

MADISON COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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January 18, 2020

Honorable Shelia Jones
Madison County Supervisor District 1
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Honorable Karl M. Banks
Madison County Supervisor District 4
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Honorable Trey Baxter
Madison County Supervisor District 2
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Honorable Paul Griffin
Madison County Supervisor District 5
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Honorable Gerald Steen
Madison County Supervisor District 3
Post Office Box 608
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Re: Access to all County Voting Precincts for
February 15, 2020 Madison County Democratic Precinct Caucuses

Dear President and Board Members:

Thank you for your dedicated service to Madison County. The Madison County Democratic Precinct Caucuses have been scheduled to be conducted on February 15, 2020 in Madison County and statewide. From the people elected as delegates at the precinct caucuses, the individuals who will compose the Madison County Democratic Executive Committee for the next four years with the anticipated responsibility of conducting primary elections during that time will be chosen at the county convention in March 2020. Likewise, from the individuals elected as delegates at the precinct caucuses, people will be elected as delegates some of which will be elected to serve on the State Democratic Executive Committee for the next four years and some of which will be elected as delegates to the Democratic National Convention to be held later this year. I humbly submit to you that this is an important process.

With that in mind, the Madison County Democratic Executive Committee is requesting that the Madison County Board of Supervisors provide notice to each precinct, at which county wide elections are currently held, that the democratic precinct caucuses will be held on February 15, 2020 at 10:00a.m. until 11:00a.m. at all precincts in Madison County and that we request access to the inside of the precincts at 9:30 a.m. to have a few minutes to organize a few papers

and to get set for the caucus.

It is true that the Madison County DEC could attempt to contact the appropriate individual associated with each precinct with the authority to provide access and make this request, if we knew the identity of the person. However, this request would likely resonate more loudly, clearly and probably be more favorably received if it came from this body.

Four years ago, there were many precincts which simply did not cooperate fully with the efforts made by the committee to plan for the caucuses in Madison County. Some precinct representatives said that they did not know in time to make arrangements to have someone at the precinct on a Saturday, but they were quite nice about it. At one precinct in particular (which was contacted prior to the caucus by the caucus temporary chair), caucus participants were invited into the church facility by someone with authority to do so, only to be asked to leave by the pastor of the church. Coincidentally, there were two marked police cars parked outside that precinct moments before the caucus was to start. Nevertheless, that particular caucus was completed and those delegates proceeded in the process. It is believed that the location of that precinct has since changed. There was at least one other instance of people participating in the caucuses and reporting that they were treated rudely on the premises where the caucus took place.

The purpose of this correspondence is not to point fingers or to complain, but to create an opportunity to fine tune this undertaking and to request your assistance as previously stated in the proceeding paragraphs. We are asking for your understanding and assistance in this activity which is closely related and an important part of the election process in this County.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to inform if you have any questions or need anything further.

Very truly yours,

Howard R. Brown
Howard Brown, Chair