

For Immediate Release 11 May 2021 Contact: Rep. Scott Allen (608) 266-8580

## Assembly passes bill prohibiting third-party elections administration

The Assembly today passed legislation that prohibits outside organizations from funding and influencing local election administration. Under the bill, private groups would no longer be permitted to directly fund or provide staff to select local governments. Instead, all grant money would flow to the Wisconsin Elections Commission for distribution to communities on a per capita basis.

The bill comes on the heels of the problematic election administration in Green Bay last November. The mayor of Green Bay commandeered election operations from the city clerk, allegedly illegal. A third-party group and its employees, the Center for Tech and Civic Life, funded to a large extent by billionaire owner of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, was allegedly given unprecedented access to ballots and administrative functions reserved for public officials.

"Citizens deserve a transparent elections process, administered by the clerk and the clerk's staff," said Rep. Allen. "So many people want money out of politics – well, it should certainly be out of vote counting! Billionaires have no business being involved in the administration of elections."

The bill will now go to the Senate for consideration.

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The 97<sup>th</sup> Assembly District includes portions of the City and Village of Waukesha and the Towns of Genesee, and Mukwonago.