

# Rep. Jil Tracy Newsletter

January 29, 2010

## Reps. Tracy and Watson Want Undervot Notification Law Revealed

Mt. Sterling, IL...With the Illinois' primary election just days away, a number of counties are raising concerns about a little known law that could cause serious headaches for polling places throughout the state. The 2007 Illinois Undervote Notification Law was designed to notify voters when they do not cast a vote for one or more of Illinois' constitutional offices, such as Governor or Secretary of State.

However, a number of questions and concerns have been made with regards to protecting voter privacy, election equipment malfunctions, and the cost to update polling machines with the technology to recognize undervotes. State Representatives Jim Watson (R-Jacksonville) and Jil Tracy (R-Quincy) are sponsoring legislation that would act to correct the recent problems.

"The notification law was well intentioned by trying to alert voters that they may have forgot to cast their vote for one of the constitutional offices, but I think this is a perfect example of overreacting and over legislating," said Rep. Watson. "When these types of laws are passed a lot of times they come with unintended consequences. Once county clerks began to execute the notification process it became clear there were some serious concerns ensuring voters ballots remained private."

State Representative Tracy echoed similar concerns saying, "The secret ballot is fundamental to the democratic process. Preserving a voter's privacy helps to encourage voter turnout and allows residents to express their true views without the fear that these opinions may be held against them. I think it would be a huge disservice to Illinois' democratic process if voters' rights are in anyway infringed upon."

Both legislators are sponsoring House Bill 4687 to repeal the Illinois Undervote Notification Law. It should be noted that a large majority of undervotes are intentional, such as when a resident simply chooses not to select a nominee for a specific office or a candidate is running unopposed.

"It's unfortunate we could not get this legislation acted upon before the February 2nd primary, but I am hopeful when the General Assembly reconvenes we can get the support to repeal the notification law before November's general election," Rep. Watson said.

For more information about the campaign, please visit my website at [www.electjiltracy.com](http://www.electjiltracy.com) My email is [jiltracy@yahoo.com](mailto:jiltracy@yahoo.com)

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