

April 10, 2020

Mr. Jesse Brunette
District 12 Alderperson
Green Bay, WI

Dear Mr. Brunette:

The purpose of this letter is to share with you and the Green Bay City Council the experiences we both had with the April 7, 2020 election in Green Bay.

Between March 28, 2020 and March 30, 2020, both of us went to the following website to request absentee ballots to vote in the April 7, 2020 election: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-US/VoteAbsentee>

Chris was shown to be a registered voter and at the end of the process, received a message on the screen indicating he would be receiving an absentee ballot. Chris did not have to upload a copy of his Wisconsin Driver's License during the process and received his absentee ballot the afternoon of April 7, 2020. He completed the ballot and brought it to the drop box located on the Northeast entrance to City Hall.

Brenda went to this same site a day or two after Chris completed the absentee ballot process. She too was shown as being a registered voter but was required to upload her Wisconsin Driver's License, which she did with respect for the rationale of such a request. At the end of the process a message appeared that she had successfully completed the process and would be receiving an absentee ballot. As of the date of this letter, her absentee ballot has not arrived. Because of the multi-hour long line at West High School on election day, she chose not to vote due to concerns of exposure to COVID-19.

Both of us have been registered voters in Green Bay since the 2008 presidential election and have voted in-person in all elections up until the April 7, 2020. The only reason we registered for absentee ballots was due to the current Stay at Home order by Governor Evers. Governor Evers' attempts to postpone the election until June 9, 2020 and Mayor Genrich ordering all polling locations closed the day before the election caused a separate pandemic of confusion and frustration.

Overall, the April 7, 2020 election in Green Bay was a disaster and needs an outside, third-party investigation. Personally speaking, we would like to know: a) why Brenda needed to provide a copy of her driver's license but Chris did not: b) why Chris received an absentee ballot, albeit not until the afternoon of election day, but Brenda did not – even though they both registered on the same site and before the deadline for submitting absentee ballot requests; and c) how was it possible for other larger communities in our area, such as Appleton, to conduct successful, in-person voting with no reported issues?

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Related to the above, we would like to express our concerns with and disapproval of a vote-by-mail system as proposed by at least one Green Bay City Alderperson. The primary concerns are on the security of the vote and making sure individual voters are who they claim to be and that this can be accurately verified. The current state-level proposal made by State Assemblyman Gordon Hintz provides no means of securing the vote or verification of the voter's identity.

The absence of these two requirements is a true example of disenfranchising voters who are concerned about people taking their identities, or those of family and friends, both living and deceased, in order to vote. We are also concerned about those coming from outside the state or country and voting without the constitutionally-approved authority to do so. You need a proper ID to gain access to either political party's national convention, to buy alcohol, tobacco products, cash a check, or board an airplane. Thus, there should be no pushback whatsoever for people being required to prove their identity before casting their vote especially since this type of identification is provided for free at places such as the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles.

Add to the above the reported three tubs of undelivered absentee ballots found in Oshkosh. How many voters were suppressed, disenfranchised, or both as a result of this?

We look forward to hearing what the City of Green Bay's approach will be for ensuring safe and secure elections going forward that in no way, shape, or form resemble the unnecessary and self-inflicted debacle that occurred on April 7, 2020.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the above. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Forslund

Christopher J. Forslund

Brenda L. Forslund

Brenda L. Forslund

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