

# Paquette Has Found Algorithms in the Wisconsin State Voter Registration Database, Plus an Alarming Number of Illegal Clone Voters

by

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Andrew Paquette, Ph.D., has discovered the presence of cryptographic algorithms in the Wisconsin State Board of Elections voter registration database. Similar to what Paquette found in [New York](#) and [Ohio](#), the Wisconsin Board of Elections assigns voter identification numbers (IDs) in three different methods: incrementing voter ID numbers by 1, according to the order of voter registration (considered the normal way of assigning voter IDs); incrementing voter registration numbers by variable multiples of ten; and an increment method designed to appear random.

As we have noted previously, renumbering voter registration databases so that voter ID is not a function of the date the voter registered [appears to be the first step in an encryption scheme resembling the ciphers card cheats utilize to insert marked cards into a fresh deck of cards](#).

Paquette explained that an indication that cryptographic algorithms were present in the Wisconsin voter registration database were various county scatterplots in which voter ID was assigned by undisclosed algorithmic reordering (not by the chronological ordering of their registration dates).

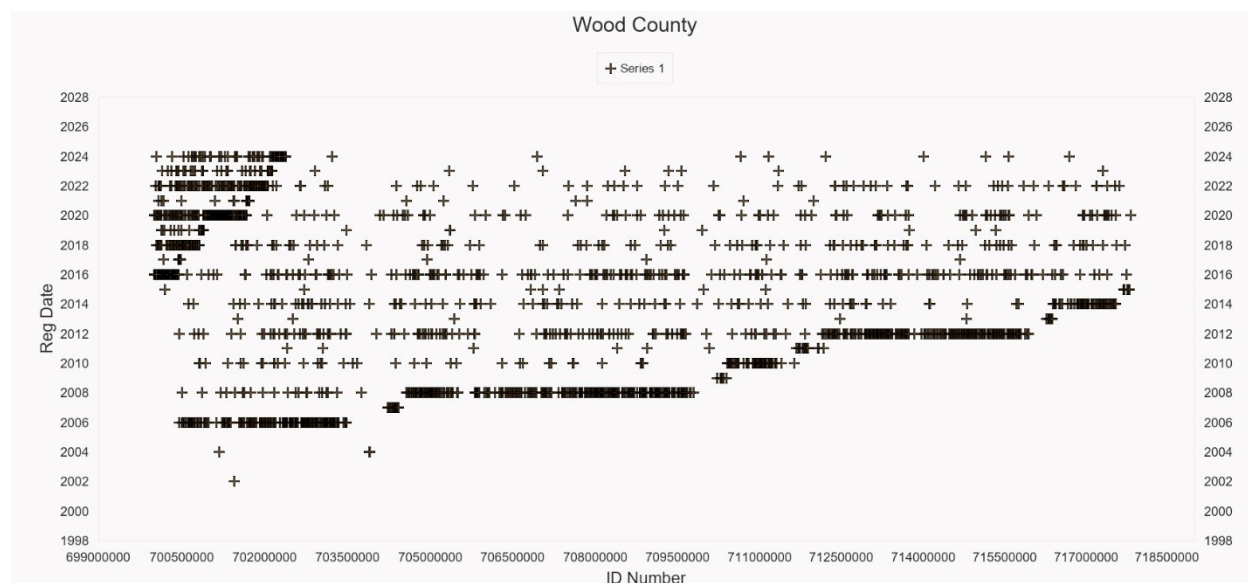


Figure 1, Wood County, Wisconsin, ID numbers, close-up

For instance, Paquette noted the scatterplot of voter IDs for Wood County, Wisconsin (Figure 1) "shows a clear shift in ID number assignment around 2016. From 2006 to 2015, there's a pattern of ascending ID numbers. In 2016, there was an abrupt change, with new registrations receiving ID numbers similar to those used a decade earlier. This pattern continues through 2024, suggesting a significant reset or change in the ID assignment system in 2016."

In what he terms "gap analysis," Paquette found a pattern in which sequential voter IDs in various Wisconsin counties were incremented by multiples of 10. "The order of the numbers appears randomized," he observed, "leading to sequences like the following: 20, 120, 50, 120, 430, 190, 50, 489, 40, 570, 10. Analysis of Dane County, Wisconsin, showed the most significant number of gap frequencies occurred with increment of subsequent numbers by 10 (65,898 occurrences in the first 50 gap frequencies compared), by 20 (25,907 frequencies), by 30 (15,389 frequencies), etc., as demonstrated in Table 1.

GAP	FREQ	GAP	FREQ	GAP	FREQ	GAP	FREQ	GAP	FREQ
1	95,716	11	7,925	21	1,977	31	717	41	337
2	48,404	12	6,647	22	1,725	32	615	42	344
3	35,366	13	5,720	23	1,500	33	599	43	312
4	28,359	14	5,072	24	1,391	34	570	44	288
5	22,426	15	4,252	25	1,256	35	528	45	274
6	18,652	16	3,863	26	1,151	36	475	46	288
7	15,875	17	3,305	27	1,028	37	456	47	202
8	13,140	18	2,871	28	913	38	410	48	269
9	11,124	19	2,688	29	864	39	417	49	245
<b>10</b>	<b>65,898</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25,907</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15,389</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>11,331</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>8,834</b>

**Table 1: Dane County, Wisconsin, 50 gap frequencies compared**

Paquette stressed the covert nature of cryptographic algorithms placed within voter registration ID databases:

A fundamental rule of database management is that all data should be transparent, traceable, and used only for its intended purpose. The algorithms found in various state databases violate this rule by introducing what amounts to undocumented attributes into the database. This makes it untraceable by normal means and can enable manipulations that violate the intended purpose of the databases.

He was particularly alarmed at the exceptionally high number of clone voters (duplicate registrations for the same voter) he found in Wisconsin. Paquette reported that in a Wisconsin voter registration database numbering 7,744,986 records, he found 874,455 suspicious records, with at least 437,227 likely clones. He explained:

While I haven't discussed these findings with Wisconsin officials, I have conferred with multiple county Board of Elections (BOE) commissioners in New York about similar findings. Two commissioners explicitly acknowledged that the records I presented were either real and existed in their database or were similar to records they knew of in their databases. They both told me that clone records violate state and federal law.

One commissioner explained that preventing cloned records was beyond his control due to multiple legal sources for registration applications, claiming it was impossible to prevent simultaneous processing of forms for the same voter. However, this explanation

fails to account for cases where multiple ID numbers had photographic reproductions of the same signature, indicating a single origin rather than disparate sources.

An even more significant concern was that the number of new clone records generated yearly has rapidly increased since the passage of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) in 2002. Until 2002, new clone registrations never exceeded 3.00 percent of the total registrations in any given year (Table 2).

WISCONSIN	<1990	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	TOTAL
Clones	29,380	732	263	4,070	272	1,180	490	3,213	294	2,143	555	7,297	821	3,494	862	23,230	4,747	17,037	100,080
Total	1,023,677	31,207	9,075	144,409	9,988	49,030	16,086	128,586	10,788	85,525	18,729	257,230	27,711	117,091	25,279	604,723	121,669	336,608	3,017,411
Pct	2.87%	2.35%	2.90%	2.82%	2.72%	2.41%	3.05%	2.50%	2.73%	2.51%	2.96%	2.84%	2.96%	2.98%	3.41%	3.84%	3.90%	5.06%	3.32%
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Clones	1,704	32,707	1,063	11,395	4,716	47,888	1,399	28,968	3,061	94,267	11,058	101,338	25,675	213,420	22,969	86,860	25,894	58,977	773,359
Total	26,112	499,181	15,903	153,017	57,782	500,376	16,763	241,991	27,860	671,294	44,564	504,077	94,602	912,333	64,131	487,668	114,103	293,994	4,725,751
Pct	6.53%	6.55%	6.68%	7.45%	8.16%	9.57%	8.35%	11.97%	10.99%	14.04%	24.81%	20.10%	27.14%	23.39%	35.82%	17.81%	22.69%	20.06%	16.36%

**Table 2: Clone registrations by year, Wisconsin**

Paquette explained his concern: "In 2003, clones crossed the 3.00% barrier to 3.41% for the first time. From then on, the number of clones increases year over year, with spikes in presidential election years. The highest number recorded to date is 35.82% of all registrations in 2021, and currently rests at 20.06% for the still incomplete year 2024."

He concluded: "These findings indicate potentially unethical management of Wisconsin's voter roll records. Regardless of intent, the algorithm's use creates a hidden classification system for data segregation, posing a security risk. The large number of cloned records exacerbates this risk, as such records would be of particular interest to those seeking to misuse voter rolls—a concern recently realized when Wisconsin [mailed absentee ballots](#) to inactive voters."