



JANEL STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRANDTJEN



Election Integrity is Paramount

For more information contact:
Rep. Brandtjen (608) 267-2367

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Madison – State Representative Janel Brandtjen (R-Menomonee Falls) released the following statement regarding the Assembly Campaigns and Elections Committee’s investigation of the 2020 fall election:

“I am not surprised that partisans would rather discuss the authority of the Campaigns and Elections committee to conduct a thorough investigation of the 2020 election than talk about how to rebuild public trust in our elections.

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. §885.01(4) and 2021 Assembly Resolution 15, both the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections as a body, and myself as Chairperson, hold clear authority to issue the subpoenas served to the Brown and Milwaukee county clerks last week for the purpose of compelling the presence of individuals and records, as cited in the documents themselves.

Under §885.01(4), it is definitively stated that subpoenas ‘ . . . may be signed and issued as follows: By any arbitrator, coroner, medical examiner, board, commission, commissioner, examiner, committee or other person authorized to take testimony, or by any member of a board, commission, authority or committee which is authorized to take testimony, within their jurisdictions, to require the attendance of witnesses, and their production of documentary evidence before them, respectively, in any matter, proceeding or examination authorized by law; and likewise by the secretary of revenue and by any agent of the department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection.’ This authority is not contradicted by any other area of state statute.

I am aware that Wis. Stat. §13.31 provides an alternative pathway under which subpoenas may, but not exclusively must, be issued. The process outlined in that area of statute is limited to the presiding officer and chief clerk of the respective chamber and does not statutorily involve the chair of a standing committee in any manner in the issuance of the subpoena. Should the Assembly Speaker additionally choose to require any particular individuals or documentation to appear before the Assembly Campaigns and Elections committee, I will be more than happy to accommodate him and any such witnesses.

I look forward to the commencement of the next step of the committee’s transparent, top-to-bottom investigation next month.”

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