

VoteSafe WI: Launches bipartisan coalition to ensure safe voting during COVID-19

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(Madison, Wis.) – VoteSafe Wisconsin launched its campaign today to ensure that all Wisconsin voters have the ability to vote securely and safely in the upcoming August primary and November general elections. The announcement was made by Wisconsin’s current and former Attorneys General, Josh Kaul and J.B. Van Hollen, who are serving as Co-Chairs of the bipartisan VoteSafe Wisconsin coalition.

“We must not let the pandemic stand in the way of fair elections,” said Kaul, a Democrat who has served as Attorney General since 2019. “Every eligible Wisconsin voter who wants to cast a ballot should be able to do so-safely.”

“During my time as your Attorney General, I spent many hours at the state Department of Justice ensuring that voting in Wisconsin was secure, and that all eligible Wisconsinites could exercise their rights if they chose to do so,” said Van Hollen, a Republican who served as Attorney General from 2007 to 2015. “VoteSafe Wisconsin will fight to ensure that this fall as we continue to live through COVID-19, voters have safe and secure choices that we can all agree upon.”

VoteSafe WI’s bipartisan coalition is made up of principled leaders who want to make sure voters have ballot access in ways both sides of the aisle can agree on — accessible, secure absentee voting and safe, in-person voting sites. Wisconsinites should have choices so they can exercise their right to vote without putting their health on the line. VoteSafe WI is part of a national network of VoteSafe coalitions, each committed to secure absentee ballots and safe polling sites, but each pursuing those goals in a way that makes sense within their respective states.

The VoteSafe Wisconsin coalition initially includes:

- Attorney General Josh Kaul (Democratic co-chair)
- Former Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen (Republican co-chair)
- Former Gov. Scott McCallum (R)
- Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett (D)
- Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley (D)
- Former Congressman Tom Petri (R)
- Former Congressman Reid Ribble (R)
- State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski (D)

The national VoteSafe coalition is a cross-partisan group of elections administrators and nonpartisan organizations endorsing the simple principle that every American has the right to vote safely amidst the pandemic. Its goal is to ensure the safety and security of all voters as they exercise their constitutional right. The national coalition is co-chaired by former Secretary of Homeland Security and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge (R) and former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D).