

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

GLEN HOGAN, JOANNE LENSING,
and DAVID VANDERLEEST,

Complainants,

v.

CELESTINE JEFFREYS, in her capacity
as City Clerk of the City of Green Bay,

Respondent.

RESPONSE OF RESPONDENT CELESTINE JEFFREYS

Respondent Celestine Jeffreys, in her capacity as City Clerk of the City of Green Bay, by and through Assistant City Attorney Lindsay Mather, hereby submits the following response to the Complaint filed by Glen Hogan, Joanne Lensing, and David Vanderleest with the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC).

BACKGROUND

In her role as City Clerk for the City of Green Bay, Celestine Jeffreys has received postcards which were mailed to voters who registered to vote at the polls on Election Day but which were returned to her office as undeliverable. Upon receiving those undeliverable Election Day Registration (“EDR”) postcards, Clerk Jeffreys’s practice has been to review them for typographical or other errors that may have prevented their delivery to the voter, and she has engaged in other investigations of the errors where appropriate. For example, 33 of the undeliverable EDR postcards were for voters who registered using on-campus addresses at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Clerk Jeffreys investigated the situation and discovered there is a difference between the voters’ physical on-campus addresses (at which they register) and their mailing addresses (at which they receive the EDR postcards). Clerk Jeffreys confirmed the issue with the University and confirmed the appropriate

mailing addresses associated with the physical on-campus addresses, and updated the voters' records accordingly. To date, since investigating and resolving the issue, Clerk Jeffreys has not received any additional undeliverable EDR postcards for voters registered at UWGB.

Although she has conducted certain investigations upon receipt of the undeliverable EDR postcards, Clerk Jeffreys has not been conducting thorough investigations into all voters with undeliverable EDR postcards in the manner recommended by the WEC. Similarly, she has not been inactivating the voters' registrations or referring their names to the district attorney. Clerk Jeffreys was unaware that she was required to do each of these things, but plans to do so going forward, and is in the process of drafting written procedures for doing so. In the future, in accordance with statute and with the WEC guidance, Clerk Jeffreys will take the following actions when her office receives an undeliverable EDR postcard.

First, Clerk Jeffreys will review the postcard for administrative errors in the voter's address (such as typographical errors, differences from what is on the registration form, etc.), and if such errors are found she will email the WEC to have new postcards sent and update WisVote accordingly. If an error is not found in the first step, Clerk Jeffreys will investigate the situation to the extent possible to determine the reason for the undeliverability of the EDR postcard in a manner consistent with the latest WEC guidance. The reason for the undeliverability will govern the next step(s). For example, if Clerk Jeffreys can verify that the voter moved after Election Day, that voter's status would be changed and the voter would be informed of the change, but their name would not be forwarded to the District Attorney and the WEC. However, if Clerk Jeffreys believes beyond a reasonable doubt that the voter deliberately used an invalid address, that voter *would* be referred to the District Attorney and the WEC in addition to being informed of their status change. Clerk Jeffreys will make the appropriate changes in WisVote depending on the result of these investigations.

ARGUMENT

Clerk Jeffreys concedes that she has not been strictly adhering to the statutory requirements in Wisconsin Statutes Section 6.56, but the failure to do so was inadvertent and due to a lack of awareness of the statutory requirements, and not the result of any willful violation of state law. Upon receipt of this complaint, Clerk Jeffreys began formulating a plan for addressing the undeliverable postcards going forward that aligns with both the statutory requirements and the guidance from the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and she will comply with both for all future elections.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Clerk Jeffreys does not oppose Complainants' first request for relief—i.e., that she be directed to conform her conduct to statute and WEC guidance.

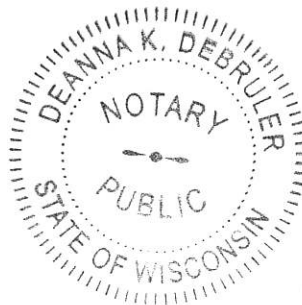
Dated this 29th day of April, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay J. Mather (State Bar No. 1086849)
Attorney for Celestine Jeffreys, City Clerk
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Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 29th day of April, 2024.


Notary Public, Brown County
State of Wisconsin
My commission expires 1/2/2027



VERIFICATION

I, Celestine Jeffreys, being first duly sworn on oath, state that I personally read the above verified Response to the Complaint of Glen Hogan, Joanne Lensing, and David Vanderleest, and that the above Response is true and correct based upon my personal knowledge.

Dated this 29th day of April, 2024.



Celestine Jeffreys
City Clerk, City of Green Bay

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 29th day of April, 2024.



Notary Public, Brown County
State of Wisconsin

My commission expires 1/2/2027

