



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Esteemed legislators,

June 24, 2023

I write today to set the record straight related to false claims that have been made about Wisconsin election administration and my tenure as administrator. It would be irresponsible of me to allow such claims to continue to circulate unchecked. It has been nearly three years since the November 2020 General Election, and yet election officials are still forced to dedicate significant resources to correcting falsehoods about the integrity of the 2020 election cycle.

With Commissioners set to consider the appointment of the administrator, false claims about Wisconsin elections that we long ago addressed have unfortunately resurfaced. This letter is to transmit to you information in direct response to some of those false claims. It is critical that we work together to provide accurate information about how elections in Wisconsin are administered before another presidential election cycle begins.

That's not to say there has not been progress in fortifying confidence in elections. I want to thank those legislators who told the truth about our elections and supported election officials when it mattered. Your voices have assisted our mission to provide free and fair elections to our citizens. We were very encouraged to hear that the Assembly and Senate committees that cover elections were exploring inviting the Wisconsin Elections Commission to attend an informational meeting. We welcome these opportunities and hope engagement like this becomes commonplace.

I believe it is fair to say that no election in Wisconsin history has been as scrutinized, reviewed, investigated and re-investigated as much as the November 2020 General Election. The outcome of all those 2020 probes produced essentially the same results: the identification of a relatively small number of suggestions for procedural improvements, with no findings of wrongdoing or significant fraud. Since then, numerous elections have been successfully carried out by Wisconsin election officials and their results have been accepted by the public and the candidates involved.

Despite the widely available data, research, audits, court decisions, and WEC meeting minutes that document and support the integrity of the 2020 election cycle, the story of the election has been repeatedly mischaracterized. Some of the most persistent rhetoric falsely attributes Commission decisions to me rather than the six voting Commissioners. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Legislature and governor passed the law creating WEC in 2015. That law gives the six bipartisan Commissioners – appointed by legislative leaders and the governor – the authority to make election decisions. My job as the state's chief election official is to implement Commission decisions. I do not have a vote on the Commission. Further, most election processes, such as voter registration, issuing absentee ballots, and maintaining the voter lists, are important functions given to the state's 1,850 municipal clerks.

To assist you in your pursuit to provide facts about elections, attached, I am including an addendum that provides context and accuracy around some of the current and most persistent falsehoods about Wisconsin elections. With this information in hand, I ask you that when your constituents challenge you about the integrity of Wisconsin elections, tell them the truth. When municipal and county clerks in your district ask you for more state resources, provide them. When people perpetuate false claims about our election systems, push back publicly. Election officials cannot carry the burden of educating the public on elections alone, we need the assistance of people in power, like yourselves, to help us show how Wisconsin elections administration is strong, fair, and accurate.

Thank you,

Meagan Wolfe, Administrator, Wisconsin Elections Commission

cc: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

Don M. Millis, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Joseph Czarnecki | Ann S. Jacobs | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

Administrator
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