

May 21,2020

Dear Assembly,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen as well as one of the voting constituents that you are representing. I heard that the first and second reading of a proposal for mail in voting has passed and needs just one more reading and passing vote to become an option for Petersburg.

So this is where my letter to you comes in, I do not feel this is needed or necessary for Petersburg and my view is shared by many of your voting constituents. I do think to propose this 5 months before an election is not needed, as I believe it will be safe to go to the poles in October and November, to believe otherwise seems negative and quiet defeating in regards to Covid-19.

Petersburg currently has a system in place for early voting as well as absentee voting options. I think it is a bit redundant to so mail in voting as well. I also think that as we are now moving in to phase 3 and 4 of reopening the state that we should optimistically be to phase 5 before the end of the summer, and by state definition that is normal business practices. So going to the poles in the fall should not be a challenge and if someone is not comfortable with going to the poles they have the option of early voting or absentee voting.

I would like to give a few observations as well as possible solutions to make it comfortable for others, to show there really is no need for mail in voting in Petersburg.

- I have never observed 50 people at a time at the voting poles in the 26 years I have been voting.
- The community Gym where we vote normally in the activity room can be moved into the gymnasium where booths would be spaced out more and the flow of traffic can be directed better with entrance and exit points made very clear.
- A person can wear a mask if they feel it is needed, I absolutely can respect that need.
- Set up hand sanitizer at each booth and at entrance and exit points.
- In a time of concern for economics, please don't add the added expense to anyone to generate mail in votes
- Please don't ask people to go to the Post Office that is often short staffed with limited hours as well as congested on a normal day. Voters would have to go twice once for pickup and once for drop off. Making the post office congested and busier than needed.
- I also think that a proposal like mail in voting should go before the public to be voted on and not just our 7 assembly members. This is said as a constituent who would rather have

the option to vote on this proposal than have the Assembly make this change for our community.

I didn't want to write a letter with me expressing just my opinions but to encourage and come up with possible healthy and reasonable solutions. I would like to conclude my letter to you all with a thank you for the hard work and time you put in and have put in during normal times as well as during the Covid-19 situation.

Sincerely,

Melinda Olsen, one of your voting constituents  
See you at the pole in the Fall!!