



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Wanggaard Files Complaint about City of Racine Election Practices**

### **Racine Accepting Third Party Delivery of Ballots**

MADISON – State Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) has filed an elections complaint with the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) regarding the City of Racine’s practice of accepting ballots from someone other than the voter. Under the current state of Wisconsin law, a voter must either mail or personally deliver his or her own ballot to the city clerk for the vote to be valid.

“The city of Racine is openly flaunting the circuit court, the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Wisconsin Elections Commission guidance. The law has been clear for months – you must return your own ballot.” said Wanggaard. “Racine is intentionally ignoring the law. Not liking the law doesn’t make it okay. Hoping for a different Supreme Court ruling in a few months does not make it okay. The law is the law.”

In January, a Waukesha circuit court judge ruled that under Wisconsin law, there are only two ways to return an absentee ballot in Wisconsin – either personally through the mail, or a voter delivering his or her own ballot to the clerk. While the Wisconsin Supreme Court stayed this ruling for the February 2022 election, the Wisconsin Supreme Court allowed this ruling to go into effect for the April 5, 2022 election. Last week, WEC issued guidance consistent with these decisions.

Wanggaard also noted that Racine’s practice allowing the delivering of another person’s ballot grants City of Racine voters additional rights in shared elections.

“There is a Court of Appeals election, and county-wide elections happening today,” said Wanggaard. “Voters from all over are voting in those elections. The City of Racine is allowing ballot harvesting, but other municipalities voting in the same election are not. This is granting Racine voters additional rights, and an outsized influence in those elections.”

Senator Wanggaard’s complaint (attached) was filed with WEC this morning. It is unclear when, or if, WEC will take action on the complaint.

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