



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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**Wisconsin Elections Commission**  
Special Teleconference Meeting  
212 E. Washington Avenue, Third Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin  
3:00 p.m. March 12, 2020

Open Session Minutes

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

**Staff present:** Meagan Wolfe, Richard Rydecki, Sharrie Hauge, Robert Kehoe, Michael Haas, Nathan Judnic and Reid Magney, all by teleconference.

**A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Dean Knudson called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.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 this meeting under the emergency meeting provisions outlined in state statute.

**C. Guidance to Clerks Regarding Special Voting Deputy Process in Light of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

Chairman Knudson began by summarizing the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe risks it poses to vulnerable populations like the elderly. He then advised the Commission of correspondence that he, Commissioner Jacobs, and Administrator Wolfe had sent to the Governor's Office on this subject.

Administrator Wolfe continued with an overview of the process for voting by way of Special Voting Deputy that begins on page 1 of the meeting materials packet. She went on to inform the Commission that after conversations with the Department of Health Services and the Governor's Office Special Voting Deputies will not be considered care facility "essential personnel." Also reviewed was the WEC staff recommended motion.

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

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

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Administrator  
Meagan Wolfe

**C. Guidance to Clerks Regarding Special Voting Deputy Process in Light of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (continued)**

**MOTION:** In light of Executive Order #72 and directives of the Department of Health Services, the Commission finds that Special Voting Deputies are “non-essential” individuals who are not permitted to enter nursing homes and other care facilities without completing a screening process that is not feasible to implement prior to the Spring Election and Presidential Primary. For that election and the May 12, 2020 Special Election in the 7th Congressional District, the Commission directs that municipalities shall not use the Special Voting Deputy process to serve residents in care facilities and instead shall transmit absentee ballots to those voters by mail.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson, seconded by Commissioner Spindell and Commissioner Jacobs.

Discussion.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Moving Polling Places in Light of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**

Administrator Wolfe reviewed with the Commission the common practice of locating polling sites at nursing homes and care facilities given their accessibility for people with disabilities. Corresponding memorandum begins on page 2 of the meeting materials packet. She then elaborated on why this is not feasible during a pandemic, as care facilities are only allowing in “essential personnel.” Administrator Wolfe went on to inform the Commission that state statute requires that polling locations be established at least 30 days prior to an election and that we are now 26 days out from the Spring Election and Presidential Primary. Also reviewed was the WEC staff recommended motion.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** In light of Executive Order #72 and directives of the Department of Health Services, the Commission finds that it is impossible or inconvenient for municipalities to conduct Election Day voting at nursing homes and other care facilities. The Commission finds that the municipal clerk or municipal elections commission executive director may relocate such polling places without obtaining the prior approval of the local governing body or municipal elections commission.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson, seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

**MOTION TO AMEND:** That the words, “...and other facilities as designated by the Department of Health Services or local health officials” be added to the end of the first sentence.

Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

**D. Moving Polling Places in Light of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (continued)**

Voice vote on the motion to amend:

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

Motion carried 5-1.

**AMENDED MOTION:** In light of Executive Order #72 and directives of the Department of Health Services, the Commission finds that it is impossible or inconvenient for municipalities to conduct Election Day voting at nursing homes, other care facilities, and other facilities as designated by the Department of Health Services or local health officials. The Commission finds that the municipal clerk or municipal elections commission executive director may relocate such polling places without obtaining the prior approval of the local governing body or municipal elections commission.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Final comments and discussion.

**E. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann, seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

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March 12, 2020 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



Jacob Walters, Operations Program Associate

March 18, 2021

March 12, 2020 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:



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Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

June 2, 2021