



September 16, 2020

Secretary Craig Thompson
4822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Secretary Thompson,

Thank you to you and the Department of Transportation for your work across the State. We can only imagine the COVID-19-related challenges facing agencies like the DOT, and we appreciate the steps you and others have taken to keep Wisconsin moving forward amidst this crisis.

We particularly appreciate the attention you have paid to expanding access to DMV services. When Governor Walker signed [Act 23](#) into law, the Wisconsin DMV became the gateway to our democracy – providing critical support to voters who need access to a Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license or State ID with which they can vote. While we assume the DOT never asked for this tremendous responsibility, this is the world in which we now live. Today, the path to the ballot box leads straight through Wisconsin DMV service centers.

Unfortunately, that path is not equally accessible for all voters. In 2016, we saw that Act 23 led to [barriers to the ballot for thousands of Wisconsinites](#), particularly for [Wisconsinites of color, students, people with disabilities, and older voters](#). Many of these barriers related to insufficient access to DMV services. Fortunately, there is a simple solution: expand the number of service centers, include Saturday hours at every location, and invest in a public education campaign that combats misinformation and simplifies access information.

We recognize that service expansion requires a new level of investment in the agency, and we believe that the DMV's new role in our elections necessitates that investment. This should include budget allocation for a new permanent service center in Madison, Saturday hours at every service center in Wisconsin, and funding for a public education campaign ahead of each election.

Sometimes, new laws require a total re-imagining of the way we provide services. Act 23 positioned the DMV as the gateway to our democracy, and we therefore need a level of investment that reflects that awesome responsibility. We strongly encourage you to make this case to Governor Evers' office by proposing a budget focused on expanding services.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
Executive Director
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice