

4825 Bayfield Terrace  
Madison WI 53705  
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Dear Members of the Special Committee on Election Law Review:

A potent weapon for ensuring election integrity is to involve citizens in more phases of the process. Here are two areas where your committee can implement this.

- You have a proposal to set up a committee for Election Apparatus Oversight. There are many issues in the selection and operation of such equipment that can affect confidence in elections. Your current proposal excludes any members of the voting public. Please add seats for voters – they can bring a fresh perspective to the debate. In addition, this committee should play a part in the approval of the equipment. The process should be as open as possible, and include public hearings, followed by recommendations to the State Elections Board. Agendas and minutes should be posted per open meetings law.
- The current setup in Milwaukee for a three-person Board of Election Commissioners, per statute 7.20, with members nominated by the parties, has failed miserably in running elections. Consider changing this to a board of nine citizens. Each city council member could nominate one person, and the final selection of six members made by the municipal court judges. Three other members could be appointed by the Governor, and leaders of the Senate and Assembly. The commission should be given responsibility to oversee all facets of election administration.

Last November 3 million people voted in Wisconsin. Surely you could find many who are knowledgeable, concerned, and sincere about improving our elections. Letting them actively participate in decisions about election administration will significantly help the process.

Sincerely,

Paul Malischke