



Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Amid Coronavirus Pandemic, Republican Legislators Shut Down Protections for Voters**

MADISON, WI— A special session that could have pushed back the April 7 statewide elections to give Wisconsinites time to receive and fill out their mail-in ballots was called and immediately closed by Republican legislators on Saturday. The Wisconsin State Senate and Wisconsin State Assembly were opened and closed in under twenty seconds each, allowing no time for discussion of the issue.

Governor Tony Evers proposed pushing back the final ballot count to May 26 to ensure every registered voter in Wisconsin would be sent a ballot with time to fill them out and mail them in, rather than proceed as normal and risk the spread of coronavirus at polling places. Senate Speaker Scott Fitzgerald and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos were quick to tell the media that they were united against the idea, and every Republican in the state legislature followed suit.

Among the Republican legislators is Representative Joe Sanfelippo, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Health. For days, Rep. Sanfelippo has sent emails to his constituents about how they should isolate and sanitize, but has declined to do his own part in combatting coronavirus in Wisconsin by voting against the interest of public health. By siding with partisan politics, Rep. Sanfelippo has ensured that hundreds of voters in his district and thousands across the state will be at risk of contracting coronavirus for participating in the election, and immunocompromised constituents who cannot leave the house are being subject to voter suppression.

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Jessica Katzenmeyer, who is running to unseat Rep. Sanfelippo in Wisconsin's 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, has vocalized her concern regarding the decision to proceed as normal:

“Taxpayers pay state representatives to represent the best interests of the people in their district and they should be held accountable for their actions. Instead of playing partisan political games during a pandemic, we should be coming together to come up with a solution that benefits everyone.”

Assembly District 15 was one of the first to see a death related to COVID-19 when the pandemic first made its way to Wisconsin. Since then, the state of Wisconsin has seen over 1,000 new cases, most of which are within or border the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, comprising of parts of Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

### **About Jessica Katzenmeyer for State Assembly**

Jessica Katzenmeyer is a political candidate running for Wisconsin Assembly District 15 comprising of western West Allis and northern New Berlin. You can find out more about her campaign on Facebook (Jess for Assembly), Instagram (@Jess4Assembly) and Twitter (@Jess4Assembly).

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