

NOTICE OF OPEN AND CLOSED MEETING

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Meeting of the Commission
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
10:00 A.M.

Agenda
Open Session

Teleconference
Wisconsin Elections Commission Offices
212 E. Washington Avenue, Third Floor
Madison, Wisconsin

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice**
- C. Ballot Access Challenges and Issues**
 - 1. Staff Presentation on Challenge or Ballot Access Issue**
 - 2. Challenger Presentation**
 - 3. Candidate Response**
 - 4. Commission Action**
- D. Ballot Access Report and Certification of Candidates for the 2020 Spring Election**
- E. Election Security Survey and Information Plan**
- F. Election Security Funding (Help America Vote Act)**
- G. Potential 2020 WEC Meeting Schedule Changes**
- H. Closed Session**
 - 1. Litigation Update**
 - a. *Timothy Zignego, et al. v. Wisconsin Elections Commission, et al.***
 - b. *League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, et al. v. Knudson, et al.***

NOTICE OF OPEN AND CLOSED MEETING

- c. *The Andrew Goodman Foundation v. Bostelmann, et. al.*
- d. *Wisconsin Justice Initiative, Inc., et al. v. Wisconsin Elections Commission, et al.*
- e. **Other Case Updates (as needed)**
- f. **Potential Imminent Litigation**

19.85 (1) (g) The Commission may confer with legal counsel concerning litigation strategy.

I. Movers List Process

J. Adjourn

The Elections Commission will convene in open session but may move to closed session under Wis. Stat. § 19.851 and then reconvene into open session prior to adjournment of this meeting. This notice is intended to inform the public that this meeting will convene in open session, may move to closed session, and then reconvene in open session. Wis. Stat. § 19.85 (2).



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: For the January 14, 2020 Commission Meeting

TO: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission

FROM: Meagan Wolfe
Administrator, Wisconsin Elections Commission

Prepared and Presented by:
Diane Lowe, Lead Elections Specialist

SUBJECT: Ballot Access for the 2020 Spring Election

This memorandum presents a summary of important and noteworthy information about candidates requesting ballot access for the 2020 Spring Election.

Summary

The nomination paper filing deadline for the 2020 Spring Election for the offices of Justice of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals Judge in Districts I, II and IV and Circuit Court Judge in various counties was 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2020. The circulation period for nomination papers began on December 1, 2019.

A total of 50 candidates for state offices registered for the Spring Election, all of whom filed nomination papers with the Wisconsin Elections Commission. There are three candidates for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court which triggers a statewide primary. There is one candidate each for Court of Appeals Judge, Districts I and IV, two candidates for District II, and 43 candidates for 34 circuit court judge positions in 26 counties.

The first two sets of nomination papers were filed on December 17, 2019, and three sets of papers were filed on deadline day.

Date Submitted	Sets of Papers Filed
Week of December 16-20	7
Week of December 23-27 (3 working days)	20
Week of December 30-Jan 3 (3 working days)	19
January 6 and 7	4
	50 Total

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

Based upon the review by Commission staff, 10 offices including Justice of the Supreme Court are contested. The offices of Justice of the Supreme Court and Milwaukee County Circuit Court, Branch 5, each with three candidates, are the only state offices that will require a primary on February 18, 2020. The primary for Justice of the Supreme Court will, of course, be conducted statewide. Local municipalities and school districts may have primaries for local office or have referenda questions on the ballot as well.

Notifications of Noncandidacy

The Notification of Noncandidacy may be filed by an incumbent who is not seeking re-election to the office he or she currently holds. If an incumbent fails to timely file the Notification of Noncandidacy by the second Friday before the filing deadline and does not file ballot access documents by the filing deadline, the filing deadline is extended 72 hours for any other candidate for that office. The extension does not apply to the incumbent. Wis. Stat. §8.10(2)(a).

Staff reached out to incumbent officeholders to ensure that those who did not plan to stand for re-election filed a Notification of Noncandidacy by the deadline of Friday, December 20, 2019, so that the ballot certification and preparation process was not delayed. Five incumbent Circuit Court Judges timely filed Notifications of Noncandidacy (see Attachment A). All other incumbents submitted nomination papers. Therefore, no extension of the filing deadline was required.

Nomination Paper Review Process

Staff continues to use internal nomination paper review standards based on the requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10 and 8.30 and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. EL 2 to determine if a candidate has filed a sufficient number of signatures to qualify for ballot access. Attached to this memorandum are the internal nomination paper review standards (Attachment C) and the relevant statutory provisions (Attachment D) used by staff when reviewing papers. Staff also relies on past decisions of the predecessor agencies when making recommendations to the Commission as to whether an error on a nomination paper is grounds for striking a signature or page of signatures. This body of precedent comes from Findings of Fact and Orders issued as a result of a challenge to nomination papers, or a compliance review complaint filed under Wis. Stat. § 5.06.

Number of Nomination Paper Signatures Required

- Candidates for Justice of the Supreme Court must file a minimum of **2,000** valid signatures of qualified electors of Wisconsin to qualify for ballot access. Wis. Stat. § 8.10 (3)(a).
- Candidates for Court of Appeals Judge must file a minimum of **1,000** valid signatures of qualified electors from the district to qualify for ballot access. Wis. Stat. § 8.10 (3)(am).
- Candidates for Circuit Court Judge in counties over 500,000 in population (Milwaukee County) must file a minimum of **1,000** valid signatures of qualified electors from the district to qualify for ballot access. Wis. Stat. § 8.10 (3)(c).
- Candidates for circuit court in counties with a population of 500,000 or less must file a minimum of **200** valid signatures of qualified electors from the district to qualify for ballot access. Wis. Stat. § 8.10 (3)(b).

Every nomination paper was reviewed separately by two staff members, and a determination regarding sufficiency was made within 24 hours of submission. All nomination paper submissions were found to contain a sufficient number of valid signatures. By the deadline for filing nomination papers on Wednesday, January 7, 2020, 15 candidates had also filed additional nomination papers to supplement their original filings.

Irregularities on Nomination Papers Not Affecting Ballot Status

The following irregularities were detected by staff. Consistent with prior practice and decisions, staff believes these irregularities do not affect ballot access and did not strike signatures due to these issues.

1. Printed names of signers on nomination papers appear to be written by the circulator.

Staff continues to find printed names of signers that appear to be in the same handwriting as the circulator. Wis. Stat. § 8.10 (4)(b), requires the printed name to be made by the signer of the petition, unless the signer requests assistance in signing and printing their name. Although staff encounters sporadic examples of this practice on many sets of papers, the most consistent examples over time involve circulators for candidates for Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge, some of whom are judges themselves. This has been an ongoing and growing trend since 2015. Happily, the number of incidents dropped significantly for this election. As in past elections cycles, staff did not strike such signatures. Had staff struck the signatures for this reason, each candidate would still have sufficient signatures.

Office	Candidate	No. of Pages	Approx. No. of Names	Circulators (*Judge)
Justice of the Supreme Court	Daniel Kelly	2	20	Peter Kolar Erin Decker
Court of Appeals 1	Joe Donald	2	20	*William Pocan
Milw. Co. Circuit Court 2	Milton Childs	1	10	*William Pocan
Milw. Co. Circuit Court 5	Paul Dedinsky	1	7	*Lindsey Grady
Milw. Co. Circuit Court 7	Thomas McAdams	3	28	*William Pocan *Carolina Stark
Milw. Co. Circuit Court 24	Janet Protasiewicz	2	12	*William Pocan *Carolina Stark
Milw. Co. Circuit Court 27	Kevin Martens	2	19	*William Pocan

2. Signatures of electors appear to be written by the circulator.

More concerning were the nomination papers of Zach Whitney, candidate for Milwaukee Circuit Court Judge, Branch 5. Approximately 25 pages of his nomination papers contained not only names printed by the circulator (none of them were judges), but the elector signatures appeared to have been written by the circulator as well. Between the printed names and the dubious signatures, approximate 220 signatures were affected.

Longstanding practice of the agency has been not to strike signatures based on similar handwriting unless a challenge is filed documenting that the named individuals did not sign the paper. This policy is based on the limitations of handwriting analysis, the fact that WEC staff members are not handwriting experts, the volume of pages manually reviewed by the staff, and the reality that it is impossible to ensure a comparison of handwriting across all pages of nomination papers.

Staff identified the signatures these pages as anomalies but did not strike the signatures. Had staff struck the signatures for this reason, the candidate would still have had sufficient signatures.

Statements of Economic Interests

All candidates timely filed the Statement of Economic Interests with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission.

Challenges to Nomination Paper Sufficiency

No challenges to ballot access were received by the deadline of 4:30 on Friday, January 10, 2020.

Candidates for Whom Staff Recommends Denial of Ballot Access

No candidates are recommended for denial of ballot access.

Candidates Recommended for Approval of Ballot Status

Staff recommends that the Commission certify ballot access for the 50 candidates listed as “approved” in Attachment B, Candidate Tracking by Office report.

Recommended Motion:

The Commission certifies ballot status for the 50 candidates listed as “approved” on the attached Candidate Tracking by Office report.

- Attachments:
- A. List of Incumbents Who Filed a Notification of Noncandidacy
 - B. Candidate Tracking by Office Report
 - C. Internal Nomination Paper Review Standards
 - D. Relevant Statutory
 - E. Nomination Paper Samples

**Incumbents Who Have Filed a Notifications of Noncandidacy (EL-163)
for the April 7, 2020 Spring Election**

As of the deadline (Friday, December 27, 2019, 5:00 P.M. - FINAL

NAME	ID #	OFFICE	DATE FILED
Steven G. Bauer	103986	Dodge County Circuit Court, Branch 4	10/21/2019
James R. Habbeck	103960	Shawano-Menominee Counties, Circuit Court	10/22/2019
Steven R. Cray	104627	Chippewa County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 3	11/04/2019
David G. Miron	102610	Marinette County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 1	11/08/2019
Lee S. Dreyfus, Jr.	101193	Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 5	12/5/2019

As of December 27, 2019

Attachment A

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Candidate Tracking by Office

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote - 4/7/2020

Receipt #	ID	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Ballot Status
Office :	PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES - Democratic			N/A			Donald J. Trump	N/A	
Office Subtotal :	0								
Office :	PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES - Republican			N/A			Donald J. Trump	N/A	
Office Subtotal :	0								
Office :	JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT				Incumbent:	Daniel Kelly	01/07/2020	3809	Approved
048	0105892	Daniel Kelly W340 S5527 Prairie View Drive North Prairie, 53153		07/15/2019	1/7/2020	12/20/2019	01/07/2020		
049	0106128	Ed Fallone 1830 E. Kane Place, Number 4 Milwaukee, 53202		04/22/2019	12/10/2019	01/07/2020	01/07/2020	2363	Approved
047	0106129	Jill J. Karofsky 2710 Gregory St. Madison, 53711		05/06/2019	12/20/2019	12/20/2019	01/06/2020	4000	Approved
Office Subtotal :	3				Incumbent:	Joe Donald	12/04/2019	1838	Approved
Office :	COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 1			09/30/2019	12/9/2019	12/27/2019			
021	0103492	Joe Donald 2866 North 74th Street Milwaukee, 53210							
Office Subtotal :	1								
Office :	COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 2			04/30/2019	12/23/2019	12/23/2019			
013	0105629	Paul Bugenhagen Jr S69W29335 Valley Woods Pass Mukwonago, 53149							

Attachment B

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Candidate Tracking by Office

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote - 4/7/2020

Receipt #	ID	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Ballot Status
027	0104623	Lisa Neubauer 1145 Main Street Racine, 53403		06/13/2019	12/27/2019	01/02/2020	12/27/2019	1863	Approved
Office Subtotal : 2									
Office : COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 4									
039	0106134	Rachel A. Graham 309 N. Baldwin St. MADISON, 53703		11/26/2019	11/15/2019	01/01/2020	01/02/2020	1894	Approved
Office Subtotal : 1									
Office : BARRON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2									
014	0102830	J. Michael Bitney 2905 18 3/4 Street Rice Lake, 54868		11/11/2019	11/25/2019	12/08/2019	12/26/2019	366	Approved
Office Subtotal : 1									
Office : BARRON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3									
040	0105478	Maureen D. Boyle 1010 Yorkshire Avenue Rice Lake, 54868		11/06/2019	11/29/2019	12/26/2019	01/02/2020	270	Approved
Office Subtotal : 1									
Office : BROWN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 8									
050	0106170	Andy Williams 2100 South Oneida Green Bay, 54304		01/06/2020	1/7/2020	01/10/2020	01/07/2020	261	Approved
011	0106146	Beau G. Liegeois 854 Canterbury Castle Lane Green Bay, 54313		09/29/2019	11/22/2019	12/29/2019	12/23/2019	297	Approved
Office Subtotal : 2									
Office : CHIPPEWA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3									
043	0106156	Sharon Gibbs McIlquham 5794 197th Street Chippewa Falls, 54729		11/10/2019	11/18/2019	01/02/2020	01/03/2020	380	Approved

Wisconsin Elections Commission
Candidate Tracking by Office

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote - 4/7/2020

Receipt #	ID	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Ballot Status
028	0106152	Benjamin Lane 10978 175th Street Chippewa Falls, 54729-5334		11/02/2019	11/14/2019	12/04/2019	12/30/2019	396	Approved
		Office Subtotal : 2							
Office :	DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 7				Incumbent:	William E. Hanrahan			
037	0104592	William E. Hanrahan 6263 Paske Ct Middleton, 53562		12/23/2019	12/30/2019	12/30/2019	12/30/2019	301	Approved
		Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	DODGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1				Incumbent:	Brian A. Pfitzinger			
003	0104607	Brian A. Pfitzinger 334 Brookside Dr. Unit 2 Mayville, 53050		10/29/2019	11/27/2019	12/03/2019	12/18/2019	381	Approved
		Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	DODGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 4				Incumbent:	Steven G. Bauer (Filed Notification of Noncandidacy)			
024	0106135	James T. Sempf 106 Audubon Court Mayville, 53050		08/20/2019	8/16/2019	01/02/2020	12/27/2019	305	Approved
		Office Subtotal : 2							
Office :	DUNN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1				Incumbent:	James M. Peterson			
032	0102343	James M. Peterson 1220 Golf View Dr. Menomonie, 54751-1542		10/21/2019	12/30/2019	12/16/2019	12/30/2019	310	Approved
		Office Subtotal : 1							

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Candidate Tracking by Office

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote - 4/7/2020

Receipt #	ID	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Ballot Status
Office : EAU CLAIRE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH									
006	0104622	Michael Schumacher 1380 Whistling Straits Court Altocna, 54720-2244		12/06/2019	12/13/2019		12/19/2019	259	Approved
Office Subtotal : 1									
Office : FLORENCE AND FOREST COUNTIES CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE									
031	0102492	Leon D. Stenz 6115 N. Railroad Ave. Crandon, 54520		11/14/2019	12/30/2019		12/30/2019	354	Approved
001	0105454	Robert A. Kennedy, Jr. 307 East Lakeview Street Crandon, 54520		10/17/2019	10/29/2019		12/13/2019	250	Approved
Office Subtotal : 2									
Office : FOND DU LAC COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1									
029	0103307	Dale L. English 16 County Court Fond du Lac, 54935		10/28/2019	10/7/2019		12/18/2019	12/30/2019	311
Office Subtotal : 1									
Office : IRON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE									
023	0103182	Anthony J. Stella, Jr. 13545N County Highway D Hurley, 53534		09/26/2019	12/27/2019		01/02/2020	12/27/2019	256
Office Subtotal : 1									
Office : JUNEAU COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2									
022	0104628	Paul S. Curran 324 Tremont Street Mauston, 53948		10/31/2019	11/18/2019		01/03/2020	12/27/2019	253
Office Subtotal : 1									

Wisconsin Elections Commission
Candidate Tracking by Office

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote - 4/7/2020

Receipt #	ID	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Ballot Status
Office :	KENOSHA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3								
004	0100677	Bruce E. Schroeder 207 54th Street, Unit 3A Kenosha, 53140-6502		11/28/2019	12/18/2019	12/17/2019	12/19/2019	233	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1								
Office :	MARATHON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3								
044	0105464	LaMont K. Jacobson 3321 Richards Road Wausau, 54401-4046		01/07/2020	12/6/2019	12/09/2019	01/03/2020	331	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1								
Office :	MARINETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1								
020	0103311	Mike Perry W5192 State Highway 64 Peshtigo, 54157		04/17/2019	12/27/2019	01/02/2020	12/27/2019	388	Approved
005	0106131	Jane Kopish Sequin 602 Chautauqua Marinette, 54143		09/21/2019	8/14/2019	01/03/2020	12/20/2019	378	Approved
Office Subtotal :	2								
Office :	MENOMINEE AND SHAWANO COUNTIES CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1								
002	0106158	Tony A. Kordus 203 Kimberlee Court Bonduel, 54107		11/22/2019	11/22/2019	12/02/2019	12/17/2019	383	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1								
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2								
038	0106168	Milton L. Childs, Sr. 7544 N. 90th Street Milwaukee, 53224-4008		12/26/2019	12/12/2019	01/03/2020	01/02/2020	1931	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1								

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Candidate Tracking by Office

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote - 4/7/2020

Receipt #	ID	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Ballot Status
Office : MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH									
	5				Incumbent:				
0118	0106125	Paul Dedinsky 5737 N Kent Ave Whitefish Bay, 53217		02/23/2019	12/26/2019	01/03/2020	12/26/2019	1974	Approved
035	0106136	Brett Blomme 6656 W. Moltke Avenue Milwaukee, 53210		08/15/2019	12/30/2019	01/02/2019	12/30/2019	1793	Approved
046	0106144	Zach Whitney 3545 W. Verona Ct. Milwaukee, 53215		10/03/2019	1/3/2020	01/07/2020	01/03/2020	1581	Approved
Office Subtotal : 3									
Office : MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH									
	7				Incumbent:				
026	0105437	Thomas J. McAdams 11727 W Wooded Court Greenfield, 53228		12/06/2019	10/25/2019	12/09/2019	12/27/2019	1076	Approved
Office Subtotal : 1									
Office : MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH									
	16				Incumbent:				
012	0106145	Brittany Grayson 1640 Rivers Bend, #103 Wauwatosa, 53226		10/04/2019	11/25/2019	01/02/2020	12/23/2019	1936	Approved
Office Subtotal : 1									
Office : MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH									
	24				Incumbent:				
015	0105433	Janet C. Protasiewicz 8274 Country Club Circle Franklin, 53132-8532		11/27/2019	11/27/2019	12/09/2019	12/26/2019	2000	Approved
Office Subtotal : 1									

Wisconsin Elections Commission
Candidate Tracking by Office

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote - 4/7/2020

Receipt #	ID	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Ballot Status
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH								
27	0103962	Kevin E. Martens 8348 South 68th Street Franklin, 53132		11/26/2019	11/21/2019	12/27/2019	12/26/2019	1425	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1								
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH								
29	0106121	Rebecca Kiefer 7001 North Yates Road Fox Point, 53217		02/21/2019	1/2/2020	01/03/2020	01/02/2020	1908	Approved
041	0106123	Dan Gabler 9267 N Lake Drive Bayside, 53217		07/11/2019	1/2/2020	01/10/2020	01/02/2020	1939	Approved
Office Subtotal :	2								
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH								
32	0105436	Laura Gramling Perez 1541 N. Cass Street Milwaukee, 53202		11/02/2019	11/22/2019	12/31/2019	12/26/2019	1656	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1								
Office :	ONEIDA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1								
045	0102522	Patrick F. O'Melia 5192 Kerry Lane Rhinelander, 54501		01/03/2020	1/3/2020	01/03/2020	01/03/2020	276	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1								
Office :	OUTAGAMIE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH								
2	0106142	Emily I. Lonergan 1133 E Rustic Rd Appleton, 54911		09/22/2019	11/20/2019	01/07/2020	12/30/2019	381	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1								

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Candidate Tracking by Office

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote - 4/7/2020

Receipt #	ID	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Ballot Status
Office :									
	OUTAGAMIE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH								
034	3	Mitchell J. Metropulos		12/02/2019	12/5/2019	12/30/2019	297	Approved	
Office Subtotal :									
Office :									
	SAINT CROIX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH								
008	1	Scott J. Nordstrand		02/28/2019	3/4/2019	12/28/2019	12/23/2019	390	Approved
Office Subtotal :									
Office :									
	WASHBURN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE								
009	1	Angeline E. Winton		12/19/2019	12/23/2019	12/25/2019	12/23/2019	296	Approved
Office Subtotal :									
Office :									
	WASHINGTON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2								
010	1	James K. Muehlbauer		09/08/2019	9/13/2019	12/03/2019	12/23/2019	314	Approved
Office Subtotal :									
Office :									
	WAUKESHA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 5								
036	1	Sarah A. Ponath		06/12/2019	7/22/2019	12/18/2019	12/30/2019	380	Approved
		N51 W14441 Jacklin Court Menomonee Falls, 53051							
025	2	Jack Melvin		06/20/2019	12/27/2019	12/30/2019	12/27/2019	343	Approved
		1738 River Lakes Road North Oconomowoc, 53066							
Office Subtotal :									

Wisconsin Elections Commission
Candidate Tracking by Office

2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote - 4/7/2020

Receipt #	ID	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Ballot Status
Office :									
017	0105480	Vicki L. Clussman			12/03/2019	12/02/2019	12/26/2019	268	Approved
		220 Vista Ct							
		Waupaca, 54981							
Office Subtotal : 1									
Office :									
030	0102510	Gregory J. Potter			12/03/2019	12/30/2019	01/03/2020	242	Approved
		950 First Avenue South							
		Wisconsin Rapids, 54495							
Office Subtotal : 1									
Total Candidates : 50									

Wisconsin Elections Commission: Nomination Paper Review Guidelines

Process Overview

- Use a red pen to mark up the petition during the review process.
- Circle any piece of information on the petition page that is missing or problematic.
- Make a red check to the right of the row to indicate a signature should not be counted.
- Make a red question mark (?) to note questionable signatures that have been counted or to note omitted information on signature line where that signature is still able to be counted.
- Write the number of signatures counted on the upper, right-hand corner of each sheet.

Step 1: Review the Header

Overview: The header of each petition page must contain all the required candidate information. If any of the required information is missing, or incorrect, no signatures on that page can be counted.

Required information:

1. Name of candidate
2. Residential address of candidate
 - a. Street number and street name (P.O. box addresses are not acceptable)
 - b. Municipality for voting purposes
 - c. State
3. Type of election
4. Election date
5. Title of office sought
6. Branch, district or seat number of office sought (if applicable)
7. Name of district in which candidate seeks office

Other information:

1. Mailing address (only required if different than residential address or voting municipality)
2. Zip code (may be present but not required)

Step 2: Review the Certification of Circulator

Overview: The Certification of Circulator section is completed after the signatures on that page have been collected. Each petition page must contain all the required circulator information, the circulator's signature and a certification date that is on or

after the latest date of a signer. If any of the required information is missing or incorrect, no signatures on that page may be counted. If missing circulator information can be determined from another section of the petition page, the signatures on that page should be counted. Most often this occurs when a circulator is also the candidate or has signed that page as an eligible elector.

Residency of Circulator: The circulator does not need to reside in the district represented by the candidate, nor do they need to be a resident of Wisconsin. All circulators must be otherwise eligible to register to vote in Wisconsin (18 years of age, U.S. citizen, not serving any portion of a sentence for a felony offense). They do not need to be registered to vote in Wisconsin or any other state to circulate nomination papers.

Required information:

1. Name of circulator - Signatures on the page should be counted if the circulator printed their name on the line meant for their signature.
2. Address of circulator
 - a. Street number, street name and municipality - If missing circulator address, including municipality, can be determined from another section of the petition page, the signatures on that page should be counted.
 - b. State and zip code are not required.
3. Date (month/day/year) – All signatures must be dated within the circulation period. No signatures should be counted on a page where any portion of the date is missing.
4. Signature of circulator – Signatures on the page should be counted if the circulator signed on the line that should have the printed name.

Step 3: Review the Body of the Petition

Required information:

1. Signature of elector
 - a. Signature does not need be legible.
 - b. Electors may sign with an "X" or other mark if that is their usual signature.
 - c. Signature does not need to be cursive.
2. Printed name of elector
 - a. A printed name must be present in addition to the signature of the elector.
 - b. If a possible printed name can be determined, the signature should be counted.

- c. If a printed name cannot be determined, the signature should be struck from the petition.
- 3. Residential Address
 - a. Street name and street number or rural route are required.
 - b. Rural address must also include box or fire number.
 - c. P.O. boxes are only allowed if they are listed in addition to the residential address information. Signatures where only a P.O. box has been provided should be counted if the municipality of residence is entirely in the district. Mark with a question mark.
 - d. Ditto marks are allowed if they follow a valid address and the signer is using those marks to indicate they also reside at that address.
 - e. If all or part of the required address information of a signer is missing but residency can be determined by information found in another section of that specific petition page, that signature should be counted. This generally occurs when the signer is also the candidate and/or the circulator and the missing information is in the header or the certification section. Indicate on the petition page where that information is located.
- 4. Municipality of Residence
 - a. Municipality listed must be within the district represented by the candidate.
 - b. Abbreviations are allowed (e.g. "FDL" for Fond Du Lac or "Milw" for Milwaukee).
 - c. Ditto marks are allowed if they follow a valid municipality and the signer is using those marks to indicate they also reside in the municipality.
 - d. The Town/Village/City check box does not need to be checked.
 - e. If the municipality of residence was provided in the Residential Address field, the signature should be counted.
 - f. If the municipality information of a signer is missing but residency can be determined by information found in another section of that specific petition page (most likely in the header or the Certification of Circulator), that signature should be counted. Indicate on the petition page where that information is located.
- 5. Date of Signing
 - a. A complete date includes the month/date/year.
 - b. Date must be within the circulation period.
 - c. Date must be on or before the date the page was certified by the circulator.

- d. Ditto marks are allowed if they follow a valid date and the signer is using those marks to indicate they also signed on the same date. If ditto marks are used for the date of the last signer, the signature can be counted if it follows a valid date.
 - e. A missing date can be bracketed ([]) if valid and complete dates appear on the line above and the line below the signature line with the missing date.
 - f. If the date of the first or last signer is incomplete, it cannot be bracketed, and that signature should not be counted.

Step 4: Count the Signatures

1. Sort the petition by the number of valid signatures on each page before determining the final number of valid signatures.
 2. Place the pages with 10 counted signatures on top, followed by the pages with 9, etc.
 3. Use a tally sheet or calculator to determine the number of valid signatures on the petition.
 4. Determine if the number of valid signatures is sufficient for the office sought. Use the appropriate Ballot Access Checklist to determine the signature threshold for the office sought:
 - a. County Non-partisan Candidates ELIS-3
 - b. School District Candidates ELIS-5
 - c. Municipal Candidates ELIS-7
 - d. County Partisan Candidates ELIS-16
 - e. Multi-jurisdictional Judge Candidates ELIS-18

8.10 Nominations for spring election.

- (1) Candidates for office to be filled at the spring election shall be nominated by nomination papers, or by nomination papers and selection at the primary if a primary is held, except as provided for towns and villages under s. 8.05. Unless designated in this section or s. 8.05, the general provisions pertaining to nomination at the partisan primary apply.
- (2)
- (a) Nomination papers for offices to be filled at the spring election may be circulated no sooner than December 1 preceding the election and may be filed no later than 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday in January preceding the election, or the next day if Tuesday is a holiday, except as authorized in this paragraph. If an incumbent fails to file nomination papers and a declaration of candidacy by the time prescribed in this paragraph, all candidates for the office held by the incumbent, other than the incumbent, may file nomination papers no later than 72 hours after the latest time prescribed in this paragraph. No extension of the time for filing nomination papers applies if the incumbent files written notification with the filing officer or agency with whom nomination papers are filed for the office which the incumbent holds, no later than 5 p.m. on the 2nd Friday preceding the latest time prescribed in this paragraph for filing nomination papers, that the incumbent is not a candidate for reelection to his or her office, and the incumbent does not file nomination papers for that office within the time prescribed in this paragraph.
- (b) Each nomination paper shall have substantially the following words printed at the top:
- I, the undersigned, request that the name of (insert candidate's last name plus first name, nickname or initial, and middle name, former legal surname, nickname or middle initial or initials if desired, but no other abbreviations or titles), residing at (insert candidate's street address) be placed on the ballot at the (spring or special) election to be held on (date of election) as a candidate so that voters will have the opportunity to vote for (him or her) for the office of (name of office). I am eligible to vote in the (name of jurisdiction or district in which candidate seeks office). I have not signed the nomination paper of any other candidate for the same office at this election.
- (c) Each candidate shall include his or her mailing address on the candidate's nomination papers.
- (3) The certification of a qualified circulator under s. 8.15 (4) (a) shall be appended to each nomination paper. The number of required signatures on nomination papers filed under this section is as follows:
- (a) For statewide offices, not less than 2,000 nor more than 4,000 electors.
- (am) For court of appeals judges, not less than 1,000 nor more than 2,000 electors.
- (b) For judicial offices not specified in pars. (a), (am), and (c), not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors.
- (c) For judicial offices in counties over 500,000 population, not less than 1,000 nor more than 2,000 electors.
- (cm) For county executives in counties over 500,000 population, not less than 2,000 nor more than 4,000 electors.
- (cs) For comptrollers in counties with a population of at least 750,000, not less than 500 nor more than 1,000 electors.
- (d) For county executives in counties between 100,000 and 500,000 population, not less than 500 nor more than 1,000 electors.
- (e) For county executives in counties under 100,000 population, not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors.
- (f) For supervisors in counties over 500,000 population, not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors.
- (g) For supervisors in counties between 100,000 and 500,000 population, not less than 100 nor more than 200 electors, except as provided in sub. (3m).
- (h) For supervisors in counties under 100,000 population, not less than 20 nor more than 100 electors.
- (hm) For members of the metropolitan sewerage commission in districts over 1,000,000 population, not less than 1,000 nor more than 2,000 electors, in districts over 200,000 but not over 1,000,000 population, not

less than 200 nor more than 400 electors, and in districts not over 200,000 population, not less than 100 nor more than 200 electors.

- (i) For city offices in 1st class cities, not less than 1,500 nor more than 3,000 electors for city-wide offices, not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors for alderpersons elected from aldermanic districts and not less than 400 nor more than 800 electors for members of the board of school directors elected from election districts.
- (j) Except as provided in par. (jm), for city offices in 2nd and 3rd class cities, not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors for city-wide offices and not less than 20 nor more than 40 electors for alderpersons elected from aldermanic districts.
- (jm) For city offices in 2nd and 3rd class cities, not less than 100 nor more than 200 electors for alderpersons who are not elected from aldermanic districts.
- (k) For city offices in 4th class cities, not less than 50 nor more than 100 for city-wide offices and not less than 20 nor more than 40 electors for alderpersons elected from aldermanic districts.
- (km) For school district officer in any school district which contains territory lying within a 2nd class city, not less than 100 nor more than 200 electors.
- (ks) For school district officer in any school district which does not contain territory lying within a 1st or 2nd class city, if nomination papers are required under s. 120.06 (6) (a), not less than 20 nor more than 100 electors.
- (L) For other offices, not less than 20 nor more than 100 electors.

- (3m) The county board of any county having a population of at least 100,000 but not more than 500,000 may provide by ordinance that the number of required signatures on nomination papers for the office of county supervisor in the county is not less than 50 nor more than 200 electors. A county that enacts such an ordinance may repeal the ordinance at a later date. Any ordinance changing the number of signatures under this subsection takes effect on November 15 following enactment of the ordinance.

(4)

- (a) All signers on each nomination paper shall reside in the jurisdiction or district which the candidate named on the paper will represent, if elected.
- (b) Only one signature per person for the same office is valid. In addition to his or her signature, in order for the signature to be valid, each signer of a nomination paper shall legibly print his or her name in a space provided next to his or her signature and shall list his or her municipality of residence for voting purposes, the street and number, if any, on which the signer resides, and the date of signing.
- (5) Nomination papers shall be accompanied by a declaration of candidacy under s. 8.21. If a candidate has not filed a registration statement under s. 11.0202 (1) (a) at the time he or she files nomination papers, the candidate shall file the statement with the papers. A candidate for state office or municipal judge shall also file a statement of economic interests with the ethics commission under s. 19.43 (4) no later than 4:30 p.m. on the 3rd day following the last day for filing nomination papers under sub. (2) (a), or no later than 4:30 p.m. on the next business day after the last day whenever that candidate is granted an extension of time for filing nomination papers under sub. (2) (a).

NOTE: Sub. (5) is shown as affected by 2015 Wis. Acts 117 and 118 as merged by the legislative reference bureau under s. 13.92 (2) (i).

(6) Nomination papers shall be filed:

- (a) For state offices or seats on a metropolitan sewerage commission, if the commissioners are elected under s. 200.09 (11) (am), in the office of the elections commission.
- (b) For county offices, in the office of the county clerk or board of election commissioners.
- (bm) For municipal judge, if the judge is elected under s. 755.01 (4), in the office of the county clerk or board of election commissioners of the county having the largest portion of the population in the jurisdiction served by the judge.

- (c) For city offices and other offices voted for exclusively within the municipality, except the office of county supervisor, in the office of the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners.
- (d) For school district offices to be voted for within more than one municipality, with the person designated by the school board as the filing official for their school district.

History: 1971 c. 304 s. 29 (1), (2); 1973 c. 280; 1973 c. 334 s. 57; 1975 c. 93, 328, 422; 1977 c. 187, 340, 427, 445, 449; 1979 c. 221, 249, 260, 355; 1983 a. 484; 1985 a. 89, 304; 1989 a. 88, 290; 1993 a. 140, 184, 266; 1995 a. 16 s. 2; 1999 a. 150 s. 672; 1999 a. 182; 2001 a. 103; 2005 a. 451; 2007 a. 1; 2011 a. 62, 75; 2013 a. 160, 174; 2015 a. 117, 118; s. 13.92 (2) (i).

Cross-reference: See also ss. EL 2.05, 2.07, and 6.04, Wis. adm. code.

A petitioner who timely filed with the county clerk rather than with the elections board under sub. (6) (a) is barred from the ballot.
State ex rel. Ahlgrimm v. State Elections Board, 82 Wis. 2d 585, 263 N.W.2d 152 (1978).

8.30 Candidates ineligible for ballot placement.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the official or agency with whom declarations of candidacy are required to be filed may refuse to place the candidate's name on the ballot if any of the following apply:
 - (a) The nomination papers are not prepared, signed, and executed as required under this chapter.
 - (b) It conclusively appears, either on the face of the nomination papers offered for filing, or by admission of the candidate or otherwise, that the candidate is ineligible to be nominated or elected.
 - (c) The candidate, if elected, could not qualify for the office sought within the time allowed by law for qualification because of age, residence, or other impediment.
- (2) If no registration statement has been filed by or on behalf of a candidate for state or local office in accordance with s. 11.0202 (1) (a) by the applicable deadline for filing nomination papers by such candidate, or the deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy for an office for which nomination papers are not filed, the name of the candidate may not appear on the ballot. This subsection may not be construed to exempt a candidate from applicable penalties if he or she files a registration statement later than the time prescribed in s. 11.0202 (1) (a).
- (2m) The official or agency with whom nomination papers and declarations of candidacy are required to be filed shall not place a candidate's name on the ballot if the candidate's name is ineligible for ballot placement under s. 5.05 (2m) (d) 2., 15.61 (3), or 19.49 (2) (c) 2.
- (3) The official or agency with whom declarations of candidacy are required to be filed may not place a candidate's name on the ballot if the official or agency is prohibited from doing so under s. 19.43 (4) or an ordinance adopted under s. 19.59 (3) (b).
- (4) The official or agency with whom a declaration of candidacy is required to be filed may not place a candidate's name on the ballot if the candidate fails to file a declaration of candidacy within the time prescribed under s. 8.21.

History: 1975 c. 93; 1979 c. 120, 328; 1979 c. 355 ss. 28, 29; 1983 a. 484; 1985 a. 304; 1987 a. 391; 2001 a. 109; 2005 a. 149, 177; 2007 a. 1; 2015 a. 117, 118.

Cross-reference: See also ss. EL 2.09 and 2.11, Wis. adm. code.

A petitioner who timely filed with the county clerk rather than with the elections board under s. 8.10 (6) (a) is barred from the ballot.
State ex rel. Ahlgrimm v. State Elections Board, 82 Wis. 2d 585, 263 N.W.2d 152 (1978).

NOMINATION PAPER FOR NONPARTISAN OFFICE



Candidate's name (required); no titles may be used		Candidate's residential address (required) No P.O. box addresses Street, fire, or rural route number; box number if rural route; and name of street or road (required) if different than residential address or voting municipality		Candidate's municipality for voting purposes (required) <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City (name of municipality)	
Zach Whitney		Milwaukee			
3545 W. Verona Court					
Title of office (required)		State (required) Zip code		Type of election (required)	Election date (required) Do not use primary date Mo/Dav/Year 4/7/2020
Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 5		WI 53215		<input type="checkbox"/> spring <input type="checkbox"/> special	Name of jurisdiction or district in which candidate seeks office Milwaukee County
Branch, district, or seat number (required) if applicable		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Branch <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Seat		Branch, district, or seat number (required) if applicable	

I, the undersigned, request that the candidate, whose name and residential address are listed above, be placed on the ballot at the election described above as a candidate so that voters will have the opportunity to vote for him for the office listed above. I am eligible to vote in the jurisdiction or district in which the candidate named above seeks office. I have not signed the nomination paper of any other candidate for the same office at this election.

The municipality used for mailing purposes, when different than municipality of residence, is not sufficient. The name of the municipality of residence must always be listed.

Printed Name of Electors	Residential Address (No P.O. Box Addresses) Street and Number or Rural Route (Rural address must also include box or fire no.)	Municipality of Residence Check the type and write the name of your municipality for voting purposes.	Date of Signing Mo/Day/Year
1. <u>Zellahale Williams</u>	<u>6533 W. Merton Rd.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
2. <u>Meredith Sjorud</u>	<u>13331 Hogs</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
3. <u>Dawnayne Williams</u>	<u>951 W. Bechtel</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
4. <u>Jessamine Blume</u>	<u>1601 N Bay Dr.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
5. <u>Montie Moore</u>	<u>5012 N 6th St.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
6. <u>Nichard Ruffo</u>	<u>1001 W. H. F. St.</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
7. <u>Mardell Turner</u>	<u>W1C3 N 95</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
8. <u>James Spinks</u>	<u>James Spinks</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
9. <u>Rodney Morgan</u>	<u>6321 N 29 St</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
10. <u>Janeen Michael</u>	<u>301 W Hampton</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Milwaukee	<u>12/1/2019</u>
CERTIFICATION OF CIRCULATOR		<u>John B. Johnson</u>	<u>John B. Johnson</u>
I, _____, certify: I reside at _____ (Name of circulator)		<u>John B. Johnson</u>	<u>John B. Johnson</u>
(Circulator's residential address - Include number, street, and municipality.)			
I further certify I am either a qualified elector of Wisconsin, or a U.S. citizen, age 18 or older who, if I were a resident of this state, would not be disqualified from voting under Wis. Stat. § 66.03. I personally circulated this nomination paper and personally obtained each of the signatures on this paper. I know that the signs are electors of the jurisdiction or district the candidate seeks to represent. I know that each person signed the paper with full knowledge of its content on the date indicated opposite his or her name. I know their respective residences given. I intend to support this candidate. I am aware that falsifying this certification is punishable under Wis. Stat. § 12.13(3)(a).			
<u>John B. Johnson</u> <u>John B. Johnson</u> <u>John B. Johnson</u> <u>John B. Johnson</u>			
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Wisconsin Elections Commission

212 East Washington Avenue | Third Floor | P.O. Box 7984 | Madison, WI 53707-7984
(608) 266-8005 | elections@wi.gov | elections.wi.gov

DATE: For the January 14th, 2020 Commission Meeting

TO: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission

FROM: Meagan Wolfe, Administrator
Reid Magney, Public Information Officer

SUBJECT: Election Security - Public Information Program

At its December 2nd, 2019 meeting, the Commission heard preliminary, topline results from survey and focus group research by the KW2 advertising agency regarding election security communications. KW2 has completed its analysis of the research data and will be attending the meeting to present in-depth results to the Commission. KW2 and staff will also present recommendations for a dynamic election security communications program for 2020 and beyond.

KW2's research summary and communications program recommendations are attached to this memorandum. The program's goal is to educate the public about how elections work in Wisconsin to help voters understand the procedures in place which help to ensure election integrity. The program will also be designed to provide the agency and local election officials with tools designed to build trust in the elections process.

KW2 has provided recommendations for a three-phase program, starting with development of a communications plan, toolkit and assets, such as website content, videos, news releases and graphics. The educational materials developed in the first phase will help the WEC and local election officials communicate about election security through earned media coverage, social media channels and their own websites. The estimated cost of the first phase is \$260,000.

The other two phases could involve paid placement of dynamic digital advertising messages on Wisconsin news and information websites (estimated at \$180,000) and a broader paid media campaign (estimated at between \$300,000 and \$450,000). More information about these phases can be found in the summary document from KW2 that was provided as part of the meeting materials.

At this time, staff recommends proceeding only with the first phase of the communications plan, at a cost not to exceed \$260,000. This funding is available from the current election security grant. Educational materials and videos produced by KW2 will give WEC and clerks the tools we need to address voters' questions and concerns about election security for the Spring Election cycle.

Staff further recommends that we work with KW2 to evaluate the program's performance during the Spring elections. Based on that evaluation, we will make recommendations about whether additional paid media resources are necessary and refine KW2's proposals for the potential implementation of the

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second and third phases of the communications program. Staff will bring the Commission these recommendations at the June 2020 meeting. By that time, staff will also have more information about the availability of funding from the next round of federal election security grants.

Recommended Motion: Authorize staff to amend the scope of work in KW2's current contract with the WEC to include development of a dynamic elections security education and communications plan, toolkit and assets for use by WEC staff and local election officials at a cost not to exceed \$260,000. Further direct staff to evaluate the program's effectiveness following the Spring Election cycle and present recommendations on whether to change and/or expand the program for the Fall Election cycle at the June 2020 Commission meeting.



WEC Summary of Statewide Survey Results and Focus Group Findings Summary

January 2020



Methodology

- **Method:** Online survey
- **Sample size:** 1,116 WI residents, age 18 or older
- **Margin of error:** +/- 2.9% at 95% confidence level
- **Field window:** September 30–October 18, 2019
- **Weighting:** Data weighted to reflect region and gender of WI population

The survey conducted is reflective of quality and integrity consistent with industry standards and best practices. The margin of error is +/- 2.9% at 95% confidence. As is done routinely in surveys, results were weighted to ensure that responses accurately reflect the population's makeup by region and gender of the Wisconsin population.

Region

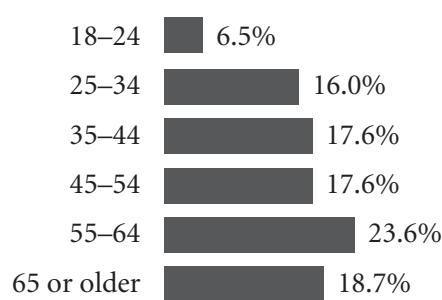


Ethnicity

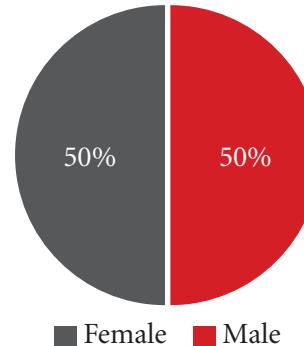
White	88%
Black or African-American	6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	3%
More than one race	2%
Hispanic/Latinx	2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Other	1%

Marked all that apply

Age



Gender





Results Summary

Confidence Measures

The survey measured three components of voter confidence: accuracy, integrity, and security.

- Like other national polls, confidence in the accuracy, integrity, and security of polls was higher when on the local/state level.

Confidence in:	National Level	State Level
Election security	29%	54%
Integrity of election process	35%	58%
Accurately recording and counting votes	43%	64%

Top-2 Box = 4–5 on 5 pt. scale, where 1 = not at all confident/extremely worried and 5 = extremely confident/not at all worried

Feel Vote Counts

- 31% reported feeling their vote does not count – electoral college, collusion and party politics were the top reasons cited for this belief.
- Still, 88% reported planning to vote in 2020.

Top Election Security Concerns

Survey respondents were asked about 10 potential election security issues.

- 69% reported worrying about one or more perceived threats to Wisconsin's election security.

Worry about:	National Level	State Level
Hacking or cyber-attacks	78%	62%
Absentee ballots not counted	75%	60%
Outdated equipment issues	68%	54%
Voting machines will be tampered with	73%	53%
Votes counted accurately	73%	53%
Votes counted honestly	74%	52%
Foreign interference	70%	51%
Non-citizens will illegally cast votes	59%	49%
Voter fraud (e.g. voting more than once)	62%	47%
Eligible voters denied right to vote	57%	46%

Top-3 Box = 1–3 on 5 pt. scale, where 1 = extremely worried and 5 = not at all worried



Election Oversight / WEC Awareness

Most respondents were not sure who is responsible for ensuring the security of Wisconsin's elections.

- Only 16% indicated they knew who was responsible for election security in Wisconsin.
- 50% reported having heard of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, but only 11% identified WEC as holding primary responsibility for ensuring the security of Wisconsin's elections.

Building Confidence

Survey respondents were asked if various aspects of Wisconsin's election system made them feel more confident.

- All statements tested increased confidence in Wisconsin's election process. Wisconsin's requirement of a paper trail for all equipment used had the greatest impact.

Makes feel more confident:	Top 2 Box	Bottom 2 Box
Paper trail for all voting equipment used	70%	5%
Locally run	62%	6%
All equipment tested and certified at Federal and State levels	61%	6%
Nearly 30K poll workers	61%	5%
Random hand-counted audits	61%	7%
Ballot counting and verification are open to public	60%	6%
Past recounts have not shown major problems	60%	6%
WI elections run by local county and municipal clerks	57%	9%

Top-2 Box = 4-5 on 5 pt. scale, where 1 = much less confident and 5 = much more confident; Bottom 2 Box= 1-2



Information Sources

When asked where they get most of their news about elections, local TV news was mentioned the most.

News Source	
Local TV news	43%
Online news sites	31%
National TV news	30%
Social media, such as Facebook and Twitter	26%
Local newspaper	18%
Cable news – FOX	16%
Friends & family	16%
Talk radio	13%
Cable news – CNN	13%
Cable news – MSNBC	9%
National newspapers	9%
Online forums and discussion groups	8%
Late-night talk shows	3%
News magazines	3%
Cable news opinion commentators	2%
Daytime talk shows	1%
Other	6%



When asked what source they trusted the most for information about election security, TV was the most frequent response.

Most Trusted Source	
TV	29%
Local news (unspecified medium)	11%
Internet / computer source / social media	10%
National news (any medium)	8%
Radio	6%
Newspaper	5%
News (general)	4%
Family and friends	3%
Government	2%
Combined sources	1%
Other	6%
None	13%
Don't know / unsure	4%

Focus Group Findings Summary

Details

Total number of groups: 12

Total number of participants: 120

Date range: 11/7/19–11/15/19

Locations and surrounding communities: Milwaukee, Madison, Appleton, Chippewa Falls

Groups per location: 3

Demographic breakdown: 63 male participants, 57 female participants; 3 participants (18–24), 20 participants (25–34), 37 participants (35–44), 25 participants (45–54), 17 participants (55–64), 18 participants (65+)

Focus group structure: Open-ended questions, messaging feedback and ranking

Focus group guidelines: Each group was told we would not discuss personal political affiliations, beliefs, preference for candidates.



Overall Observations

Associations regarding “election security”: We opened the groups with a set of questions to help orient the discussion to what voters associated with election security. Participants’ unaided answers fell into four categories: voting equipment/computer hacking, foreign interference on elections, voter fraud, and accurate counting of ballots.

Where that concern is placed: Most participants voiced concerns regarding election security and that their concern was about the state or national level, rather than their own community or at their local polling place. Concerns over computer hacking and equipment hacking were placed at a state and national level. Some who voiced concerns about voter fraud felt that it wasn’t done so much in their own community, but felt it was a problem in other communities.

Influential rumors, misinformation, and past news stories: Misinformation and rumors fuel concerns. The same rumors seemed to surface in each group. Some rumors were so deeply believed that they were presented as fact: “I know for a fact that this happened...” (e.g., videos of children hacking into voting equipment, buses of voters going to multiple polling places). When there was a lack of information or understanding of processes, many participants were drawn to information presented by other participants, despite it being misinformation and/or rumors. This was highlighted across all focus groups conducted, demonstrating that individuals who seek out information will often gravitate toward whatever information is available, whether it’s accurate or not.

Lack of insight into our election process and structure: Those who had the most insight into how the system worked had more confidence. Many participants, unaided, admitted to their lack of insight into how elections work in Wisconsin and voiced their desire to know more in order to have more confidence. In general, participants are not seeing counterinformation that helps counteract the landscape of rumors. Participants wanted more facts and information to how our elections (and election security) work and what is being done to protect them.

Absentee ballot procedures: We heard some concern about absentee ballots not being counted accurately, but it didn’t present itself as strongly as the quantitative survey indicated. Some participants countered that concern, stating they prefer absentee ballots because they believe there are more safeguards in the process.

Differences in locations/markets: Concerns about equipment hacking and foreign interference were voiced more in larger markets, while concern over voter fraud was referenced more in rural and mid-sized markets. In the conversations regarding voter fraud (not eligible to vote or voting in multiple polling places), many of the participants who voiced that concern stated they felt it wasn’t an issue in their community. Younger participants voiced more concern over the possibility of hacking and felt they didn’t know enough about the election process to counter these concerns.



Messages Building Confidence

In the focus groups we tested top messages that increased confidence levels reflected in the survey. This was not campaign testing, but what ideas and facts increased confidence levels. Below are the top three messages tested:

1. *Wisconsin requires a paper ballot trial.* In this messaging, we highlighted voter-verifiable paper trails for every vote in Wisconsin, and having a physical backup to high-tech voting equipment.
2. *Locally run/decentralized system.* This highlighted that local elections are locally led by people invested in the community, with nearly 30,000 poll workers in Wisconsin. It also noted that we have a decentralized system.
3. *Tested and certified equipment and post-election audits.* This highlighted random audits of voting equipment, tested and certified machines, random hand-counts after major elections and how vote counting and verification is open to the public.

Each message strategy had positives and negatives. However, functional messages (i.e. the tested/certified equipment and audits) tested the best, with paper ballots coming in a close second. This is also what we heard when we asked participants what they would like to see that would give them more confidence.

WEC as a credible resource: Participants were asked who they would expect to deliver the messages they heard. There were references to WEC, but many brought up “state agency” or the “government.” When asked (aided) if WEC was a credible source for these messages to be delivered by, most chose WEC over other options. WEC was also the top choice for being an expected source for this information. Local election officials also were listed as a credible source.

Functional messages centered around facts were preferred: Functional messages that described safeguards already in place tested better than more emotive statements. Absolute statements were viewed as unbelievable. The best tested messaging was found to be messaging that was the most informative. Participants felt it gave more detail to how the election system in Wisconsin is run. Most participants did not know about random audits, paper back-ups, and that vote counting is open to the public. Positives within the messaging included words and processes like “audit” and “verification.” The transparency that resulted from those words was found to be more believable.



Communication Recommendations

1. **Public information and education.** Based on what we heard in the focus groups and through the statewide survey, we recommend developing a communication program that gives citizens more insight into Wisconsin's election process, what is being done to keep our elections secure, and how safeguards can address some of their national concerns. Our goal is to increase the confidence levels of all Wisconsinites, but we should concentrate messaging that addresses concerns of those who fall within the center of the bell curve, reflecting level of concern.
2. **Providing a source for accurate election system information and countering influential rumors.** Misinformation and rumors can be countered by providing the public with real information about election security so that they have enough information to know when a rumor is just that, a rumor. Local election officials and WEC should be viewed as "the" source for accurate information and provide guidance and clarity when an unfounded rumor is gathering traction.
3. **Brought to you by WEC, but not about WEC.** We recommend the program comes from WEC, but as an endorser to the message. We can see value in having materials that county and municipal clerk offices can use and modify. This is not about WEC, but about elections and election security in Wisconsin. There is limited awareness of WEC; however, it is seen as credible when tied to this message.
4. **Use of the word "security".** It has a broad meaning, but still encompasses cyber security and count integrity. We do recommend continuing to use this word to describe the category but can explore alternatives. If we continue to use the word "security", we can start to build a definition around it.
5. **Build out functional messages.** Functional messaging can be built from what we learned worked and what didn't work in each message strategy. We have a solid list of proof points that boost confidence and understanding.
6. **Make the connection between local clerks and WEC more visible to the public to increase voter confidence.** Local/municipal clerks are seen as honest and trustworthy by the majority of participants, but not necessarily as having the technical skills to keep elections safeguarded from cyber-security threats. WEC is seen as credible when it comes to protecting against cyber-attacks. WEC can position itself to be the supplemental support clerks receive, providing year-round trainings and resources developed by election security experts for clerks at all levels. We recommend WEC leverages its role in election security and ongoing support of clerks by making the resources and trainings it provides to clerks more visible to the public. Through this approach, trust for both local/municipal clerks and WEC should increase amongst voters.
7. **Develop a communications plan and assets with dynamic messages and tools for local election officials and WEC.** This plan would include a host of assets and resources for WEC to utilize across various platforms. Multifunctional assets for local elections officials would be included, such as a templated communications toolkit distributed at local county and municipal clerk offices to be placed in community spaces, local communication vehicles, and polling places. An earned media plan would be



provided for WEC to utilize, including a content strategy plan. This plan would include how WEC can develop and maintain a communications hub on its website with information to counteract ongoing rumors and misinformation throughout the year.

8. **Implement a dynamic media plan based on different events and markets.** We understand that what resonates with voters will ebb and flow over time, which is why we recommend utilizing digital media outlets for specific dynamic messages based on market and events. To ensure that WEC has the right messages to communicate with the public in all situations, we recommend developing content and public information native ads that can be placed if security concerns are heightened or false rumors circulate that could impact election confidence. These dynamic ads could be placed near relevant news stories on available websites and direct users to the previously recommended communications hub on the WEC website for updated and accurate information. The messages in these ads would be customizable at any time and therefore tailored to the specific situation.
9. **Consider creating a broader reach digital media program driving awareness and traffic to the public information communications hub.** Broadcast media will be at a premium this election season, therefore, we recommend broader reach digital media tactics to reach more concerned voters prior to the spring and/or general election.



Phase I Develop a Communications Plan & Assets—\$260,000

Information program and toolkit development:

- Theme and visual look
- Material development (social media posts, website content, articles to be placed in local media, earned media content, polling place materials)
- Educational materials for WEC website and local election officials
- Educational video series
- Dynamic content plan and process

Phase II Digital Media Program with Dynamic Messages—\$180,000

Multiple digital ads based on heightened security concerns

Native content (similar to advertorials) for news story placement

Paid digital media on local news sites and other available recommended outlets

Phase III Broader Reach Digital Program—\$300,000-\$450,000

Utilizing toolkit ads and videos, focus on digital media placements for a broader reach of Wisconsin voters on social media and news sites. Crisis Communications toolkit to be utilized depending on severity of events and need for more broad-based communications.



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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DATE: For the January 14th, 2020 Commission Meeting

TO: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission

FROM: Meagan Wolfe, Administrator

SUBJECT: Request for Approval to Accept HAVA Security Funds

On December 20th, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020 into law. The Act included \$425 million in new Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds, made available to states to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance technology and make election security improvements. On January 6th, 2020 the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) sent an email to WEC announcing Wisconsin's portion of the grant award of \$7,818,581 with a 20% state match of \$1,563,716 for a total of \$9,382,297, along with a frequently asked questions document. EAC also indicated an Award Packet would be sent to states with instructions the following week.

Once the packet is received the next step will be to submit a §16.54 request to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) asking for permission to accept the funds. Then, within 90 days of the packet being received from the EAC, each state is required to provide a two- to three-page letter to the EAC that outlines, at a high level, how the state plans to use the new HAVA funds. The plan can be adapted and amended as necessary throughout the five-year term of the grant. We are also exploring ways to meet the required state match within the next two years using existing efforts to secure elections that can be applied as the match.

In addition to the plan that WEC will submit to the EAC within 90 days, WEC staff will also provide a plan to the Commission for its approval. Staff have begun conceptualizing ways to collaborate with county and municipal clerks to use the new grant funds to further advance a comprehensive security strategy and implement critical security measures while also building public confidence in election integrity.

Recommended Motion: Direct staff to submit a §16.54 request to the Department of Administration requesting the acceptance of HAVA election security grant funds.

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