

In response to the racism complaint registered by T Cheng Seng Her (EL 24-129)

This allegation is outrageous and offensive on so many levels. This has negatively affected my life and that of my wife.

First, I was in the Navy for 26 years and dealt with numerous cultures all over the world. We were required to be ambassadors for our country, a task I took seriously. When I was asked to take the job of Chief Inspector around 20 years ago, my goal was to make sure every qualified person got their vote to count. Another task I take seriously. That is what serving my country also stands for. It doesn't matter about race, color ethnicity, party affiliation or other. I help all equally.

Second, I take my job so seriously that being that there is a newer manual, I scanned areas that I am most involved in including voter registration, needed documents, absentee voting and the newer information witness's address areas can be filled in with and the various IDs. I used my Navy career of being detailed oriented to try to make our polling area as smooth running as possible. My team members usually start out in on-the-job training. As soon as I see that they follow steps, they are encouraged to take an active position.

When you have everyone following the normal steps the only things that can upset it and turn it into a mess of separate acting characters is: someone not knowing the steps meshing with those that do. (Examples, 1. Some people bring back their unused/unwanted absentee ballots wanting to dispose of them there. They don't think of the repercussions of someone finding a destroyed ballot that is not accounted for. 2, Having a large election and having surprise inspections. 3. Having to split the books with a crowd waiting. 4. The need to register so many and feed them into the voting line with a brief instruction of what is needed from them. It is so refreshing to have someone come in with a printout of the registration sheet they filled out online.) Being that my team is ready, they can step over these bumps easily and get back to the new normal.

I discussed with my team and Town Clerk Christopherson (here in referred to as Bev) plans to split the poll book if needed to speed up voting. We don't have much room in the Town of Union Hall to use too much room to have more tables that would be needed. Plus, the new traffic pattern that would cause, the need to keep the voter's numbers in the books consecutive, and the need to get the correct ballot to the voter on two different tables (we had two different ballots this time.)

Being that we had over 600 pre-voted ballots of the approximate 1760 voters in our books, we thought there might not be a need to split them. Town of Union usually has voter turn-out above predicted percentages. Calculating an 85% turn out that would be about 1500 voters. That minus 600 would have about 900 in-person voters or about one voter per minute. My estimate was close. We had 1636 votes including the 600 absentees and 125 new voters. So that means we had 911 in person voters (an average of 70 voters per hour.) Of course, this estimate is skewed a bit since we didn't have two sets of books until around 8 and had less voters in the afternoon and evening. It would be less through put in the first hour or so when we had only one set of books.

With two sets of books, we could possibly do close to 100 or more voters. That is how we finally got the line short enough to end inside the hall.

In response to the racism complaint registered by T Cheng Seng Her (EL 24-129)

We opted to keep one set of books to see how that would go. As usual, we had a line of voters down the hall and out the door and into the parking lot when we opened. This line finally was able to be short enough to be inside the Town Hall in the hallway between the outer door and the entry door to the voting area around 11 AM.

There was an observer that day, so there was a taped off space to accommodate her, that further restricted our meager space by the entry door. The observer was on one side of the entry door and the registration table was on the other. In accordance with the observer pamphlet that is given to the observer, she is to observe and refrain from interactions with voters. Otherwise, she could be asked to leave. I pride myself in that I have never had to ask an observer to leave. I want my polling place to be an area that can be viewed in the proper manner. I or my team tried to make sure there was not interactions between observer and voters in line. As such, occasionally, I would walk the voter line and inform voters of the observer and ask them not to start talking to her. I did notice that she would sometimes go outside and get close to the line. I can't say she said anything. After she re-entered the hall, I did go through the line and restated what observers were to do. Bev and I found it odd that she informed me about midday that she was leaving "to observe another polling place" (her words.) In the past, the observer would stay to see the results tape after the polls closed.

Another thing about the voters in the Town of Union they are very patient. When I talked to some of them, they mentioned that they had stood in line for at least an hour. So sometime around 8 or so, I decided to split the books (with approximately half the alphabet in each) which took about 15 minutes.

One of my team was dedicated to finding people needing to register and bring them forward to the registration table. There, either Bev or myself would register them.

We had about 125 same day registrations, or about 10 per hour. We had a number of Hmong that registered that day and of those at least two young ladies needed a translator (it happened to be the same translator in both cases.) Not one of these Hmong had any problem with me.

My procedures for registering a voter are the same for everyone. I sit them down across the table from me. I ask what documents they will use to register. I ask if they had voted before, so I know if there are extra lines they need to fill out. As I explain what to fill out, I check the lines or point at them to be filled in and what information goes there. The address lines are always tricky because where it mentions "City/Town/Village of", many put Eau Claire instead of circling "Town" and putting "Union" there. I explain that checking the box on line 8 allows me to use the presented document as proof of residence and that they have been in our wards for at least 28 days. I also explain that signing line 9 they affirm all the information is true or there could be negative outcomes.

While they fill out the form, I take the document and check it against the Ineligible Voter list, I fill out a line on the Supplemental page, find their address on the road/address book to get their ward, school district and Supervisor. I fill that out to save time at the poll books so those workers don't have to take the time to copy the information. At the end of the day, I make a copy for the Town and send the original to County.

In response to the racism complaint registered by T Cheng Seng Her (EL 24-129)

I'm Caucasian over 70 years old. I have a documented hearing loss in the female voice range (as documented by the VA.) I've been told I talk loudly (many hearing loss people do) and I look "gruff" even when I smile and being bald don't seem to help my image. I may have looked even worse that day with all that was going on. I talked loudly and with so many people in near vicinity, I raised my voice even further to make sure my instructions are heard and understood since this is an important document they are filling out and since they sign it and could have repercussions. No sooner than I was done with one set of registrations including the trip to the poll books and all procedures there to get their ballot, I'd have to return to the table to start the next set of registrations.

When they finish filling out the form, I ask for their driver's license so I can check for errors in the number on line 7. I finish filling in the areas at the bottom and explain that they will need to put their driver's license in a blue taped box for the people at the books to check. I also explain that the Supplemental page will be set next to it. It will be so that the people at the books can read their name and address while they say it loud enough to be heard. It will be upside down to the voter, but the signature box is right side up and they need to sign in the box on the page without turning it.

I take voters up as they finish registering (she seems to agree with that). I usually take one, two or three up to the front of the line. I request permission from the person in line that I hope to put the new voters in front of. I don't take more than three up because that might cause negative feelings from those in line.

Now let me respond directly to her sworn statement and signed "under penalty of false swearing under the law of Wisconsin" and also signed by a witness to be true "based on my personal knowledge".

From my time in the Navy doing many counseling, I understand that what an individual perceives is what they BELIEVE. Sorry to say, that might not be the TRUTH. Signing something stating it is the whole truth under penalty, can get people in trouble.

1. She states that she and her family arrived around 845 AM and she mentioned and emphasized numerous times there were a lot of Caucasians around. Almost fixated on that. She also states that there was "roughly 4-5 people". Already here the sworn to be truthful statement is lacking. As I stated, we had a line packed into to hallway (about 22 feet in length between the outer door and the entry into the voting area) and out the door to the parking lot until about 11 AM. That would be a lot more than 4-5 people to do that. As I stated earlier, we had a great turn up. Counting the 125 same day registers plus the 600 absentee ballots plus the regular voters, we had about 1636 voters. It would be hard put to find a time where there were only 4-5 people in line any time that day. If she is stating just in the voting area, two lines of about 10 foot each is still more than 4-5 since they usually pack close together.
2. She states that my "main focus was on the new voters, solely." Let me break down my day.

In response to the racism complaint registered by T Cheng Seng Her (EL 24-129)

- As chief inspector, I have to be aware and involved in all aspects of the polling place. On that day it included:
 - a. Observing the observer, including occasionally walking the line informing voters of the observer's presence and checking how fast the line seemed to be moving.
 - b. There was an unexpected ADA inspection to make sure our facility was disabled accessible that took some time.
 - c. Whenever a question arose, the voter was referred to me.
 - d. If there was a voting error that the machine returned the ballot, I was called over to analyze and explain to the voter what went wrong. Then I had to have a new ballot issued, destroy their original ballot, and log the event on the 104.
 - e. Of course, I registered voters, but as the day went on, I had to turn most of that over to Bev so I could get absentee ballots taken care of and other related duties. Thank goodness she could take the day off her work to be there.
 - f. If someone needed a break from the books, machine watching, greeter or floater, I had to step in.
 - g. And of course, doing all the steps that absentee ballots require over 600 times.
 - h. I was so busy, my team had to insist that I pause around 3 PM for a few bites of lunch.
 - i. So much for my focus "being solely" on registering voters.
- 3. She states that she was upset about how I explained all aspects of filling out the form while talking to her and some new voting male. Since I was talking to both at the same time, checking lines on both sheets at the same time and talking in a loud voice to be heard above everything else happening within 4 to 10 feet. (The poll book tables were located about 10 feet inside the entry door. People were talking loudly stating their name and address.)
- 4. She states that when talking to her my voice slowed. If I am talking to both of them equally across a table, I want them to both hear. I look back in forth between them, checking or indicating line as I go. I'm in a hurry to get those at the table registered so I can move on to the next set, and don't have time to think about who can understand or not. If they are there by their selves, I take it that they can understand. As stated, I have a standard way of doing all things related to registering voters. It doesn't matter who they are, male/female, race, creed, color, party etc. If she felt "demeaned and upset that I follow my set procedure to explain everything so all steps are known and taken smoothly to help all people follow one standard procedure the workers are used to, what does that say?
- 5. She stated that as people finished registering, I took them up to vote. If I followed standard procedures, she would have been logged onto the Supplemental page along with the male she sat down with. If she was done filling out her paperwork and if I had finished checking it, she would have been told to follow up to the voting line with the male.

Let's pause here and analyze some numbers. The first new voter's number that day was 31. If my modeling is close, then if we put 70 voters thru per hour, it would be close to 730. Now let's look

In response to the racism complaint registered by T Cheng Seng Her (EL 24-129)

at the numbers around her voting. According to the Supplemental pages, I had two voters before her, (numbers 276 and 278 remember two tables so the other table took 277) then the next set of numbers that included her was 302 (her number) 303 (a female) and 305 (a male). She was the 23rd new voter listed on the Supplemental pages (on page 3) and in the rare group that had 3 voters in it. The next set of numbers were 313 and 314.

6. As for her claim of having to stand and wait for an hour. It would be hard to do, since we don't have room for someone to just stand around. After we split the books there would have been two lines. A lot of people in a small place. There were a couple times people had to wait for a seat at the registration table, but in no way would it be an hour (as can be seen by the numbers.) There were only three chairs on the registration side of the table.
7. She states that I left her stand there while I registered "more than 6 more" voters behind her. That would have required two sets of three to register and stand someplace too. The numbers in the Supplemental pages don't support that at all. She was in the only group of more than two people
8. As for me standing with her for an hour and ignoring her, with all I was doing, when *would I have time to stand around for an hour? I had so much going on, I might have been lost in thought about: what my team was doing, what was happening in the voter line, the next set of registrations, I could have just been getting done with a voting machine problem, the inspection going on, where the observer had disappeared to etc. A lot going through my mind. I might not have even realized I was looking in her direction.*
9. As for the witness having "personal knowledge" of all that happened, where was she standing to witness all this? One person standing in a four-foot area draws a lot of attention, let alone two people. You can't stand behind the table since there is display case hanging on the wall and people registering would be in the chairs forcing someone standing into an uncomfortable bent over position. There is a small space between the table and the outer wall that might accommodate someone.

Finally, she states that she "did not want to even bring it up out of fear of retaliation." If that is true, who pressed her to "bring it up" especially when there is so many errors in her statement?

Racism and discrimination are words thrown around often these days. This allegation of hers borders on slander. Could it be a misunderstanding or could it actually be reverse discrimination/racism against an elderly Caucasian bald male that talks loudly and is detailed orientated?

Remember, there is a signed and witnessed statement under penalty of Wisconsin law.

In response to the racism complaint registered by T Cheng Seng Her (EL 24-129)

I declare under penalty of false swearing under the law of Wisconsin that the following is true and correct.

Signed on the 27th day of NOVEMBER, 2024 at Eau Claire.

Mark Aebly  _____

SEE ATTACHED PAGES:

**WISCONSIN NOTARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
(INDIVIDUAL)**

State of Wisconsin

County of EAU CLAIRE

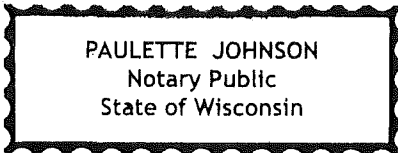
This instrument was acknowledged before me on 11/27/24 [Date] by _____

[Name(s) of Person(s)].

Paulette Johnson

Paulette Johnson
Signature of Notarial Officer

(Seal, if any)



Title (and Rank)

My commission expires: 2/13/2027