Voters and election workers make the best of a tough situation

Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs
April 8, 2020

Yesterday’s election was not an ideal situation for anyone involved. Voters and election workers alike were placed in an environment where they had to risk their health in order to exercise their right to vote. It is difficult to call what happened a safe and fair election, but despite the circumstances the residents of Milwaukee responded in the best way possible.

I want to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who showed up at an election site yesterday. Whether you were voting or working the polls, the sense of community and togetherness on display was inspiring. Not only did nearly 20,000 people show up to vote and make sure their voice was heard, but countless others were on hand to play music, offer words of encouragement, pass out ponchos and hand sanitizer, and generally support their fellow resident. You are all heroes and your determination in face of adversity is what makes our city great. I hope all those who were at an election site yesterday have the ability to self-quarantine and remain in good health so that the spike in cases we predict as a result of the election does not occur.

I know many in the community have questions related to the events of the election, as crucial decisions were being made just days before votes were cast. To help clarify some of these issues I am introducing a communication file that will be heard at a future meeting of the Common Council’s Judiciary and Legislation Committee. Once the final votes are tallied and reported, we can have a conversation about the variety of issues and challenges this election presented, how those issues were dealt with, and identify what we can do better in the future.

Thank you again Milwaukee for the heart you showed yesterday. Remember that we are all in this together. Stay safe and healthy.

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