

**2026 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**
WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

Three stars (blue, red, blue) are positioned below the text.

Your County Clerk: The Crucial Cog of the County

3:30 – 4:30 pm

YOUR COUNTY CLERK



THE CRUCIAL COG IN COUNTY GOVERNMENT



ANDREW MERCIL
DUNN COUNTY CLERK



KIM TRUEBLOOD
MARATHON COUNTY CLERK



LISA TOLLEFSON
ROCK COUNTY CLERK



TRENT MINER
WOOD COUNTY CLERK

E PLURIBUS (72) MOONUM

(OUT OF MANY, WE MOO)

- If you've seen one county, you've seen one county.
- We're all a little different.
- All County Clerks perform the same base duties. (W Stat § 59.23)
- **We matter – and we do a LOT.**



YOUR COUNTY CLERK

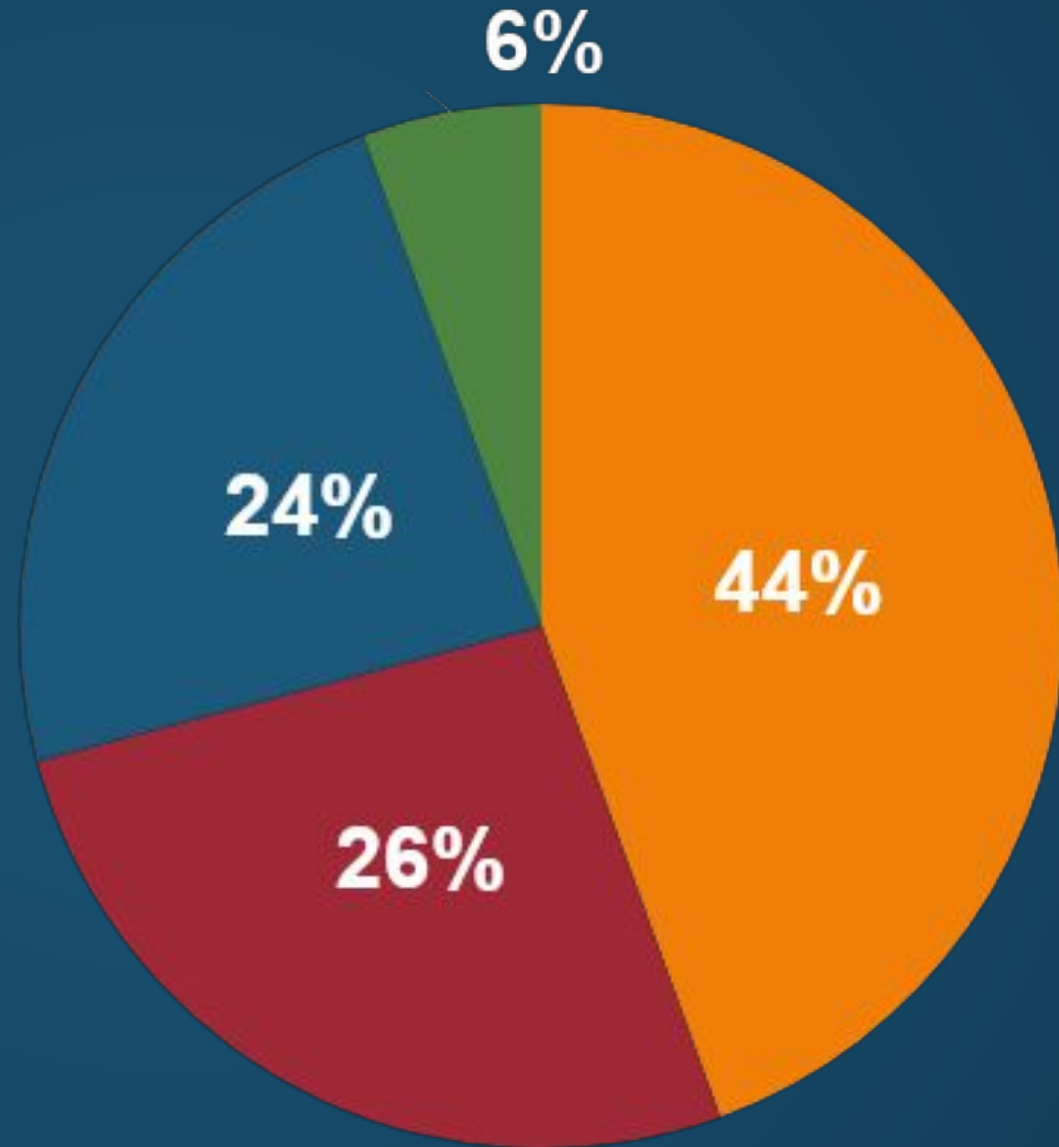
- Elected/Appointed to a 4-year term
- Partisan Constitutional Officers
- THE Election Administrator
- Report TO THE PEOPLE



YEARS OF SERVICE

Wisconsin County Clerks

■ 1-4 years ■ 5-10 years ■ 10-20 years ■ 20+ year

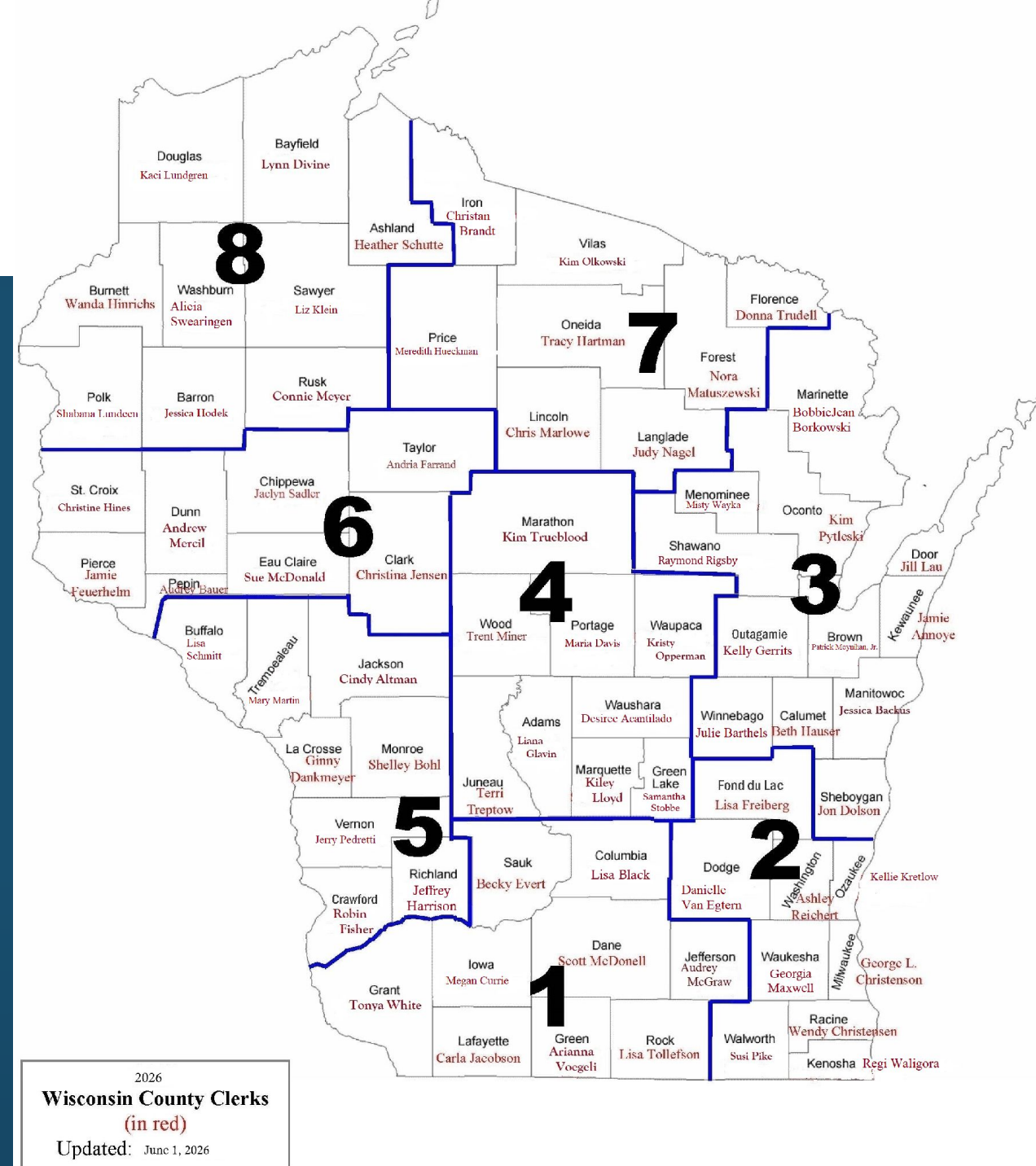


Shifting demographics are due to several factors, not the least of which are the lies, threats, and intimidation techniques used towards County Clerks in Wisconsin.

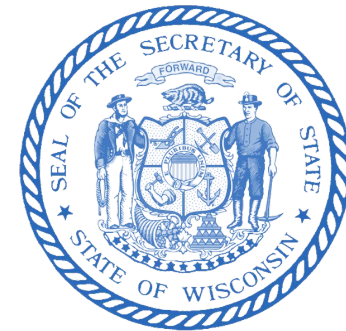


WISCONSIN COUNTY CLERKS ASSOCIATION

- Election training
- Leadership development
- Legislative work and advocacy
- Committees –
 - Communications
 - Compliance
 - Conference/Education
 - Elections
 - Intergovernmental Partnerships
 - Legislative
 - Member Engagement and Outreach Workgroup



PARTNERSHIPS



DUTIES OF YOUR COUNTY CLERK

Election
Administration

Licenses

Apportionment
of taxes

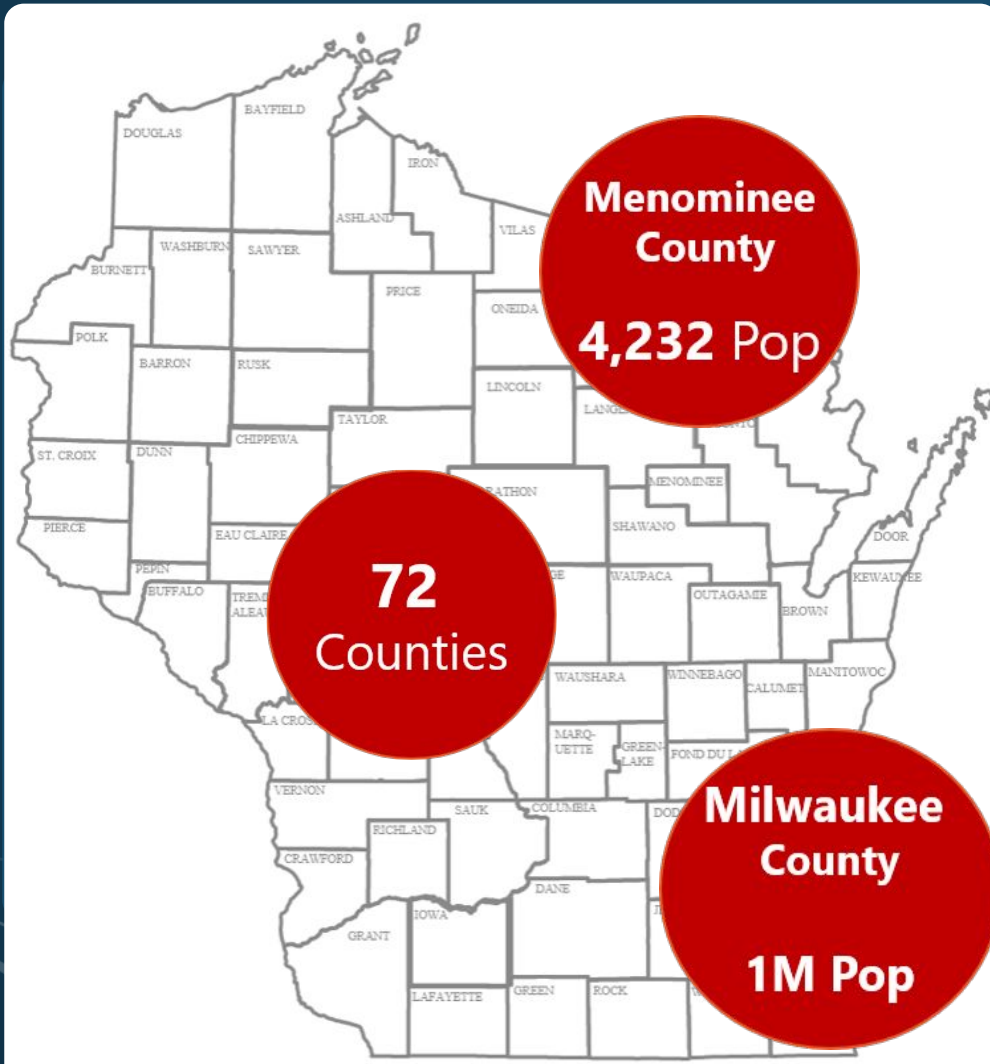
Board
Proceedings

Property
Owners

Seals/Signatures/
Oaths Keeper



ELECTION ADMINISTRATION FLEXES TO MATCH SIZE



If you have seen one county,
you've seen one county

Menominee – 1 municipality

Marathon – 61 municipalities

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

(6 appointed bipartisan Commissioners)

- 1) Administer Election
 - Evaluate nomination papers
 - Test & certify voting systems
 - Manage audits
- 2) Support Local Election Officials
 - Provide training & guidance
- 3) Voter Outreach
 - Educate the public
- 4) Maintain Voter & Election Data
 - Update & verify voter registration list daily, store data



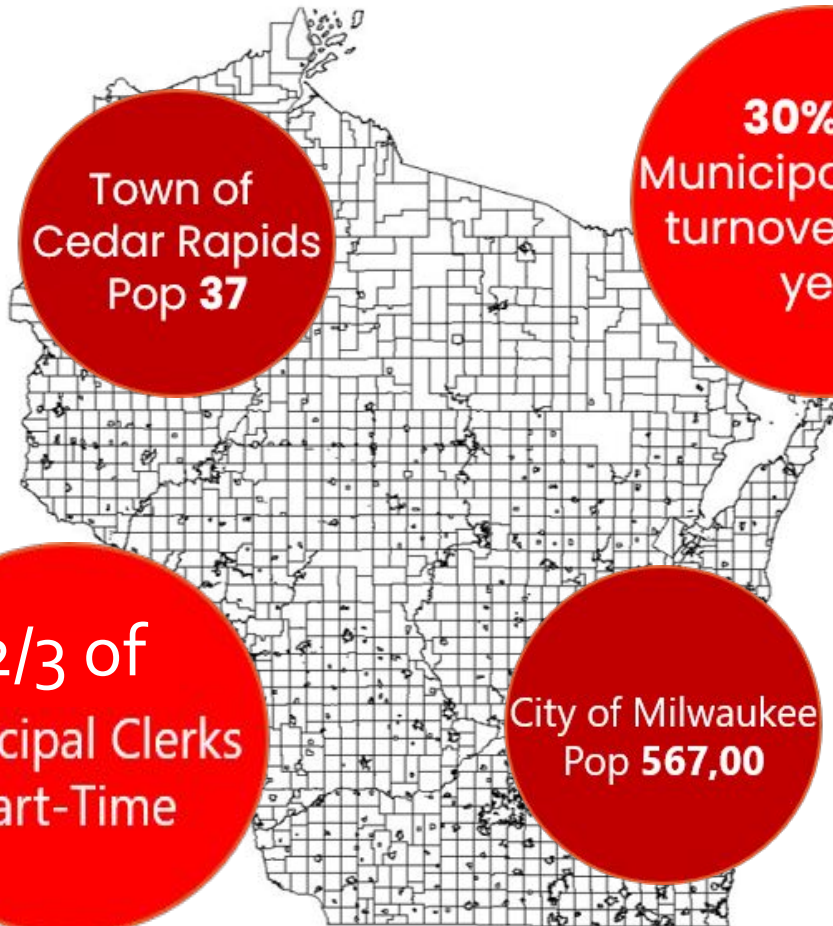
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER OF THE COUNTY

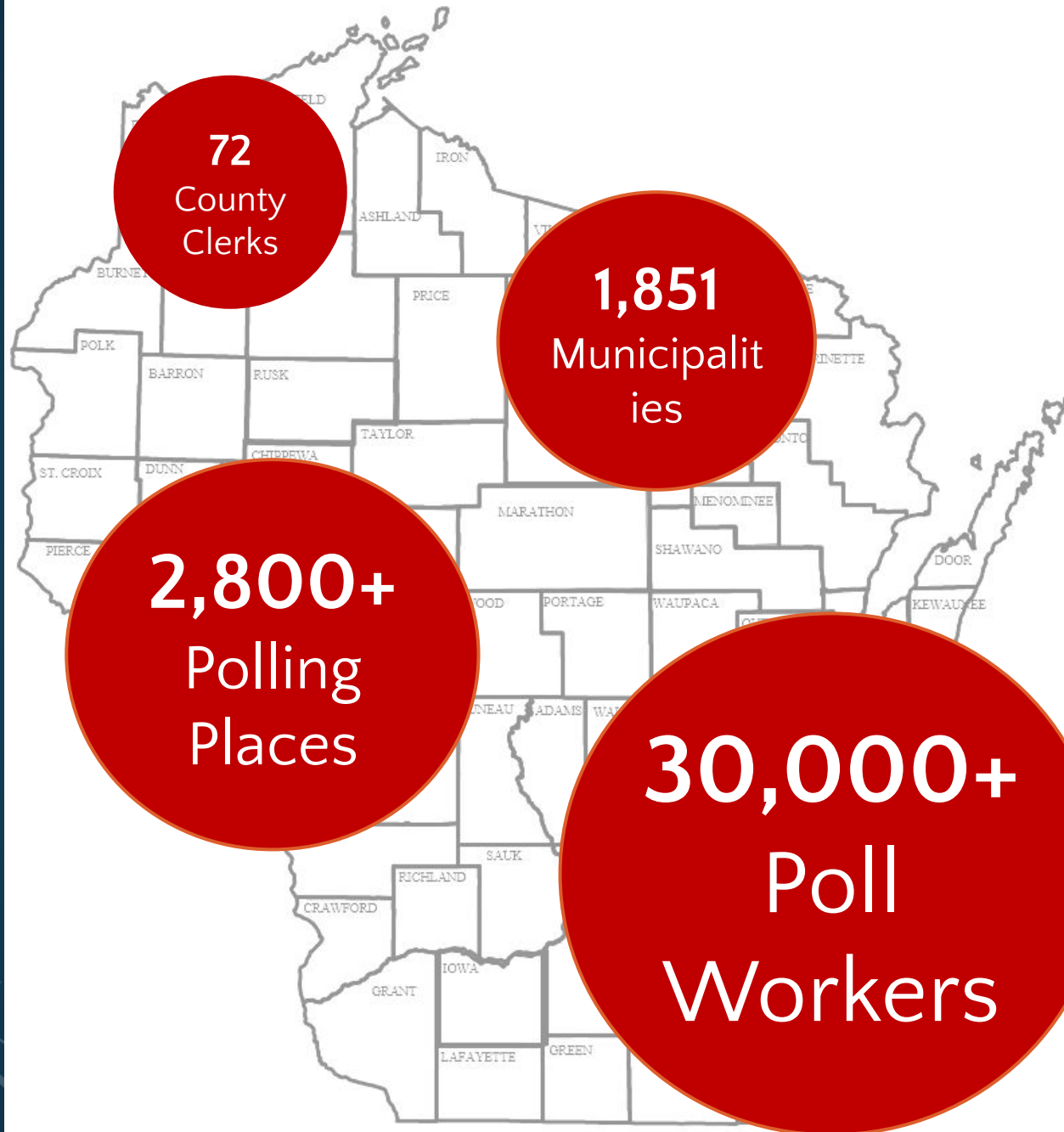


- Filing Officer for County Contests
- Design and distribute ballots
- Many serve as Trainers
- Some procure and/or program voting equipment
- Post unofficial results on Election Night

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MUNICIPAL CLERKS

- Training
- Supplies
- Help Desk on Election Day
- Collect election results
- Help run recounts
- Moral Support...





Teamwork
makes the
dream work!

BOARD BUNDLERS



- Act as Clerk of the board at all County Board meetings and standing committee meetings. Prepare and publish proceedings of those meetings.
- Make sure the policy makers have the information they need to make policy.
- On-call Parliamentarian
 - Do you have trouble following the motions on the floor? Try RECORDING it!
 - What does "I so move" actually mean?





OPEN MEETINGS OPENNESS

County Clerks are responsible for ensuring that all "meetings" are posted.

Conferences

Trainings

Fact-finding missions

Invitations to other
governmental entity meetings



CERTIFIERS OF CANINES

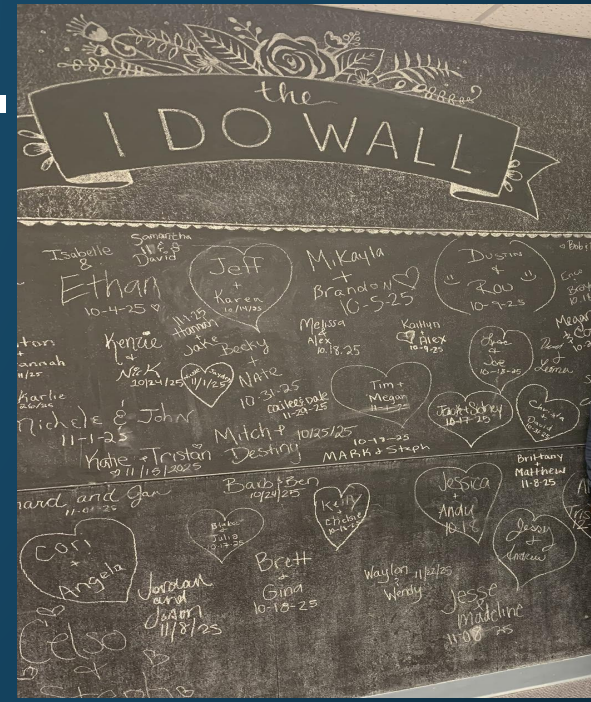
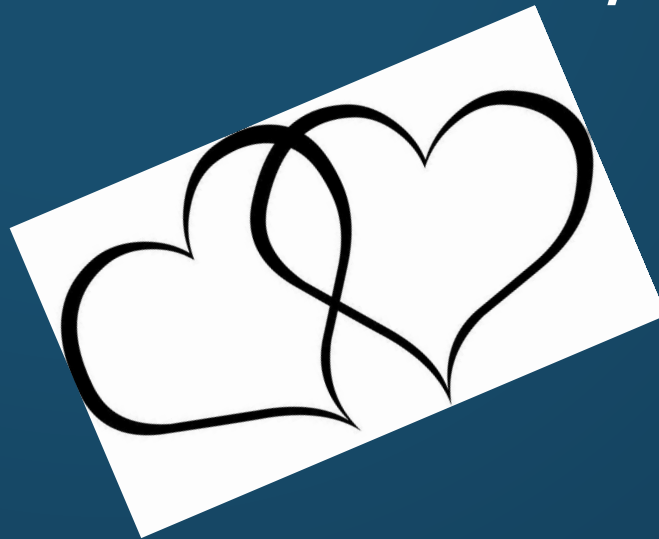
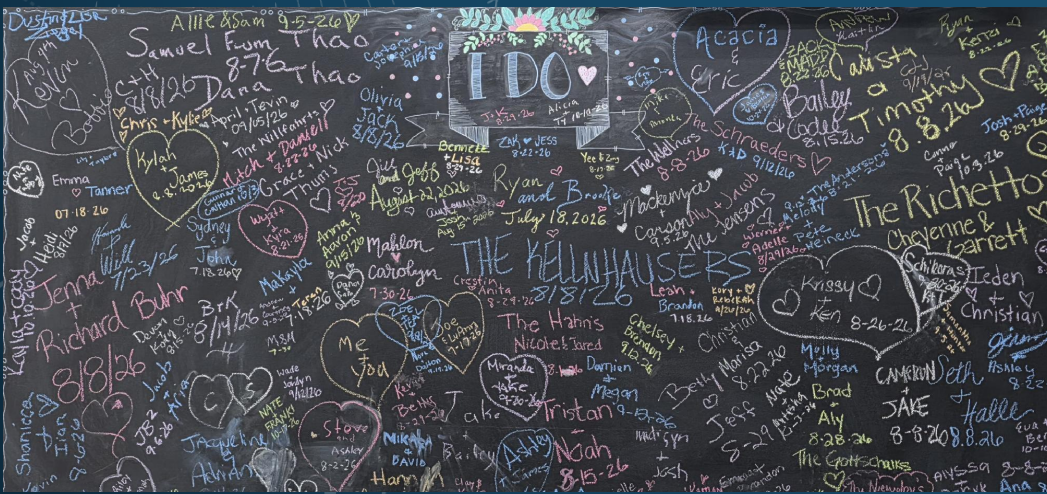
- According to Wis Stat § 174.07 - County Clerks are responsible to issue dog license tags to each municipal treasurer. Again, if you've seen how one county handles dog licensing, you've seen how one county handles dog licensing.
- Statutes are outdated and we are talking about requesting that the legislature update those.
- Many counties have passed ordinances updating their fees and processes.



ENABLERS OF ESPOUSAL

Wis Stat § 765.05 - Marriage License issued by County Clerk

- Can be issued in any county and filed in any county
- Couple must appear together in person to apply (in most counties)
- Must present proper documentation regarding identity and any previous marriages
- Once license is issued, wedding must take place within 60 days
- Three-day waiting period in effect, but can be waived for an additional fee
- Marriage license fees are apportioned to the state, the county, the courts, and entities providing domestic violence support
- Couple must not be related closer than second cousins – well, sorta'



SANCTIONERS OF SPORT



There are a few counties who issue DNR licenses and provide DMV Services – primarily counties who do not have those service centers conveniently located.



OWNERS OF THE OBJECTS

- Property? It's owned by the County Clerk
- Taxes? They're apportioned by the County Clerk
- Oaths of Office? They're kept by the County Clerk
- County Seal? It's kept by the County Clerk





WHAT WE FACE

Justice Department Threats Against

Thursday, July 29, 2021

The Department of Justice has l
administrators, officials, and oth



1 in 4 local election officials experienced abuse, harassment, or threats as part of their work in the last two years

Abuse reported by local officeholders around the country over previous three months

INSULTS

49%

HARASSMENT

36%

THREATS

18%

ATTACKS

1%

WHAT WE FACE



ELECTIONS, NEWS, POLITICS

Wisconsin elections challenged receives increased security

Wolfe has been continuously criticized by supporters of former President Trump for having undermined the 2020 election

BY ANYA VAN WAGTENDONK • APRIL 15, 2024 • UPDATED JANUARY 2026



Can Wisconsin voters void a returned absentee ballot? New lawsuit sends issue back to court

The Wisconsin Elections Commission said they can't, contradicting its past guidance and legal arguments.

people will show up and be told

News conducted March 2-4, 2026, n=1,591.

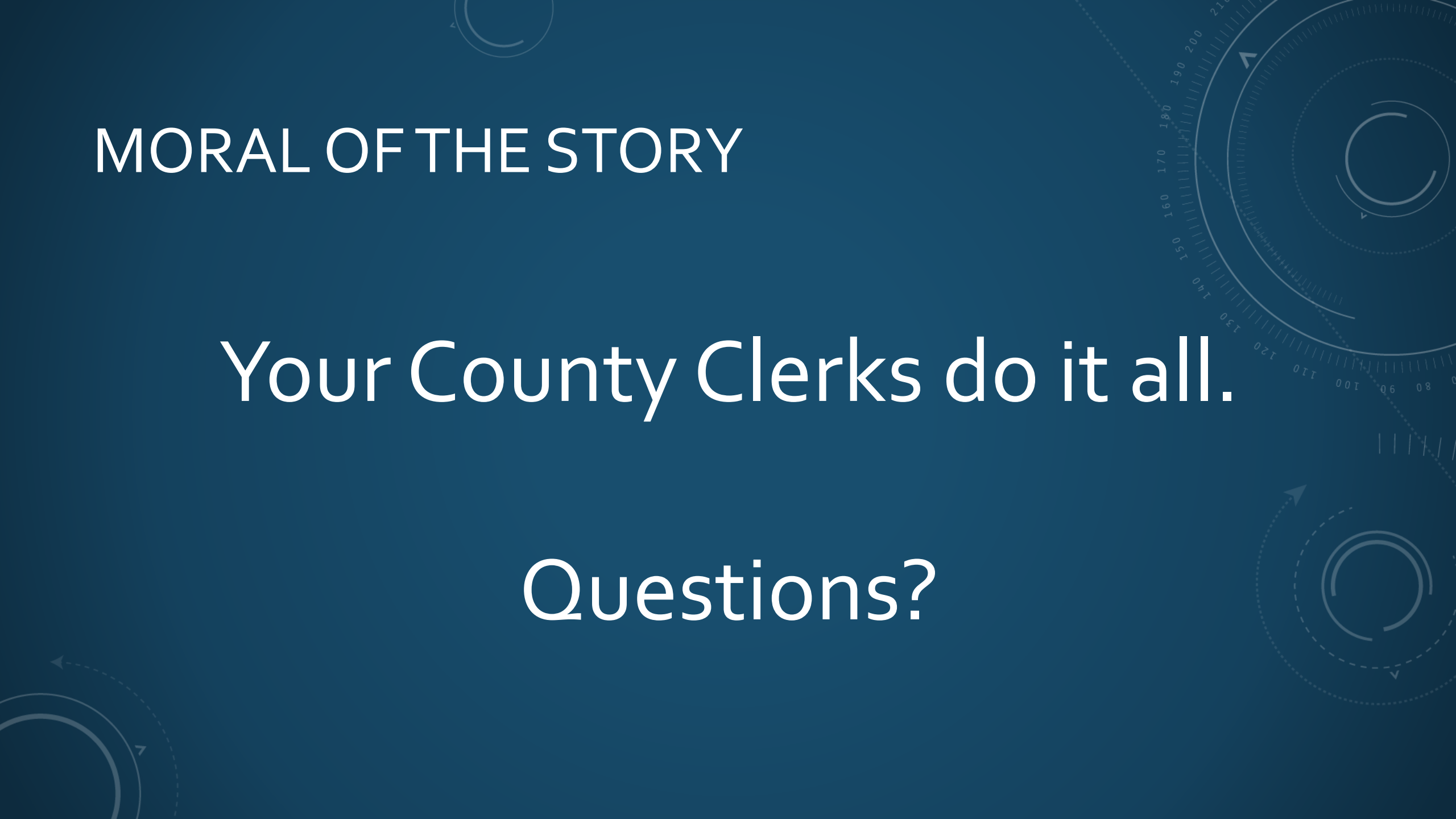
WHY DO IT?



“

*I never considered a difference of opinion
in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as
cause for withdrawing from a friend.*”

- Thomas Jefferson

The background is a solid dark blue. It features several faint, light blue circular patterns and arrows. In the top left, there is a small circle with a dashed line and an arrow pointing clockwise. In the top right, there is a large, complex circular pattern with multiple concentric circles, some solid and some dashed, and an arrow pointing clockwise. In the bottom left, there is a small circle with a dashed line and an arrow pointing clockwise. In the bottom right, there is a small circle with a dashed line and an arrow pointing clockwise.

MORAL OF THE STORY

Your County Clerks do it all.

Questions?