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VILLAGE PURGES 130 INACTIVE VOTERS BEFORE APRIL ELECTION

Efficiency and effectiveness on Election Day noticed by voters and polling staff

Richfield, WI...In the days leading up to the April 2nd election, one community made statewide headlines for being the only municipality in Wisconsin to attempt to follow State Statutes regarding ‘voter record maintenance’. The Village of Richfield, working directly with Mr. Michael Haas of the Government Accountability Board (GAB), successfully purged a portion its voter rolls of inactive voters who have not cast a ballot in the last four (4) years or longer. On the heels of reporting the final election results to the Washington County Clerk, the Village is pleased to report that it was able to eliminate approximately 130 of these inactive voters and the number is growing by the day as “undeliverable” postcards are slowly being returned to Village Hall. Of the nearly 400 postcards that were distributed, roughly one-third were returned and processed ahead of the election.

While some residents questioned why Village Staff would be working so hard to carry out a job duty which in recent years has been handled exclusively by the GAB, Village Clerk Joshua Schoemann simply replied ‘we did it because State Statutes mandate this duty be completed by the municipal clerk. Once we were informed that the GAB would not be performing the voter record maintenance within the required timeframe we moved quickly to bring our community into compliance, regardless of what any other community in the State was doing. To us, the minimal cost of \$261.00 to send out the postcards was a small price to pay to have the most accurate poll list possible’.

The remaining individuals in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) will officially be purged on Monday, April 22nd pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes said Deputy Clerk Caroline Fochs. She went on to say, ‘the overwhelming feedback we received as Village Staff at our polling place was pretty amazing. Very rarely do we get such an outpouring of community support for simply following the law and doing our job’ she joked.

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