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## One Hundred Eighteenth Congress of the United States House of Representatives

## **COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION**

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October 24, 2024

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Board of Commissioners Wisconsin Elections Commission P.O. Box 7984 Madison, WI 53707-7984

## Dear Commissioners:

To register to vote in Wisconsin, an individual needs to provide documentation that proves identity and residency. As Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration ("Committee"), which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections, <sup>1</sup> I write today seeking immediate clarification whether the Limited Term and the Non-Domiciled Identification ("ID") cards can be used as an acceptable proof of residency for voter registration purposes.

Limited Term and Non-Domiciled ID cards are only issued to individuals who are temporary visitors.<sup>2</sup> To protect the integrity of Wisconsin's elections, Wisconsin law prohibits individuals from voting if they are present only for temporary purposes.<sup>3</sup> Such individuals should not be voting in our elections or deciding the future of our State.

Wisconsin law requires every eligible elector (voter) to be a United States citizen who is 18 years of age and who has resided in an election district or ward for 28 consecutive days before an election.<sup>4</sup> An elector's residence is defined by their domicile. In other words, the elector's "habitation must be fixed, without any present intent to move, and to which, when absent, the person intends to return." In that same vein, Wisconsin law prohibits individuals from becoming a resident if they are present only for temporary purposes. These provisions exist to ensure only permanent residents of Wisconsin can vote in Wisconsin's elections rather than any temporary visitor.

As such, it would appear contrary to Wisconsin law for these IDs to serve as valid proof of residency to register to vote in Wisconsin. The point of these IDs is to show that the individual does not have the necessary intent to reside in the State and is only present for temporary purposes. Moreover, if Wisconsin were to allow these IDs to serve as valid proof of residency, it would risk allowing a voter to vote in more than one State.

It is my understanding that Wisconsin municipal clerks are receiving voter registration applications with these forms of ID being used as proof of residence. Some clerks understandably have asked your office for guidance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rules of the United States House of Representatives, rule X(k)(12), https://rules.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-rules.house.gov/files/documents/118/Additional%20Items/118-House-Rules-Clerk-v2.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Wisconsin driver licenses and identification (ID) cards, State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/license-drvs/how-to-apply/mailed.aspx.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Wis. Stat. § 6.10(8).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Wis. Stat. § 6.02.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Wis. Stat. § 6.10(1).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Wis. Stat. § 6.10(8).

Media reports have indicated that your office has failed to give direction on how to handle these applications. Americans deserve confidence in our elections, and clear rules and guidance can help improve that level of confidence. Inaction from your office risks ineligible persons being registered to vote and exposes clerks to undue criticism on an issue that could have been avoided.

Will you please immediately provide guidance to all Wisconsin's clerks on whether the Limited Term and the Non-Domiciled Identification cards, which are issued only to temporary visitors, can serve as proof of residence for voter registration purposes?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Thomas Lane, Elections Counsel and Director of Election Coalitions, at Thomas.Lane@mail.house.gov or call the Committee at 202-225-8281.

Sincerely,

Bryan Steil Chairman

Committee on House Administration

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