



Cavalier Johnson
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

September 27, 2022

Representative Janel Brandtjen
Rep.Brandtjen@legis.wisconsin.gov

Dear Representative Brandtjen:

This letter is in response to your public records request dated September 14, 2022 in which you requested certain records pursuant to the provisions of the Wisconsin Public Records Law Wis. Stat. § 19.31-39. You requested the following records:

“I am requesting any communications including, but not limited to, emails and attachments, both sent and received; text messages; messages and materials exchanged or viewed through online applications; any other correspondence, internal and external; and all other records, including both physical and electronic, between any person in the City of Milwaukee Mayor’s Office and any person associated with the initiative Milwaukee Votes 2022.”

The Mayor’s Office conducted a search of the email accounts of all staff in the Mayor’s Office, using the search term “Milwaukee Votes 2022,” over the time period you referenced, and we have checked with all staff with regard to other correspondences or text messages, for any communication with any person associated with Milwaukee Votes 2022, to the extent the identities of those individuals are known. The records responsive to your request that were located are attached to this correspondence.

Please note that there may be individuals associated with Milwaukee Votes 2022 that we are not aware of. Consequently, to the extent that there are any specific names or email addresses you know of that are associated with Milwaukee Votes 2022, whose communications you would also like us to search for, just let us know.

Please also note that there was a nonpartisan initiative announced in May of 2022 that was initially called Milwaukee Votes (no 2022), that was later renamed Wisconsin Votes.

A lawyer representing the Republican Party of Wisconsin has also filed a public records request with the Mayor's Office, and has asked for copies of communications not only between anyone in the Mayor's Office and anyone associated with Milwaukee Votes 2022, but also copies of communications between anyone in the Mayor's Office and anyone associated with either Milwaukee Votes or Wisconsin Votes. We are currently processing his request. If you would like copies of these communications as well, once these additional records have been located and reviewed, please let us know.

If you have any additional questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (414) 286-2200.

Sincerely,

A. Peterson

Alexis Peterson
Office of the Mayor

Doll, Patty

From: Fleming, Jeff
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 3:31 PM
To: Sachin Chheda
Subject: FW: Statement from the Milwaukee Mayor's Office

From: Fleming, Jeff
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2022 3:25 PM
To: matt.Wall@fox.com
Subject: Statement from the Milwaukee Mayor's Office

The city is neither receiving nor providing any funds related to the work of "Milwaukee Votes 2022." The group is privately funded, not-for-profit and non-partisan. The association with "Milwaukee Votes 2022" is limited to the Mayor voicing support for the work – which includes door-to-door canvassing – to encourage all eligible voters to vote in upcoming elections.

Jeff Fleming
Communications Director
Office of Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson
414-286-8580
414-559-2497

Doll, Patty

From: Dirr, Alison <adirr@jrn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:46 PM
To: Fleming, Jeff; Melissa Baldauff; Woodall-Vogg, Claire
Subject: RE: For Immediate Release: Joint statement MKE Votes 2022

Thanks much.

From: Fleming, Jeff <Jeff.Fleming2@milwaukee.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 4:42 PM
To: Dirr, Alison <adirr@jrn.com>; Melissa Baldauff <melissa@gpsimpact.com>; Woodall-Vogg, Claire <cwooda@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: RE: For Immediate Release: Joint statement MKE Votes 2022

Here's a statement from me:

Milwaukee Votes 2022 is not an entity itself. It is a name under which a range of supporters – business associations, not-for profits, and other civic-minded individuals encourage voter participation. The city of Milwaukee neither receives nor provides money for these efforts. All the work is nonpartisan; none of the efforts support individual candidates or causes.

The Mayor wants all eligible Milwaukee residents to cast ballots in upcoming elections. He supports democracy, and he wants voices in Milwaukee to be heard.

From: Dirr, Alison <adirr@jrn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 3:44 PM
To: Fleming, Jeff <Jeff.Fleming2@milwaukee.gov>; Melissa Baldauff <melissa@gpsimpact.com>; Woodall-Vogg, Claire <cwooda@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: FW: For Immediate Release: Joint statement MKE Votes 2022

Hi Jeff, Melissa and Claire –

Do any of you have any comment on this? Also, are you able to tell me specifically who is funding the Milwaukee Votes 2022 campaign?

Thanks,
Alison

From: Spicuzza, Mary <mary.spicuzza@jrn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 3:24 PM
To: Dirr, Alison <adirr@jrn.com>
Subject: Fw: For Immediate Release: Joint statement MKE Votes 2022

From: Rep.Vos <Rep.Vos@legis.wisconsin.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 3:16 PM
Subject: For Immediate Release: Joint statement MKE Votes 2022

Republicans Demand the City of Milwaukee Cease in Highly Partisan Voting Activities

Madison... Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester), Speaker Pro Tempore Tyler August (R-Lake Geneva), Assistant Majority Leader Kevin Petersen (R-Waupaca), and Wisconsin Elections Commission member Don Millis released the following statement regarding “Milwaukee Votes 2022” door-to-door canvassing.

“We are demanding that the City of Milwaukee immediately cease assisting a privately-funded, liberal group in their efforts to only engage with and turn out certain voters. Public resources should not be used for Get Out the Vote (GOTV) drives that inherently favor one party or candidate over another.

“The City of Milwaukee’s promotion and coordination of potentially illegal activities under the guise of canvassing is why Wisconsin voters have lost confidence in our elections. It is inappropriate for any municipality to support a GOTV campaign.

“Democrats continue to allow suspicious activity and highly partisan groups to meddle in our elections. Milwaukee Votes 2022 is essentially Zuckerbucks 2.0. This must stop now.”

Speaker Robin Vos and Senator Duey Strobel have submitted an open records request for all communications with the City of Milwaukee and partisan Democratic out-of-state group called “GPS Impact” or any other group coordinating these efforts in Wisconsin.

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The City of Milwaukee is subject to Wisconsin Statutes related to public records. Unless otherwise exempted from the public records law, senders and receivers of City of Milwaukee e-mail should presume that e-mail is subject to release upon request, and is subject to state records retention requirements. See City of Milwaukee full e-mail disclaimer at www.milwaukee.gov/email_disclaimer



16ED4039-05BF-48CB-B9C8-B025EF509919.jpeg



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3:08

5G

Photo

Done

Wanted to let you guys know we have been approved for a \$1 million grant from the Center for Secure & Modern Elections. The money is coming to the High Ground Institute to support the nonpartisan Milwaukee Votes 2022 Canvass as we discussed. We should set up a meeting next week to give you guys the full update.



09.02.2022 Message from Sachin Cheda
to Jim Bohz & Mayor Johnson

9-12-22 Screenshot Message Exchange with Sac...

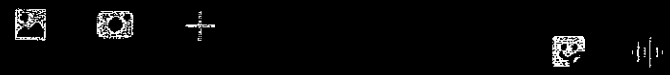
Sachin Chheda

Getting multiple media requests on where the \$\$ \$ is coming from for canvassing and outreach. Do you have a suggested answer?

Private donors
And foundations.

Alison Durr will press for more. Are there names I can give her?

You can direct her to Melissa



(12A2)

09.12.22 Message between Jeff Fleming & SACHIN CHHEDA



9-12-22 Screenshot Message Exchange with Sac...



3:53 PM

9:12z



Sachin Chheda



Alison Durr will press for more. Are there names I can give her?



You can direct her to Melissa.



Melissa is the spokesperson for Milwaukee Votes 2022. They must have an answer?



Actually hold on. Can we just sit tight for an hour and then get back to folks?



(2 of 2)



9:35

LTE

< 239



Sachin

Wednesday 11:49 AM

Any update on whether you got these questions at the art museum?

Hey Sachin. Yes, they did ask about Milwaukee Votes 2022. I said that it is:

- nonpartisan
- an initiative that we spoke about going back to May
- encourages ALL voters to be in engaged regardless of party
- isn't much different than the activity that we see before elections — just turn on your television and you'll see private dollars expended to encourage voters

I also said that Milwaukee probably has more raw republican voters than and other city and I'd imagine that their candidates for statewide office probably want voters engaged too.

Also said that the city didn't accept these dollars like before and it's not running through the city either.

09.14.22 Message between SACHIN CHEDA & MAYOR JOHNSON