



For Immediate Release
April 1, 2005

For more info, contact:
(414) 298-2006

County Executive Scott Walker's Statement on Governor Doyle's Election "Reform" Package

[Wauwatosa, Wisc...] "Jim Doyle's plan does not prevent fraud, it invites it. Without a photo ID requirement, early voting just provides more time for fraud.

"Besides, Wisconsin already has "early voting" – it's the current absentee ballot process – and it doesn't work.

"On the last weekend before the November 2, 2004 election, some 15,000 to 20,000 voter registration forms were still not processed by the City of Milwaukee staff. Similar problems were reported in other parts of the state.

"This is in no small part due to the fact that municipal clerk and election commission staff were overwhelmed in the fall election in two areas:

- The number of people seeking to vote early through the absentee ballot process; and
- The number of registration cards coming into their offices at the last minute from the massive voter registration drives.

"Instead of preparing for the Election Day, many of the elections staff were responding to absentee ballot voters – as we as processing voter registration cards right up to the eve of the election.

"Wisconsin should go back to the pre-1998 system where absentee ballot voters have to show a reason for not being able to make it to the polls on Election Day. Most importantly, Wisconsin should require a photo ID requirement for every voter to insure the integrity of each and every vote. "

Note: In his official capacity, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker also encouraged voters in his county today to join him in bringing a state issued drivers license or identification card with a photo on it to the polls on Tuesday to help speed up the voting process.

#