



For Immediate Release

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**ETHICAL VIOLATION CONCERNING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING
THE STEFFEN FOR WISCONSIN CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE**

On Oct. 31st I requested the State Ethics Commission along with the Allouez Village Clerk to review a letter paid for and distributed by the Steffen for Wisconsin campaign committee that was sent out by Allouez Village President Jim Rafter. Mr. Rafter asked village residents to vote for the Republican candidate for Assembly District 4 and incumbent Representative David Steffen.

According to the Steffen for Wisconsin campaign, the letter was sent to about 4,000 Allouez villagers in hopes of influencing their votes November 6th. The letter head reads "From the desk of Allouez Village President Jim Rafter". The letter describes Allouez's efforts to decommission the Green Bay Correctional Institution in order to redevelop the site into a mixed-use development along the Fox River to generate new tax revenue for the village. While I support this project, I am against the current proposal for the state to have a private developer build a new prison and for the state to lease that space. That does not make good fiscal sense for taxpayers to not own the building. State and local taxpayers should have a fiscal watchdog to represent the community so that we have money to invest in schools, healthcare, and roads.

Voters have expressed concern about Steffen's motivation to build a new prison, as his campaign accepted money from GEO Group, a multi-billion-dollar private corrections firm based in Florida. Wisconsin state law does not allow privately run prisons, however a debate on that issue will likely be forthcoming.

Regarding political activities in public office, Allouez villagers were taken aback by Jim Rafter using his official title, and as a non-partisan elected representative, to campaign for partisan interests. This is a possible violation of State Statute Ann. § 230.40. The Steffen for Wisconsin campaign designed the letter to appear like official communication from the Village of Allouez. Voters reached out to the Friends of Terry Lee campaign expressing concern and questioned the letter.

FROM THE DESK OF
ALLOUEZ VILLAGE PRESIDENT JIM RAFTER

Dear Allouez Resident,

Next week, an important decision will be made that directly impacts the future of our community. For this reason, I am asking for your help.

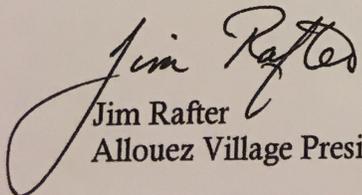
The Allouez Village Board and I have worked for two years with State Rep. David Steffen to move the maximum-security prison operations in Allouez (GBCI) to a new, safer, less expensive facility in Northeast Wisconsin. Once relocated, our community will be able to proceed with up to \$100 million in new economic development projects on the 60 acres surrounding that historic structure. According to a recent analysis from St. Norbert's College, Allouez will add over 1,000 jobs to the community and generate as much as \$750,000 annually in new tax revenue for village infrastructure and services. We desperately need this new revenue to enhance our ability to improve our roads, continue our high level of services within our village and to help keep your property taxes from rising. Therefore, the success of this proposal is critical to every resident in Allouez.

However, none of this may occur unless we have our strongest advocate in Madison fighting to get this initiative across the legislative goal line. For this reason, I have a personal request:

Regardless of whether you tend to vote Democrat, Republican or Independent on election day, I sincerely urge you to support the GBCI redevelopment proposal by voting for Rep. David Steffen next week. David did exactly what is expected of elected officials. When asked to represent the needs of his constituents and look into ways of closing GBCI, David researched the issue and took it upon himself to lead the charge. Without David's continued leadership in Madison on this issue, our once-in-a-lifetime opportunity may be lost. The stakes could not be higher for our community.

Again, I sincerely request you put party affiliation and politics aside for the betterment of our great community. Thank you for your consideration, and if you wish to speak with me regarding the GBCI property plan, please contact me at (920) 819-7652.

Sincerely,


Jim Rafter
Allouez Village President