



Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 3, 2022

CONTACT: Van Wanggaard

608-266-1832

CITY OF RACINE VIOLATING COURT ORDER ON ABSENTEE BALLOTS Wanggaard Calls for Sanctions Against City Officials

RACINE – A recent review of the VoteRacine.org’s website shows the City of Racine ignoring the Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling that absentee ballots must be returned by the voter himself or herself. VoteRacine.org’s “Frequently Asked Questions” contains the following information:

Where can I bring my absentee ballot to be accepted?

Can I use the drop box outside of City Hall?

Can I deliver someone else's ballot?

- Yes, a ballot can be returned by someone who is not the voter.

Do I need Photo ID to return my ballot?

1

“The city of Racine is willfully ignoring state law when it comes to absentee ballots,” said Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). “Under the current law, you can’t return someone else’s ballot. It’s that simple. Racine is encouraging illegal ballot harvesting, pure and simple.”

A javascript review of the VoteRacine.org/vote-absentee website shows that [the website was updated as recently as last week²](#). This shows the Racine could have updated the website to comply with the law, but didn’t.

“It isn’t like Racine didn’t know that ballots couldn’t be returned by someone other than the voter. That issue has been the subject of numerous news stories and guidance documents,”

¹ Screen Capture approx.. 10am 4/3/22_

² Screen Capture following javascript:alert(document.lastmodified) (approx. 11am 4/3/22)

Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21

Wanggaard added. “This is intentional misinformation from Mayor Cory Mason and Clerk Tara Coolidge,” said Wanggaard.

Wanggaard is further calling for sanctions on Mason and/or Coolidge by either the Wisconsin Supreme Court or Judge Michael Bohren, who provided the initial ruling.

“This was a conscious decision by Mayor Mason and Clerk Coolidge to ignore the law, and encourage others to do the same,” Wanggaard said. “I’d say that Mayor Mason and Clerk Coolidge should be ashamed of what they’ve done, but I’m sure they aren’t. This was intentional, consequences be damned.”

“Abraham Lincoln once said that laws without enforcement are merely good advice,” continued Wanggaard. “Just because you don’t like the law doesn’t mean you can ignore it. And elected officials certainly can’t encourage others to break the law. The courts must act to sanction Mason and Coolidge, otherwise others will ignore their rulings also.”

It is unclear how many people may have turned in ballots illegally for other people, and whether those ballots have been segregated.

###