

Congress of the United States

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 20, 2024

Mayor Cavalier Johnson
City Hall
200 East Wells Street, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Johnson,

We write to you about the events that transpired on November 5, 2024, in the Central Count of the City of Milwaukee. Our inquiry stems from Wisconsinites' many questions and concerns that remain unanswered about how the City of Milwaukee conducted the Central Count.

As you are aware, an election observer at the Central Count identifies that the doors covering on-off switches on some of the vote tabulation machines were not properly closed, prompting the City of Milwaukee to zero out the machines and restart processing of approximately 31,000 absentee ballots.¹ After learning this news, Senator Johnson traveled to the Central Count and registered as an election observer.² During his visit, Senator Johnson observed a room in the Baird Center that was behind a curtain, obstructed from election observers' view. He also observed processing tables unoccupied by any personnel.

Wisconsinites deserve to know our elections are conducted with the highest integrity, full transparency, and free from political bias. As a perennial battleground state, Wisconsin elections are always in the national spotlight, which further increases the need for transparency and integrity.

To provide this transparency, we respectfully request the following information:

- 1) The official timeline of when the City of Milwaukee published results;
- 2) The exact times of the presence of Milwaukee Election Commission Executive Director Paulina Gutierrez at the Baird Center on November 5, 2024;
- 3) A description and explanation of the security lapses of machines at the Central Count, including the names and positions of staff responsible for securing the machines;

¹ Vanessa Swales and Alison Dirr, *Milwaukee rerunning more than 30,000 absentee ballots over error, delaying results*, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL, Nov. 5, 2024, available at <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/11/05/milwaukee-rerunning-more-than-30000-ballots-over-machine-error/76078233007/>.

² Jeramey Jannene, *Sen. Ron Johnson Appears at Milwaukee's Central Count, Calls It "Unbelievably Sloppy"*, URBAN MILWAUKEE, Nov. 5, 2024, available at <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2024/11/05/sen-ron-johnson-appears-at-milwaukees-central-count-calls-it-unbelievably-sloppy/>.

- 4) A description of the protocols taken by the City of Milwaukee in preparation for the Central Count and any deviations in these protocols from those in previous years;
- 5) An explanation for the room observed by Senator Johnson in the Baird Center that was beyond the curtain and completely obstructed from observers' view;
- 6) The exact count on each tabulator before the City of Milwaukee zeroed out each one;
- 7) The exact number of ballots retabulated, together with the original tabulated results and the results that were submitted in the final count for those exact same ballots; and
- 8) The number of individuals who worked at Central Count on November 5, 2024, and an explanation for Senator Johnson's observation of unoccupied processing tables at Central Count.

Please provide your response to our request as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 3, 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Bryan Steil
United States Congressman