



Inability to vote and **long delays** likely
on UW-Madison campus during
November 2016 Presidential Election



During Presidential Election Cycles UW Campus poll locations see dramatic changes

For example at Ward 55 adjacent to campus:

- In April of 2014 there were 74 voters and 41 election day registrations.
- In November of 2012 there were 2688 voters and 848 election day registrations.
- That represents more than a **3600% increase** in voter turnout and almost **21 times the number of voter registrations** in November compared to April.

The effect of the dramatic change in voting patterns is that students experience much longer lines, especially towards the end of the day, than most other polling places located in Madison.



In addition, the new Voter ID law will be implemented for the first time this Presidential cycle

Madison and Dane County have not experienced a Presidential election with the new Voter ID legislation in place.

A special election in Waukesha County showed that on average, the time it takes a voter to get a ballot from a poll worker **doubles**.

The effect the law will have on some student area polling places could be dramatic, as the long line for same day voter registration will lead into an even longer line to get a ballot.



Only certain ID's are allowed under law

Student IDs from an accredited Wisconsin university or college are only acceptable if they have the following characteristics:

- Issuance date
- Photo
- Student signature
- Expiration date within 2 years of issuance

Also needed is proof of current enrollment, such as fee statements or class schedules.



An estimated 12,000-16,000 out-of-state students will not have the proper ID to vote in the upcoming Presidential primary and general election.

Instead of altering the current UW ID card (e.g. UW Superior, Edgewood College, and Madison College) UW-Madison currently plans to issue a second ID that will conform with the new Voter ID law.



This is what an compliant regular UW ID **would** look like



The UW Madison will instead use this secondary ID only valid for voting purposes.



Potential effect of a second Student ID for voting purposes only

- Thousands of students will have to make a special trip to Union South during business hours to obtain a second student ID for one purpose: voting.
- The likelihood of students getting a second ID before early voting commences is low.
- Once GOTV efforts, TV advertising, and early voting commences in earnest, I anticipate a run on second IDs all at once. This raises concerns about the ability to produce IDs at a fast enough rate. **Lines for IDs is equivalent to lines at the polls – they are a deterrent.**
- In 2014, 8,000 voters in student wards registered to vote at the polling place on election day. Roughly half of those voters would somehow have to also get a second ID before they headed to the polls, unless... they voted provisionally. That leads to a whole set of other problems.



The combined effect of these changes will have a dramatic effect on Election Day.

- The change to Voter ID will slow down the voting experience dramatically statewide. Long lines should be expected, especially in large wards typical of urban areas on election night.
- On campus, the typical student voter will face even more hurdles, as many students will have to show proof of residency if they have moved recently (probable), show an ID that is valid, show proof of enrollment, and so on.
- Many students, most of whom will be voting for the first time, will only realize their UW ID and/or their out-of-state Drivers License can not be used to vote. It seems highly unlikely that UW-Madison staff will be able to produce enough secondary IDs within the days leading up to the election.
- If even a few hundred voters then opt to vote provisionally (cast a vote with the intent of coming back later to provide ID) that process is so laborious, it will have a negative cascading effect on all the voters waiting in line on campus.



Conclusion

UW students face the prospect of very long lines to vote on election day. Long lines will deter voting.

Provisional voting caused by a lack of proper ID may dramatically increase the wait at each polling place, potentially disenfranchising thousands of voters.

At least one third of those students will face the additional burden of acquiring a valid ID to vote on election day.

UW-Madison should reconsider providing a second ID and make the changes needed to their current ID, like other universities, in order to allow all students to participate in their democracy, especially for the first time.