April 6, 2020

By: Electronic Mail

Members Representing Milwaukee County
Wisconsin State Legislature
Wisconsin State Capitol
2 E Main Street
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Suspension of the Spring Election, April 7, 2020

Dear Honorable members of the Legislature,

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging, acting to protect the interests, health and welfare of more than 172,000 adults age 60 or more, has voted to express its support for suspending the Wisconsin Spring election, originally scheduled for tomorrow, April 7, 2020, to a later date to allow in-person voting, while protection the general population and, in particular, older adults, from potential exposure to COVID-19.

Because of the serious concerns we are hearing from older adults who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, we support Governor Evers' Executive Order delaying the April election due to grave public health concerns.

Many older adults have had difficulty requesting, completing, and returning absentee ballots. At the same time, many are fearful to go to the polls on Tuesday, given their heightened risk. Others lack adequate transportation to get to the reduced number of polling sites. In brief, if the election moves forward on April 7th, many older voters will be disenfranchised. We see no harm, and much good in moving the Spring election to a future date.

We demand that our state representatives take immediate action to delay this Spring election, so that all of us have a fair and equal chance to exercise our right to vote.

Sincerely,

Richmond Izard   Shirley Sharp
Chair, Commission on Aging   Chair, Advocacy Committee