

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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COMMISSIONERS

DEAN KNUDSON, CHAIR
BEVERLY R. GILL
JULIE M. GLANCEY
ANN S. JACOBS
JODI JENSEN
MARK L. THOMSEN

INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR MEAGAN WOLFE

Wisconsin Elections Commission
Commission Offices, Third Floor
212 East Washington Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin
10:30 a.m. August 22, 2018

Open Session Minutes

Present: Commissioner Dean Knudson, Commissioner Beverly Gill, Commissioner Julie Glancey, Commissioner Ann Jacobs, Commissioner Jodi Jensen and Commissioner Mark Thomsen (all by telephone)

Staff present: Meagan Wolfe, Richard Rydecki, Michael Haas, Sharrie Hauge, Reid Magney, and Nathan Judnic

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair Dean Knudson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice

Interim Administrator Meagan Wolfe informed the Commissioners that proper notice was given for the meeting.

C. Trempealeau County District Attorney Recall Election

Staff Counsel Michael Haas made a presentation based on a memorandum starting on page 2 of the August 22, 2018 Commission meeting materials regarding a recall petition offered for filing with the Commission against Trempealeau County District Attorney Taavi McMahon. Commission staff reviewed the petition and found it has a sufficient number of signatures. Staff recommends scheduling the recall election for October 2, 2018, and if that becomes a primary election, holding the recall election on November 6 to coincide with the General Election.

Trempealeau County Clerk Paul Severson appeared in person to discuss the cost of conducting a recall election and supported the idea of holding the recall election in conjunction with the General Election on November 6, 2018.

MOTION: The Commission finds that the recall petition filed against Trempealeau County District Attorney Taavi McMahon contains 3,149 valid signatures and certifies the petition as sufficient. The Commission orders that a recall election be held in the municipalities of Trempealeau County on October 2, 2018 and that nomination papers for all candidates other than the incumbent must be filed in the office of the Wisconsin Elections Commission no later than 5 p.m. on September 4, 2018. The Commission further orders that if a recall primary is required for any ballot access party, the recall election shall be held on November 6, 2018, concurrent with the 2018 General Election. The Commission directs the Administrator to file and attach to the petition the Certificate of Sufficiency and Order attached to this Memorandum in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 9.10(3).

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen, seconded by Commissioner Glancey. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Update on Agency Budget

Ms. Wolfe and Chief Administrative Officer Sharrie Hauge made a presentation based on a memorandum starting on page 10 of the August 22, 2018 Commission meeting materials regarding preparations of the WEC's FY 2019-21 Biennial Budget request. The budget request is due to the Governor's Office on September 17, which is before the Commission's next regular meeting.

Commissioners and staff discussed several issues, including:

- The new requirement that agencies submit budget alternatives containing no growth and a 5 percent reduction, and areas where the WEC might cut in order to prioritize areas such as election security.
- WEC efforts to educate the public about misinformation and disinformation on social media websites such as Facebook.
- One-time costs for updating the statewide voter registration system for photo ID.
- WEC authority and funding for post-election audits.

Ms. Wolfe said the Commissioners will have another opportunity to discuss the budget at a special meeting in early September to certify candidates for the recall election.

MOTION: Approve the overall approach of submitting a budget request for 2019-21 which continues current agency operations; direct staff to request funding for Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) membership dues, required mailings and WisVote modifications. \$278,200 GPR in FY20 and \$174,400 GPR in FY21; and, direct staff to request additional funding for the Four-Year Voter Maintenance process. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Gill. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Closed Session

Adjourn to closed session as required by statutes to discuss violations of election law and to confer with counsel concerning potential litigation.

MOTION: Move to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.851 and 19.85(1)(g) to discuss violations of election law and confer with counsel concerning potential litigation. Moved by Commissioner Thomsen, seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Roll call vote: Gill:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
Jensen:	Aye	Jacobs:	Aye
Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried unanimously. The Commission convened in closed session at 10:57 a.m.

The Commission adjourned in closed session at 11:24 a.m.

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The next meeting of the Wisconsin Elections Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at the State Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 10:00 a.m.

August 22, 2018 Wisconsin Elections Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



Reid Magney, Public Information Officer

September 14, 2018

August 22, 2018 Wisconsin Elections Commission meeting minutes certified by:



Julie Glancey, Commission Secretary

September 25, 2018