
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

March 20, 2020

Ald. Bob Donovan
(414) 531-2096

MEDIA ALERT

Alderman Donovan urges Governor to postpone April 7 election

Alderman Bob Donovan sent a letter (**attached**) today (Friday, March 20) to **Governor Tony Evers** urging him to immediately postpone the April 7 spring general election.

In the letter, Alderman Donovan notes the risk of infection posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the expected lack of available poll workers as key factors.

Alderman Donovan writes: “Our elections – our votes – are sacred emblems of our freedom. They should not be cast in these circumstances and this election should be postponed.”

Additionally, Alderman Donovan said the election, if held, could be determined by an unusually small sample size of in-person voters that is not representative of the wider electorate in communities across Wisconsin. “I believe every official elected in such a ballot would be forever marked and would have their legitimacy questioned throughout his or her term.”

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

- Public Safety and Health

MEMBER

- Community and Economic Development
- Steering and Rules
- Anti-Graffiti Policy



ROBERT G. DONOVAN
ALDERMAN, 8TH DISTRICT

March 20, 2020

The Honorable,
Governor Tony Evers

Governor Evers,

I know you are receiving what must be a torrent of advice on any number of topics, but I must ask that you give serious consideration to postponing the upcoming Spring General Election. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it impracticable and, in my opinion, dangerous to conduct this election in an environment that resembles nothing in living memory.

Even if we leave to the side the struggles the City of Milwaukee and other municipalities have had in recruiting, training, and deploying poll workers – workers who are declining to serve at the polls in increasing numbers. Even if we ignore the increasing number of buildings long used as polling places that are no longer available to us because they house the elderly or the sick. Even if we did everything in our power – and I give a great deal of credit to Milwaukee's Election Commission for its efforts – to encourage absentee balloting and in-person absentee voting, I believe the results of this election would be so skewed as to make a mockery of the notion that every vote counts. I believe every official elected in such a ballot would be forever marked and would have their legitimacy questioned throughout his or her term.

I might also observe that bringing people to sometimes crowded polling places where they will be served by a population of poll workers that does trend older is not a good way to contain the spread of this or any other virus.

Our elections – our votes – are sacred emblems of our freedom. They should not be cast in these circumstances and this election should be postponed.

Thank you for your consideration and, should you have any questions of me, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert G. Donovan".

Robert G. Donovan,
Alderman, 8th District