



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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**Wisconsin Elections Commission**  
Special Teleconference Meeting  
212 E. Washington Avenue, Third Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin  
9:00 a.m. September 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, Robert Kehoe, Nathan Judnic, Jacob Walters, and Reid Magney, all by teleconference.

**A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Ann Jacobs called the meeting to order at 9:03 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. Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**MOTION:** The following meeting minutes are approved as final:

1. June 10, 2020 Regular Meeting
2. July 30, 2020 Regular Meeting
3. July 30, 2020 Emergency Meeting
4. August 20, 2020 Special Meeting

Moved by Commissioner Knudson, seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

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

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Administrator  
Meagan Wolfe

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

**Ardis Cerny** appeared and expressed her concern regarding the security of absentee ballots and voting by mail.

Commissioner Spindell followed with comments.

**Sharon Foley** appeared and expressed her concerns regarding the actions of election inspectors in Milwaukee and the handling of absentee ballots at polling locations.

Commissioner Spindell followed with questions for Administrator Wolfe.

**Arlet Jorgensen** appeared and voiced her disagreement with the WEC's encouragement of absentee voting.

**Debbie Morin** appeared and communicated her concerns with respect to duplicate voter records, voter records of felons, and voter records of the deceased that are still active in advance of the November election.

Commissioners Spindell and Knudson followed with questions for Administrator Wolfe.

**Ken Koltun** appeared and shared what he observed as a poll worker to be a lack of understanding as to how absentee ballots should be handled when voters arrive with them in person at a polling place.

**Sandy Hammel** appeared and voiced her concerns regarding the security of absentee ballots while in transit from their places of origin to central count.

Commissioner Spindell indicated that he has the names of a few more people who would like to speak and expressed his desire that the instructions to sign up for public comment be clearer.

**Barbara Beckert** appeared on behalf of the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition and communicated their support of the WEC's promotion of absentee voting. She also outlined areas where absentee voting could potentially be improved, shared concerns related to ADA compliance, and shared difficulties voters with disabilities have faced when trying to meet the photo ID requirement.

**E. Presentation of "How Wisconsin is Ready for November 3, 2020 Election" Report**

Chairwoman Jacobs informed commissioners and those in attendance that the presentation of this report will be broken into segments of related topics, and that commissioners may ask questions related to those topics after each segment.

Administrator Wolfe began with an introduction as to what this report is, why and how it was created, and then presented on the first group of related topics: technology initiatives. This presentation covered subject matter including the statewide voter registration database, the MyVote Wisconsin website, Badger Books electronic poll books, and the Badger Voters data request system.

Commissioners asked questions of Administrator Wolfe.

Administrator Wolfe then presented on work the WEC staff has done in conjunction with the United States Postal Service, including Intelligent Mail Barcodes.

Administrator Wolfe fielded questions from commissioners.

The Commission took a brief recess at 10:51 a.m.

The Commission returned at 11:00 a.m.

Administrator Wolfe resumed this agenda item by touching on reports that were submitted from Wisconsin's three largest municipalities, Milwaukee, Madison, and Green Bay, regarding their preparations for the November 3 General Election.

Commissioners shared their comments.

Administrator Wolfe continued with a presentation on accessibility; this section of the report begins on page 37.

**MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission directs staff to coordinate with the Wisconsin Public Health Service to lay out guidance – such as requiring SVD's to be tested for COVID-19, that no observers are to be allowed, and that PPE must be worn at all times – for counties and municipalities to follow when sending Special Voting Deputies to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, et cetera.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell. Seconded by Commissioner Knudson.

Discussion.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** This information is to be presented in the form of a report to be examined and considered, rather than as guidance to be issued and followed.

Proposed by Commissioner Glancey. Accepted by Commissioner Spindell.

**AMENDED MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission directs staff to coordinate with the Wisconsin Public Health Service to draft a report with guidance – such as requiring SVD's to be tested for COVID-19, that no observers are to be allowed, and that PPE must be worn at all times – for counties and municipalities to follow were they to send Special Voting Deputies to nursing homes, assisted living facilities, et cetera.

Discussion.

**MOTION REPHRASED:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission directs staff to consult with state and other health officials to determine whether or not the incorporation of Special Voting Deputies into the November election is safe and feasible and, if they receive such guidance, to provide a framework of what that implementation would look like.

Rephrased by Chairwoman Jacobs. Commissioner Spindell confirmed this to be consistent with his original motion.

Discussion.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Next, Administrator Wolfe discussed information in the report regarding sanitation, personal protective equipment, and poll workers.

Commissioner Spindell followed with questions and comments.

Administrator Wolfe then reviewed with the Commission security preparations in place and those being made for the November 3 General Election.

Commissioner Spindell followed with questions.

Administrator Wolfe continued by going over with the Commission voter outreach initiatives, including the informational voter mailer. This information begins on page 63 of the report.

Commissioner Spindell followed with questions.

**MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission directs staff to provide a public report on at least a weekly basis concerning the number of informational voter mailers the WEC receives returned as undeliverable.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission directs staff to compile a list for each municipality of all the informational voter mailers that the WEC receives as undeliverable and to forward this information to each respective municipal clerk.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Discussion.

**MODIFIED MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission directs staff to compile a list for each municipality of all the informational voter mailers that the WEC receives as undeliverable and to forward this information to each respective municipal clerk as soon as practicable without incurring any additional costs.

Modified by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Discussion.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** Additional funds are to be provided to secure this end.

Proposed by Commissioner Spindell Not accepted by Commissioner Knudson.

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

Motion failed 3-3.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission directs staff to compile a list for each municipality of all the informational voter mailers that the WEC receives as undeliverable and to forward this information to each respective municipal clerk by December 31, 2020.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

Withdrawn by Commissioner Knudson.

**MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission directs staff to compile a list for each municipality of all the informational voter mailers that the WEC receives as undeliverable and to forward this information to each respective municipal clerk by December 31, 2020. Staff is further directed to prepare a memorandum for the Commission to consider at its December 1, 2020 meeting with potential instructions for clerks as to how this information should be acted upon.

Moved by Commissioner Glancey. Seconded by Commissioner Knudson.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:** The number of informational voter mailers that the WEC receives returned as undeliverable is to be made public on a biweekly basis.

Proposed by Commissioner Spindell. Not accepted by Commissioner Glancey.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

To conclude presentation on this agenda item, Administrator Wolfe spoke about the training being offered to local election officials (beginning on page 75 of the report) and to the customer service preparations being made.

**F. Approval of Major Party Presidential Candidates**

Administrator Wolfe briefly reviewed with the Commission a memorandum Commissioners received the night previous that summarizes the ballot access procedures for 2020 General Election presidential candidates representing a party with ballot status.

**MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission will not grant ballot access to the 2020 General Election presidential candidates for the Democratic, Republican, and Constitution Parties unless the Green Party candidates are granted ballot access as well.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell.

Motion failed for failure of a second.

**MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission approves ballot status for the 2020 General Election for the following Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates:

Party	Presidential Candidate	Vice Presidential Candidate
Democratic Party	Joseph R. Biden	Kamala D. Harris
Republican Party	Donald J. Trump	Michael R. Pence
Constitution Party	Don Blankenship	William Mohr

Moved by Commissioner Glancey. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

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

Motion carried 5-1.

The meeting recessed at 2:04 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

**G. Voting Equipment Audit and Voluntary Canvass Audits**

(This item was moved to next week’s meeting agenda.)

**H. Voter Fraud Report**

(This item was moved to next week’s meeting agenda.)

**J. Consideration of WEC 2021-23 Biennial Budget Request and Budget Lapse Plan**

Chief Administrative Officer Sharrie Hauge provided the Commission with an overview of the budget process and Administrator Wolfe followed up with details related to each decision item.

Commissioners Spindell and Knudson followed with questions for Administrator Wolfe.

**MOTION:**

- 1) Approve the overall approach of submitting a budget request for 2021-23 which continues current agency operations.
- 2) The Commission directs staff to request a statutory language change and new alpha and numeric appropriation for the Sale of Voter Lists along with expenditure authority.
- 3) The Commission directs staff to request to convert 6.0 Federal Project positions to 3.0 Federal Permanent positions and 3.0 Program Revenue Permanent positions.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Administrator Wolfe made a presentation on the budget lapse that all state agencies are being asked to perform at the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Corresponding memorandum begins on page 63 of the meeting materials packet.

Commissioner Spindell followed with questions.

**MOTION:** The Wisconsin Elections Commission approves the staff's lapse plan to use the FY20 lapse of \$403,443.80 and proceed with the FY21 Projected lapse plan first, using realized savings from our GPR, Investigations, Voter ID Training, Materials & Services Training and Election Administration appropriations to meet its required \$578,750.00 lapse in FY21.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Discussion.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

## **I. Voter Felon Audit Report**

(This agenda item was taken out of order.)

Technology Director Robert Kehoe provided a very brief outline of the voter felon audit update memorandum, beginning on page 47 of the meeting materials packet.

Commissioner Spindell followed with questions.

**MOTION:** Agenda item G. Voting Equipment Audit and Voluntary Canvass Audits and agenda item H. Voter Fraud Report are to be moved to next week's meeting agenda.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Voice vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

## **K. Closed Session**

**MOTION:** Move to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.851 and 19.85(1)(g) to discuss violations of election law and confer with counsel concerning litigation

Moved by Commissioner Glancey. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

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

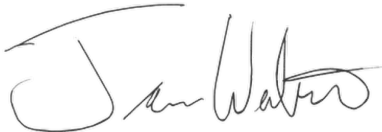
Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission recessed to close session at 3:05 p.m.

The Commission adjourned in closed session at 4:25 p.m.

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



Jacob Walters, Operations Program Associate

May 4, 2021

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



Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

June 2, 2021