

Black Caucus Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin

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Dem Party Black Caucus Chair Challenges Vos' Claim of Voter Fraud

(Milwaukee) – Black Caucus Chair of the Wisconsin Democratic Party, Michelle Bryant, released the following statement in response to learning that Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) directed the Assembly Campaigns and Elections Committee to use its subpoena powers to target Milwaukee's handling of the recent November general election, raising concerns about "mail-in ballot dumps and voter fraud.":

"The phrase "While you live, tell truth and shame the Devil!" can be traced back to the year 1555, when a preacher by the name of Hugh Latimer recorded it as a common saying in his *Twenty Seven Sermons*. It's fair to say someone should remind Robin Vos of this old adage.

Republicans have worked to suppress Black votes for years. When misleading ads, disparate legislative policies, and voter intimidation doesn't work, they trot out voter fraud. Like clockwork, members of the GOP, both locally and nationally, have no shame in constantly trying to insinuate that African-Americans and urban voters are inherently dishonest when it comes to voting. This line of rhetoric implies that our white counterparts are bastions of honesty and fairness. It's time to tell the truth and shame the devil.

African-Americans have had to fight and claw for every piece of voter protection law ever created. Black women weren't even able to participate in voting, in earnest and unencumbered, until the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which was passed a mere 56 years ago. That occurred during my lifetime.

We've been subjected to beatings, imprisonment, loss of employment, disproportionate wait times to vote and constant voting place irregularities. There has been a history of cheating in elections, the drawing of legislative districts, and voter suppression. It's simply time to tell the truth about who really has been cheating.

African-Americans aren't out rigging systems to delay the timely delivery of mail-in ballots. Black people didn't create fake voting ballot drop boxes to deceive American voters and we certainly don't control legislatures, that could have made the voting process safer, simpler and timelier in reporting. Rather than celebrating all of our counties and residents for the work done to hold and participate in an election during a health pandemic, Vos is attempting to support a larger strategy and narrative in providing cover for Donald Trump's failed re-election campaign.

So, if Vos wants to investigate voter fraud or irregularities, I have some suggestions. Look in a mirror and then look at your party. Black voters and Wisconsin deserve better leadership than this."