

HELLO, I'M MIKE GABLEMAN, THE WISCONSIN SPECIAL COUNSEL. RECENTLY, THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL BEGAN ISSUING SUBPOENAS TO MAYORS, CITY CLERKS, AND STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS AS PART OF OUR ONGOING EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT FUTURE ELECTIONS ARE TRANSPARENT, INCLUSIVE, AND ACCOUNTABLE.

IN ORDER TO FACILITATE FASTER RESPONSES AND ADDRESS CONCERNS THAT THE TERMS OF THOSE SUBPOENAS WERE TOO BURDENSOME, WE OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROCEED INFORMALLY AS LONG AS PUBLIC OFFICIALS WERE WILLING TO COOPERATE IN GOOD FAITH. WE IDENTIFIED A MORE LIMITED RANGE OF DOCUMENTS THAT WE WOULD ACCEPT AS A STARTING POINT, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WOULD BE PROVIDED ON A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIMELINE. WE OFFERED MAYORS AND CITY CLERKS A REPRIEVE ON THE TIMING OF THEIR INTERVIEWS IN ORDER TO GIVE THEM MORE TIME TO PREPARE, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE THEM TO PROVIDE MORE THOROUGH AND RELEVANT INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONS WE ARE ASKING ON BEHALF OF STATE LAWMAKERS AND THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN.

IN CASES WHERE PUBLIC OFFICIALS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH US, WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO EXERCISE THE POWER GRANTED TO US BY THE STATE ASSEMBLY TO COMPEL THEM TO TESTIFY AND PRODUCE THE DOCUMENTS THIS OFFICE HAS REQUESTED.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO REITERATE THAT THIS SHOULD NOT BE AN ADVERSARIAL PROCESS. THE STATE ASSEMBLY IS TASKED WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY TO MANAGE ELECTIONS, AND THOSE APPOINTED OR ELECTED TO RUN OUR ELECTIONS HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ANSWER QUESTIONS POSED TO THEM BY THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, WHICH IS REPRESENTING THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY AND THE PEOPLE OF WISCONSIN. SUCH TRANSPARENCY IS THE HALLMARK OF A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT, AND WE ARE ACTING TO KEEP IT SO.

THE LAW DOES NOT EMPOWER THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO ENGAGE IN ANY KIND OF PROSECUTION. THE LAW ALSO EXTENDS IMMUNITY TO THOSE WHO ARE COMPELLED TO RESPOND TO OUR SUBPOENAS. THIS IS WISE, BECAUSE IT PREVENTS PUBLIC OFFICIALS FROM "PLEADING THE FIFTH" IN ORDER TO AVOID PROVIDING INFORMATION OR GIVING TESTIMONY RELEVANT TO THIS INVESTIGATION. IN THAT SENSE, IT SERVES AS AN ASSURANCE OF THE