



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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(608) 266-8005 | elections@wi.gov | elections.wi.gov

October 25, 2024

Angela Kretchmer
7801 88th Ave. Lot 255
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53148

Sent via email: angied1205@hotmail.com

Re: Complaint Filed with Wisconsin Elections Commission
Angela Kretchmer v. Renee Brickner (EL 24-106)

Dear Ms. Kretchmer,

I am in receipt of your complaint filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission (“the Commission”), received on October 12, 2024, against the Village of Bristol Clerk Renee Brickner. The administrative rules governing the Commission’s processing of Wis. Stat. § 5.06 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).

While your complaint is timely and makes allegations that could lead to a finding of probable cause, your complaint is insufficient regarding form. 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).

Issue of Form:

First, it appears that you intend to file a Wis. Stat. § 5.06 complaint, though you have not listed your complaint as either a Wis. Stat. § 5.06 or Wis. Stat. § 5.05 complaint. In general, a § 5.06 complaint may only be filed against an election official by someone served by that official and generally alleges that an election official or officials have failed to properly follow a statute or abused the discretion granted to them by a statute. If the Commission finds probable cause under § 5.06, the Commission may issue an order to correct errors. In contrast, a § 5.05 complaint may be made against any individual, including an election official, and must allege a criminal violation of chapters 5 to 10 or chapter 12. If the Commission finds there is probable cause to believe a crime was committed, a § 5.05 complaint may be referred to a District Attorney for prosecution.

Your complaint does not raise any criminal allegations under chapter 12, and you ask that the Commission take action to ensure compliance in the future, and thus I understand it to be a § 5.06 complaint. For more information about the different kinds of complaints, please see our complaint page at this link: <https://elections.wi.gov/filing-sworn-complaint>.

Second, a § 5.06 complaint may only be filed by an “elector of a jurisdiction or district served by an election official [who] believes that a decision or action of the official” is contrary to law or an abuse of discretion. Wis. Stat. § 5.06(1). In this case, you have named an election official as the respondent, but you are not an elector of

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

her district, and thus you are not able to file a § 5.06 complaint against her. Given your address, you appear to be a resident of the Village of Pleasant Prairie, which is served by Clerk Jane Snell. Were you to become a resident of the Village of Bristol, you would then be served by Clerk Brickner and could file a § 5.06 complaint against her. Alternatively, an individual who is currently a resident of the Village of Bristol could file a § 5.06 complaint against her.

Conclusion:

I am returning the complaint, without prejudice, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § EL 20.04(2), after specifying that it is not sufficient as to form, as well as sending a copy of this letter to Clerk Brickner.

Regarding form, should you choose to refile the complaint, you must ensure that all respondents in a § 5.06 complaint are named election officials in your own jurisdiction, or that another elector of that jurisdiction is the complainant. Accordingly, the Commission now considers this complaint to be disposed of pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06(2).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meagan H.M. Wolfe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" at the beginning.

Meagan Wolfe
Administrator

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Cc: Commission Members