



JANEL STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRANDTJEN



Rep. Brandtjen Responds to WEC's Statement on Recent Election Misinformation

For more information contact:
Rep. Brandtjen (414) 915-8425

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Madison – State Representative Janel Brandtjen (R-Menomonee Falls) released the following statement regarding the Wisconsin Elections Commission's (WEC) press release:

"It's shameful that WEC has decided to 'misrepresent' the loophole under our current voter ID laws. On Election Day, new voters have been able to vote without valid driver's licenses or valid social security numbers. As a state that has voter ID in place, this loophole has been capitalized by thousands of voters since 2010. If this seems like "misinformation," let me clarify.

There is no real-time system for clerks to verify whether new voters are real or eligible citizens to vote. Wisconsin uses a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) check, which compares name, birthdate, and the last four digits of social security number or driver's license number, and compares that information with DMV records. WEC has used its guidance to say that regardless of the results of your HAVA check, you are eligible to vote. Of course, not all unmatched records cause suspicion, but providing a ballot without validation is counter to our voter ID laws. HAVA checks are made 24 hours after the clerk has entered the information in the voter database. The key phrase in that sentence is *24 hours after* the clerk has entered the information, and clerks have 30 days to enter the information. Thirty days is not a speedy process and does not protect against voter impersonation.

I would call people whose identity cannot be verified a phantom voter, while WEC refers to these voters as inactive. Wisconsin has millions of inactive voters. I'm not sure how Wisconsin's voters can be confident with multiple layers of election security when we have a process that hands out ballots before confirming whether a voter is real, eligible, and resides in Wisconsin."

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