GEORGE L. CHRISTENSON
MILWAUKEE COUNTY CLERK

BAYSIDE • BROWN DEER • CUDAHY • FOX POINT • FRANKLIN • GLENDALE • GREENDALE • GREENFIELD
HALES CORNERS • MILWAUKEE • OAK CREEK • RIVER HILLS • SHOREWOOD • SOUTH MILWAUKEE
ST. FRANCIS • WAUWATOSA • WEST ALLIS • WEST MILWAUKEE • WHITEFISH BAY

March 26, 2020

Governor Tony Evers	Senator Scott Fitzgerald	Representative Robin Vos
State Capitol	State Capitol	State Capitol
115 East	211 South	211 West
Madison, WI 53702	Madison, WI 53702	Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers, Senator Fitzgerald and Representative Vos:

I am writing on behalf of and in unison with ALL 19 Municipal Clerks within Milwaukee County. Together, we are asking you to work together for the safety of the citizens of Milwaukee County and for the preservation of our democracy by passing enabling legislation to:

➢ conduct the April 7, 2020 Spring General Election by mail ballot exclusively, and;
➢ process absentee ballots on voting machines beginning on April 4, 2020.
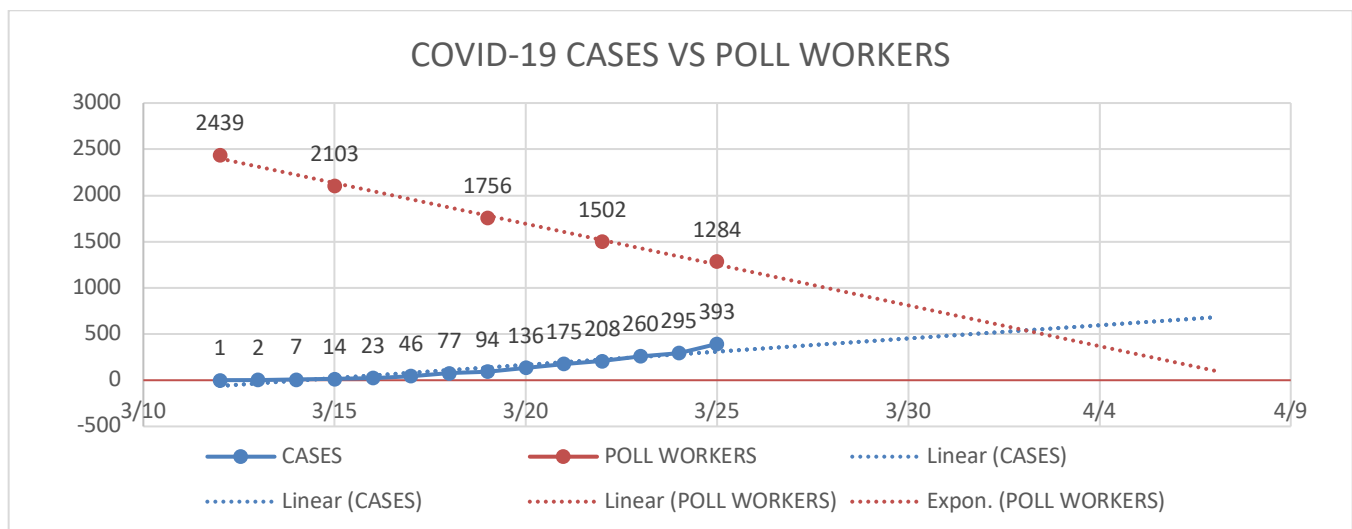
Conducting the Election by Mail – This change would address the significant shortage of election workers and protect the health of Wisconsin's citizens. This is based on the following:

- Every municipality within Milwaukee County is suffering from a devastating loss of election workers. The attached spreadsheet illustrates the dire position we are all in. For example, the City of Milwaukee requires 1,410 poll workers, but only has 700 available. The numbers for every municipality are shrinking every day.
- We do not have sufficient hand sanitizer and cleaning wipes for our polling locations. The attached spreadsheet illustrates the need/shortage.
- Over 50% of our poll workers are over the age of 60 which puts them in the high-risk category. Therefore, acting as a poll worker is potentially deadly for 50% of our pool of workers.
- Several municipalities, including Milwaukee, have been forced to close or greatly reduce access to their early in-person absentee voting locations.
- Several municipalities have already consolidated polling locations which will lead to larger crowds gathering on election day, further risking the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Processing of Ballots – The premise here is that enabling election officials to begin processing absentee ballots through election equipment prior to Election Day will produce better election results. This is based on the following:

- Processing of absentee ballots is a very manual, cumbersome, and time-consuming process under normal conditions. Efforts to increase the utilization of absentee voting due to COVID-19 have exponentially increased the number of ballots to be processed. Based on the anticipated volume of absentee ballots it is possible that many communities will not be able to process all of the ballots by the closing time of the polls. This will add un-needed stress to election workers and clerks, it will delay results, and may result in errors.
- The ability to begin processing absentee ballots on April 4th would enable election officials three days to process the significant volume of absentees and a fourth day for absentee ballots arriving election day and regular in-person voting.
- Utilizing the easy process outlined in the attached document, election workers could provide surety around the counting process and work through discrepancies. The equipment provides the means to validate ballot totals without disclosing results early.

In conclusion, we commend you all on your leadership during this crisis and have confidence the Governor's Safer at Home Emergency Order will "flatten the curve." Yet, we must recognize and be fully prepared for the worst case scenario. As of today, there are 393 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Milwaukee County and 1,284 poll workers. As the chart below illustrates, we could easily have over 500 cases and 0 poll workers to work the election.

We cannot emphasize enough that right now we do not have the ability to conduct a safe election in Milwaukee County. We are dedicated public servants and we will absolutely do our best, but we need your help. We ask you to take immediate action so that our citizens do not face the choice of losing their cherished right to vote or risking their health.

Sincerely,

George L. Christenson
Milwaukee County Clerk

Julietta Henry
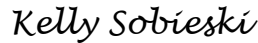Milwaukee County Election Commission Director

Neil Albrecht
City of Milwaukee Election Commission Director

Lynn Galyardt
Bayside Village Clerk

Jill Kenda-Lubetski
Brown Deer Village Clerk

Kelly Sobieski
Cudahy Deputy City Clerk
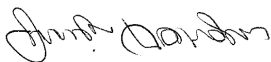

Kelly A. Meyer
Fox Point Village Clerk

Sandra L. Wesolowski
Franklin City Clerk

Megan Humitz
Glendale City Clerk

Melanie Pietruszka
Greendale Village Clerk

Jennifer Goergen
Greenfield City Clerk

Sandra Kulik
Hales Corners Village Administrator-Clerk

Catherine Roeske
Oak Creek City Clerk

Tammy LaBorde
River Hills Village Clerk

Anne B. Uecker
St. Francis City Clerk

Sara Bruckman
Shorewood Village Clerk

Karen Kastenson
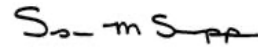South Milwaukee City Clerk

Melanie Kollmansberger
Wauwatosa City Clerk

Steven Braatz, Jr.
West Allis City Clerk

Susan Schupp
West Milwaukee Village Clerk

Caren Brustmann
Whitefish Bay Deputy Clerk

Cc: Milwaukee County Election Commission Board of Commissioners
        Megan Wolfe, Wisconsin Election Commission Director
        Wisconsin Election Commission Board of Commissioners

Municipality	Total Poll Workers	Shortage as of 3/23/2020		Number of Polling Locations	Hand Sanitizer	Disinfecting Wipes	Disinfecting Spray Cleaners #32	Empty Spray	Paper Towels	Hand Washing
Bayside	16	6		1	10	10	0	0	0	0
Brown Deer	45	12		3	12	6	6	0	15	3
Cudahy	40	35		5	10	10	15	5	20	5
Fox Point	60	30		2	4	4	4	0	4	0
Franklin	85	70		7	7	14	7	7	14	0
Glendale	42	30		3	12	6	3	6	6	6
Greendale	54	43		6	12	18	6	6	12	6
Greenfield	150	100		2	21	42	21	21	42	2
Hales Corners	24	4		1	6	0	4	0	0	0
Milwaukee	1417	409		180	53	62	62	0	124	13
Oak Creek	100	5		7	14	14	7	14	14	0
River Hills	7	1		1	4	2	2	2	0	1
St. Frances	21	0		3	6	6	3	0	6	0
Shorewood	75	20		4	16	12	12	10	40	4
So. Milwaukee	29	4		5	40	0	0	0	0	4
Wauwatosa	140	20		11	0	10	0	20	10	2
West Allis	72	25		7	14	7	7	0	14	7
W. Milwaukee	12	3		1	6	6	4	4	24	1
Whitefish Bay	50	20		4	15	8	4	0	8	4
Milwaukee County Total	2439	837		253	262	237	167	95	353	58

Begin Absentee Processing on April 4.

- System Configuration and Zero Tape generated at poll opening
- Process Absentee ballots as normal (i.e. poll book, voter number, etc.)
- At close of business, Log Public Count and Protected Count on EL-104. Enter Admin menu and shutdown DS200. Close lid on DS200 and lock. Secure the machine with power connected.

Begin Day 2 Absentee Processing

- Open Machine
- Log Public Count and Protected Count. Validate Protected Count from Configuration tape that prints after power-up.
- Resume processing absentee ballots as normal (i.e. poll book, voter number, etc.)
- At close of business, Log Public Count and Protected Count on EL-104. Enter Admin menu and shutdown DS200. Close lid on DS200 and lock. Secure the machine with power connected.

Begin Day 3 Absentee Processing

- Open Machine
- Log Public Count and Protected Count. Validate Protected Count from Configuration tape that prints after power-up.
- Resume processing absentee ballots as normal (i.e. poll book, voter number, etc.)
- At close of business, Log Public Count and Protected Count on EL-104. Enter Admin menu and shutdown DS200. Close lid on DS200 and lock. Secure the machine with power connected.

Begin Day 4 Absentee Processing and/or Election Day

- Open Machine
- Log Public Count and Protected Count. Validate Protected Count from Configuration tape that prints after power-up.
- Resume processing absentee ballots as normal (i.e. poll book, voter number, etc.)
- Close Poll as normal, get results tapes, send results via modem results.