



August 18, 2020

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DANE COUNTY'S POSITION STATEMENT ON
AMENDING THE DANE COUNTY CAPITAL BUDGET TO FUND A CONCEPT PLAN FOR A SECURE
COUNTY ELECTIONS FACILITY

My name is Wendy Hathaway. I live in Fitchburg. And I am the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Dane County. Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight.

I'm here tonight to speak on *Resolution 138: Amending The Capital Budget To Fund A Concept Plan For A Secure County Elections Facility*, and also comment on the Election Security Review, to express both my personal support, and the support of our organization, for exploring any and all options that will improve protection of election workers and increase security and accessibility of elections and election administration.

We at LWW Dane County are committed to protecting the right to vote ... and we are immensely proud of, and grateful for, our county's election officials, their staff, and the poll workers. These dedicated people across all our local municipalities are working tirelessly to ensure the integrity of our elections and protecting our precious right to vote, even in the face of difficult circumstances, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and unprecedented levels of scrutiny, false charges of voter fraud, threats, and intimidation.

As included in the report by your Election Security Review Committee, the Department of Homeland Security defines the function of election administration "a critical infrastructure" and of course, we wholeheartedly agree. The Review Committee found that the current physical structures and systems in our county are inadequate: physical threats and deep concerns about safety; storage facilities and physical structures that need improvement for many reasons; and disinformation campaigns sowing seeds of doubt about democracy.

While the League of Women Voters of Dane County does yet not have sufficient information to comment on the specific solutions under review by the Board, we do strongly support funding and maintenance of a safe, convenient, and positive experience for all voters and all election workers, which includes continued protection against intimidation, and continued protection of the integrity of voting and elections. Free and fair elections – and a free and fair democracy – depend upon it.

Thank you.

Wendy Hathaway
Executive Director
League of Women Voters of Dane County