

Responsive GOV ACTION

January 27, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 304 / Assembly Bill 312

We write in support of Senate Bill 304 as amended by proposed Senate Substitute Amendment 1. (This proposed Amendment is the same as AB 312, which passed the Assembly in November.) Responsive Gov Action is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to finding practical policy solutions that make government systems more efficient, accessible, and responsive.

SB 304 is a smart, practical policy designed to make voting more accessible and bolster election security, thereby making government more responsive to those it serves.

SB 304 bolsters the security of Wisconsin's elections by establishing an election security grant program that will allow counties and municipalities to pay for important election security upgrades. Once funded, these grants will help election officials continue the critical work of ensuring Wisconsin's elections run smoothly. The grants will also help counties and municipalities strengthen critical cybersecurity infrastructure to keep Wisconsin's elections free and fair.

Wisconsin's municipal and county clerks work tirelessly to facilitate our democratic system of government. But these election administrators face incredible challenges and a greater array of security threats today than ever before. Although the federal government shares with state and local governments the responsibility to fund safe and secure elections, Congress has recently provided inconsistent and declining funding to meet these requirements. SB 304's grants program will help fill these funding gaps.

SB 304 also makes elections more accessible by increasing the minimum number of required early absentee voting hours across Wisconsin. And it does so in a practical way—by creating tiered requirements across municipalities based on population, reimbursing municipalities for these increases, and allowing municipalities to pool resources to meet the new requirements.

These commonsense reforms will strengthen our democratic processes by making voting more accessible and bolstering election security. We thank you for your efforts on behalf of this important legislation.