

DANE COUNTY CLERK

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Dane County Clerk McDonell Statement on Drop Boxes

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MADISON, Wis. - Today the Wisconsin Supreme Court voted 4-3 in *Priorities v WEC* to reverse a 2022 ban on using drop boxes as a permitted manner for returning ballots. Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell issued the following statement in response to the court's decision.

"Secure drop boxes provide a convenient alternative to mailing absentee ballots or returning them in person to an elections clerk," said McDonell. "Drop boxes are a common sense tool that Dane County utilized safely and securely for many years prior to the 2022 ban."

He noted that drop boxes are particularly helpful in rural communities and for voters with disabilities. Clerks process ballots returned by drop box the same way they would process a ballot returned by mail, but drop boxes help avoid ballots arriving in the mail after Election Day, too late to be counted, a problem that increased after the 2022 drop-box ban.

"Having drop boxes in place for the 2024 elections in August and November will encourage civic participation in our democracy," McDonell added. "And regardless of how you choose to cast and return your ballot, I urge everyone to make a plan to vote."

Partisan primary Election Day, which includes two Wisconsin constitutional amendment referendum questions and, in Dane County, a primary for the office of county executive, is on the Aug. 13, 2024 ballot.