
Office of the City Clerk
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Official Statement

After consulting with numerous City officials and reviewing best practices, the City Clerk started the process of providing an absentee ballot drop box, located in front of City Hall. The box was not yet functional: it was locked and clearly labeled, "Kiosk Closed." Since the drop box was closed and locked, no ballots could be accepted. The box was re-labeled on Friday to properly label the box as an "Official Drop Box" to eventually be able to collect payments, ballots, and other important city requests. Once re-labeled, it was the intention of the Clerk's Office to secure the drop box to the ground and then begin accepting absentee ballots.

When City staff went to secure the drop box and open it for collection on Monday morning, it was reported that the drop box had been removed. Again, the drop box was locked and did not have any ballots, payments, or other documents inside.

I reported an election irregularity to the Marathon County District Attorney and the Wisconsin Elections Commission under Wis. Stat. § 7.15(1)(g).

Since this matter has been referred for investigation, the ballot drop box that was originally designated for use is not currently available. Existing video surveillance is not being released at this time to not compromise any potential investigations. At this time, eligible voters who wish to return their absentee ballot to the City Clerk can securely return their own ballot in the silver Payment Box in front of City Hall.