

WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P. O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

March 24, 2013

Office of Governor Scott Walker Room 115 East State Capitol

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Governor Walker,

We write to you today to urge you to veto Senate Bill 324, Assembly Bill 202, Senate Bill 20, and Senate Bill 655. If signed into law, these bills will suppress voter access in Wisconsin and create additional obstacles for local clerks and non-partisan election officials.

Each one of these proposals had bipartisan opposition in the Legislature and are broadly condemned by election watchdog organizations in Wisconsin. The *Beloit Daily News* called these bills "(e)mbarrassments to the Wisconsin tradition of good government," and the *Appleton Post-Crescent* added that these proposals are "cynical, despicable maneuvers."

Specifically, these bills would have the following impact on Wisconsin voters and elections:

- SB 324 will restrict absentee voting hours and prohibit citizens from voting on weekends. This will prevent many seniors, working families and students from exercising their constitutional right to vote and will create longer lines on Election Day for both rural and urban voters.
- AB 202 will allow election observers to hover within an arm's reach of registration tables, ballot stations, and election officials. This will create additional difficulties for municipal clerks and encourage the physical intimidation of voters.
- SB 20 will take away local control and prevent municipal clerks from selecting the most qualified poll workers to oversee local elections.
- SB 655 is a "pay-to-play" proposal that will open the door for increased lobbyist contributions to elected officials. Special interest groups already have too much influence in our elections and this bill will tarnish our reputation for clean and transparent government.

Combined, these bills will encourage confrontational and disruptive behavior at polling locations and disenfranchise many seniors, working families and students. We believe that these voter suppression efforts are contrary to our state's proud tradition of open, honest, and free elections and we strongly urge you to veto these unnecessary and anti-voter measures.

We appreciate your consideration of our request and encourage you to make the right decision for Wisconsin's proud democratic tradition.

Sincerely, Steve Doyle Mandela Barnes **Brett Hulsey** 94th Assembly District 11th Assembly District 78th Assembly District Bob Jauch 77th Assembly District 25th Senate District Senate 2 Janet Bewley Eric Genrich LaTonya Johnson 74th Assembly District 90th Assembly District embly District Jill Billings Evan Goyke Robb Kahl 95th Assembly District 18th Assembly District 47th Assembly District Tim Carpenter Dave Hansen 44th Assembly District 30th Senate District 3rd Sepate District Chris Larson Fred Clark Nikiya Harris 6th Senate District 81st Assembly District 7th Senate District Tim Cullen Dianne Hesselbein Julie/Lassa 24th Senate Distric 15th Senate Dystrict 79th Assembly District Gordon

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Linghand Janis Ringhand Kathleen Vinehout 16th Senate District 45th Assembly District 31st Senate District 26th Senate District 73rd Assembly District 70 Assembly District Melina Sargert Tod Ohnstad Melissa Sargent Dana Wachs 65th Assembly District 48th Assembly District 91st Assembly District Sandy Pasch 10th Assembly District Katrina Shankland Bob Wirch 71st Assembly District 22nd Senate District Sondy Pope Mandy Wright Jennifer Shilling 80th Assembly District 32nd Senate District ssembly District Jon Richards Christine Sinicki JoCasta Zamarripa 19th Assembly District 20th Assembly District 8th Assembly District Daniel Riemer Lena Taylor Chris Taylor 4th Senate District 7th Assembly District 76th Assembly District Andy Jorgensen osh Zepnick 43rd Assembly District 9th Assembly District