



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Wisconsin Elections Commission
Special Teleconference Meeting
212 E. Washington Avenue, Third Floor
Madison, Wisconsin
4:00 p.m. March 18, 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 telephone.

Staff present: Meagan Wolfe, Richard Rydecki, Robert Kehoe, and Michael Haas

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair Dean Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice

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

C. Discussion of Authority to Modify Election Dates, Deadlines, and Procedures

Chairman Knudson called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

Opening remarks by Commissioners Spindell and Knudson.

Administrator Wolfe began with a presentation on a WEC staff memorandum that outlines frequently asked questions by local election officials and details the guidance being issued in that regard.

MOTION:

- 1) WEC believes it is vitally important that our April 7th election goes on as scheduled without delay or postponement.
- 2) WEC staff is directed to develop best practices related to minimizing potential viral transmission during election processes and communicate those to the clerks.
- 3) WEC urgently requests the Governor and DHS to help secure a supply of hand sanitizer and other sanitation resources for our clerks and polling places.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

- 4) WEC administrator Wolfe is authorized to spend up to \$200,000 on additional supplies needed for absentee voting such as envelopes, labels or sanitation supplies.
- 5) WEC encourages clerks to recruit and train additional poll workers in advance of the election.
- 6) WEC encourages all Wisconsin voters to request an absentee ballot thru myvote.wi.gov and to return the ballot by mail.
- 7) WEC directs all municipal clerks to accommodate in-person absentee voting and registration as required by state law making any changes needed based on local circumstances to the location, hours and processes used.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson, seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: That item #1 should read “WEC believes it is vitally important that our April 7th election goes on as scheduled without delay or postponement if the Legislature and the Governor, at an immediately convened special session, determine that a meaningful and safe April and May election can take place, and that the necessary changes in the law be made to facilitate such a meaningful election.”

Proposed by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs. Not accepted by Commissioner Knudson.

Discussion.

Roll call vote on the friendly amendment:

Bostelmann:	No	Glancey:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Knudson:	No
Spindell:	No	Thomsen:	Aye

Friendly amendment failed 3-3.

Commissioner Knudson withdrew item #1 of his motion.

Discussion.

Roll call vote on items #2 through #7 of the original motion:

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

Items #2 through #7 of the original motion carried 6-0.

Discussion.

MOTION:

1) WEC believes it is vitally important that our April 7th goes on as scheduled to ensure continuity in local government.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Discussion.

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

Motion carried 4-2.

MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission considers the definition of “hospitalized voter” to include absentee voters who are quarantined by order of a medical provider or local health official.

Moved by Commissioner Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

Discussion.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: The motion is to read, “The Wisconsin Elections Commission considers the definition of ‘hospitalized voter’ to include absentee voters who are quarantined by order of a medical provider or local health official, or, by virtue of belonging to a high-risk group as defined by the CDC, those who elect to comply with CDC recommendations and remain self-quarantined in their homes.”

Proposed by Commissioner Spindell. Accepted by Commissioner Jacobs.

AMENDED MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission interprets the definition of ‘hospitalized voter’ to include absentee voters who are quarantined by order of a medical provider or local health official, or, by virtue of belonging to a high-risk group as defined by the CDC, those who elect to comply with CDC recommendations and remain self-quarantined in their homes.

Discussion.

MOTION #2: To postpone this item and consider it at a future meeting after staff have conducted research and proposed recommendations.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson.

Discussion.

Motion #2 withdrawn by Commissioner Knudson.

Discussion.

Original motion withdrawn by Commissioner Jacobs.

MOTION: Be it moved that the Wisconsin Elections Commission will develop, publicize, and instruct clerks in all municipalities on the best public health practices to follow for the April 7, 2020 election and that another Commission meeting be held in the very near future to this end.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission directs staff to research what statutory changes would be needed in order to successfully administer an election in the face of more restrictive public health guidance.

Moved by Commissioner Glancey. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs.

Discussion.

Withdrawn by Commissioner Glancey.

Discussion.

D. 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 Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Open session concluded at 6:40 p.m.

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March 18, 2020 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



Jacob Walters, Operations Program Associate

March 18, 2021

March 18, 2020 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marge Bostelmann".

Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

June 2, 2021