



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

August 10, 2021

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 205 in its entirety.

This bill would modify voting at a qualifying nursing home residential care facility, shorten the time a voter in that type of facility could cast their ballot, and require the administrator of the facility to contact family members of the resident voter so that those family members might supervise the voter while they cast their vote.

I am vetoing this bill because I object to shortening the time allowed to administer voting at a nursing home or assisted living facility. Current law requires special voting deputies to administer voting at a qualifying facility by 5 p.m. on the Monday before an election, ensuring flexibility to schedule voting in these locations. This bill would shorten the window so that they must be done by 5 p.m. on the sixth working day preceding the election. The bill provides no justification for this change to the voting window for this vulnerable population.

Among other provisions, the bill would also require the administrator of the facility to contact every family member of a resident voter for whom the facility has contact information so that those family members might supervise the voter while they cast their vote. The law already allows the administrator of a facility to contact family members for this purpose at the resident voter's request. This bill deprives resident voters of their right to a private and independent vote by removing voter's ability to choose whether family is contacted or not.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor