



STATE REPRESENTATIVE KALAN HAYWOOD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We Must Protect Lives and Resist Voter Disenfranchisement

Rep. Haywood comments on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court Ruling on Executive Order #74

MADISON – Today, the Wisconsin State Supreme Court made the decision to overrule Governor Evers’s Executive Order (EO) #74, suspending in-person voting until June 9, 2020, for the spring general election that is scheduled for tomorrow, April 7, 2020. Representative Haywood released the following statement regarding today’s Supreme Court ruling:

“With the ongoing pandemic, these are unprecedented times. We have heard from Wisconsinites from all across the state; who have shared their concerns about being safe while continuing to be patriotic. As elected leaders, we should never make our constituents have to choose between their health and carrying out their Fifth Amendment right. Holding in-person voting tomorrow is not only reckless, but it will put election officials, volunteer poll workers, and voters at risk of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Wisconsinites have been doing their part to flatten the curve by following the Department of Health Services (DHS) Safer-At-Home order, and now state officials must do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19.”

“The thought of thousands of voters being exposed to this health risk while simultaneously being disenfranchised is absolutely ridiculous. Our seniors who didn’t have a chance to early vote or absentee; either because they didn’t have transportation or weren’t able to get a witness signature; have now been disenfranchised. Minorities have historically had challenges exercising their right to vote; have now been further disenfranchised. Thousands of Wisconsinites, the people we took an oath to serve; have now been disenfranchised. Holding in-person voting tomorrow has made it almost certain that anyone who chooses to cast a ballot, will possibly be exposed to COVID-19. This is our reality in the state of Wisconsin; this is a sad day for our democracy. The impacts of this election will be monumental.”

“Specifically, in the case of the City of Milwaukee, it is a logistical and health nightmare to expect a large portion of our residents to vote at five polling locations instead of the traditional 180 polling sites.”

“Not only is this a slap in the face to anyone participating in the process tomorrow; it is also a slap in the face to our first responders. They are putting their lives on the line and this is the thanks they are getting. The influx of individuals that will gather in close proximity will increase exposure to the horrific virus, which will most likely lead to more people seeking medical assistance; and the possibility of more Wisconsinites fighting for their lives.”

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