
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Bob Donovan
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Snow Removal & Other City Services Taking Back Seat To Staffing Polls, Alderman Says

Too Many City Workers Enlisted to Help Staff Polling Sites, Ald. Donovan said

With snow and ice causing safety problems across the city for motorists and pedestrians alike, Ald. Bob Donovan wants to know why so many city workers are staffing the polls today.

“It’s very discouraging, and frankly I’m very angry that we still have streets and crosswalks that are treacherous for our constituents to navigate yet DPW (Department of Public Works) has managers who are out registering voters at the polls,” he said. “City services and constituents always come first in my book, and this is simply unacceptable.”

Non-management city workers could not receive their hourly pay for working the polls, but city managers who are staffing polling locations are being paid their usual hourly pay rates, while retirees and others are being paid a modest amount (less than \$100) to work either a half or full day, Ald. Donovan said. “I wonder what this election manpower operation is costing the city today,” he said.

Ald. Donovan said the Election Commission has “had years to build up a base of poll workers” to handle duties at the polls yet has recruited city management employees “to bail them out” while many city departments today will go understaffed. “I’m betting that today will not be a very productive day and services will suffer in many departments, and that’s regrettable,” he said.

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City Workers Staffing Polls/ADD ONE

Referring to the huge snow totals that have buried many Milwaukee streets this winter, the alderman said: “To me it’s like taking police officers and putting them at the polls during a major riot,” he said. “When our streets and neighborhoods are overwhelmed with snow and ice, we need DPW manpower focused there. Period.”

Ald. Donovan said he will urge the Barrett administration to demand better election readiness and poll staffing from the Election Commission.

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