

Citizen Resolution # 132522

(For Hearing Officer completion)



Making the Conservation Congress Election & Vote Transparent & Accessible to All

The election of delegates to the Conservation Congress, supposedly to represent all citizens, is little known and is not guided by Wisconsin election laws. It is the ONLY advisory put before the legislature and DNR as the will of the entire public. If citizens do not show up one night of the year, at night, in their county, they cannot run for election or vote to elect a delegate. In 2021, less than 13,000 of 5.8 million citizens, voted on the questionnaire. The "spring hearings" (notably not called an election) has never been a fair democratic election. Most Wisconsin citizens know nothing of this election and vote, although hunters call it the most important election in the state. I agree because it involves stewarding billions of dollars of public lands - 90% purchased by citizens who do not kill wildlife. "Non-consumptive" citizens have no proportionate representation, if any. To make the election accessible beyond 5,000 citizens each year, to all 5.8 million citizens statewide, to protect the biodiversity that is collapsing around us, and open the entire process to a wide variety of citizen interests and concerns, In 2022-23, the DNR will work with the legislature to separate the election from the vote on issues (which can remain online) by adding the election to the statewide county elections, the first week of April. The issues must be debated by candidates announcing their candidacy 2 months before the election. The election of county delegates would be a simple walk-in vote at citizen convenience, not hidden away at night. Absentee ballots should be a choice

Do you support language that in 2022-23, the Wisconsin Congress will advise the DNR to work with the legislature to separate the election from the vote on issues (which can remain online) by adding the election to the statewide county elections the first

Additional Information provided by author:

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Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.

Please print typed resolution on 8 ½ X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The author or designated representative must be present at the time the resolution is introduced. No more than two resolutions may be introduced by any person during the Congress portion of the spring hearings.

Contact one of your [local WCC delegates](#) with questions or for assistance with writing your resolution.