



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 3, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 248 in its entirety.

This bill would stipulate that if the term of office for an appointed state officer is for a fixed term, a vacancy is created when the incumbent's term expires. This would apply to appointive offices of any department, agency, board, office, commission, authority, or other body in state government created or authorized to be created by the constitution or any law, but not including the Legislature and the courts. The provisions of the bill would first apply to state officers appointed on January 1, 2027.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to this bill being an extension of the ways the Wisconsin State Legislature, under a comfortable, gerrymandered Republican majority, has bastardized and politicized the "advice and consent" process to the frequent detriment of the people of Wisconsin.

Since becoming governor, I've worked to appoint experienced, dedicated, hardworking Wisconsinites from every corner of our state to serve in important roles in our state government—just like every governor has before me, and I hope will be the same for every governor after me. A very basic but key function of our democracy is the peaceful and respectful transfer of power, and that includes ensuring that incoming duly elected individuals have the opportunity to perform the functions and duties of the office to which they were elected. That includes appointing individuals to carry out the People's Work.

Unfortunately, this bill is just the latest in a decade-plus-long effort by Republican lawmakers to abuse the power available to them, undermine basic tenets of our democracy, and erode foundational cornerstones of state government that will have impacts on our state for generations. This bill is but one small example of their efforts.

Over the course of my seven years as governor, Republican lawmakers: voted to strip powers from incoming constitutional officers during a Lame-Duck Session in 2018 because they didn't like the outcome of the recent election; passed repeated constitutional amendments to circumvent the powers of the Executive Branch while refusing to let the people of Wisconsin do the same; unconstitutionally and unlawfully obstructed basic government functions and operations by indefinitely blocking and suspending the administrative rulemaking process; then defied a Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling by continuing to illegally and unconstitutionally obstruct administrative rule publications; delayed the confirmation of numerous cabinet-level executive appointees; fired experienced, dedicated, and qualified Wisconsinites from their appointed roles for no apparent reason other than being appointed by a Democratic governor; threatened to launch



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impeachment proceedings against a candidate for Wisconsin Supreme Court candidate before they had even won the election; advanced legislation and litigation to make it harder for eligible Wisconsin voters to cast their ballots; enabled dangerous rhetoric towards Wisconsin election officials, including our local clerks, election administrators, and poll workers; refused—and in some cases, *for several years*— to release already-approved and agreed-upon investments that were approved with bipartisan support in the state budget; attempted to encroach upon the separation of powers by trying to usurp control of federal funding; attempted to retain a Republican gerrymander to help retain a Republican majority of the Legislature; blew \$26 million on high-paid private attorney fees pursuing partisan causes with public funds; and repeatedly choosing to exempt themselves from open records laws.

This bill is a representation of the years of Republican efforts to erode our democratic institutions, one of the products of which is the present bill before me that was passed only because Republican lawmakers meddled in the transfer of power, only to learn that, perhaps, their errand was in error. This bill represents the worst of partisan politics and what can happen when a Legislature chooses to put politics before people. It's shortsighted, and it is politics at its worst and most dangerous. I will not enable the Legislature to continue this ridiculous exercise. Therefore, I must veto this bill.

I urge the Legislature to return to its better history and to pass reforms that prevent future lawmakers from playing politics with our state's most basic and important democratic institutions and values. I further urge future executives to demand the same of the legislative branch of government.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers  
Governor