

Wisconsin Elections Commission

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March 26, 2025

DaNean Naeger

345 West St.

Arena, WI 53503

Becca Uminowicz

373 Willow St.

Arena, WI 53503

Arena, WI 53503

Sent via email to: vilarena@villageofarena.net, uminowiczbr@gmail.com

Re: Wis. Stat. § 5.06 Complaint Filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission:

Becca Uminowicz v. DaNean Naeger (EL 25-29)

Dear Ms. Uminowicz,

I am in receipt of the Wis. Stat. § 5.06 complaint you filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission (Commission), received on March 21, 2025, naming Clerk DaNean Naeger as the respondent. 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).

First, I am accepting the complaint regarding Clerk Naeger, a notice letter has been emailed to her along with this letter, and she will have until April 14, 2025, to respond. Second, while I find your complaint to be sufficient regarding form and to allege facts that could lead to a finding of probable cause by the Commission, your complaint is partially untimely under Wis. Stat. § 5.06(3). Therefore, I am partially returning the complaint to you without prejudice pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06 and Wis. Admin. Code § EL 20.04(1) and (2).

Under Wis. Stat. § 5.06(3):

In no case may a complaint relating to nominations, qualifications of candidates or ballot preparation be filed later than 10 days after the complainant knew or should have known that a violation of law or abuse of discretion occurred or was proposed to occur.

To the extent that your complaint asks the Commission to consider whether Clerk Naeger's procedural actions amount to a violation or an abuse of discretion that could be remedied for future elections, your complaint is timely, and a notice letter has been sent to the Respondent.

However, to the extent your complaint asks the Commission to issue an order regarding the ballot preparation for this election, your complaint is not timely under Wis. Stat. § 5.06(3). Your complaint does not allege when the municipal canvass took place or when the ballot order was certified by the municipal clerk to the county clerk, but under Wis. Stats. §§ 5.60(1)(b) and (5)(ar) and 10.06(3)(bm), that communication should have taken place no later than 3 days following the municipal canvass, which, under Wis. Stat. § 7.53(1)(a), could have been no later than Monday, February 24. Three days after

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

Monday, February 24 was Thursday, February 27. Thus, any complaint concerning ballot arrangement for the Spring Election could have been filed no later than 10 days following February 27, which was March 9, a Sunday. Due to the Sunday deadline, a complaint could have been filed by Monday, March 10. Wis. Stat. § 990.001(4)(b). Your complaint asking the Commission for an order altering ballot arrangement for the 2025 Spring Election was filed on March 21, making that request for relief untimely.

Conclusion

I am <u>partially</u> returning the complaint, without prejudice, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code § EL 20.04(2), as it is not timely regarding your specific requests for relief. However, the complaint is sufficient regarding the general procedural issues raised, and the response is due on April 14. Because a timeliness issue cannot be corrected, a complaint regarding ballot order for the Spring Election can no longer be filed.

Sincerely,

Meagan Wolfe Administrator

Wisconsin Elections Commission

cc: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission