



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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

October 13, 2020 – Delivered Electronically

Scott Fitzgerald
Senate Majority Leader

Robin Vos
Speaker of the Assembly

Due to an unprecedented increase in absentee ballot requests, and in order to ensure timely reporting of Wisconsin's election results this November, we call on the Wisconsin State Legislature to meet in extraordinary session as soon as practicable to pass legislation allowing the canvassing of absentee ballots before the statutory timeline of 7am on Tuesday, November 3rd.

As of Monday morning, October 12th, just over three weeks until the election, 1,334,041 absentee ballots have been requested and 683,233 have been returned. Our local clerks need extra time to process these ballots if we are to have any hope of reporting results within 24 hours of poll closing at 8pm on Tuesday, November 3rd. Election integrity is of utmost concern for voters in Wisconsin, and the longer the count takes, the more potential for mistrust in results to be fomented by those who mean harm to our democracy.

It is worth noting that the vast majority of states allow at least some processing of absentee ballots before Election Day, while only 9 states prohibit any sort of pre-election day processing as Wisconsin currently does. A bipartisan bill, SB 574, was introduced in November of 2019 that would make the change requested here. In a recent interview, United States Senator Ron Johnson indicated his support for allowing canvassing of absentee ballots prior to Election Day when he said this:

"I think we should change the law so the ballots can be counted well before Election Day, so that Wisconsin results are known by 9, 10, 11 o'clock on Election Day, so Wisconsin isn't part of the problem"

Our democracy is of utmost importance, and this simple change is not only eminently necessary but also has bipartisan support. It's time the legislature met to consider and vote on SB 574.

Sincerely,

(Continued on next page)



Sen. Chris Larson
7th Senate District



Sen Tim Carpenter
3rd Senate District



Sen. Dave Hansen
30th Senate District



Sen. LaTonya Johnson
6th Senate District



Sen. Mark Miller
16th Senate District



Sen. Fred Risser
26th Senate District

Sen. Lena Taylor
4th Senate District



Sen. Bob Wirch
22nd Senate District



Rep. Jimmy Anderson
47th Assembly District



Rep. Jill Billings
95th Assembly District



Rep. David Bowen
10th Assembly District



Rep. Jonathan Brostoff
19th Assembly District



Rep. Jodi Emerson
91st Assembly District

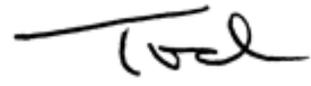
Rep. Jason Fields
11th Assembly District



Rep. Gary Hebl
46th Assembly District



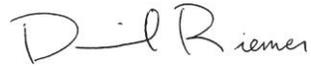
Rep. Greta Neubauer
66th Assembly District



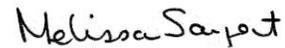
Rep. Tod Ohnstad
65th Assembly District



Rep. Sondy Pope
80th Assembly District



Rep. Daniel Riemer
7th Assembly District



Rep. Melissa Sargent
48th Assembly District



Rep. Christine Sinicki
20th Assembly District

Rep. Shelia Stubbs
77th Assembly District



Rep. Jocasta Zamarripa
8th Assembly District