

(b) (6)

Cc: Hale, Geoffrey (b) (6) Snell,  
Allison (b) (6)

Subject: RE: SME elx info sharing thread

- Critical progress made on previous challenges experienced during April primary to ensuring the safety of in-person voting and the accessibility of voting by mail, thus leading officials to view the August primary as "a good test run" for November; but challenges remain with regard to poll worker recruitment, absentee ballot tracking, and pending litigation.
- 79% of absentee ballots were returned (713k of 898k total delivered to voters). State already has over 1M absentee ballot requests for Nov.
- 3 major challenges with absentee voting:
  - the process of mailing and returning ballots
  - high numbers of improperly completed ballots (figures not yet released)
  - the shortage of personnel to process ballots in a prompt manner
    - statewide shortage of 700 poll workers. 675 National Guard members deployed.
- Milwaukee was able to open 168 polling sites in August, compared to 5 in April. Previous elections saw 180 sites.
- August primary was largely free of last-minute litigation, which hampered April primary; but lots of ongoing litigation could impact November
- Links to a newer [study](#) that could not conclude that voting in April primary increased the spread of COVID, refuting an earlier [study](#).

From: Masterson, Matthew (b) (6)

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 9:27 AM

To: (b) (6); (b) (6)

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What were takeaways from this?

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