



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF DANE COUNTY, INC.

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Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd Rm. 403
Madison WI 53703

Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway:

The League of Women Voter of Dane County has worked very closely with the City Clerk's office over the last decade. We are very impressed with Maribeth Witzel-Behl's commitment to ensuring that every Madison citizen has the opportunity to vote and have their vote counted. She has invested many, many hours and much creativity in expanding the number of volunteers and voter outreach sites to assist voters with registration and voting information, in making early voting at libraries and other sites a popular and viable option, and in running efficient elections.

However, we have been extremely concerned by the number of hours she herself puts into her job, an effort which we believe cannot be sustained at current levels without endangering her health. We also lament the loss of experienced, competent clerk's staff who have transferred to other city positions that require less overtime.

Over the last several years, new legislation has required proof of residence when voters register and Voter Photo ID. These barriers to voting have required additional training for outreach volunteers and poll workers, additional workers on election day, and additional staff work to maintain records of ID for absentee voters and to process the additional information on voter registration forms. The staffing levels in the Clerk's Office have not been adjusted to fully account for the new workload.

We understand that Maribeth has presented a proposal for your 2020 budget that would add a regular staff member and a Deputy Clerk for elections to her office. We believe these two positions are ***absolutely necessary*** for the efficient functioning of the Clerk's Office and the high quality of election services for Madison residents that Maribeth and her staff have worked so hard to establish.

We look forward to the inclusion of a new Deputy Clerk for Elections and a new Clerk's staff position in your 2020 budget.

Sincerely,

Aileen Nettleton
President