

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7182
OFFERED BY MR. STEIL OF WISCONSIN**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Voter Outreach for
3 Transparent Elections Act” or the “VOTE Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. MINIMUM NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOT-
5 ERS AFFECTED BY POLLING PLACE
6 CHANGES.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Section 302 of the Help Amer-
8 ica Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082) is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
10 section (e); and

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
12 lowing new subsection:

13 “(d) MINIMUM NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR
14 VOTERS AFFECTED BY POLLING PLACE CHANGES.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State assigns an indi-
16 vidual who is a registered voter in the State to a
17 polling place with respect to an election for Federal
18 office which is or will be inaccessible, closed, or de-

1 commissioned during an early voting period for such
2 election or on the date of a primary election or a
3 general election on the date established under sec-
4 tion 25 of the Revised Statutes of the United States
5 (2 U.S.C. 7) for such Federal office—

6 “(A) the State shall notify the individual of
7 the polling place’s inaccessibility, closure, or de-
8 commissioning not later than 7 days before the
9 date of such primary election or general elec-
10 tion; and

11 “(B) the appropriate election official of the
12 State shall post a public notice with respect to
13 such inaccessibility, closure, or decommissioning
14 pursuant to the requirements under paragraphs
15 (3) and (6).

16 “(2) SPECIAL RULE IN CERTAIN CASES.—If a
17 polling place described in paragraph (1) closes, de-
18 commissions, or becomes otherwise inaccessible fewer
19 than 7 days before the date of a primary election or
20 general election, the State shall notify the individual
21 pursuant to the requirements under paragraphs (3)
22 and (6) not later than 24 hours before the primary
23 or general election.

24 “(3) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO PUB-
25 LIC NOTICE.—The appropriate election official of a

1 State required to post a public notice concerning a
2 polling place described in paragraph (1) shall—

3 “(A) issue a notice on a publicly accessible
4 website of the State or jurisdiction, on social
5 media platforms, in a public newspaper, or via
6 direct notice to a registrant’s electronic mail ad-
7 dress if the individual has an electronic mail ad-
8 dress on file with the State or jurisdiction; and

9 “(B) ensure that signs are posted at the
10 polling place during any applicable early voting
11 period and on the date of a primary or general
12 election for which the inaccessibility, closure, or
13 decommissioning applies containing—

14 “(i) a statement that the location is
15 not serving as a polling place in the elec-
16 tion;

17 “(ii) the locations serving as polling
18 places in the election in the jurisdiction in-
19 volved;

20 “(iii) the name and address of any
21 substitute polling place serving the same
22 precinct and directions from the former
23 polling place to the new polling place; and

24 “(iv) a telephone number or website
25 for the appropriate State or local election

1 official through which an individual may
2 find the polling place to which the indi-
3 vidual is assigned for the election.

4 “(4) REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTE CENTERS.—In
5 the case of a jurisdiction in a State in which individ-
6 uals who are registered voters in the jurisdiction are
7 not assigned to specific polling places with respect to
8 an election for Federal office, if a polling place in
9 the jurisdiction is or will be inaccessible, closed, or
10 decommissioned on the date of a primary election or
11 a general election on the date established under sec-
12 tion 25 of the Revised Statutes of the United States
13 (2 U.S.C. 7) for such Federal office—

14 “(A) the State shall notify the individual of
15 the polling place’s inaccessibility, closure, or de-
16 commissioning not later than 7 days before the
17 date of such primary election or general elec-
18 tion; and

19 “(B) the appropriate election official of the
20 State shall post a public notice with respect to
21 such inaccessibility, closure, or decommissioning
22 pursuant to the requirements under paragraphs
23 (3) and (6).

24 “(5) EXCEPTIONS FOR COVERED EMERGENCY
25 OR NATURAL DISASTER.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case that a
2 polling place described in paragraph (1) is inac-
3 cessible, closed, or decommissioned due to a
4 covered emergency or natural disaster in the ju-
5 risdiction the polling place is located—

6 “(i) the requirements under para-
7 graph (3) shall not apply; and

8 “(ii) the appropriate election official
9 of the State in which such jurisdiction is
10 located shall make reasonable efforts to no-
11 tify individuals in the affected jurisdiction.

12 “(B) COVERED EMERGENCY OR NATURAL
13 DISASTER DEFINED.—For purposes of this
14 paragraph, the term ‘covered emergency or nat-
15 ural disaster’ means—

16 “(i) an emergency or major disaster
17 declared by the President under the Robert
18 T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency
19 Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 4121 et seq.);
20 or

21 “(ii) a state of emergency declared by
22 the chief executive of the State due to any
23 natural catastrophe (including any hurri-
24 cane, tornado, storm, high water, tidal
25 wave, tsunami, earthquake, volcanic erup-

1 tion, landslide, mudslide, or snowstorm) in
2 a jurisdiction described in subparagraph
3 (A).

4 “(6) LINGUISTIC PREFERENCE.—The notices
5 required under this subsection shall comply with the
6 requirements of section 203 of the Voting Rights
7 Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503).

8 “(7) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall
9 apply with respect to elections held on or after Janu-
10 ary 1, 2026.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 302(e) of
12 such Act (52 U.S.C. 21082(f)), as redesignated by sub-
13 section (a), is amended by striking “Each State” and in-
14 serting “Except as provided in subsection (d)(7), each
15 State”.

