



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 8, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 595 in its entirety.

This bill would modify Wisconsin's election laws in numerous respects. For example, under current law, any person who believes that a violation of a federal statute known as the Help America Vote Act has occurred, is occurring, or is proposed to occur with respect to an election for national office in this state, may file a written, verified complaint with the Wisconsin Elections Commission. Under this bill, if the Wisconsin Elections Commission receives a complaint that the commission itself is violating the Help America Vote Act, it is required to render a final determination on the merits of the complaint and issue a decision in writing.

In addition, the bill contains requirements regarding the sharing of data with the Wisconsin Elections Commission. Under the bill, every two years, the administrator of the commission and the secretary of the Department of Transportation would be required to update the existing agreement between them to match personally identifiable information they each maintain. The commission would be given access to personally identifiable information maintained by the department to verify that individuals on the voter registration list are U.S. citizens. The department would be required to conduct daily matching between personally identifiable information on the department's list and the voter registration and report to the commission any individual whose information does not match and if that individual reported a change of address. The bill would establish similar requirements for the Department of Health Services' Office of Vital Records to match personally identifiable information for death records daily and to enter into and update every two years an agreement with the commission. The bill would also place similar requirements for the Department of Corrections to provide information for people convicted of felonies and transmitting that information to the commission daily. The bill does not include any funding for these requirements.

The bill would also limit the cost of purchasing the voter registration list to \$1,000 or less, though the commission would be allowed to charge additional fees for costs like copying and postage. Current law permits the commission to set the fee by rule and is an estimate of what it costs to maintain and reproduce the list.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety for several reasons. First, I object to the requirement that the commission be responsible for investigating and rendering decisions on complaints alleging that the commission itself caused a violation of the Help America Vote Act. The commission currently investigates complaints against election officials who are charged with conducting elections. If a person has a complaint about the legality of the conduct of the commission, that person should file suit in court.



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Second, I object to the additional burden that could be placed on citizens to provide documentary proof of citizenship after they have already been lawfully registered to vote. Under the bill, a citizen could be flagged as a noncitizen and then be required to go out of their way to prove their citizenship or be erroneously stripped of their voting rights.

Third, I object to fact that no additional funding has been provided to the impacted state agencies. If the Legislature wants the data matches to occur, it needs to provide adequate resources to state agencies to make that happen.

Fourth, I object to the complete removal of ineligible voters from the voter registration list, which could inadvertently create unnecessary, additional barriers that might make it harder for eligible Wisconsin voters to cast their ballot in the future. Eligible Wisconsin voters may become ineligible for any number of perfectly curable reasons such as, by way of one example, a student moving back home to Wisconsin who needs to re-register. These individuals may be *temporarily* ineligible due to needing to comply with Wisconsin elections laws, but they are nevertheless still *eligible* to lawfully vote. We cannot accept this kind of uncertainty when it comes to making sure that every eligible Wisconsin voter is able to cast their ballot.

Finally, I object to the Legislature setting the price for obtaining the voting list. This critically important information is maintained and made available through significant work of the commission. Fees are currently set to cover the costs incurred for election security and system maintenance; the provision to cap the cost would almost certainly result in a dramatic budget cut to the commission.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Tony Evers  
Governor