



# JANEL STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRANDTJEN



## Statement on the Kimberly Zapata Trial

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Madison – Kimberly Zapata, the former Milwaukee Election Commission deputy director, is currently on trial for unlawfully requesting military ballots for fictitious individuals and sending them to Representative Brandtjen’s home to expose weaknesses in the election system. The trial commenced yesterday, and Zapata faces charges of misconduct in public office and three counts of election fraud for providing false information to obtain absentee ballots. In light of these developments, State Representative Janel Brandtjen issued the following statement:

"Until days before the 2022 election, I had never met or known Kim Zapata. Her case highlights a critical flaw in the online WisVote system, which allows individuals under indefinite confinement, overseas, or with military status to request and receive ballots without sufficient security measures. Moreover, the system permits ballot requests using a VPN, making it difficult to trace the origin of the requests. If Ms. Zapata had wished to raise concerns about the election process, she could have done so anonymously by contacting appropriate authorities rather than jeopardizing her job and reputation.

I cannot speak to Kim Zapata's intent as I have never spoken with her. However, I reported the issue to the Waukesha Sheriff's Department, requesting an investigation into those who requested the ballots, particularly since one had my last name attached. Regrettably, neither the Wisconsin Elections Commission nor any investigators have contacted me regarding this matter.

Had Kim Zapata used a VPN and remained anonymous, I would have been suspected of creating my own ballot requests, a situation I could not have easily disproved.

It is concerning that neither the legislature, the Governor, nor the Republican and Democratic parties have addressed the lack of confirmation for military ballot requests, as mandated by law. The online WisVote system allows individuals to request and send certain types of ballots without verified identities."

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