

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

RICHARD BOSTWICK
INITIATED BY

RICHARD BOSTWICK
SUBMITTED BY



RANDY TERRONEZ
DRAFTED BY

MARCH 7, 2012
DATE DRAFTED

VOTER ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE AND AMENDING REGISTER OF DEEDS BUDGET

1 **WHEREAS**, State legislation now requires voters to present government-issued identification, such as
2 a driver's license, a Department of Transportation issued identification, or a passport, in order to vote;
3 and,
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Identification has not been required in the past, and many voters may not have the proper
6 documentation needed to vote in upcoming elections; and,
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the state has made Department of Transportation identification available free of charge
9 for those seeking the identification in order to vote but one must be able to present a birth certificate to
10 obtain identification, and there is a charge for this record from local Register of Deeds Offices. In
11 Rock County, the cost to obtain a certified birth certificate is \$20; and,
12

13 **WHEREAS**, Milwaukee County has set aside funds to pay for birth certificates for those who need the
14 document to get an identification to vote and Dane County is considering a similar action; and,
15

16 **WHEREAS**, based upon Milwaukee County utilization, it has been suggested 200 free certified birth
17 certificates be available for this purpose which would represent a cost impact of \$4,000, consisting of
18 \$3,000 to the State and State Children's Trust Fund and \$1,000 in lost revenue to the Register of Deeds
19 Office.
20

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
22 assembled this 22nd day of March, 2012 approves the Rock County Voter Assistance Initiative
23 Program modeled after the Milwaukee County program.
24

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Register of Deeds shall provide free birth certificates for the
26 purpose of obtaining a state issued ID card for voting purposes only, with the following
27 rules/limitations:
28

- 29 • Individuals seeking a free birth certificate need to state in writing that the birth
- 30 certificate is being obtained for the sole purpose of obtaining a state issued ID
- 31 card for voting purposes.
- 32 • Individuals will need to fill out a Birth Certificate Application.
- 33 • Individuals must be of voting age as of the November 2012 election.
- 34 • Only one free birth record will be given per applicant.
- 35 • Free birth records will be stamped: FOR VOTER ID USE ONLY.
- 36 • Will need to present acceptable forms of identification per state statute.
- 37 • Eligible persons must be born in Rock County and a resident of Rock County
- 38 (i.e., plan to vote in a Rock County election).
39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Register of Deeds Budget be amended as follows to provide
41 up to 200 free birth certificates for voter identification:
42

12-3B-613

VOTER ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE AND AMENDING REGISTER OF DEEDS BUDGET

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<u>Account/Description</u>	<u>Budget at 01/01/2012</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>
<u>Source of Funds</u>			
19-1921-0000-47010 General Fund Application	\$ -0-	\$3,000	\$3,000
<u>Use of Funds</u>			
17-1710-0000-62140 Voter ID Birth Certificates	\$ -0-	\$3,000	\$3,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that once the 200 free certificates have been issued in 2012, the program will be terminated unless extended by action of the Rock County Board of Supervisors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution will become effective when a court of competent jurisdiction determines Voter ID is required.

Respectfully submitted,

FINANCE COMMITTEE

/s/ Mary Mawhinney

Mary Mawhinney, Chair

/s/ Sandra Kraft

Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

/s/ Mary Beaver

Mary Beaver

/s/ David Diestler

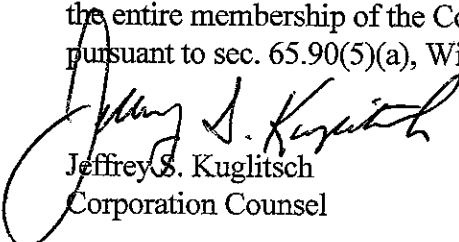
David Diestler

/s/ J. Russell Podzilni

J. Russell Podzilni

LEGAL NOTE:

County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to § 59.01 and 59.51, Wis. Stats. As an amendment to the adopted 2012 County Budget, this Resolution requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership of the County Board pursuant to sec. 65.90(5)(a), Wis. Stats.


Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution amends the Register of Deeds' budget to provide free birth certificates to residents for voting purposes. The up to \$3,000 needed to pay the State portion of the birth certificate fee will come from the available General Fund fund balance.


Sherry Oja

Finance Director

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.


Craig Knutson

County Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
VOTER ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE AND
AMENDING THE REGISTER OF DEEDS BUDGET

State legislation now requires voters to present government-issued identification, such as a driver's license; a Department of Transportation issued identification, or a passport, in order to vote. Identification has not been required in the past, and some voters may not have the proper documentation needed to vote in upcoming elections.

The Madison City Clerk's Office found that 10% of voters in the July 2011 special election did not have appropriate identification. The Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School estimates that 11% of Wisconsin voters lack acceptable photo identification. Additionally, the Brennan Center notes that 23% of people over the age of 65 do not have photo identification acceptable for voting, and that the burdens of addressing voter identification requirements fall disproportionately on minority and low-income voters.

The state has made Department of Transportation identification available free of charge for those seeking the identification in order to vote. However, one must be able to present a birth certificate to obtain identification, and there is a charge for this record from local Register of Deeds Offices. In Rock County, the cost to obtain a certified birth certificate is \$20. Of this amount, \$8 goes to the State, \$7 to the state Children's Trust Fund and the County retains \$5.

Milwaukee County has set aside funds to pay for birth certificates for those who need the document to get an identification to vote. **Milwaukee County's program is aimed at persons who were born in Milwaukee County and will vote in a Milwaukee County election.** The County budgeted \$100,000 representing 5,000 requests. Individuals seeking a free birth certificate need to state in writing that the birth certificate is being obtained for the purpose of obtaining an operator's license (driver's license) or an identification card for purposes of voting. In addition, the individual needs to attest that they have not previously received a state issued identification. The actual experience thus far in Milwaukee County is that less than 200 requests have been processed.

Dane County is reviewing a similar program.

The Rock County Register of Deeds Randy Leyes and Rock County Clerk Lori Stottler are in agreement with the need for such a program.

Based upon the Milwaukee utilization, the number of free certified birth certificates being proposed is 200 and represents a total cost impact of \$4,000. From a budget appropriation standpoint, the County would need to budget \$3,000 in the Register of Deeds Office budget to reflect the funds needed to be paid to the State (\$8 of the \$20 fee) and the State Children's Trust Fund (\$7 of the \$20 fee).

In addition to the \$3,000 necessary to pay the State and Children's Trust Fund, the County also will not realize \$1,000 (the \$5 of the \$20 fee), which would affect the Register of Deeds revenue. (The "lost" revenue does not necessitate a budget adjustment.)

It is being suggested that once the 200 certificates are issued under this program in 2012, the program would end unless extended by action of the County Board of Supervisors.

Finally, if the county decides to provide free birth records for the purpose of obtaining a state issued ID card for voting purposes, there has to be some rules/limitations for those that would request a free birth record.

- Individuals seeking a free birth certificate need to state in writing that the birth certificate is being obtained for the sole purpose of obtaining a state issued ID card for voting purposes.
- Individuals will need to fill out a Birth Certificate Application.
- Individuals must be of voting age as of the November 2012 election.
- Only one free birth record will be given per applicant.
- Free birth records will be stamped: FOR VOTER ID USE ONLY.
- Will need to present acceptable forms of identification per state statute.
- Eligible persons must be born in Rock County and a resident of Rock County (i.e., plan to vote in a Rock County election).

To qualify to receive a certified copy of a birth record, applicants at the counter will be asked to present two items of secondary identification. The information below is the current policy used for counter customers.

SECONDARY IDENTIFICATION REQUIRES TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Government issued employee ID Badge with photo
- U.S. Passport
- Check/Bank Book
- Major Credit Card
- Health Insurance Card
- Recent dated, signed Lease
- Utility Bill or traffic ticket

To qualify to receive a certified copy of a birth record through the mail, applicants will be asked to submit two forms.

- Request for Free Birth Record stating that the birth certificate is being obtained for the purpose of obtaining a state issued ID card for voting purposes.
- Birth Certificate Application.