

Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

April 8, 2022

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

I am vetoing Senate Bill 941 in its entirety.

This bill would create legislative oversight over the application of federal election guidance, prohibit the Elections Commission from acting pursuant to federal guidance without legislative approval, would require partisan legal representation at the Elections Commission, and would exempt legal counsel from the standard requirement that staff does not contribute to partisan candidates.


The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy; it should not be subject to the whim of politicians who do not like the outcome of an election. Elected officials should not be able to abuse their power to cheat or control the outcomes of our elections or to prevent eligible voters from casting their ballots. This legislation is among many that have been sent to my desk during this legislative session, each passed under the guise of needing to reform our election system because elected officials in this state have enabled disinformation about our elections and election processes. I have and will object to each and every effort by this Legislature and its members to undermine our democracy, to erode confidence in our elections, and to demean and harass dedicated clerks, election administrators, and poll workers.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature's attempt to grant itself unchecked, potentially unconstitutional interference in federal guidance regarding elections. Lower units of government must adhere to federal law and guidance when implementing federal laws. This bill creates a system by which a single legislative committee could decide whether or not to accept federal guidance. It is absurd to think a single legislative committee should have a role in deciding whether or not to implement federal rules or guidance.

I also object to the creation of the requirement that legal counsel for the Elections Commission be partisan and exempt from political contribution prohibitions. Rather than increasing the partisanship at the Elections Commission, it is wise to continue to require staff to be nonpartisan so that they can focus on effective administration and not take into account what legal interpretation might be more beneficial for their respective political parties.

The bill provides the legislative branch with inappropriate influence over election administration and injects more partisanship into the Elections Commission, which has tried to administer elections as fairly and in as nonpartisan a way as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


Tony Evers
Governor