

# Official Election Complaint Form



**STEP 1**

## Complaint Type

Please select the statutory process that governs your complaint:

**Note:** you should choose only one statutory process per complaint; if you feel that your allegations fall under more than one statutory process, you should submit separate complaints under each process.

☐ 5.05 (Election Law Violation)

☒ 5.06 (Violations by Election Officials or Appeals of Decisions of Election Officials)

☐ 5.061 (Help America Vote Act Violation)

**STEP 2**

## Complainant Contact Information

Please provide the following information about yourself.

**Note:** Anyone filing this complaint with you can add their information on a separate page (see page 4).

First Name

Paul

Last Name

Pustina

Residential Address

408 Dalogasa Drive, Arena, WI 53503

Mailing Address (if different)

Telephone (optional)

608-574-0589

Email

paulpustina@gmail.com

**STEP 3**

## Respondent

Please provide the following information about the individual or individuals whom you allege violated or improperly administered election laws:

**Note:** For 5.06 complaints, each respondent must be an election official. If there are multiple respondents, you can add their information on a separate page (see page 5).

Respondent Name

DaNeen Naeger

Respondent Title (5.06 complaints)

Village Clerk/Chair, Board of Canvassers

Mailing Address

345 West Street, Arena, WI 53503 / 314 Commerce Street, Rewey, WI 53580

Telephone (if available)

608-753-2133

Email (if available)

vilarena@villageofarena.net

STEP 6

## Sign

Each complainant must complete **either** step 6a, "Unsworn Statement," or Step 6b "Sworn Statement." For either option, you may enter your digital signature by clicking the box and following the instructions, or you may print the form and sign it.

STEP 6a

### Unsworn Statement

I declare under penalty of false swearing under the law of Wisconsin that

the foregoing is true and correct. Signed on the 8 day of April,

2025


at

Middleton WI

(city or other location and state or country).

Paul Pustina

Printed Name

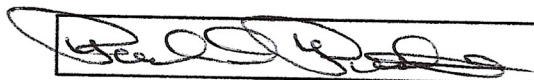


Signature

STEP 6b

### Sworn Statement (to be completed in the presence of a notary)

I, Paul D Pustina, being first duly sworn, on oath, state that I personally read the above complaint, and that the above allegations are true based on my personal knowledge and, as to those stated on information and belief, I believe them to be true.



Complainant's Signature

**Note:** Each complainant listed above in section 6b must have this form sworn before a notary or other official able to swear oaths.

### STATE OF WISCONSIN

County of, DANE (county of notarization)

Sworn to before me this day of, April 8, 2025.



(Signature of person authorized to administer oaths)

GEORGE R. YELDER  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
STATE OF WISCONSIN

My commission expires on MAY 16, 2026, or is permanent.

Notary Public or

(official title if not notary)



#### Applicable Statutes

Please cite each statute within Chapters 5 to 10 and 12 of the Wisconsin Statutes, as well as any other laws relating to elections, other than laws relating to campaign financing, that you allege were violated or improperly administered.

**Note:** The Commission cannot accept a complaint that does not cite specific provisions, including the correct subsections, of election law.

Wis. Stat. §§ 7.51, 7.53, 9.01, Wis. Stat. §5.25(4)



#### Allegations

Set forth in detail the facts that establish probable cause to believe that a violation occurred. Be as specific as possible as it relates to dates, times, individuals, and actions involved. Use as many separate pages as needed and attach copies of any supporting documentation, evidence, or affidavits.

See attached documents

# RECOUNT PETITION

In Re: The Election for  
Village of Arena President


Verified Petition  
for Recount

Petitioner Paul Pustina alleges and shows to Village Clerk DaNean Naeger:

1. That Petitioner was a candidate for the office of Village President of Arena in an election held on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
2. The Petitioner is an aggrieved party as defined in Wis Stat § 9.01(1)(a)5.
3. That Petitioner is informed and believes that a mistake and fraud has been committed in the Village of Arena in the counting and return of votes cast for the office of Village President of Arena.
4. That Petitioner is informed and believes and knows that:
  - a. Chief Election Inspector Kristen Shea is a neighbor to incumbent Village Trustee Brittany Carney and personal friends with Village Trustee/Village President Kathy Stoltz, even publicly voicing support both verbally and digitally for candidate Brittany Carney and Kathy Stoltz.
  - b. The municipality ran out of paper ballots and printed replacement ballots that did not register when put through the electronic voting machine. The Village Clerk, DaNean Naeger did not adequately prepare for a large voter turnout. The Clerk, keeping in mind the above average turnout for the February 18<sup>th</sup>, Primary Election, should have been prepared for a higher voter turnout as the race for Supreme Court justice and school funding referendum were also items on the ballot.
  - c. The order of the General Election ballot was the same as the order of the February 18, 2025, Primary Election ballot. This brings in to question that lots were not drawn for the Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, General Election for ballot position.
  - d. There was no multiple posted and published date for the meeting of the Municipal Board of Canvassers that would have provided any candidate to petition for a recount.

Wherefore: Petitioner requests a recount of the Village of Arena.

Dated this April 7 day of 2025

  
Petitioner

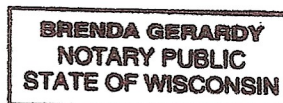
I, Paul Pustina, being first duly sworn, on oath, state that the matters contained in the above petition are known to me to be true except for those allegations stated on information and belief, which I believe to be true.

  
Petitioner Paul Pustina

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7TH day of APRIL 2025

Brenda Gerardy  
Notary Public (or other person authorized to administer oaths)

My Commission Expires MAY 12, 2028  
(specify expiration date) BRENDA GERARDY



## ATTEMPT TO PRESENT A RECALL PETITION FOR THE TUESDAY, APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ELECTION

On Monday, April 7, 2025, at approximately 3:46, PM I entered the Village Hall of Arena, WI. with the intention of turning in a Recount Petition to indicate I wanted a recount of the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 General Election results.

I announced to Village Clerk DaNean Naeger that I would be recording our conversation and then handed her the Recount Petition. The long silence is Ms. Naeger actually holding the document and reading it. After she finished reading it she set it down on the counter in front of her and the conversation went as such:

00:00 - Mr. Pustina: "I'm gonna record this."

00.46 - Clerk Naeger: "Ok"

00:49 - Mr. Pustina: "Ok. I'm on time?"

00:53- Clerk Naeger: "No. Needed it Friday"

00:57 - Mr. Pustina: "You weren't here Friday."

01:03 - Clerk Naeger: "I can't help that. I had my hours in."

01:08 - Mr. Pustina: "Could you repeat that please? A little louder? You weren't here Friday. And I can't help that? You can't help that. That you weren't here Friday, that's what you said, correct?"

01:28 - Clerk Naeger: "No comment"

01:31- Mr. Pustina: "Ok. All right. Fair enough. Thank you, DaNean."

I then started to leave and I was partway out the door and turned back in and asked for the Recount Petition back. Ms. Naeger was in the process of throwing it away. She did give it back with no issue.

## 5.06 COMPLAINT OF PAUL PUSTINA AGAINST VILLAGE CLERK/TREASURER DANEAN NAEGER

### INTRODUCTION

This Complaint is filed under Wis. Stat. § 5.06 by Complainant, Paul Pustina, alleging that the Village of Arena Clerk/Treasurer, DaNean Naeger (WCMC/CMC), failed to perform mandatory electoral duties and thereby prevented Complainant from exercising his statutory right to a timely recount petition, in violation of Chapters 5–10 of the Wisconsin Statutes. On April 4, 2025—the critical day for filing—the Clerk failed to maintain office hours or provide any means for Complainant to submit his recount petition, effectively foreclosing his narrowly defined opportunity to contest the outcome of the April 1, 2025, election for Village President.

Here, Complainant asserts that the Clerk's unavailability on the final day to file a recount petition, coupled with inadequate notice of the municipal board of canvassers' meeting, effectively nullified Complainant's statutory right to contest the outcome of the April 1, 2025, Village President election. The events giving rise to this Complaint underscore a broader pattern of procedural lapses previously identified in other 5.05 and 5.06 complaints against the same Clerk.

The present filing underscores how the continued procedural lapses, manifesting here in improper notice of the local board of canvassers meeting and the Clerk's unavailability on a key statutory deadline, has denied Complainant due process—thereby undermining public confidence in a closely decided municipal election.

Complainant seeks corrective action, including a remedy for the denied recount opportunity and any additional measures warranted by the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC).

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### 1. CONCERNED PERSONS/PARTIES

#### A. Complainant: Paul Pustina

- **Address:** 408 Dalogasa Dr, Arena, WI 53503
- **Contact:** (608) 574-0589; paulpustina@gmail.com
- **Candidate Status:** Complainant was a bona fide candidate for Village President of Arena in the April 1, 2025, election, ultimately ostensibly losing by a narrow margin of 15 votes according to the final tallies. He is also a Village resident "served by" the Clerk pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06. Given this narrow margin, Complainant possesses a clear statutory right to seek a recount under Wis. Stat. § 9.01.
- **Standing:** As a municipal candidate and elector, Complainant has a statutory right under Wis. Stat. § 9.01 to petition for a recount within the specified deadline. As a Village

elector and an aggrieved candidate, Complainant is directly “served by” Clerk Naeger under Wis. Stat. § 5.06. The Clerk’s failure to maintain lawful office hours on the deadline day, as well as the improper board of canvassers notice, directly harmed Complainant by blocking his legally recognized opportunity to seek a recount. By disregarding essential protocols, the Clerk obstructed Complainant’s right to petition for a recount, thereby harming him personally and undermining the integrity of local governance.

## **B. Respondent: Clerk/Treasurer DaNean Naeger**

- **Addresses:**
    - Municipal Hall: 345 West Street, Arena, WI 53503
    - Residential: 314 Commerce Street, Rewey, WI 53580
  - **Role:** As a Wisconsin Certified Municipal Clerk (WCMC/CMC), Respondent is statutorily responsible for administering all local election procedures, including accepting timely filing of recount petitions and properly noticing the municipal board of canvassers under Wis. Stats. §§ 7.51, 7.53, and 9.01. As the municipal clerk, Respondent must administer local elections in accordance with state statutes, including providing adequate notice of the municipal board of canvassers’ meeting and maintaining availability for statutory filings (e.g., recount petitions) under Wis. Stat. § 9.01.
  - **Prior Complaints:** Respondent is already the subject of separate 5.05 and 5.06 complaints (filed March 21, 2025 and April 7, 2025 by Becca Raven Uminowicz) alleging ballot-order mismanagement and other serious lapses as well as procedural violations on Election Day, April 1, 2025. Please incorporate the information contained in those complaints as part of this complaint. Those issues form part of the context for Complainant’s allegations, demonstrating repeated administrative failings. The present matter continues that pattern of procedural and statutory neglect, culminating in a deprivation of Complainant’s right to a recount.
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## **2. BACKGROUND & CONTEXT**

1. **April 1, 2025 Election:** Complainant ran against Trustee Kathy Stoltz for the office of Village President. The results published on election night indicated Complainant lost by approximately 15 votes, 189–174. Complainant shares the concerns stated by Uminowicz’s April 7, 2025, 5.06 WEC complaint that highlights the concerning voting irregularities and large discrepancies between the hand-counted ballots and the machine tabulated ballots, etc. In such close local contests, Wisconsin law provides a clear mechanism—Wis. Stat. § 9.01—for requesting a recount.
2. **Board of Canvassers Meeting:** According to a nominal notice posted in Village Hall, the local and municipal board of canvassers would convene “at the close of voting on Election Day” (April 1) to complete the canvass. Upon information and belief, the notice was not posted elsewhere and did not appear on the Village website under the regular meeting notice page. No email or formal notice was provided to news media (Valley Sentinel) who had requested it under Wis. Stat. § 19.84(1)(b). This makes the meeting

unnoticed and unlawful under Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. Complainant similarly received no individualized notice.

3. **Filing Deadline:** Under Wis. Stat. § 9.01, a candidate must submit a recount petition no later than 5 p.m. on the third business day following completion of the canvass. If the canvass was supposedly and ostensibly completed the night of April 1, the final day to file was Friday, April 4.
4. **Clerk's Unavailability:** The Clerk's posted office hours for Fridays are listed simply as "hours vary, call ahead." Respondent was completely absent from the office on Friday, April 4, providing no deputy and no alternative arrangement for her office to directly receive and process official filings that day. Consequently, Complainant had no access to the Clerk's office or the Clerk on the statutorily significant day.
5. **Attempted Submission on April 7:** Complainant then brought his signed and notarized Recount Petition to the Clerk on Monday, April 7, the first day the office was open after Friday, believing equitable tolling would apply because the Clerk was unavailable on the actual due date. Respondent refused, stating "Needed it Friday," and attempted to discard the petition. Complainant recovered the document and subsequently emailed a copy to Respondent and the WEC the same day.  
A true copy of the audio recording can be made available upon request. A true copy of the transcript is included as part of this complaint.
6. **Equitable Tolling & Invalid Canvass:** Because the municipal board of canvassers was allegedly convened on April 1 without proper notice, Complainant disputes whether the canvass (and thus the official completion date) was valid, given the insufficient notice and the questionable meeting procedure. If that meeting was invalid, the recount window never commenced (or commenced on a later date), meaning a statutory "deadline" on April 4 was illusory.  
He further contends that the Clerk's complete unavailability on April 4 necessitates tolling the filing deadline to Monday, April 7. Even if April 4 truly were the final day, the Clerk's total unavailability justifies an equitable extension to the next business day (April 7), consistent with longstanding principles preventing government officials from obstructing statutory rights by refusing to be present.

These facts, combined with Respondent's repeated procedural failures (see concurrently filed or referenced 5.06 complaints), indicate a deliberate or reckless denial of Complainant's statutory right to petition for a recount.

In sum, Complainant has adduced sufficient evidence to show that Clerk Naeger's handling of the canvass notice, office hours, and final deadline contravenes multiple statutory provisions—Wis. Stat. §§ 7.51, 7.53, 9.01, and relevant open meetings mandates.

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### 3. ALLEGATIONS

#### A. Denial of Recount Rights Under Wis. Stat. § 9.01 / Failure to Maintain Office Hours for Recount Petition Filing

Under **Wis. Stat. § 9.01**, the Clerk must accept a recount petition from an aggrieved candidate no later than 5 p.m. on the third business day following the canvass. However, the Clerk's refusal to be present or to provide an alternative means of filing on Friday, April 4—when Complainant sought to finalize his petition—effectively deprived Complainant of a statutory right.

1. **Clerk's Posted Hours:** Although the Clerk's posted schedule states "Fridays—hours vary, call ahead," she is not absolved from the duty to be available for official business on a critical statutory deadline day.
2. **No Deputy or Alternative Arrangement:** Respondent had neither a deputy clerk nor a posted method for receiving and processing official documents on April 4. Thus, Complainant was barred from timely filing despite the law's reliance on the Clerk's availability.
3. **Indication of Foreknowledge:** Respondent presumably knew the race for Village President was close (15 vote difference) and that the filing cutoff would be April 4, yet took no steps to accommodate a potential recount petition.
4. **Attempted Timely Filing:** Complainant's Monday, April 7 submission was effectively the soonest he could deliver the petition in person, given the Clerk's closure.

#### **B. Improperly Noticed Canvass & Invalid Completion Date**

Under **Wis. Stat. §§ 7.51, 7.53**, and the Open Meetings Law, the local board of canvassers must meet with proper notice and maintain a record of proceedings. Respondent posted only a nominal notice on the hall door, with no direct media email or individualized candidate notice, contravening the fundamental objectives of transparency.

1. **Minimal Notice:** A single posting inside the Village Hall, with no supplementary website update or emailed notice, failed to inform Complainant and local media about a critical meeting that concluded the canvass.
2. **No Email Notice:** Despite local press (Valley Sentinel) having requested notices of all governmental body meetings, the Clerk never sent a notice of the canvass. Even Complainant was unaware that the canvass was completed on April 1. Had the canvass not been validly completed, the recount filing deadline would extend correspondingly.
3. **Possible Nullification of April 1 Canvass:** If the board of canvassers meeting was improperly noticed or otherwise not validly convened, no official completion date could be recognized on April 1. Consequently, the third business day would not run from April 1. If the board of canvassers never validly convened, its pronouncement of final election results on April 1 is suspect. Consequently, the standard 3-day recount clock was never triggered.

#### **C. Clerk's Refusal & Disposal Attempt on April 7**

On Monday, April 7, Complainant attempted to submit the petition in person. The Clerk:

1. **Instant Refusal:** The Clerk summarily deemed Complainant's petition "late," ignoring her own unavailability on the official final day.

2. **Disputed Timeliness:** Summarily declared it was “needed Friday,” disclaiming any responsibility for her unavailability.
  3. **Attempted Disposal:** According to Complainant’s firsthand account, the Clerk placed the petition aside and reached to dispose of it, only to relinquish it when Complainant intervened. Such an action indicates either willful disregard for statutory obligations or a fundamental misunderstanding of the Clerk’s duties.
  4. **Knowledge of Wrongdoing:** Respondent’s abrupt handling of the petition suggests either a conscious disregard for Complainant’s statutory rights or a gross misunderstanding of her official obligations.
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#### 4. APPLICABLE STATUTES VIOLATED

1. **Wis. Stat. §§ 7.51, 7.53, 9.01** — These statutes govern the proper convening of the municipal board of canvassers, documentation of the canvass completion date, and the deadlines and processes for a recount petition. By failing to post effective notice of the canvass meeting and by closing her office on the final filing date for a recount, Clerk Naeger undermined these statutory safeguards. The Clerk’s obligations to properly convene a lawful board of canvassers, document the completion date, and accept recount petitions within the statutory window were infringed by inadequate notice, closure on the final filing day, and refusal to accept the recount petition.
  2. **Open Meetings (Wis. Stat. Ch. 19.81–19.98)** — The nominal notice posted only at Village Hall, with no email to local media (which had explicitly requested notice) or website posting, contravened the open meetings provisions. As a consequence, any board of canvassers’ action on April 1 risks being procedurally invalid.
  3. **Wis. Stat. § 5.05 references** — While the overarching statutory framework for election administration is found in Chapters 5 to 10, prior or concurrent 5.05 and 5.06 complaints highlight a broader pattern of Clerk Naeger’s neglect or mishandling of mandated election procedures and a persistent disregard for statutory responsibilities in the Clerk’s office, including official notice requirements and recordkeeping, and accessibility for candidate filings.
  4. **Wis. Stat. § 5.25(4)** — Requires that polling places, and by extension election administration, remain accessible until the statutory deadline, ensuring all electors (including candidates filing petitions) have unobstructed access. Although primarily referencing physical access, the Clerk’s unavailability effectively denied Complainant the legal convenience to file a petition. Clerk Naeger’s unavailability and absence on April 4 effectively hindered statutory petition filing.
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#### 5. LEGAL BASIS FOR COMPLAINT

Under Wis. Stat. § 5.06, a complainant who is “served by” an election official may allege that the official has failed to properly follow a statute or abused the discretion granted to them by election laws in Chapters 5–10. Complainant asserts:

1. **Wis. Stat. §§ 7.51, 7.53, 9.01** require the Clerk to properly convene the board of canvassers, record the completion date, and remain accessible for a recount petition.
2. **Wis. Stat. § 5.05** prior references: Although the main statutory focus here is on the Clerk’s recount obligations, prior or concurrent complaints illustrate a broader pattern of statutory neglect.
3. **Open Meetings (Ch. 19.81–19.98)**: The incomplete or defective notice for the board of canvassers further undermined Complainant’s ability to ascertain the recount-filing deadline.

As a result, Complainant was unlawfully denied the right to file a recount petition “no later than 5 p.m. on the third business day following the completion of the canvass.”

Because the Clerk’s behavior effectively blocked Complainant from exercising his statutory right and contravened essential procedures, relief under § 5.06 is warranted.

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## 6. STATEMENT OF INJURY

1. **Status as a Candidate**: Complainant was a bona fide candidate for Village President, losing by only 15 votes, in a small village race, a scenario precisely where the legislature intended recounts to serve as a pivotal check on potential error. He has an unequivocal right to demand a recount under Wis. Stat. § 9.01.
2. **Denial of Statutory Right**: By closing the office on the critical filing day (Friday, April 4), with no alternate method to accept legal filings, Respondent constructively barred Complainant from timely submission. This closure, combined with the refusal on April 7, deprived Complainant of the statutorily mandated route to contest the narrow result.
3. **Invalid Canvass Notice**: Even if the board of canvassers completed its work on April 1, that “completion” was tainted by improper notice, which arguably invalidates the timeline for counting three business days. Because the April 1 canvass meeting was not validly convened, the purported “completion date” is questionable, meaning the final recount filing date may not have occurred on April 4 at all. The Clerk’s insistence on that date is thus misguided or disingenuous.
4. **Estoppel or Tolling**: Because the Clerk’s unavailability blocked Complainant from meeting an official deadline, equitable remedies (tolling the deadline to April 7, or ordering the Clerk to accept the petition *nunc pro tunc*) are warranted. Under equitable principles, a statutory deadline cannot expire if government action (or inaction) renders compliance impossible. The Clerk’s inaccessibility effectively guaranteed Complainant could not meet the deadline.
5. **Broader Procedural Harm**: Complainant’s inability to avail himself of the recount process undermines local electoral legitimacy, especially in such a narrow race. The

public interest in a fair recount procedure is similarly compromised. Failing to accommodate a legitimate recount request in a close contest diminishes public trust in local election outcomes and denies Complainant his statutory remedy.

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## **7. REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

Pursuant to **Wis. Stat. § 5.06**, Complainant respectfully requests that the Wisconsin Elections Commission:

- 1. Investigate & Determine Clerk's Noncompliance**
  - Conduct a formal inquiry into whether the Clerk's failure to remain accessible on April 4, and the incomplete notice of the municipal board of canvassers, violated the recount and open meetings statutes.
  - Examine the notice posted for the municipal board of canvassers meeting to determine if the canvass truly occurred on April 1 or if the meeting was invalid under open meetings law.
- 2. Order Acceptance of Recount Petition**
  - Direct Respondent to accept Complainant's recount petition *nunc pro tunc* (i.e., as though timely filed) on April 7, and otherwise declare Monday, April 7 to be the actual filing deadline in light of the Clerk's unavailability.
  - If needed, instruct the municipal board of canvassers to reconvene and permit a full and lawful recount under Wis. Stat. § 9.01, subject to oversight and transparency provisions.
- 3. Invalidate or Extend the Canvass Deadline**
  - If the Commission finds that the board of canvassers meeting on April 1 was improperly noticed, issue an order declaring that the canvass completion date was invalid.
  - Instruct Respondent to re-notice and re-complete the canvass in compliance with statutory requirements, thus resetting the statutory recount window.
- 4. Disciplinary and Oversight Measures**
  - If the Clerk's actions appear willful or reckless, consider referring the matter for potential prosecution under relevant statutes.
  - Alternatively, impose mandatory training or oversight on Respondent to ensure future compliance with recount procedures, open meetings, and statutory office-hour obligations.
  - Given the existing pattern of prior 5.06 complaints, the Commission may consider heightened oversight or a formal warning of potential removal from office if statutory duties continue to be flouted.
  - The Commission may require the Clerk to adopt policies ensuring candidate filing opportunities are never again thwarted by "closed office" days.
- 5. Any Other Equitable Relief**

- Grant whatever further or different relief the Commission deems necessary to restore Complainant's statutory recount rights and safeguard the electorate's confidence.
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## **8. CONCLUSION**

By closing her office on the crucial filing day without establishing any alternate acceptance procedure, the Clerk contravened the plain requirements of Wisconsin's election law. The municipal board of canvassers likewise did not provide lawful notice of its purported meeting, casting doubt on the official canvass completion date. These combined failures unlawfully foreclosed Complainant's right to petition for a recount in a narrowly decided contest. Wisconsin election law prioritizes precise deadlines, but it does not permit officials to extinguish those deadlines unilaterally through non-availability and insufficient notice.

Accordingly, Complainant urges the Commission to exercise its authority under Wis. Stat. § 5.06 to remedy these procedural defects and violations by ordering the acceptance and processing of a recount petition, adjusting the recount timeline if the April 1 canvass was invalid, along with any ancillary relief or discipline warranted under the circumstances. By ensuring the recount process remains open and equitable, the Commission will affirm the integrity of local elections, particularly when margins are slim and administrative compliance is paramount. In a race separated by mere votes, these statutory protections ensure that the final outcome reflects the true will of the electorate.

# Spring Election Night Call-In Return Sheet

## Village of ARENA Ward 1

TOTAL # OF VOTERS 386 (Highest # on poll list)

Total # of Outstanding Provisional Ballots 0

### STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Brittany Kinser	<u>160</u>
Jill Underly	<u>194</u>
Adrianne Melby (write-in)	<u>0</u>
Scattering	<u>2</u>

### JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Brad Schimel	<u>161</u>
Susan Crawford	<u>219</u>
Scattering	<u>1</u>

### COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 4

Jennifer Nashold	<u>222</u>
Scattering	<u>3</u>

### Village President

Kathy Stoltz	<u>189</u>
Paul Pustina	<u>174</u>
Scattering	<u>4</u>

### Village Trustee

Tara Hill	<u>142</u>
Brittany Carney	<u>119</u>
Kathy Stoltz	<u>129</u>
Steve Wilkinson	<u>228</u>
Joseph Hipsky	<u>152</u>
Don Helt	<u>153</u>
Scattering	<u>1</u>

### River Valley School District - School Board Member - Area 3

Jeffrey J. Maier	<u>266</u>
Scattering	<u>0</u>

### River Valley School District - School Board Member - Area 6

Emily Beck	<u>170</u>
Jess Hisel	<u>115</u>
Scattering	<u>0</u>

### River Valley School District - School Board Member - Area 9

John D. Bettlinger	<u>268</u>
Scattering	<u>1</u>

### State of Wisconsin Photographic Identification for Voting Referendum

Yes	<u>225</u>
No	<u>162</u>

### River Valley School District Exceed Revenue Limit Referendum

Yes	<u>156</u>
No	<u>213</u>

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**Fw: Municipal Board of Canvassers**

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**From** Valley Sentinel <editor@valleysentinelnews.com>

**Date** Sun 2025-04-06 11:57 AM

**To** Paul Pustina <paulpustina@gmail.com>; uminowiczbr@gmail.com <uminowiczbr@gmail.com>

**Cc** Gary Grass <g.grass@sbcglobal.net>

Paul, as you are an aggrieved candidate; and Becca Raven, as you have been documenting elections violations in the Village of Arena, we wanted to forward the below along for your records.

I noticed numerous other procedural violations as a media observer election night and am happy to share my observations upon request.

Best,

Taylor Scott, *Managing Editor*



**Valley Sentinel**

Spring Green, Wisconsin

608-588-6694

[editor@valleysentinelnews.com](mailto:editor@valleysentinelnews.com)

[www.valleysentinelnews.com](http://www.valleysentinelnews.com)



Wisconsin Newspaper Association, [Best in Division E](#) (2022)

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**From:** Valley Sentinel

**Sent:** Sunday, April 6, 2025 11:52 AM

**To:** Village Clerk/Treasurer <vilarena@villageofarena.net>

**Subject:** Municipal Board of Canvassers

DaNean,

We were doing research on elections and were wondering when the Village of Arena municipal board of canvassers met. We were shocked today when reviewing a cursory picture I had taken of the notice board outside the village hall election night to see a small notice which indicated the board of canvassers met that night, election night.

We received no notice that the Village of Arena municipal board of canvassers was meeting. I was in attendance to observe the end of election night as a media observer and no formal meeting seemingly happened, there was no formal call to order, roll call or record of the proceedings which would indicate that a meeting of the Village of Arena municipal board of canvassers was meeting. And if a meeting of the Village of Arena municipal board of canvassers happened, it wasn't properly noticed to us as news media that have requested notice. The clerk as chair of the Village of Arena municipal board of canvassers had the duty to provide us notice.

Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law mandates that governmental bodies, including the Municipal Board of Canvassers, provide public notice of meetings and maintain records of proceedings. This ensures public access and transparency in governmental operations.

As you know, this notice to Valley Sentinel — as news media that has requested notice — is required for meetings to be considered properly noticed. When news media request notice under Wis. Stat. 19.84(1)(b) it is separate from the notice given to the public, but equally as necessary.

Our notice sent in 2020 states: *"Could you please send us all upcoming board and committee agendas/notices/meeting packets and include us indefinitely on your office's Wis. Stat. § 19.84(1)(b). news media email list to receive those items in the future?"* We clearly and intentionally didn't limit our request to Village Board, but ALL boards and committees, etc. in the village.

Under Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law, if a news media organization has submitted a written request to a municipal clerk for notice of meetings, the organization is entitled to receive notice of all meetings of governmental bodies within that municipality, including the municipal board of canvassers. Wisconsin Statute § 19.84(1)(b) specifies that public notice of all meetings must be given to the public and to those news media who have filed a written request for such notice.

The municipal board of canvassers qualifies as a "governmental body" under the Open Meetings Law. Therefore, its meetings are subject to the same public notice requirements as other governmental bodies.

Clearly, our request to receive "all upcoming board and committee agendas/notices/meeting packets" is more than sufficiently broad to encompass meetings of the municipal board of canvassers.

We were going to come in Friday to discuss, but saw you were out of the office.

Again, can you please send us all notices for the Village — regardless of governmental body or subunit, etc. — please regard this a general request for the entire municipality like we intended in our 2020 notice.

Thank you,

Taylor Scott, *Managing Editor*



**Valley Sentinel**

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