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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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RODNEY DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
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ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

JEN DAULBY, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

July 22, 2020

Claire Woodall-Vogg  
Executive Director  
Milwaukee Election Commission  
City Hall  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Ms. Woodall-Vogg,

As Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration in the U.S. House of Representatives, which has broad jurisdiction over election issues, I write to you because of the election administration issues that plagued your city's April 7th primary election. As primary elections conclude across the country, I have identified the city of Milwaukee as one where voters are likely to face significant hurdles voting in the November 3rd general election and where the risk of failure is simply too high. Included in this letter are references to the issues identified as well as oversight questions aimed at reassuring me and, more importantly, the voters of Milwaukee that they will not be disenfranchised again.

- a. *Closure of in-person voting locations:* In the 2018 general election, the City of Milwaukee had 180 polling locations serving a voting population of nearly 300,000 people. In 2020, however, the Milwaukee Election Commission ("Commission") cut this number from 180 to just five polling places. This shift led to widely reported accounts of long lines and 71 voters testing positive for Covid-19.
1. The Presidential Commission on Election Administration has said voters should not have to wait more than 30 minutes. How does your office plan on reducing the time voters spend in line on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020?
  2. Does any effort by your office to reduce wait times include the opening of additional polling locations?
  3. What plans does your office have in place to ensure the health and safety of staff, volunteers, and voters in both early voting and on election day?
  4. In March of this year over \$400 million was appropriated to states for the purpose of combating Covid-19 at the ballot box. Wisconsin received over \$7 million of that appropriation, has that money made its way to the City of Milwaukee?
    - a. If not, has your office been in contact with the Wisconsin Elections Commission, Milwaukee County, or the state legislature regarding the status of that money?



2. Please use this as an opportunity to reassure the Committee of your honesty and transparency with respect to serving as Executive Director of the Milwaukee Election Commission.
3. Please outline any directional changes within the office you hope to implement ahead of the November general election.

Ahead of the 2020 general election it is imperative that the city of Milwaukee address these problems to ensure voters are again not disenfranchised. I firmly believe every voter who wants to vote must have the opportunity to do so. It is also critical that the American people have confidence in their elections, and, to this end, the issues seen in the city of Milwaukee are simply unacceptable. It is my hope that these oversight questions will begin to restore that confidence. Please submit answers to these questions to the Committee by August 14, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at the Committee on House Administration at (202) 225-8281.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rodney Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rodney Davis  
Ranking Member