



100 Grant Street • De Pere, WI 54115-2099 • [www.snc.edu/peace and justice](http://www.snc.edu/peace%20and%20justice)

January 24, 2012

Dear Members of the SNC Community,

Several staff members from St. Norbert College recently met with a representative of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board and De Pere City Clerk Char Peterson in order to clarify changes in Wisconsin law regarding voter registration and the use of photo ID's. The following summary is intended for use on campus; it does not substitute for the official documents produced by the GAB and the Clerk's office, which will be made available online and continually updated. However, this summary reflects our best understanding of the law and the ways in which we should assist and encourage students to act as responsible citizens.

Photo ID Requirement

Some of the most publicized changes in the Wisconsin voting laws pertain to the new [photo identification requirement](#). A number of area colleges will be producing new forms of student identification cards in an attempt to satisfy the new requirements. We do not see a need to do that. Most students already have other forms of acceptable photo ID's, and any who do not are encouraged to obtain them through simple and accessible processes. Anyone who needs assistance can [contact the Peace and Justice Center](#) for help.

For those who have been following the news, there was discussion of adding stickers to current ID's, but the GAB and the state legislature have not given clear and reliable guidelines about the acceptability of such stickers. We have concluded that the most sufficient and failsafe plan is to encourage students to obtain ID's that are clearly acceptable within the new law.

Voter Registration

It will be in the students' best interest to [register](#) early, either by mail (at least 20 days before the election) or in person at the municipal clerk's office (335 S. Broadway St., De Pere, Wisconsin 54115). It is also possible, but more time consuming, to register at the polls on election day. To assist those registering at the polls, SNC will provide the City Clerk of De Pere with a complete and current list of students, which will be used to confirm the student's residency and citizenship. Since the clerk will be using the student's place of birth to validate citizenship, naturalized citizens wishing to vote in De Pere will need to register early or provide proof of citizenship at the time of registration. Please note that acceptable photo ID will be required at the polling place, regardless of when you register.

Please let us know if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Pyne".

Robert A. Pyne, Th.D.
Senior Director for Community Engagement

Voting in De Pere

