

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Senator Larson
Representative Brostoff

DATE: March 24, 2020

RE: Co-Sponsorship the “Voter Protection Package”

Deadline: March 27, 2020 at 12:00 pm

An effective democracy is the heart of our nation, and, during a declared state of emergency, that remains unchanged. We must not impede the rights of our voters during emergencies, especially when leaving their homes to vote could put them in harm’s way.

We are proposing several election reforms to be instituted upon the Governor declaring a state of emergency. These proposals are intended to ease the burden on the public as well as maintain electoral integrity and access to the ballot. As legislators, we must protect this important aspect of democracy and allow it to be completed without undue burden during a declared state of emergency. Otherwise, we are not fulfilling our duty to represent all Wisconsinites.

LRB 5888 – requires municipal clerk or board of election commissioners to send all registered voters an absentee ballot via mail no less than 7 days before an election or primary.

LRB 5908 – allows municipalities to canvass absentee ballots beginning on the Sunday before an election

LRB 5909 – allows for the extension of requesting an absentee ballot

LRB 5910 – allows mailed absentee ballots to be postmarked on the day of the election and received by the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners by the third day after the election

LRB 5911 – removes the requirement for photo identification

LRB 5917 – allows for voter registration and absentee ballot through an agent

LRB 5923 – allows for in-person absentee voting through the Sunday before an election

These pieces of legislation offer protections to our neighbors while allowing our municipal clerks an opportunity to ensure access to the ballot and protect the integrity of our electoral process.

If you would like to co-sponsor any of the proposals in this package, please reply to this email or contact Senator Larson's office at 6-7505 by 12:00 pm on March 27, 2020.