

Wisconsin Elections Commission

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To: Wisconsin County Clerks

Milwaukee County Election Commission

FROM: Meagan Wolfe, Administrator

DATE: April 29, 2024

SUBJECT: Preliminary 2024 Party Ballot Status List and Ballot Order

Listed below are the political parties and the ballot order for parties which qualify for a separate ballot for the Partisan Primary and General Election in 2024 and any special partisan primaries or elections which may occur in 2024 or 2025. Ballot order is determined by the highest number of votes received by a candidate at the highest office in the last general election. Every recognized political party listed on the official ballot at the November 8, 2022 General Election (Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, and Constitution) whose candidate for the office of governor received at least one percent of the total votes cast for the office of governor shall have a separate primary ballot.

Parties like the Wisconsin Green Party and No Labels Wisconsin that did not have ballot status in 2022 need to use one of two statutory processes for requesting ballot status in 2024. First, a political organization which was listed as "independent" at the last general election may petition for ballot status if one of their candidates received at least one percent of the vote in a statewide contest. Wis. Stat. § 5.62(1)(b)1. Second, a party can collect 10,000 signatures, including at least 1,000 from at least 3 separate congressional districts, and petition the Commission for ballot status. Wis. Stat. § 5.62(2)(a). This year, the Wisconsin Green Party petitioned for ballot status under § 5.62(1)(b)1 (statewide candidate received one percent of the vote) on January 31, 2024, and No Labels Wisconsin petitioned for ballot status under § 5.62(2)(a) (10,000 signatures) on March 28, 2024.

The deadlines for each of these two processes was April 1, 2024, which is why the Commission was unable to designate the ballot arrangement any earlier. At the November 8, 2022 General Election, the Wisconsin Green Party received over 1% of the vote in the statewide Secretary of State contest, and therefore was eligible to file a petition for ballot status with the Commission. A petition from the Wisconsin Green Party was received and approved by the Commission at its meeting February 8, 2024. WEC staff are reviewing the No Labels Wisconsin petition, and no challenges were received. Given the number of signatures that were submitted, it is likely that Commission staff will recommend that the No Labels Wisconsin ballot status petition be granted by the Commission.

Although both ballot status processes lead to the same result, the different methods of seeking ballot status are relevant to determining the order of how the parties shall be listed on the ballot.

The party order for the partisan primary and general election ballots is detailed by statute. Wis. Stats. §§ 5.62(1)(a), 5.64(1)(b). In both cases, political parties seeking ballot status using the 10,000-signature method, as No Labels Wisconsin has done, are always listed after political parties who attained ballot status by having a

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candidate who attained one percent of the vote at a recent statewide contest. Wis. Stats. §§ 5.62(1)(a), 5.64(1)(b).

If the Commission grants ballot status to No Labels Wisconsin, that party will be listed beneath the Wisconsin Green Party.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission will be considering the No Labels Wisconsin petition and their ballot order at its meeting on May 14, 2024. Once ballot status and ballot order for No Labels Wisconsin has been determined by the Commission, WEC staff will send out an updated ballot order.

Party Ballot List and Order for 2024-2025 Partisan Elections

- 1. DEM Democratic
- 2. REP Republican
- 3. CON Constitution
- 4. LIB Libertarian
- 5. WGR Wisconsin Green
- 6. IND Independent

If you have any questions, please contact the WEC Help Desk at (608) 261-2028 or <u>elections@wi.gov</u>.