



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Wisconsin Elections Commission
Special Teleconference Meeting
212 E. Washington Avenue, Third Floor
Madison, Wisconsin
10:00 a.m. December 1, 2020

Open Session Minutes

Present: Commissioner Ann Jacobs, Commissioner Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner Julie Glancey, Commissioner Dean Knudson, Commissioner Robert Spindell Jr., and Commissioner Mark Thomsen, all by teleconference.

Staff present: Meagan Wolfe, Richard Rydecki, Sharrie Hauge, Jim Witecha, Reid Magney, and Jacob Walters, all by teleconference

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair Ann Jacobs called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice

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

C. Personal Appearances (Time reserved for personal appearances may be limited by the Chair)

Mayor Tom Barrett of the City of Milwaukee appeared and spoke on behalf of all the efforts made by city election officials during this past election. He also expressed his disagreement with statements being made by the Trump campaign.

Mayor Jim Paine of the City of Superior appeared and complimented the work done throughout the state to conduct an election in the midst of unprecedented circumstances, in addition to all that was done by the Commission to increase access to democracy.

Barbara Beckett with Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Disability Vote Coalition appeared and said that while historically people with disabilities have faced barriers at the polls, this past election featured much in the way of removing these, and she commended the Commission for its efforts to increase voting accessibility.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

Darryl Morin appeared and shared some of the practices that he observed at the Milwaukee County recount which he felt were centered around transparency.

Eileen Newcomer with the League of Women Voters appeared and shared some general comments on behalf of the League, including responses to their post-election voter experience survey and observations from League members on election day.

Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk, appeared and voiced her sentiments that this past election was a success, and further praised the efforts of WEC staff and of election officials across the state.

Patricia Concha of West Allis appeared and shared that she witnessed what she feels were questionable practices at the Milwaukee central count facility.

Commissioners Spindell and Knudson followed with questions.

Beth Berkowitz appeared and listed four things she would like the Commission to know about her experience as a poll worker in Germantown.

Kelda Roys appeared and praised Wisconsin election officials for all that they've done this past year and went on to speak to her experiences as a Biden campaign representative during the recount. She also voiced her concern with some of the assertions being made by the Trump campaign.

Carol Pociecha-Palm appeared and stated last November's election in Wisconsin was rife with violations of law, such as not all absentee ballots having a corresponding application and voters falsely classifying themselves as indefinitely confined. She asked that the election not be certified.

Commissioner Thomsen followed with questions.

Tara Johnson appeared and shared her experiences as a poll worker in the Town of Shelby. She specifically spoke to the transparent practices she witnessed and her confidence that this election was conducted fairly and with integrity.

Jaala Spiro appeared and shared her experiences as a poll worker in the City of Madison, including what led her and her family to want to serve as poll workers and what assisting with the City of Madison's election was like.

Sam Munger of Madison appeared and noted the dramatic, positive difference he saw as a non-partisan election observer between the administration of the April Spring Election and the administration of the November General Election.

Don Pridemore appeared and stated there are three areas where those investigating voter fraud should be directing their efforts: Dominion voting equipment software, nursing home coercion, and statutory provisions for indefinitely confined voters. He also stated the election should not be certified until these investigations into fraud have taken place.

Commissioners Spindell and Thomsen followed with questions and comments.

Dan Miller of Milwaukee appeared and detailed his experiences working at the central count facility in Milwaukee.

Clio Maya-Johnson appeared and shared her experiences working as an election official at the Hawthorne Public Library in Madison. She spoke to the training she received, the resources at the polling place, and to her confidence that last November’s election was free and fair.

Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway of the City of Madison appeared and highlighted the work of the Madison City Clerk’s Office during this past election cycle and reaffirmed her belief that these elections continued Wisconsin’s tradition of fair and secure elections.

Annaliese Collier appeared shared her experiences as an “absentee ballot rapid response member” in the City of Madison. She touched on training resources, election day staffing, preparations made in advance of election day, and the overall administration of this election in the midst of a global pandemic.

Corey Lott appeared and shared her experiences as a poll worker at Lakeview Lutheran Church on Madison’s north side. Topics she addressed included poll worker training, polling place orderliness, and curbside voting.

Rosalie Powell appeared and shared her experience as a Chief Inspector in Training for Ward 29 at East High School in Madison. She spoke about interacting with poll observers and coordinating with other poll workers to accomplish tasks.

Anjali Bhasin of Madison appeared and spoke about her role supporting 31 non-partisan election observers on election day. She said a majority of the feedback she received was that of operations running smoothly and expressions of gratitude for the poll workers .

Discussion.

MOTION: To table the remainder of the day’s agenda items, only to be resumed after a discussion of the certification of the General Election.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	No
	Jacobs:	No	Spindell:	Aye
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	No

Motion failed 3-3.

Discussion.

D. Post-Election Audit Update

Administrator Wolfe introduced Deputy Administrator Richard Rydecki and he provided the Commission with an update on the statutorily required post-General Election voting equipment audit, the revised framework for which was approved at the Commission’s September 16, 2020 meeting.

Discussion.

MOTION: To table this item until the Commission’s next meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion.

E. Ballot Designs – 2021 Spring Election

Administrator Wolfe introduced Election Administration Specialist Cody Davies and he informed the Commission that the ballot templates for the Commission’s approval today do not differ substantially from the previously approved 2020 Spring Ballots.

MOTION: The Commission approves the ballot design presented by staff and directs staff to utilize the ballot design for the 2021 Spring Primary and Spring Election.

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Discussion.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Further, staff are instructed to provide guidance on the design of ballots with folds so as to minimize the potential of these creases being misread by optical scanning equipment.

Proposed by Commissioner Bostelmann. Accepted by Commissioner Glancey.

AMENDED MOTION: The Commission approves the ballot design presented by staff and directs staff to utilize the ballot design for the 2021 Spring Primary and Spring Election. Further, staff are instructed to provide guidance on the design of ballots with folds so as to minimize the potential of these creases being misread by optical scanning equipment.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	No
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 5-1.

F. Canvassing, Certifying, and Issuing Certificates of Election by the Chairperson for the November 3, 2020 General Election (all offices except President and Recount)

Chair Jacobs background for this agenda item and previewed what actions she intended to take. Commission Knudson objected to how this item was noticed, stating it was noticed improperly.

Discussion.

Chair Jacobs verified with Administrator Wolfe that the results of the November 3, 2020 General Election were correct as canvassed (with the exception of the contest for President of the United States as it is the subject of pending litigation) and authorized the use of her electronic signature on the Certificates of Election.

Discussion.

G. Closed Session

MOTION: Move to closed session for the purposes of conferring with legal counsel concerning litigation strategy as permitted by Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g).

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	No
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting recessed at 12:31 p.m. and reconvened in closed session at 1 p.m.

H. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned in closed session at 1:10 p.m.

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December 1, 2020 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



Jacob Walters, Operations Program Associate

March 18, 2021

December 1, 2020 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:



Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

June 2, 2021