.

- In addition, the policy shall include avoiding assigning elected officials as pollworkers within their own districts, for all elections, during their term in office.
- A similar appropriate policy shall be developed for a recall or referendum.
- The policy shall be submitted for review by this committee and by the Common Council during 2007.
- In summer of 2008, the policy shall be reviewed by the clerk and a report submitted to the Madison Election Advisory Committee and the Common Council.

**Method of executing the policy:** Clerk will review EB-1 filings from candidates for Common Council, Mayor, and School Board. All names (approximately 50 to 100 per year) appearing on the forms will be compared to the pollworker list. Pollworker coordinator will not assign them to work in the specific district of interest; or in the case of a citywide candidate, will not assign them anywhere. This will be in effect only for that election and the primary. In addition, the candidates will receive a notice advising them of the policy. Similar methods can be used for elected officials, referendums, and recalls.

### **Comparison of Proposals for Pollworkers**

	<b>Proposed Ordinance</b>	<b>Proposed Policy as above</b>
Deals with specific complaints about pollworkers?	Broad	Precise
Method of implementation?	Not specified	Detailed – see above
Subject pollworkers to ethics complaints?	Yes	No
Staff time to implement?	Unknown	Estimated at more than 50 hours per year
Relationship to state statutes?	Conflicts with 7.30 (2)	Minimizes conflict
Referendum and recalls	same as all elections	policy to be developed
Comparison to precedents in Wisconsin or at Federal level	no precedents that affect pollworkers	none, except in Milwaukee pollworkers may hold no public office other than notary
Flexibility to deal with unusual circumstances?	No flexibility	Policy might include ability for clerk to make exceptions

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## **FAQ on the Proposal to Develop a Policy for Assigning Pollworkers**

### ***What is the basis for this proposal?***

In order to reduce the possibility of inadvertent campaign activity at the polls, this policy will avoid assigning campaign leaders to work in polling place within the district of interest. Having a high profile campaign official working at the polls could be termed a campaign influence. In addition, voters may question the fairness of a pollworker who may be visibly and unduly partial to a candidate or referendum.

### ***Is there any precedent for such a policy regarding pollworkers?***

No. According to Kevin Kennedy of the State Elections Board, no municipality in Wisconsin has such a policy that affect pollworkers. There is no federal precedent, since they have no pollworkers. No examples of other states have been brought forward. Even if they were some in other states, the applicability would be questionable, since state laws vary. When breaking new ground, its best to go slowly and take small steps.

### ***Why restrict the proposal to local non-partisan elections only?***

The complaints have been about local elections. Local elections will be easier to administer, check, and enforce, since the forms are filed locally. It would be rare for statewide campaign officers to work at the polls. And campaign officials for partisan races have a right to be pollworkers, according to state statutes. This policy focuses resources (paid for by the taxpayer) on the pertinent issues.

### ***Why is the restriction limited to the pertinent election cycle?***

An aldermanic contest has no relation to the elections in the fall.

### ***Why not include family members, people who endorse candidates, or those appearing in literature?***

It will be very difficult for the clerk's office to determine who these people are and assign them to the correct polling place. Let's have our clerk work on more productive duties.

### ***Why not include those who are party members, sign nomination papers, or contribute to campaigns?***

The intent of the original proposal was to focus on the leaders. The policy adheres to this philosophy.

### ***Why doesn't it include officers of political parties and the chairs of their election committees?***

What groups would be included? Libertarians? College Dems and College Republicans? Democracy for Wisconsin? Socialist Party? And how would the clerk find out about them all and get the names of the individuals, so as to avoid incorrectly assigning them as a pollworker?

### ***How hard is it to get pollworkers?***

For most elections, pollworkers are being recruited and assigned up until the last minute. If we were to place tight restrictions, we may significantly harm our electoral process. Subjecting our pollworkers to ethics complaints because they were assigned to the wrong polling place may dry up our pool of pollworkers.