



Election Commission

Commissioners  
Stephanie Findley  
David H. Redemann  
Robert F. Spindell, Jr.

Executive Director  
Neil V. Albrecht

October 10, 2014

County Executive Chris Abele  
901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 306  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear County Executive Abele:

I am writing to offer our full support of the initiative included in Milwaukee County's 2015 budget to establish uniform voting equipment among Milwaukee County municipalities.

The benefits of this initiative are significant and mirror comparable strategies used in other counties to reduce rapidly escalating voting equipment and programming costs.

Through the establishment of uniform voting equipment, municipalities will be able to share technology, information and resources. Uniform voting equipment will also allow Milwaukee County and municipalities to pursue a much more cost-effective approach to programming voting equipment versus the current very costly system of outsourcing programming to multiple vendors.

Recognizing that municipalities within Milwaukee County are currently using different models of voting equipment, including some equipment that has been recently purchased, the City of Milwaukee applauds the incentive proposed by Milwaukee County to encourage all municipalities to purchase the same equipment at the same time. While this presents an upfront expense to the county, the potential equipment programming cost-savings over the 10-12 year lifespan of the equipment far supersedes the initial investment.

Technology related to elections is rapidly changing and it will be the most productive to all involved to approach these changes in a spirit of collaboration and intergovernmental cooperation.

Given the long term cost-savings, resource sharing and opportunity to increase other efficiencies, the City of Milwaukee Election Commission strongly encourages support of the uniform voting equipment initiative.

Sincerely,

Neil Albrecht  
Executive Director

