The last few years has seen an unprecedented attack on our democracy. Threats to our election officials. Easily debunked conspiracy theories. Lies intended to overthrow our rightfully elected representatives. The assault on our Capitol. Unfortunately, it is unlikely any of these threats to our democracy will end any time soon.

This guide has important statutory references that will help you manage situations that may arise on election day. Remember that the Chief Inspector is in charge of the polling place. Please work with that person who is vested with the integrity of the polling place and the chain of custody that my office needs to properly run our elections. When in doubt please contact the County Clerk’s Office and/or the Wisconsin Election Commission.

Scott McDonell
Dane County Clerk
Electioneering – 12.03 Campaigning Restricted

No person may engage in electioneering during polling place hours on election day at a polling place, at the municipal clerk’s office or at an alternate site during absentee ballots hours, or within 100ft of an entrance to a building containing a polling site; a qualified retirement home or care facility or on any public property within 100 feet of an entrance to a building containing the municipal clerk’s office or an alternate site under s.6.855
Any person who violates this section may be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both. § 12.60 Penalties (1)(b).

Posting and distribution of election–related material. 12.035 (1), (2), (3), (4), (5).

Election–related material means any written matter which describes, or purports to describe, the rights or responsibilities of individuals voting or registering to vote. Posting or distributing election–related material may mislead and confuse electors about their rights and responsibilities and tends to disrupt the flow of voting activities at such locations. No person may post or distribute any election–related material during polling hours on election day; during polling hours on any public property on election day within 100 feet of an entrance to a building containing a polling place; at the office of the municipal clerk or at an alternate site under s. 6.855 during hours that absentee ballots may be cast; during the hours that absentee ballots may be cast on any public property within 100 feet of an entrance to a building containing the office of the municipal clerk or an alternate site under s. 6.855.
Violators of 12.035 may be required to forfeit not more than $100. §12,60 Penalties. (1)(d)

Intimidation of Voters §12.09 (1)(2)(3)

Election threats. No person may personally or through an agent make use of or threaten to make use of force, violence, or restraint in order to induce or compel any person to vote or refrain from voting at an election.
Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class I felony §12.60 Penalties. (1)(a).

Election bribery Payment for Voting  12.11(1), (1m), (2), (3)

In this section, “anything of value” includes any amount of money, or any object which has utility independent of any political message it contains and the value of which exceeds $1. The prohibitions of this section apply to the distribution of material printed at public expense and available for free distribution if such materials are accompanied by a political message.
Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class I felony $ 12.60 Penalties (1)(a).

Tampering with Voting System 12.13 (3)(z) Election fraud. (1) Electors. Whoever intentionally does the following violates this chapter

(z) Tamper with automatic tabulating equipment or any record of votes cast or computer program which is to be used in connection with such equipment to count or recount votes at any election so as to prevent or attempt to prevent an accurate count of the votes from being obtained.
Any person who violates this section is guilty of a Class I felony § 12.60 Penalties. (1)(a).