



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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## Wisconsin Elections Commission

Special Teleconference Meeting

Board Room

Madison, Wisconsin

4:30 p.m. October 16, 2019

### Open Session Minutes

Present: Commissioner Dean Knudson, Commissioner Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner Julie Glancey, Commissioner Ann Jacobs, Commissioner Robert Spindell and Commissioner Mark Thomsen

Staff present: Meagan Wolfe, Michael Haas, and Reid Magney

#### **A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Dean Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He noted that a new Commissioner, Robert Spindell, had just been appointed to replace Commissioner Jodi Jensen, and asked for a brief recess for staff to see if he could attend the teleconference.

Commissioner Spindell joined the meeting at 4:40 p.m., and Chair Knudson called the roll. All Commissioners were present by telephone.

#### **B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice**

Administrator Meagan Wolfe informed the Commissioners that proper notice was given for the meeting.

#### **C. 7th Congressional District Special Election Nomination Paper Issues and Statutory Deadlines**

Chair Knudson noted that the dates Governor Evers originally used to order the special election in the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District are inconsistent with federal law, and that the Governor has indicated he will amend his order. In the meantime, the Commission needs to provide guidance to candidates about the status of nomination paper signatures that have already been collected.

Staff Counsel Michael Haas gave a presentation based on a memorandum contained in the materials for the October 16 Commission meeting regarding nomination paper signatures.

**MOTION:** Direct staff to apply the following rules when evaluating signatures on nomination papers of candidates for the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District:

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

Dean Knudson, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Julie M. Glancey | Ann S. Jacobs | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

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*Administrator*  
Meagan Wolfe

1. If an amended executive order of the Governor establishes a new starting date for the nomination paper circulation period, signatures must be dated on or after that date and on or before the filing deadline to be accepted as valid signatures.
2. Notwithstanding Wis. Stat. § 8.50(3) and EL 2.07(3)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, if an amended executive order retains the original starting date for the circulation of nomination papers, the Commission determines that September 23, 2019 is the beginning date of the nomination paper circulation period and signatures on nomination papers are valid when the date of the signature is dated on or after that date and on or before the filing deadline.
3. Notwithstanding Wis. Stat. 8.15(5), the Commission determines that signatures are valid if the nomination paper indicates that the date of the election is either January 27, 2019 or the date of the special election established by any amended executive order issued by the Governor.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen, seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Commissioners and staff discussed possible primary and election dates, and whether the Commission should wait to issue guidance until the Governor issues an amended order. Commissioner Thomsen said he believes it should be addressed now so everyone knows what the rules are.

Chair Knudson called the question. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Knudson asked Commissioners whether they wished to encourage the Governor to hold the special primary and election on regular election dates. After discussion, there was not a consensus to do so.

#### **D. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Adjourn. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

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The next meeting of the Wisconsin Elections Commission is scheduled for Monday, December 2, 2019, at the Wisconsin Elections Commission offices in Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 10:00 a.m.

October 16, 2019 Wisconsin Elections Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

  
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Reid Magney, Public Information Officer

November 15, 2019

October 16, 2019 Wisconsin Elections Commission meeting minutes certified by:

  
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Julie Glancey, Commission Secretary

December 2, 2019