



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF MARATHON COUNTY



September 26, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL TO CITY CLERK

Ms. Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk
City of Wausau
407 Grant St.
Wausau, WI 54403

Dear Ms. Bernarde:

I am writing today regarding the topic of the City of Wausau's absentee ballot drop box.

While it is the position of the Republican Party of Marathon County that the use of drop boxes do not always provide for the most secure way in which to ensure absentee ballot integrity, we do recognize that individuals and the courts have varying opinions.

Because of this, it is paramount that all eligible voters believe their vote will be counted, and that all laws surrounding elections are followed.

To that end, we believe it is unconscionable that an absentee ballot drop box was posted outside of Wausau City Hall without being secured to the ground allowing anyone to tamper with the box.

In the Thursday, September 26, 2024, edition of The Washington Post, you are quoted as informing voters they "*can return absentee ballots in a separate box normally used for payments to the city government.*" Further, your news release of September 25, 2024, advises residents to "*return their ballots in the silver Payment Box in front of City Hall.*"

This is unacceptable!

Please explain how it is possible that the "**chain of custody**" requirement for ballot security can be guaranteed.

In the meantime, on behalf of an estimated 20,000 Wausau citizens who voted Republican in the 2020 Presidential election, I am hoping you will delay implementation of a legitimate ballot drop box until all security and election integrity issues are ensured.

I look forward to your prompt and timely response.

Respectfully,

Kevin Hermening, Chairman
Republican Party of Marathon County
715-571-0950 / rpmc@marathonwisgop.com