



Milwaukee County Board

Supervisor Deanna Alexander, 18th District

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COUNTY PANEL IGNORES ELECTION DAY CONCERNS Community ID Cards Soon to Come, Despite Worrisome Questions

MILWAUKEE—The County Board’s Health and Human Needs committee opened today’s meeting by verbally acknowledging that the soon-to-be-created community ID cards “will not be for voting purposes,” but the meeting ended with Supervisors refusing to put that assertion in writing.

The panel reviewed legislation authorizing a citizen-based task force to create a community ID card for area residents, presumably, regardless of citizenship status. Supervisor Alexander has proposed that the ID cards be truthfully labeled as “Not for Voting” at the time of creation if they will not be accepted by the state for voting purposes.

Supervisor Alexander questioned the committee’s inconsistency, **“If you’re willing to audibly say that the ID cards will not be for voting, why are you so afraid to put that in writing?”**

They claimed that labeling the ID cars as “Not for voting” would make residents feel bad.

Poll workers testified that such an ID, lacking a label warning that it would not be for voting purposes, would lead to more confusion on election day, particularly in a presidential election year when there is a priority placed on speed of moving poll lines in order to avoid accusations of “disenfranchisement.”

Supervisors supporting the Community ID program said that it is not the best use of the county’s time to investigate why people can’t get ID cards, and asserted that they just need to be provided. “We will not wait the rights and needs of the community” based on the concerns of poll workers, said another.

“We have to wonder what ‘rights and needs’ would supposedly be foregone if ID cards that are not eligible for voting purposes are simply labeled as such,” said Supervisor Alexander. “I don’t think it is any coincidence that this is being proposed right before a presidential election. If this program is slapped together without foresight to election-day concerns, it will pose a serious risk to the integrity of our voting process.”

Committee members lectured and prematurely closed discussion, preventing Supervisor Alexander from completing her testimony. Those speaking in support of the Community ID Card said they were representing Voces de la Frontera.

The committee (Supervisors Romo West, Moore-Omokunde, Mayo, Schmitt, Weishan, and Dimitrijevic) voted unanimously to move forward with the Community ID plan despite concerns and objections.

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