



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Wisconsin Elections Commission
Special Teleconference Meeting
201 W. Washington Avenue, Second Floor
Madison, Wisconsin
9:00 a.m. August 31, 2022

Open Session Minutes

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

Staff present: Julia Billingham, Sharrie Hauge, Brandon Hunzicker, Robert Kehoe, Anna Langdon, Sara Linski, Kelly McCormick, Riley Vetterkind, John Smalley, Riley Vetterkind, Riley Willman, Jim Witecha, and Meagan Wolfe, all by teleconference.

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair Millis called the meeting to order at 9:05 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. 2023-2025 Biennial Budget

1. Presentation and Approval of Base Budget

Chief Administrative Officer Sharrie Hauge provided an overview of the budget process and timeline. She noted that the Major Budget Policies and Budget instructions provided to state agencies by the Department of Administration stated that all agencies should assume zero percent growth in overall GPR appropriations in each fiscal year of the 2023-25 biennium.

Administrator Wolfe clarified that of the three recommended motions included in the Commission's materials under this section of the 2023-2025 Biennial Budget agenda item, only the first two should be considered under Section 1. The third should be considered under Section 2.

Discussion.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

MOTION: Approve the overall approach of submitting a budget request for 2023-25 which will continue current agency operations and add two decision items.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: The Commission directs staff to request a statutory language for the Voter Identification Training Appropriation to read 20.510 (1)(c) *County and Municipal Clerk Training* to broaden the language so that the funds can be used for all training of municipal and county clerks. It is proposed that the language be changed to the following: “~~Voter identification~~ *County and Municipal Clerk Training*. The amounts in the schedule for training of county and municipal clerks concerning the administration of Elections as outlined in Wis. Stats. Chapters 5-10 and 12 including voter identification requirements provided in 2011 Wisconsin Act 23.”

Moved by Commissioner Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

2. Presentation and Approval of Budget Request (DIN)

Administrator Wolfe presented the proposal to establish an Office of the Inspector General within the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Discussion.

MOTION: The Commission directs staff to request the creation of an Office of Inspector General and to create 10 GPR FTE to operate an Inspector General Program.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

Chair Millis left the meeting at 10:29 a.m. He re-entered the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

The Commission took a break at 10:30 a.m. and resumed discussion at 10:36 a.m. All Commissioners were present.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Replace “It is proposed that the position of the Election Inspector General would be an unclassified position, which is hired by, and serves at the pleasure of, the six-member Wisconsin Elections Commission. This would allow the six-member WEC, who is appointed

by legislative leadership, more oversight and information as the office is implemented” on page 4 of “Issue Paper: Funding for Elections Inspector General” with “The position of the Elections Inspector General would be an unclassified position which is hired by and serves at the pleasure of the Administrator. The Elections Inspector General would report directly to the Administrator.”

Delete the following language in that paragraph: “The Inspector General and staff will consist of 10 people. The Inspector General will manage the review of election programs and initiatives, direct the preparation of reports, and supervise the nine other staff members. The Inspector General and staff may also complete special projects as needed. The Inspector General will report directly to the Administrator.”

Proposed by Commissioner Thomsen. Accepted by Commissioner Spindell and Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

AMENDED MOTION: The Commission directs staff to request the creation of an Office of Inspector General and to create 10 GPR FTE to operate an Inspector General Program.

Replace “It is proposed that the position of the Election Inspector General would be an unclassified position, which is hired by, and serves at the pleasure of, the six-member Wisconsin Elections Commission. This would allow the six-member WEC, who is appointed by legislative leadership, more oversight and information as the office is implemented” on page 4 of “Issue Paper: Funding for Elections Inspector General” with “The position of the Elections Inspector General would be an unclassified position which is hired by and serves at the pleasure of the Administrator. The Elections Inspector General would report directly to the Administrator.”

Delete the following language in that paragraph: “The Inspector General and staff will consist of 10 people. The Inspector General will manage the review of election programs and initiatives, direct the preparation of reports, and supervise the nine other staff members. The Inspector General and staff may also complete special projects as needed. The Inspector General will report directly to the Administrator.”

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion.

3. Presentation of Federal Grant Funding Update and Approval of Expenditures

Senior Accountant Julia Billingham presented the current 2018/2020 Election Security fund balance.

Deputy Administrator Robert Kehoe provided further detail on the rationale for staff’s proposals regarding the unencumbered funds.

Discussion.

MOTION: To adopt Motions 1, 2, and 3 on page 13 of the Commission’s materials.

MOTION 1: The Commission grants authority to request the extension of up to four §16.54 project positions for an additional three years (November 11, 2022 – November 11, 2025) at a cost not to exceed \$300,000 annually.

MOTION 2: The Commission approves the staff recommendation to appropriate \$120,000 of the Election Security funds for the renewal of Microsoft Dynamics CRM licenses or a slightly higher amount that reflects the actual cost of the renewal.

MOTION 3: The Commission approves the staff recommendation to budget \$75,000 annually for website support services to maintain our new WEC website.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs.

Discussion.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion.

Ms. Hauge pointed out a typo on page 14 of the Commission’s materials pertaining to the dollar amount for the four project positions. She noted that the positions would cost \$300,000 annually for a total of \$900,000 rather than \$600,000, leaving a fund balance of \$53,000 for unencumbered funds. This typo had no effect on the motion.

D. Discussion of Election Observer Policy and Possible Action Concerning Related Guidance and/or Scope Statement

Staff Attorney Brandon Hunzicker presented to the Commission the option to direct staff to submit a scope statement concerning election observers at polling places around the state.

Discussion.

MOTION: Direct staff to begin the first steps of moving toward a permanent rule on election observer policy.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Discussion.

Chair Millis clarified that staff cannot begin the process of preparing a scope statement without authorization by the Commission.

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

Motion carried 5-1.

Discussion.

E. Closed Session

- 1. Election Complaints**
- 2. Litigation Update**
- 3. Discussion of Potential Litigation**

§19.851 – The Commission’s deliberations concerning an investigation of any violation of the law under the jurisdiction of the Commission shall be in closed session.

§19.85(1)(g) – The Commission may confer in closed session with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

MOTION: To go into closed session for purposes laid out under §19.851 and §19.85(1)(g).

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission moved into closed session at 11:42 a.m.

F. Possible Action Concerning Voter Registration Forms

The Commission did not reconvene into open session.

G. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned in closed session at 1:48 p.m.

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August 31, 2022 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

Anna Langdon, Help Desk Staff

September 2, 2022

August 31, 2022 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:

Julie Glancey, Commission Secretary

September 21, 2022

DRAFT