

COMMON SENSE WISCONSIN ELECTION EQUITY AND UNIFORMITY INITIATIVE



“Elections belong to the people.”

~~ Abraham Lincoln

Election fairness and uniformity is an absolute and fundamental right. As such, it deserves a place in the Wisconsin Constitution.

Common Sense Wisconsin is calling on the Legislature and all 72 of Wisconsin counties to give our citizens an opportunity to vote on securing election uniformity a place in our Constitution. If uniformity is worthy of constitutional protection for taxation and form or government, then certainly protecting the vote – arguably the most fundamental of all rights – is also worthy.

By proposing a constitutional amendment, the Legislature will take away the ability of the Governor to veto the measure and will put the matter directly into the hands of Wisconsin voters. It will also protect Wisconsin against current efforts in Congress to take voting rights away from the states and federalize elections.

One thing all Wisconsinites can agree on is that elections must be conducted in a fair and equitable manner, that all voters are treated equally, and that all votes are counted equally. For this to be reality, four fundamental principles are essential:

1. Election laws must be uniform throughout the state. Voters must be treated the same and votes must be counted uniformly, whether they are in Superior or South Milwaukee, Madison or Minocqua;
2. Election laws must be reliable and predictable. Last minute changes and altering of the rules breeds confusion among voters and distrust in the system;
3. The administration of elections must be carried out in a manner that does not favor any political party over another. Elections are not held for Democrats or Republicans – they are held for we, the people;
4. The funding and administration of elections cannot be turned over to private organizations.

It is undisputed that these principles were compromised in 2020.

- It is undisputed that absentee ballots were processed differently from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and those differences were significant. For example, the precisely same absentee ballot would have been counted in some jurisdictions while being rejected in others. Common Sense says that is not fair or equitable to all Wisconsin voters.
- It is undisputed that the opportunity to vote early (“in person absentee”) differed massively based upon where a voter lived in the state. Common Sense says that all voters should have as fair and equitable access to voting.
- It is undisputed that more than 6 million dollars of out-of-state corporate money was funneled into a handful of big Wisconsin cities for public election operations. Worse yet, out of state operatives from these shadowy groups went into these cities and helped run the elections (and actually handled ballots). Whether it is a left leaning or a right leaning group, outside organizations should never be given power to administer elections.
- It is undisputed that the basic election rules for the 2020 election were in a constant state of flux and chaos. Some officials, including the Governor of Wisconsin, used COVID as an excuse to ignore state law or change the rules to favor one political party over the others.

- The mayor of Milwaukee shut down all but 5 voting stations in his city in a brazen attempt to aide his own campaign.
- Governor Evers tried to shut down in-person voting altogether. Less than 24 hours before the polls opened, Evers unilaterally tried to disallow in-person voting in a naked attempt to suppress the vote. Just days before Evers declared he had no such power.
- It is undisputed that last-minute attempts to change the rules via the courts contribute to the confusion. Common Sense says that voters will have far more trust in elections when the basic rules are set well in advance and politicians, bureaucrats, and courts are prohibited from making last minute changes (which invariably are sought to bring last-minute advantage to one side or the other).

These facts are not disputed, and clearly demonstrate Wisconsin needs to take action to be sure that every voter and every ballot is treated fairly and uniformly. It is also becoming apparent that the current Governor will obstruct attempts to enact common sense reform via the statutory process.

Wisconsin citizens' right of uniformity is already constitutionally protected for taxation (Article VIII, Section 1), for town government (Article IV, Section 23), and for the enactment of general laws (Article IV, Section 32).

Common Sense Wisconsin is calling for the following:

1. The current Legislature should immediately draft and introduce the **Elections Equity and Uniformity Amendment**, hold hearings, and proceed to first passage. The amendment should include provisions to ensure the four fundamental principles previously outlined are met.
2. Regardless of the action or inaction in Madison, every Wisconsin county should place on its November 2022 ballot an advisory referendum asking if the Elections Equity and Uniformity Amendment should be placed on a statewide ballot. To ensure uniformity across the state, we propose the following language for counties:

Question: Should the Wisconsin Legislature prepare and place on the statewide ballot a Constitutional Amendment requiring that election administration, access to ballots, and counting of ballots be as nearly uniform as practicable?

3. The subsequent Legislature should proceed to final passage immediately upon convening and place the measure on a statewide ballot for approval by the people of Wisconsin.



Common Sense Wisconsin is an advocacy group of Wisconsin citizens committed to advancing conservative solutions that can solve real world problems and help build a better and stronger Wisconsin for everyone. We are committed to bringing practical thinking and actionable solutions to issues that far too many only talk about.

Common Sense will be releasing a series of such initiatives and proposals centered around education, jobs and economic development that properly identifies government's role and responsibilities, and then meets those responsibilities in an efficient and effective way.

For more information: CommonSenseWisconsin.org