

An Open Letter to Wisconsin's Republican State Legislators

State Capitol Building
Madison, WI 53703

October 30, 2023

Dear Legislators:

It has come to our attention that LRB 4464, a bill that would give any Wisconsin municipality performing a “central count” of absentee ballots the ability to open and count such ballots on the Monday prior to an election. We strongly oppose this legislation and we strongly advocate that you also oppose it.

First, to grant *any* municipality the unprecedented permission to pre-count absentee ballots would invite official malfeasance and open a new floodgate for election fraud. LRB 4464's authors pretend to eliminate the inevitability of this clear danger by placing upon it the pretend armor of guidelines and restrictions. Restrictions and guidelines *never* guarantee that a law will not be abused, ignored, twisted, or broken.

Second, we know that Wisconsin Democrats have eagerly sought for some time to expand into many more municipalities the practice of centrally counting absentee ballots—precisely because it grants officials more centralized power over vote counts. There are already serious problems that such procedure already creates in cities such as Milwaukee and Green Bay. This bill would guarantee more of the same by encouraging bad actors to embrace central counting.

Language quite similar to LRB 4464 deservedly failed in 2022, when an attempt was made to insert it into SB 214 as an amendment. For all of these reasons, we urge your opposition to this bill.

Most sincerely, the undersigned:

Republican Party of Dane County

Executive Committee