



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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October 2, 2024

Beth Trudell  
6418 Allen Road  
Sobieski, WI 54171

**Sent via email:** [beth\\_4357@yahoo.com](mailto:beth_4357@yahoo.com)

**Re:** Complaint Filed with Wisconsin Elections Commission: Beth Trudell v. Lisa Glinski (EL 24–98)

Dear Ms. Trudell,

I am in receipt of the complaint filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission (“the Commission”), received on September 19, 2024, against Clerk Lisa Glinski of the Town of Little Suamico (Oconto County). The administrative rules governing the Commission’s processing of complaints require that I review the complaint and determine within 10 business days whether the complaint is timely, is sufficient as to form, and states probable cause. Wis. Admin. Code EL § 20.04(1).

Your complaint is not sufficient to form and does not state allegations that could lead to a finding of probable cause. Therefore, I am returning the complaint to you without prejudice pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06 and Wis. Admin. Code § EL 20.04(1) and (2).

This complaint is nearly identical to the complaint you submitted on August 2 and which I returned to you on August 16. I am attaching that document to this letter, and my explanations provided there are also incorporated into this letter as they are equally applicable. The only difference between the documents is the addition of a citation to Wis. Stat. § 60.33 and a reference to Wis. Stat. § 5.05. While the citation to § 60.33 shows that municipal clerks must administer elections, you have not shown any specific election process that Clerk Glinski is alleged to have violated, and you still have not provided any specific citation to chapters 5 through 10 and 12.

You reference Wis. Stat. § 5.05 and state that you “believe the Commission is obligated to file violations also under Chapter 5.05.” It does not appear that you intended to file a Wis. Stat. § 5.05 complaint but are rather asking the Commission to do so. Neither the Commission nor its staff can file a § 5.05 complaint, and if you are intending to file such a complaint you will need to do so in a separate notarized complaint. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(2m)(a).

The main issue regarding your filings may be a misunderstanding concerning what actions fall under elections statutes and what actions do not. “Election” is defined by Wis. Stat. § 5.02(4) to mean “every public primary and election.” Other definitions found in § 5.02(5), (12s), (16), (16s), (19), (20), (20r), (21), and (22) clarify that “elections” refer specifically to General, Spring, Referendum, and Special elections as well as to all associated primaries. Chapters 5 to 10 and 12 establish the laws that govern all processes involving these elections. From what you have submitted, it does not appear that any of these elections or processes were involved in the actions alleged. Rather, the actions in question appear to relate to a special town meeting of the governing body of Little Suamico, which would be governed by Chapter 60 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which does not fall under the domain

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

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

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Administrator  
Meagan Wolfe

of the Elections Commission. Though I am not able to give you any advice concerning Chapter 60, it would appear that Wis. Stats. §§ 60.14(2), pertaining to elector voting at the town meeting, and 60.15, pertaining to the duties of the town clerk during a town meeting, may relate to the actions you describe. Though Chapter 60 does detail voting by town electors at the town meeting, those actions do not fall under the elections statutes because they pertain to actions taken by the town rather than the election of individuals or the passing of referenda. Other statutes with Ch. 60 do relate to the election of individuals or to referenda elections. Put simply, given what you have provided, it does not appear that the actions described involved an election as defined by Wis. Stat. § 5.02 or relate to any other procedures within Chapters 5 to 10 and 12.

I am now returning the complaint, without prejudice, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § EL 20.04(2). Accordingly, the Commission now considers this complaint to be disposed of pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06(2). Though this complaint is being dismissed without prejudice, unless there are other facts that have not yet been provided, it does not appear that the issue at stake is one that the Commission can evaluate. You may wish to seek other information about the operation of a town government and any recourse you may have available. The Wisconsin Towns Association may be a good place to begin gathering this information.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions regarding this complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meagan R.M. Wolfe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Meagan Wolfe  
Administrator

**WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

Cc: Commission Members