



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

June 17, 2020

Via electronic mail

Members of the Wisconsin Elections Commission
212 East Washington Avenue, Third Floor
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7984

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Elections Commission,

We are writing to express our deep concern over the proposal to send absentee ballot applications to 2.7 million registered voters in the state. While we believe that the proposal is well-intended as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are concerned about the ramifications of sending a massive mailing to voters who have not requested an absentee ballot.

After contacting each of the municipal clerks in my district to hear from the individuals who would be responsible for executing this massive task, the vast majority expressed severe concern and apprehension about such an undertaking. A few of the specific concerns that I heard from the clerks in my district were the amount of time, manpower, waste, and confusion to voters who are not on the existing absentee voting list or who did not specifically request one for the election.

While we support the effort to encourage involvement and civic engagement through voting, sending a mass mailer of this magnitude would add significant expense and effort to each of Wisconsin's 1,850 municipal clerks who are already stretched thin. Municipal clerks are more acquainted with each of their respective communities and are better suited to handle absentee ballot requests in the manner in which they have in place.

Thank you for reading this note and your consideration for the municipal clerks of our state.

Sincerely,