

# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

April 8, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 940 in its entirety.

This bill would modify the process by which the Elections Commission compares voter data against Department of Transportation (DOT) data. If a person has discrepancies between their DOT motor vehicle registration and their voter registration information, the Elections Commission could make only one small change to the individual's voter registration. If there are two or more small discrepancies, the Commission would have to notify the voter that their voter registration would be deactivated within 30 days if the voter did not make edits.

The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy; it should not be subject to the whim of politicians who do not like the outcome of an election. Elected officials should not be able to abuse their power to cheat or control the outcomes of our elections or to prevent eligible voters from casting their ballots. This legislation is among many that have been sent to my desk during this legislative session, each passed under the guise of needing to reform our election system because elected officials in this state have enabled disinformation about our elections and election processes. I have and will object to each and every effort by this Legislature and its members to undermine our democracy, to erode confidence in our elections, and demean and harass dedicated clerks, election administrators, and poll workers.

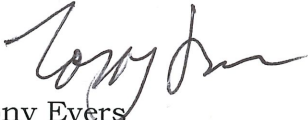
I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the cumbersome and unfair process by which minor differences in a person's voter registration record and their Department of Transportation record would result in the denial of the constitutional right to vote.

The Department of Transportation and the Election Commission databases were not constructed to capture identical information in every field. Innocuous and innocent discrepancies are common. For example, someone may put their full name "Robert" in one system and their more commonly used "Rob" in another. There is nothing unlawful or inaccurate about this; however, common discrepancies like this would nonetheless be flagged under this bill as grounds for the person to potentially have their voter registration deactivated and thus lose their ability to exercise their right to vote. This is not fraud, and yet the voter could have their constitutional rights impacted. The individual's only recourse is to hopefully see a piece of mail warning them of a difference between their DOT and voter registry records and take action to address the discrepancies before deactivation.

Some states have automatic voter registration where DOT data is used as the basis of their registry. This is not the case in Wisconsin. I've proposed creating an automatic voter registration system in Wisconsin that would use DOT data as the basis for Wisconsin's voter registry, which would have allowed this bill to function correctly, but the Republican-led

Legislature eliminated this proposal. Until that system is in place, all this bill would do is disenfranchise Wisconsinites not based on their actual qualification to vote, but rather on how two separate state agencies record their personal information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Evers", written in a cursive style.

Tony Evers  
Governor