
State of Wisconsin
Office of the Governor

April 8, 2022

The Honorable, the Senate:

I am vetoing **Senate Bill 942** in its entirety.

This bill would require the Elections Commission to submit an annual report to the Joint Committee on Finance and the Department of Administration regarding any failures by the Commission and the Departments of Transportation, Corrections, and Health Services to comply with election laws. The Department of Administration must then submit a plan to abolish positions and reduce funding from these state agencies as punishment.

The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy; it should not be subject to the whims of politicians who do not like the outcome of an election. Elected officials should not be able to abuse their power to cheat or control the outcomes of our elections or to prevent eligible voters from casting their ballots. This legislation is among many that have been sent to my desk during this legislative session, each passed under the guise of needing to reform our election system because elected officials in this state have enabled disinformation about our elections and election processes. I have and will continue to object to each and every effort by this Legislature and its members to undermine our democracy, to erode confidence in our elections, and to demean and harass dedicated clerks, election administrators, and poll workers.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to this flagrant violation of the separation of powers, which is a bedrock principle of democracy, and because of the significant threat this bill poses to independent elections. This bill would give a legislative body the authority to punish state agencies for “failures” to comply with certain provisions, or the nonpartisan Commission if it decides the Commission issued erroneous guidance. This bill gives the legislature the power to bypass the judicial system for any perceived legal misstep and to render its own judgements and punishments.

This bill fails to provide any meaningful improvement to our democratic voting system. Instead of strengthening our elections, it uses threats to eliminate funding and positions that are needed to help administer our elections while unconstitutionally giving the Legislature a role in election administration and taking power away from the executive and judicial branches of government.

Respectfully submitted,

TONY EVERS

Governor