



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

JOSEPH J. CZARNEZKI • COUNTY CLERK

MEMO

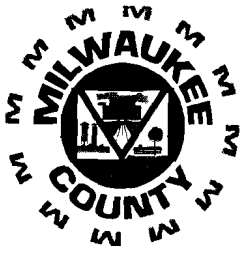
DATE: May 9, 2014
TO: The Honorable County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Joseph J. Czarnezki, County Clerk
SUBJECT: File Returned Unsigned

The County Executive has returned to my office, without his signature of approval, the following file:

File No. 14-333 – A resolution by Supervisors Rainey, Bowen, Johnson, Jr., and Broderick to develop a Voter Registration Program to allow Milwaukee County residents to register to vote at locations where they apply for, renew, or update information for the receipt of social services from Milwaukee County in order to expand access to voter registration for all citizens of Milwaukee County.

This resolution was adopted by a vote of 16 ayes – 2 noes at your meeting of April 24, 2014 and remains in full force and effect.

Joseph J. Czarnezki, County Clerk



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Milwaukee County

CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: May 9, 2014
TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors
FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive
RE: County Board File No. 14-333; voter registration

The County Board adopted a resolution on April 24, 2014 that requires various County departments to provide voter registration forms and assistance to qualifying voters. The resolution further requires the creation of an automated text messaging feature where voters can receive alerts prior to, and on, election days in Milwaukee County.

Voting is a fundamental right for all citizens and we need to do more to engage citizens in this political process. Personally, I have invested time and money to causes that further citizen engagement many times over the years. Most recently, I have contributed to the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) legal cost and effort to protect a citizen's right to vote. I'm happy the law was recently struck down by a federal judge and I believe it will continue to be found unconstitutional.

While I am not vetoing this file, I would like to state several concerns.

First, the fiscal note did not consider the costs associated with this resolution; for example, staff training time and the text messaging feature. I would ask Supervisor Rainey to work with the research department to better understand the extent of start-up and future costs.

Second, we have been alerted by the Government Accountability Board that there might be some legal concerns or challenges because of this ordinance change

If we work toward implementing this new system, we should fully address any legal concerns as well as making sure we know the full fiscal and practical impact of implementing these changes.

I look forward to working with Supervisor Rainey to move forward with this idea.