

THE RACINE COUNTY PHONE NUMBER INVESTIGATION & SYNOPSIS

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Introduction

During the tumultuous 2020 General Election, one claim emerged that over 23,000 registered voters shared one phone number in Wisconsin, many or all of them at a prison or correctional facility. Variations on this claim have resurfaced from a citizen run election integrity group named Wisconsin Honest Open and Transparent (HOT) and repeated in several news outlets.^{1 2} Others, including Mike Lindell, have since latched onto this claim as well, citing it as proof of illegal votes and irregularities in Wisconsin.³ If true, then this number of voters would surpass the margin of victory in Wisconsin.

We heard this information from someone who claimed to have uncovered evidence of fraud in Wisconsin, and, looking to possibly supplement our Wisconsin Report, we investigated it. A Wisconsin voter registration does not require a phone number, however, as evidenced by several thousands of registrations in the voter rolls without any phone numbers appended to them. Furthermore, that over 23,000 Wisconsin voter registration records have the same phone number does not in and of itself indicate voter fraud. While this fact proves nothing in terms of voter fraud, it does indicate sloppiness of data in the voter rolls. For this reason, Look Ahead America’s Research Group investigated further to determine the cause of the issue.

¹ <https://www.lifezetete.com/2021/09/wisconsin-group-finds-23000-state-voters-with-the-same-phone-number/>

² <https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2021/09/now-wisconsin-hot-grassroots-group-uncovers-23000-votes-phone-number-8000-registered-1918-one-county/>

³ <https://rumble.com/voc89g-23000-votes-came-from-one-address-in-wisconsin.html>

Basis of the Claims

The phone number appeared in a December 2020 Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) filing. According to the redacted affiant, “Based on my research of voter data – it appears that there are approximately 23,000 residents of a Department of Corrections Prison with requests for absentee ballot [sic] in Wisconsin. We are currently reviewing and verifying the data and will supplement.”⁴ A Facebook video shows this phone number, which also appeared on OANN when Mike Lindell appeared as a guest and made similar claims using this same phone number as evidence of voter fraud.⁵ This claim also morphed into such that the same issue apparently occurred in North Dakota and North Carolina as well.⁶ Due to the publicity of this claim, the Wisconsin Election Commission addressed it.

Wisconsin Election Commission’s Response

According to Richard Rydecki, Deputy Administrator of the Wisconsin Election Commission (WEC), the Frequently Asked Questions link on the site would give a fuller context. It states:

- This issue is almost exclusive to voters in the city of Racine, and almost exclusive to inactive voters. A default phone number appears in some Inactive Voter Records in the city of Racine because of data conversion more than 15 years ago from the city’s own legacy voter registration system into the current WisVote system.
- The city of Racine’s legacy voter registration system likely required a phone number for all registered voters, and if one was not provided at the time a default phone number, which is a city of Racine number, was entered.

Prior to 2005, voter registration in municipalities with less than 5,000 in population was not required in the state of Wisconsin. In municipalities with more than 5,000 in population voter registration was required and was tracked in many different databases and spreadsheets maintained by those municipalities – not by the state of Wisconsin in any central location. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (“HAVA”) required “statewide” voter registration in Wisconsin (and all other states with a population greater than 500,000) and it required the state agency overseeing elections to maintain a database of voters in all cities, villages, and towns in Wisconsin (approximately 1,850 across 72 counties).

⁴ https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/20/20-858/164743/20201224112136771_Arizona%20Appendix.pdf

⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/830086743993041/videos/4388501604551397>

⁶ <https://www.twincities.com/2021/09/24/not-real-news-a-look-at-what-didnt-happen-this-week/>

To comply with federal and state law, the State Elections Board (succeeded by the Government Accountability Board, and later, the current Wisconsin Elections Commission) developed the original statewide voter registration database and election management system called SVRS. The SVRS has been succeeded by the current database and election management system developed and maintained by the WEC called WisVote.

Between the passage of HAVA and full implementation of statewide voter registration in 2006, municipalities with more than 5,000 in population that already had a database of legally registered voters worked to transfer the existing voter registration data from their own municipal system (“legacy system”) into SVRS. If a phone number existed for a voter record in a legacy system, that information was converted into SVRS and then into WisVote. [...]

Phone numbers are not required as part of a voter record or as part of voter registration, but some municipalities may have required a phone number in their own voter registration systems prior to the creation of SVRS and WisVote. [...]

It is unclear why the municipality, pre-2005, required a phone number as a field in their registration system, which required a default number to be entered if none was provided by the voter. There were 384 active voters in 2020 in Racine with this default phone number listed in WisVote. Those voters have not updated their phone number since the city assigned the default number prior to statewide voter registration being required after 2005. It should be noted that a phone number has no bearing on a voter’s eligibility. WEC staff has analyzed the data associated with the 384 active voters in WisVote that contain the default phone number and there is nothing else unusual about the records or other data fields in common.⁷

Rydecki explained that the few voters with this number found outside of Racine County most likely had registered in Racine County and then moved to new one before the data conversion. This would explain why the number appeared statewide but overwhelmingly in Racine. Additionally, while the WEC holds the voter records, the municipal clerk acts as the custodian of record, meaning the municipality must submit the changes for approval to WEC.⁸

Though this provided a possible reason that so many registrations had inaccurate phone numbers, we decided to look into it ourselves to see the underlying data and determine what the situation was and whether any voters had cast illegal ballots according to registration data.

⁷ <https://elections.wi.gov/node/7514>

⁸ Camacho, Phone Interview with Richard Rydecki. October 20 2021 3:45 PM.

The Real Numbers on the Wrong Number

Given that multiple public records have already cited this number, LAA's Research Group confirmed that the November 2020 Wisconsin voter rolls had 23,262 voter records connected to the phone number (262) 994-9050. We also confirmed that 23,029 registered voters in Racine County have this number while 233 voters in other counties also share it. When we called, a minor answered. The mobile number has a registration with T-Mobile.⁹ Its registered owners seem to reside at a legal Wisconsin residence.¹⁰

In contrast, Wisconsin H.O.T. claimed that they had 23,263 voters. They wrote to Wisconsin legislators asking why "23,203 voters [are] registered right now in Racine County all with the same phone number? There are another 63 registered statewide with this same number. Why didn't you know this? The same 23,263 were registered last year on your voter registration list proving you didn't even know."

We determined how the group arrived at most of these numbers: our overall voter count differed by only one voter because it included the top row in their spreadsheet, a descriptor. When sorting counties alphabetically, Racine County ends at row 23,202 and one anomaly appears at the end of the spreadsheet from Racine County (following another 60 entries) which would appear to indicate 23,203 registered voters in Racine County. Unfortunately, the first 174 rows, including the descriptor, do not count towards Racine County yet were included in their number. They likely determined that 63 voters resided in other counties due to a subtraction error of $23,263 - 23,202 + 1$, which would have been 62 (the correct number) not 63, and even this number was erroneous. Regardless, their count was incorrect regarding both the overall registered voter count and registered voters in Racine and other counties.

Voter Status

Of these 23,262 registered Wisconsin voters, only 184 cast a vote in the November 2020 General Election according to the voter rolls, far below the margin of victory. Of these 184 active voters, only eight addresses had two registered voters who actually voted, totaling 16 votes, while all other addresses had only one registered voter at them who voted for 168 votes.

We sorted by voter status (active or inactive) and reason to determine the influential votes cast. We found 431 Active voters: Movers (6 – 1 voted), Permanently Overseas (1 – voted), Miscellaneous / Clerical Error (1 – no vote), and Registered (423 - 182 voted). Of these, we found 326 actively registered in Racine County, not the 384 as claimed by WEC. When we followed up with Rydecki to explain this discrepancy of 58 voters, we did not get a response. Nevertheless, this did not impact our overall findings.

⁹ <https://www.melissa.com/v2/lookups/phonecheck/index/262-994-9050>

¹⁰ <https://www.melissa.com/v2/lookups/personatorsearch/?phoneNumber=%2B1-262-9949050>

We confirmed the following 22,831 Inactive voter registrations: 4-Year Maintenance (173 – no votes), Administrative Action (9,416 – no votes), Deceased (4,003 – no votes), Felon (178 – no votes), Incompetent (2 – no votes), Incomplete EDR (7 – no votes), Merged (8,919 – no votes), Moved (28 – no votes), Movers List (1 – no votes), Undeliverable Mailing (100 – no votes). We could not account for the reason that the list marked 4 voters inactive, which appeared to have 0000-00-00 00:00:00 in its place.

Of the 184 active voters who voted, 164 had voted at least once between November 2016 and November 2020 (which includes the April 2020 and November 2018 elections). Of those 20 that had not voted before November 2020, 17 of them had registered (or reregistered) in 2020. This means that they voted for the first time ever in November 2020 or they had registered after a long period of inactivity. Only 3 were inactive for over 4 years.

Of the 247 active voters who did not vote in November 2020, 217 had voted at least once between November 2016 and November 2020, which means that 30 had not voted between November 2016 and November 2020.

Of all the 22,831 inactive voters, only 8 voted twice between November 2016 and November 2020, with the last vote occurring in November 2018. Of those, 6 had since died, 1 had moved and 1 has a miscellaneous reason for being marked inactive. Another 23 inactive voters had voted only once between November 2016 and November 2020 with the last vote having occurred in November 2016. Of those 23 inactive voters, 10 were dead, 8 had moved, 3 had undeliverable addresses and 2 had miscellaneous reasons.

None of the other 22,800 inactive voters voted between November 2016 and November 2020.

The oldest inactive voter registration occurred in 1927, the oldest active non-2020 voter registration happened in 1960, and the oldest active voter who voted in November 2020 registered in 1976. With registrations occurring between 1927 and 2020, then we can safely rule out voter registration error by the voters or from someone registering the voters.

Address Legitimacy

We also confirmed that over 13,000 residential addresses (not mailing addresses) shared this phone number according to the November 2020 Wisconsin voter rolls. We sorted the list by the most populated addresses and checked them, starting with the most populated ones. The top 31 most populated (which account for 5% of the entire list), all located in Racine, appear below with their corresponding property descriptions and number of persons registered there:

1600 Ohio St. has Home Harbor Assisted Living (119).

1700 C. A. Becker Dr. has The Villa at Lincoln Park, a nursing facility (112).

1916 Wisconsin Ave. has Lake Oaks Senior Apartment Homes (70).

1403 W 6th St. has Riverview Manor Senior Apartments (60).

2015 Prospect St. has Prospect Heights Community Living (57).
5111 Wright Ave. has The Residential Care Apartment Complex at Elizabeth Gardens (55).
3900 N Main St. has Crystal Bay Senior Apartment Community (48).
110 7th St. has McMynn Tower, affordable housing (48).
1130 Main St. has Bull Manor Apartments (44).
2250 Layard Ave. has Mount Pleasant Manor Senior Living Community Apartments (40).
5101 Wright Ave. has Washington Court Apartments (39).
3919 Ruby Ave., Apt 324 has Lincoln Villas North Apartments, Senior Living (38).
333 Lake Ave. has condominiums (34).
424 Lake Ave. has apartments (34).
35 Harborview Dr., Apt. 305 has a condominium (32).
111 11th St. has a condominium at The Towers (30).
1024 Main St., Apt. 111 has a one-bedroom apartment (27).
1130 Carlisle Ave. has Lincoln School Historic Apartments (27).
2200 Washington Ave. has Parkview Manor Apartments (27).
4720 Byrd Ave. has Oakview Manor Apartments (27).
3548 Douglas Ave. has Douglas Terrace Apartments (26).
3564 Douglas Ave. has apartments (24).
3706 Douglas Ave. has Douglas Terrace Apartments (23).
5601 Castle Ct. has apartments (23).
4000 Maryland Ave. has Albert House Apartments (21).
3568 Douglas Ave. has Douglas Terrace Apartments (20).
3615 Monarch Dr. has apartments (20).
5110 Biscayne Ave. has Biscayne Apartments (19)
5605 Castle Ct. has apartments (19).
3801 N Main St. has Barclay Apartments (18).
5150 Biscayne Ave. has Biscayne Apartments (18).

The only potential indicator of anything unusual was the multiple people located at an apartment. When we examined 3919 Ruby Ave., Apt. 324, we found that this address has only one active voter who voted, while the rest were inactive, deceased, merged or under administrative action. 35 Harborview Dr., Apt. 305 had no active voters and all were deceased, merged or under administrative action. Likewise, 1024 Main St., Apt. 111 had no active voters and all were deceased, merged or under administrative action.

No evidence supports the claim that there were “approximately 23,000 residents of a Department of Corrections Prison” whatsoever as stated in the SCOTUS affidavit. We investigated the registrations connected to jails and prisons located in Racine County. We found that only three of these locations had any registrations, all of which were inactive voters. Specifically, four voters at Racine County Jail, however, all were marked inactive and none voted; two were marked felon, one marked undeliverable, and the other marked merged. There were two voters at Racine County Secure Juvenile Detention Center, however, both were marked inactive and none voted; one was marked felon and the other marked merged. Finally, we uncovered one voter at the Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center, however, he did not

vote as he had died. This was a far cry from the claim of 23,000 registered voters at a Department of Corrections Prison, let alone the fact that none of them voted.

None of the 184 active registered voters who cast a ballot registered at an illegal location. The remaining 247 active voters (who did not vote) also did not register at an illegal location. As stated before, a voter registration does not require a phone number. Whether or not these voters had a phone number, let alone an incorrect or shared one, proved nothing in regards to fraud, although it indicated a need to clean up the voter rolls.

Having confirmed that only 1.85% of these voters count as active registered voters, and only 0.79% of the 23,262 voters actually voted legally, we can safely conclude that this list did not uncover any fraudulent votes, let alone enough to surpass the margin of victory in Wisconsin. That is not to say that fraudulent votes were not cast, however, but finding a potential match or pattern on a spreadsheet does not prove fraud or negligence in and of itself.

Voter Interview

On October 20, our research team found the real phone numbers of the 22 active voters who voted and who had registered or reregistered between 2016 and 2020. (The list had 23, but one had died since the November 2020 election.) We reached out to those 22 voters by phone. We connected with three and successfully managed to interview one, which means that we had a 33% connection rate and a 4.5% successful completion rate.

The voter stated that she registered in the 1980s and had not voted for over 30 years. She reregistered using a paper application during this past election. She reregistered and voted in person, although her voting record stated that she voted absentee. She claimed never to have voted absentee in 30 years. She showed her identification and got the registration form, and she had no assistance in filling out the form nor did she observe anybody else write on the form. She said that she had provided a different number (i.e. the one we called) instead of the shared number in the voter rolls.¹¹

When asked about this voter's issue, Rydecki stated even though she reregistered in 2020 after registering in 1980, she must fix the issue herself according to the state law and contact the municipal clerk. The legacy 1980 registration information likely remained in her voter registration because the municipal clerk did not correct it, or because the voter did not add or update one in her reregistration but perhaps thought that she did. The reregistration in 2020 only appeared to have updated her status, name, and address, but not the phone number.¹² Though not entirely a satisfactory answer, it did not indicate that she cast an illegal ballot.

¹¹ Camacho, Phone Interview with 2020 Voter in Racine County. October 20 2021 2:05 PM

¹² Camacho, Phone Interview with Richard Rydecki. October 20 2021 3:45 PM

Conclusion and Next Steps

What most likely occurred was that this error resulted from an import/export error in the database, as WEC explained. Coupled with the miscounts regarding the counties and overall voters by the claimants, it appears that more training in both how to register voters as well as how to read and challenge voter registrations to clean the voter rolls is required. After all, Look Ahead America's primary objective is to R.E.T.: Register, Educate, and Turn out to vote disaffected, patriotic Americans of rural and blue-collar backgrounds.

In contrast to the above claims, we recommend reviewing our work in The Wisconsin Report which confirmed a number of illegally cast ballots in a number of different categories well over the margin of victory at <https://lookaheadamerica.org/wisconsinreport/>.

Likewise, we recommend checking out our six voting integrity reforms to implement on a state level at <https://lookaheadamerica.org/integrity/>.

In particular, three of our reforms would have avoided this issue in the first place. Specifically, Mandated and Public Voter List Hygiene, Thumbprint Authentication of Absentee Ballots, and Creation and Sufficient Funding for a Dedicated Voter Fraud Investigation Division within the State's Attorney General's Office would restore voter confidence.

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Get Involved!

If you can volunteer 10 hours a week in your state and are willing to speak with your state representatives, then please sign up at <https://lookaheadamerica.org/lead>.

You may also sign up to volunteer at <https://www.lookaheadamerica.org/volunteer>.

Or you may make a tax-deductible contribution at <https://www.lookaheadamerica.org/donate>.

You can also join our Discord community server at <https://discord.gg/lookaheadamerica>.