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[00:00:00] **Speaker 1** Using drop boxes of who's not. It's a win and civil Clark decision. There was guidance that the election commission came down with. This is have you using drop boxes. Let's make sure they're secure and make sure they're secured to the ground, to the building to make sure that they can't be tampered with, you know, make sure there's a security take on that so you can make sure that they have been open with them. If possible, put video cameras on them. So being watched. So there are some in in school clerks who follow that guidance and feel that this was something that was necessary to be able all voters to return their ballots. A lot of rural municipal clerks only have a couple hours a week where they have office hours. And if someone's not trusting that the ballots are going to get returned by the mail, then the drop box is the answer. There's some municipal clerks that don't feel they have a secure Dropbox and they're not using Dropbox, which is election, but is a municipal clerk decision. The clerks that are using them and across county are making sure that they're secure and they have a log of when they're opening them, how many absentees are being taken out. So it's done in a safe and secure manner. And then the areas where the clerk feels the necessary.

[00:01:00] **Speaker 2** I just want to answer the question specifically because I think the actual question was, is it conspiratorial to think that? And I would say, no, I, I, I think it's okay to challenge how we do elections. It's not conspiratorial to ask questions and to want to have security and or to have the suggestion that there should be video monitored. I do not believe it's conspiratorial at all. And so if whoever asked that question never did.

[00:01:29] **Speaker 3** So really.

[00:01:30] **Speaker 4** Wasn't me. But I applaud your question.

[00:01:35] **Speaker 3** I have a follow up on that, because recently we've seen some headlines. The Dodge County sheriff is on record pressuring a couple of local clerks in his county not to use drop boxes. In Wausau. The recently elected conservative mayor proudly took a picture of himself carting off the drop boxes. Only now for there to be a DOJ investigation of drop boxes back in place. Is this becoming a partizan issue surrounding is it Can we get back to it being a clerk's decision?

[00:02:02] **Speaker 2** We live in an era and it's been getting more and more this way over the over the my time in office where where Partizan Partizanship itself is masquerading as a principle. And when you get to that place, everything feels partizan. And you know, the case in Wausau, as I understand it, that the mayor felt that the city council hadn't given approval and so he decided to take action. But I would also say that virtually every mailbox in the country can take a ballot and mail it in. And and so there are there are ways to get ballots to to the polling places, whether it's in the form of ballot drop box, where it doesn't require us to have parties that put a stamp on it. That might be one change that Wisconsin could make as well. But I just think that there's we have this idea that everything and especially our neighbors and those who might disagree with us politically are wanting to to pull the wool over our eyes or cheat somehow. And and I will tell you, as someone who served in Congress next to this guy, I hold him in about as high regard as is even humanly possible. And I never once would think that what he was doing in his role as a congressman was nefarious. He might have had a different policy solution than I had for some problem that we were trying to deal with. But but I mean, I want to believe that my neighbors are the same way. And so I choose to start there. And and we all can change how we think about this. But you have to start at the individually. And I used to I used to coach girls volleyball at Apple and he said I did that for 20 years and we had a particular problem. I would I would tell the girls this little poem, you know, I am only one, but I am what? I can't do everything, but I can do something. And that's something that I can do, I should do, and that what I should do, I shall do. And if everybody in this room would begin to talk to this, their circle, that sphere of influence that they have, their friends and people at church. So there's social groups. But what you heard tonight, you can change how people view things. And we can we can have a different way of dealing with one another.

[00:04:37] **Speaker 3** So, Jenny, another question coming in from the audience is my college student requested an absentee ballot. I received a flier in the mail that identified awareness that an absentee ballot have been requested. Why?

[00:04:52] **Speaker 1** There's a lot of third party groups. I'm not sure this is what they're asking. There's a lot of third party groups out there trying to help. And they'll be sending you voter registration forms in the mail. They'll have your address from five years ago, or they'll be sending you absentee ballot request forms in the mail with the wrong information on them. And and they're not being helpful. They're causing confusion. And we're getting the phone calls from them saying, well, I just got this voter registration form in the mail that I'm already registered. And I'm like, Yes, you are. Just throw this stuff out. So if someone requests an absentee ballot from the remnants of a clerk, they will get the absentee ballot in the mail from the municipal clerk. They won't be getting any confirmation in the mail saying, yup, you requested an absentee ballot. That's these third party groups that are that are trying to be helpful, but they're causing more confusion than they are being helpful.

[00:05:40] **Speaker 3** All right. Another question, Ron, this is for you. It said Ron said Trump was the original election denier. What about Hillary and others in 2016 who repeatedly said it was stolen and he was an illegitimate president?

[00:05:54] **Speaker 5** Well, we can go back and relitigate all we want, but I think the facts are pretty clear in regards to where the rhetoric was coming from in order to sow the seeds of election fraud. And it's still happening today, right? January 6th is not an aberration, folks. That danger exists today. It is started years ago. Donald Trump is still out there perpetuating these election lies, getting people riled up about it and threatening to challenge a result if he loses again this November. And what will come from that is the classic heads I win, tails you lose proposition. For some reason here we have one individual who's having a hard time internalizing defeat for himself. Hillary Clinton accepted defeat. She was there at the inauguration after the January 6th insurrection. Donald Trump blew out of town. He was the first sitting president in modern history that didn't even have the decency to show up for the peaceful transfer of power that occurred later. And not only did he fly out of town, he took a bunch of stolen classified documents that didn't belong to him with them down in Mar a Lago, which. So we should go away, Ron. Yeah. Well, I'm just saying, the reason we're here tonight, the reason we're here tonight is because there's one person out there perpetuating this fraud. And Joe Biden, American people with the partizanship away, keep an objective. All right. It's hard when you have one presidential candidate. I'll. It might be.

[00:07:22] **Speaker 3** Hard and you can do it. All right. We have another question for him. These are all from Anonymous, probably, thankfully. Is ballot harvesting legal or illegal in Wisconsin? And do you favor or oppose this technique? Why or why not? Judy, he said ballot harvesting itself is illegal. Correct. But there are some questions when it comes to a disabled voter and what lengths they can go to to have some of the system cast a ballot if they're not physically able to correct.

[00:07:49] **Speaker 1** So currently, only a voter can return their absentee ballot to the clerk. If you are a disabled voter, you can assign an agent to return your ballot on behalf of yourself. If you bring your ballot into the municipal clerk's office, the clerk is going to ask you if this is your ballot. If you say no, I'm returning for someone, they're going to ask you, Is this for a disabled voter who assigns you to be their agent? And the answer would be yes or no. And if they say yes, I've been assigned an agent to return this ballot on behalf of a disabled voter. The clerk is going to take it. So that's how the law stands right now. That's the process the municipal courts are using.

[00:08:23] **Speaker 3** That for for any of the rest of you, would you support ballot harvesting? I know there are other states where it is legal. That has changed in some places. Do you think that would be okay or is it better for each individual to return their ballot on their own?

[00:08:40] **Speaker 6** I think it's that we have, as you said, there always if someone you need help, you can indicate that on the ballot. And I think that there is you have a problem in a gray area in nursing homes and areas like this that that deal with Alzheimer's that aren't tracking very well. And this is a dangerous, dangerous area. And so I think most most places like that have tried to put up put in proper procedures. But I, I knew that there was always a little bit of a issue with nursing homes. I made a big point of trying to campaign and Christine spent over there just to see if they're going to vote. They would vote for me, but.

[00:09:34] **Speaker 2** You know, I don't know that I've got a good. I don't know that I've got a good answer for it. I, I really do believe that due to the Covid pandemic, there were some, some changes that were allowed that kind of reset in 2022. They didn't seem to have the same issues that came up with that midterm election. And so I'm I'm hopeful, but I'm always optimistic because I think that's how Americans should be and ought to be. And just how I just how I choose to live my life, that Americans are going to go out and vote. There's going to be a lot of people voting this year. And I'm just very hopeful that the candidates especially will accept the results.

[00:10:17] **Speaker 1** I also want to point out one minutes. Well, Clarkson's out your absentee envelope. That return envelope has a stamp on it already. So that's required by law every hour, Wolf, that's mailed out. Has that return stamp on your over you mail your ballot back and your side of your of your witness. So that's a simple as getting into your mailbox. So do you need to bring it to the clerk's office? Do you need to bring it to a Dropbox? No, There are multiple ways to get your ballot return. And one of them is your front step, in some cases your mailbox or the end of your driveway.

[00:10:47] **Speaker 5** And there are certain, obviously unique circumstances that is helpful to have some harvesting of ballots, those in a nursing home that can't get on their own, those in the hospital. Our veterans overseas serving our ship. Where do you think those ballots are? They're harvested and then brought back to the United States for for proper counting. So there are going to be some unique circumstances just to facilitate the process of making sure those ballots get in at the proper time so they can be counted.

[00:11:12] **Speaker 3** So another question. Here are the paper copies of the ballots maintained in Wisconsin. How long do you maintain paper ballots?

[00:11:22] **Speaker 1** So when you say the actual ballots that were voted on Election Day, they are saved for 22 months or and until any litigation surrounding that election has ended. So they're safe for 22 months or if there's litigation until that litigation is done.

[00:11:39] **Speaker 3** Another question here, Is it possible that candidates spread rumors of election fraud, that they have a stronger argument to a losing, or do they really not believe in it? And Reed, I think we were having discussion before about the genuineness of some of the actors that spread some of these or boost some of these arguments of why they may be doing it, especially if they win their own reelections.

[00:12:00] **Speaker 2** You know, I mean, and I always try to avoid assigning a motivation or an intention on somebody else's activity. Sometimes those intentions could be very sincere and well, well intended because they they themselves want to see ballots accurately counted and what have you. And so but we do have a bit of a responsibility to to really accept the results when they're tabulated and done and the contests are over. The contests are over. And so I don't know if that's an answer to the question or not.

[00:12:40] **Speaker 3** But another question here. There is a referendum to make a change to the Wisconsin Constitution from, quote, every eligible voter to, quote, only eligible voters. And they want to know, could this restrict legitimate voting? So what do what do we know about the consequences of the constitutional amendment on this November ballot and what it could mean down the road for people's ability to vote?

[00:13:05] **Speaker 2** In my view, I don't think it changes anything. Constitutions are already pretty clear that there's not a lot of evidence that there is a problem with noncitizens or people who are not eligible to vote that are voting. But if it makes the voters, if the voters who are going to vote in that referendum, they feel that that would be helpful in restoring confidence. And that I'll support whatever makes you all feel safe. You know.

[00:13:33] **Speaker 3** One follow up on that is I know that in some districts, I don't know if it's in Wisconsin, around the country, they do allow noncitizens to vote in local elections for mayor or for council because those people do live there and pay taxes there. Could that restrict the ability of some of these municipalities to allow non-citizens to have a voice in their local government, even if they're not allowed to vote in the state?

[00:13:55] **Speaker 2** I'm not sure that there's any local jurisdictions in Wisconsin that allow their vote. I'm not aware.

[00:14:01] **Speaker 1** That in, say, Wisconsin, I'm unaware that you require to be a U.S. citizen when you register, vote or status.

[00:14:06] **Speaker 6** So I think I could be wrong on this. I think years ago there was a problem in Stevens Point where quite a few students were voting on a local issue having to do with bonding for school construction or something like that. And people who are taxpayers were people didn't think that was quite fair and it was an issue. And I think they decided that they shouldn't be allowed to go to those. Local elections if they could at that time. But so it was quite a while ago something that may be relevant.

[00:14:43] **Speaker 3** Some of these are duplicate questions and that's trying to reconnect. Maybe someone sending in another one. I didn't see any action in that. So it says another question just to point. Only 109 invalid votes were found in an audit of Wisconsin 2020 zero by illegals. Is that accurate? To your knowledge, Jeanine, does that make sense in terms of 109 invalid votes from 2020?

[00:15:14] **Speaker 1** I do not know what is meant by 109 invalid votes in 2020. I don't have the stats memorized. What the fraud reports were. They're posted on the Commission's website. All I know is when you look at these, the last 10 or 15 years, there's only been four instances of them. Now, U.S. citizens voting. So I don't know. The 109 invalid. I'm not sure what that means. I don't want to answer that.

[00:15:40] **Speaker 5** I'm not sure if that was some technical mistake or error that was made in submitting the ballots, but that's another area. I think there's room for improvement of status for self-correction to take place. If someone makes an honest mistake and didn't have the right adverse or something on it and the ability to self-correct that so that voters are disenfranchized ultimately is something I think in the state should take a closer look at. I think there is a procedure, John, isn't there, for some self-correction if there was a mistake made for a mailing ballot?

[00:16:09] **Speaker 1** Yes. If an absentee envelope is returned to the clerk and the voter forgot to sign or they forgot to put the witness signature, that the clerk can reach out to that voter, that voter, that witness can come back in and they can rehab that ballot. So then it can go to the polls to be counted. And I suppose.

[00:16:25] **Speaker 4** That illegal ballots. The Heritage Foundation apparently got $200 from the audit that was done and published them as to all ballots that were not voted legally. Most of them were felons who were given this information at the polls that they could vote. Of all the ones that they listed, every single name it lists why they couldn't vote. And zero of them were illegal aliens.

[00:16:48] **Speaker 1** Yeah. So, yeah. So you're talking about the fraud, right? Yeah, I was talking about ballots and I was like, I don't know how you get that, but. Right. And those reports are on the commission's website. And it's like I said, over the years, there's been it's ridiculously low the amount of fraud that's there and a majority of it, if you look at these reports, it's it's people trying to vote twice and they think they can get away with it and they don't understand the system and, you know, they get caught.

[00:17:11] **Speaker 3** So a couple of new questions came at the very end. Good job. Even when my phone is slow in updating and I kind of merge these two together. And either more on the technical aspect, if you vote by absentee ballot, how do they know they're a U.S. citizen and how do they know if they're in the if they show a fake I.D.? And are they now required to have a birth certificate to vote? So what are the technicalities?

[00:17:32] **Speaker 1** When someone registers, you're not required to show birth certificate when you register. So in order for someone to receive an absentee ballot, they have to be registered to vote first. There's an exception for military and overseas voters, but they have to register to vote before we're even going to accept your absentee ballot request. So again, you're filling out that registration form your attesting that you're a U.S. citizen, that you're 18 years of age. You've been at that voting district for 28 days and that you're not currently serving a felony sentence. Once the clerk gets that information, they're going to see your proof of residency that's required. And then if you request an absentee ballot, you have to show your proof of residency. That means you're submitting a copy of your driver's license or your state I.D. or your passport, whatever it is that you're showing for acceptable photo I.D. So that's the process that's put in place before we send out absentee as we just don't get emails and sounds like your absentee ballot and we send it out like there's a whole process that goes in place to make sure the voter's registered with the database, shows us if they have a photo I.D. on file, the copy of that photo I.D. is there. So it's a very lengthy process before we're going to send a ballot.

[00:18:34] **Speaker 5** Ginny, is there still a problem with student I.D.s qualifying for registration purposes?

[00:18:39] **Speaker 1** Yeah. The campuses, the student ID qualifies if it has certain things on it. I'm not up to par on what those are. Nikki, our city clerk, is amazing with that, and she has all that taken care of. Make sure that college kids are able to vote the way they need to. The voting.

[00:18:54] **Speaker 6** Rules.

[00:18:55] **Speaker 1** And all all polling books that we get requests all the time after the elections. You can even go to the commission's website. It's Badger voter.gov and you want to request a list of everyone that voted in certain elections. Anyone that voted, you know, the August elections or the April elections. So you can request that information. You can see exactly who voted in which elections. On top of all that. If you question it, go to the polls and be an observer. If you feel someone's going there, that's not a citizen or someone that you know has a felon. Go to the polls and be an observer. If you see that happening, pointed out your chief inspector, they can challenge that voter and we can go through the process of challenging it to confirm if they're U.S. citizen or not or confirm that they're on the felony list or not. So there's processes in place if someone wants to question it. Just. You have to get involved. You can't sit back and say, well, this happened in this happen, this happened. Well, if that happened, get involved and bring it up. Pointed out the B involved. We can't stress that enough with these elections now.

[00:19:51] **Speaker 3** So there there is an interstate system that exists for clergy to communicate between states to confirm when someone who is between states. Correct.

[00:20:00] **Speaker 1** I believe you're referring to the Electronic Registration Information Center. I'm looking at my deputies. It's very let's call it.

[00:20:09] **Speaker 3** So since 2020, one of the things that's happened is that there have been a number of Republican led states that have left that system. There's actually a lawsuit just recently filed in Wisconsin by a former member, Republican in the assembly to have Wisconsin leave that system. What how do you rely on, Erick, and what would be the impact if Wisconsin didn't have a system that was set up and designed to help catch some of these issues if people were voting in multiple states?

[00:20:36] **Speaker 1** Yeah, I know. We've seen that there was that lawsuit filed. But there's also a state law that requires us to be part of Eric. Eric is a system where we use that. If someone moves to other state and they register to vote, it alerts us. If they use the D.O.C., they use the D.O.T., the DMV, Postal Service. So if you go anywhere and it looks like you've changed your address, you know, we get the alerts back, we send mail postcards out saying, Hey, it looks like you may have registered in another state or another principalities is correct. Yes or no? When we first signed up with Eric, a lot of it was when parents would send their kids off to college in Madison and they would register the car down there. Well, we'd get the alert that, hey, you registered a car in Madison, did you move? And it's like, well, no, we just took our kids to school and we registered the card so it'd be legal down there. So would there be would it complicate when we check our voter rolls with other states to see if people are voting in multiple states? It potentially could. The elections commission is the one who really oversees the Eric and they know all the ins and outs about it. And we see the other side of it when we get the alerts. So I don't I don't want to misspeak on everything that Eric does or doesn't do because I'm just not that familiar with that side of it.

[00:21:52] **Speaker 3** I'd like to wrap up this this evening with each of you answer the same question. And that would be, what can people in this audience do or anyone watching tonight when they're talking to a neighbor, when they're talking to their friend? Reed talked about the importance of talking to neighbors and the trust there. If they still have some doubts about the integrity of Wisconsin elections, what's the simplest message? Without getting into Tabulators and Eric and lawsuits, what is the message that you would ask them to convey?

[00:22:21] **Speaker 6** Well, I just say that if people have doubts, they should learn more about the system and how it actually works. And there it is. No human system is going to be perfect. But people have worked on elections for a couple of hundred years now here in the United States, and they've tried their very best because one time you're in, you're in charge, the next time you're the other party's in charge and you want to have the election fair so that you can continue having elections. And, you know, I think learning more about how it works is.

[00:23:00] **Speaker 3** What I would tell.

[00:23:04] **Speaker 1** I go back to what I've said a few times, I get involved. If you're doubting or questioning what's happening in the polls on Election Day. Get involved. Go to the polls, be a poll worker. We're going to do poll worker training in the next couple of weeks to get people ready for the polls. And then if that doesn't do it, call me. I have never turned down a call from a citizen who had questions on how elections work after the 2020 election. I spent days and days on the phone with voters just wanting to know how does the system work? And what I'm very happy about and I will spend all the time I can to help you understand how the system works. So when you understand it, you can share it with your neighbors and your friends. And as a community, we win when we have the right information out there. But get involved. And if you don't want to get involved, then call the people who know what's going on. That's just me as your county clerk. That's your municipal court, That's your poll workers. They're the ones that are on the front line of these elections and they can answer these questions for you.

[00:24:02] **Speaker 2** I would just say that embedded deep in the heart of Americans is a great deal of love for this Republican system of government that we have, and that is we've had elections for over 200 plus years. And the the actual amount of fraud is remarkably tiny, given that hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of millions of votes that have been cast over all those times. It's tiny. And that that tells me that the American people, at the very core of who they are, they they want it done right. They don't cheat. They they they take their civic duty responsibly. They vote and they go home and they wait for the results to be tabulated and and and put out there. And it's just it is for me, it's just so refreshing. Election Day And as a as a as a former candidate, I would just say members of Congress are most fearful the day before an election and the most courageous the day after. But but it's because it's because our great system has taken the power away from fraud and and read it to you and given it to you. And that is something almost magical.

[00:25:20] **Speaker 5** Well, did all that stuff to follow up on. And it really is. But yeah, I think educating yourselves a little bit more about the checks and balances, the safeguards that are put in place that work very, very well. It's an honor to be on the stage with Jenny and your team and what you do every election cycle. We ask you to do a lot. You deserve our encouragement, support and respect for what you do. And it's an honor to be able to be up here with my two former favorite members of Congress with a chance to serve Tim and Reid and have this discussion with all of you. And I think this discussion needs to be taking place throughout the country today, given the perils that we face. And I go back to my original point. The Constitution really does put the power in the hands of us, the citizens of this country. And there's a dual responsibility with that, not only to get out and participate and to vote and to let our voices be heard, but also a responsibility, I would submit, to accept the results of those elections and to accept the peaceful transfer of power. I mean, America's great strength. They came to learn as a member of Congress traveling overseas and listening to other people is in our mighty economy, our military force. It's the example we set with the peaceful transfer of power, which most people around the world are proud of, that were able to do this during the election cycle. And we're losing a little bit of that each day right now. And once we lose it, it's going to be awfully tough to get it back if these seeds of distrust are continued to be allowed to grow and to fester out there. We're going to see more repeats of January 6th, I fear. And I think that's really one of the things that's on the ballot this fall.

[00:27:00] **Speaker 3** All right. That is our time. You do have another QR code if you are so inclined to give us a survey, give us a little feedback on how we did tonight. But I want to thank all of you for being here and sitting patiently and your wonderful questions and mastering how to send it into my phone so we could master that. And I want to thank everyone here in the stage and four members of Congress, the congressional study groups. Ginny, thank you for your expertise. That really helps for the rest of us who aren't experts in that capacity. But to infiltrate, read, report kind. Let's give them a hand.

[00:27:37] **Unidentified** Thank you for make us.

[00:27:47] **Speaker 2** That's.

[00:27:51] **Speaker 3** I know that.

[00:28:13] **Speaker 4** It's so great.

[00:28:20] **Speaker 2** Hey. Wow. Are you.

[00:28:42] **Unidentified** Because we want to.