

From: [Perez, Nikki](#)
To: [Quinn, Peter](#)
Cc: [Christianson, Eric](#); [Witzel-Behl, Maribeth](#); [Verbick, Jim](#); [Wall, Taylor R](#); [Koffel, Colin A](#)
Subject: RE: Ward 56 and 65 Reconciliation - WEC Contact Needed
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 1:51:22 PM

I can send WEC an email for the override, but just to clarify: WEC asked us to assign participation for all the uncounted absentees?

Nikki Perez, WCMC

Madison City Clerk's Office
City-County Bldg, Room 105
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Madison, WI 53703
TEL: (608) 266-4601
Pronouns: she, her, hers

www.cityofmadison.com/clerk

Twitter: @MadisonWIClerk

"We exist to assist."

From: Quinn, Peter <PQuinn@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 1:34 PM
To: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Christianson, Eric <EChristianson@cityofmadison.com>; Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; Verbick, Jim <JVerbick@cityofmadison.com>; Wall, Taylor R <TWall@cityofmadison.com>; Koffel, Colin A <CKoffel@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Ward 56 and 65 Reconciliation - WEC Contact Needed

Hi,

These are the two wards that received absentee packs in green bags they failed to open. 65 was found back in its red cage at the storage facility and 56 was located later among the totes in their storage room. Both of these were found after canvass was complete.

Saer and I recorded participation for these two wards with the procedure Taylor directed and I've otherwise reconciled them. 65 also failed to count one otherwise properly delivered and valid FWAB - that they noted on their IS that they had received - so that has been treated similarly and placed unopened with the 65 bag in the vault. All numbers reconcile in these two

wards besides the updated absentee participation and what they counted.

Per Taylor's prior email, WEC will need to be contacted in order to close these out.

I've placed the poll books and the updated Inspector Statements at Nikki's desk. The absentees have been placed back in their green bags and are on an upper shelf in the vault.

Peter

From: [Chang, Bonnie](#)
To: [Perez, Nikki](#)
Subject: RE: Whoops!
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 3:33:25 PM

Yeah Peter says they were found after canvass, but idk how long after and if OCA maybe would have allowed reconvening of canvass bc County always waits for us to do last which would have meant Weds or Thurs

From: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 3:31 PM
To: Chang, Bonnie <BChang@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Whoops!

Yeah Peter sent this to me. Waiting to hear from WEC. eee

From: Chang, Bonnie <BChang@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 3:29 PM
To: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: FW: Whoops!

From: Quinn, Peter <PQuinn@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 3:27 PM
To: Chang, Bonnie <BChang@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fw: Whoops!

From: Wall, Taylor R <TWall@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 8:28 AM
To: Quinn, Peter <PQuinn@cityofmadison.com>; Saer Oan <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Koffel, Colin A <CKoffel@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Whoops!

Cool beans! Also, Maribeth replied re: the Ward 65 debacle. She would like us to open the carrier envelope of unprocessed absentees. Because these are unique (in that they were properly and timely delivered but negligently unprocessed), she wants us to assign voter slip numbers to them, keep them sealed, and record them as having participated absentee. We can then write the novella in the comments section of the reconciliation page as to why there are so many fewer ballots than participations.

I am recommending we keep all those participated-but-not-participated absentees bundled together still so that we may readily refer to them if WEC comes back at us with questions.

I will likely have time after I'm done covering counter today to help with reconciliation. Let me know if there are any strange things you want investigated.

Camille is working from home this morning to finish up her participation entry, so hopefully that's all done by this afternoon.

Thanks!

Taylor Wall – Municipal Clerk I
City of Madison Clerk's Office
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Rm 105
Madison, WI 53703

From: Quinn, Peter <PQuinn@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 9:35 AM
To: Saer Oan <[REDACTED]>; Wall, Taylor R <TWall@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Koffel, Colin A <CKoffel@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Whoops!

12/20 is much more feasible. 12/5 would be not possible even with more people if there's more than a few large absentee mismatches. It can take a few hours just to organize a thousand envelopes and not make the counting worse.

We redistributed most of the remaining data entry yesterday e.g. Pranee taking 57 and its outstanding 440 EDRs.

Today I'm cleaning house on wards that should just need IS typos corrected or returned absentees noted and I'll review the "How to" materials for Sara D and see what thoughts I've got in addition to that.

Peter

From: Saer Oan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 9:01 AM
To: Wall, Taylor R <TWall@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Quinn, Peter <PQuinn@cityofmadison.com>; Koffel, Colin A <CKoffel@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Whoops!

Okay yes that makes it much better. 12/20 feels doable.

Sara D had said she has some remaining data entry she's going to work on today and then that she'll be in Wednesday to see how reconciliation works. I'd told her some about it before and she seemed to readily grasp the overall concept.

On Tue, Nov 26, 2024, 08:45 Wall, Taylor R <TWall@cityofmadison.com> wrote:

Also, I let Sara Dovale know that she's invited to help with reconciliation per the little conversation yesterday. I don't know if any of you have reached out to her yet, but her e-mail is [REDACTED]. I didn't tell her to come in at any given time, since I'm not sure when/if you'll have a normal schedule each day.

Thank you!

Taylor Wall – Municipal Clerk I

City of Madison Clerk's Office

[210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Rm 105](#)

[Madison, WI 53703](#)

From: Wall, Taylor R

Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 8:33 AM

To: Quinn, Peter <PQuinn@cityofmadison.com>; Koffel, Colin A <CKoffel@cityofmadison.com>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Whoops!

Hello all,

My thought is maybe you've already heard this from someone else in the office, but I just noticed via the WEC calendar (and subsequent look-see in statutes) that I was incorrectly operating under a 30-day timeline for reconciliation. Looks like the deadline for reconciliation post General

Election is the 45-day mark which puts us at **Friday, 12/20**. At least this instance of Taylor-Not-Knowing-What-He's-Talking-About leads to *more* time to deal with something rather than less... so, silver lining! Maybe this is what they mean by ignorance is bliss. (But also, sorry about that!)

I just sent an e-mail to everyone who worked participation entry to please have everything completed ASAP and to return it by tomorrow so we can hit the ground running with reconciliation. Let me know if you've got any questions in the next couple days. I am off for a month starting Thursday.

Thank you!

Taylor Wall – Municipal Clerk I

City of Madison Clerk's Office

[210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Rm 105](#)

[Madison, WI 53703](#)

From: [Perez, Nikki](#)
To: [Chang, Bonnie](#)
Subject: FW: Reconciliation Override Requested Wards 56 and 65 - C Madison
Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 3:34:53 PM

Havn't gotten a response yet.

From: Perez, Nikki
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 3:22 PM
To: Wisconsin Elections Commission <helpdesk@electionsupport.wi.gov>
Subject: RE: Reconciliation Override Requested Wards 56 and 65 - C Madison

They did not. They were found after county canvass.

Nikki Perez, WCMC

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Twitter: @MadisonWIClerk

"We exist to assist."

From: Sarah Statz (Wisconsin Elections Commission) <helpdesk@electionsupport.wi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 3:21 PM
To: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Elections <elections@wi.gov>
Subject: Re: Reconciliation Override Requested Wards 56 and 65 - C Madison

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Your Wisconsin Elections Commission request number (76848) is updated with the information below.

Sarah Statz (Wisconsin Elections Commission)

Dec 18, 2024, 15:21 CST

So your MBOC reconvened and counted those ballots prior to the county doing their canvass?

Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah Statz
IT Project Manager
Wisconsin Elections Commission
201 West Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-266-8005

Nikki Perez (C. Madison)

Dec 18, 2024, 15:14 CST

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi WEC,

We are requesting a state override of Wards 56 and wards 65. Both wards had a bundle of absentees that were never processed on Election Day, and only discovered after Canvass. We are currently working on procedures to ensure that does not happen again.

For our reconciliation, we assigned participation and kept the ballots in “returned” status, so our absentee count is off. This also effects our overall statistics, as the state canvass is higher than our participation.

Please let me know if there is different way you’d like us to handle this error.

Thank you,

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“We exist to assist.”

From: [Perez, Nikki](#)
To: [Witzel-Behl, Maribeth](#); [Wisconsin Elections Commission](#)
Cc: [Haas, Michael R](#)
Subject: RE: Reconciliation Override Requested Wards 56 and 65 - C Madison
Date: Thursday, December 19, 2024 3:43:40 PM

Yes, I am available at 1pm.

Nikki

----- Original message -----

From: "Witzel-Behl, Maribeth" <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>
Date: 12/19/24 3:37 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Wisconsin Elections Commission <helpdesk@electionsupport.wi.gov>, "Perez, Nikki" <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: "Haas, Michael R" <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Reconciliation Override Requested Wards 56 and 65 - C Madison

I could meet at 1 if we are done by 1:30.

-Maribeth

From: Riley Willman (Wisconsin Elections Commission) <helpdesk@electionsupport.wi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Reconciliation Override Requested Wards 56 and 65 - C Madison

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Your Wisconsin Elections Commission request number (76848) is updated with the information below.

Riley Willman (Wisconsin Elections Commission)

Dec 19, 2024, 15:36 CST

Hi Nikki, Maribeth, and Mike,

Would you be able to meet tomorrow to discuss this situation so we can have a better idea of this situation and determine next steps? Would a 1pm call work?

Thanks!

Riley

Riley Willman
Elections Supervisor
Wisconsin Elections Commission
201 West Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-266-8005

Nikki Perez (C. Madison)

Dec 18, 2024, 15:22 CST

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They did not. They were found after county canvass.

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Sarah Statz (Wisconsin Elections Commission)

Dec 18, 2024, 15:21 CST

So your MBOC reconvened and counted those ballots prior to the county doing their canvass?

Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah Statz
IT Project Manager
Wisconsin Elections Commission
201 West Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-266-8005

Nikki Perez (C. Madison)

Dec 18, 2024, 15:14 CST

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Hi WEC,

We are requesting a state override of Wards 56 and wards 65. Both wards had a bundle of absentees that were never processed on Election Day, and only discovered after Canvass. We are currently working on procedures to ensure that does not happen again.

For our reconciliation, we assigned participation and kept the ballots in “returned” status, so our absentee count is off. This also effects our overall statistics, as the state canvass is higher than our participation.

Please let me know if there is different way you’d like us to handle this error.

Thank you,

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From: [Witzel-Behl, Maribeth](#)
To: [Perez, Nikki](#); [Haas, Michael R](#); [McReynolds, Amber](#)
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:42:15 AM

I'm working on the public statement right now. I'll send you all a draft before I send it to Dylan, in case I misinterpreted some of the facts.

From: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>; Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

As far as I know, these are the facts. I've double checked with everyone involved (Peter, our hourly who discovered 56, and Brian and Eric, who handled 65). The only discrepancy is the dates on the inspector statements don't match the date of the events – they are the dates our office *documented* the incident. I made the below edits in **green**. I crossed out “all” because some materials are not brought back to the Clerk's Office (sealed ballots in tabulator are delivered to our storage facility). Added reconciliation language.

Let me know if this looks good!

Who is responsible for the public statement? Have we contacted Dylan yet, or would you like me to do that?

Best,

Nikki

From: Haas, Michael R <[MHaas@cityofmadison.com](#)>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 9:50 AM
To: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <[MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com](#)>; Perez, Nikki <[NPerez@cityofmadison.com](#)>; McReynolds, Amber <[AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com](#)>
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Mike

From: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 9:15 AM
To: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

Thank you, Nikki.

From: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 4:57 PM
To: McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>; Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

Draft of Statement below. Please let me know of any language corrections, etc. FYI – it looks like the Ward 65 ballots were discovered earlier than we thought (11/12) which I believe is the day County Canvass adjourned.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nikki Perez, WCMC
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Twitter: @MadisonWIClerk

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From: [Witzel-Behl, Maribeth](#)
To: [Perez, Nikki](#); [Haas, Michael R](#); [McReynolds, Amber](#)
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:47:31 AM
Attachments: [Uncounted Absentee Ballots.docx](#)

Did I capture everything correctly in putting this into non-WEC language? If so, I'll contact Dylan next.

-Maribeth

From: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>; Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

As far as I know, these are the facts. I've double checked with everyone involved (Peter, our hourly who discovered 56, and Brian and Eric, who handled 65). The only discrepancy is the dates on the inspector statements don't match the date of the events – they are the dates our office *documented* the incident. I made the below edits in **green**. I crossed out “all” because some materials are not brought back to the Clerk's Office (sealed ballots in tabulator are delivered to our storage facility). Added reconciliation language.

Let me know if this looks good!

Who is responsible for the public statement? Have we contacted Dylan yet, or would you like me to do that?

Best,

Nikki

From: Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 9:50 AM
To: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [Witzel-Behl, Maribeth](#)
To: [Perez, Nikki](#)
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:59:17 AM

Thanks, Nikki!

From: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:59 AM
To: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

This all looks correct to me, except I had a few serial numbers wrong in my statement:

14142 should be **17142**
99057 should be **29057**

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From: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:48 AM
To: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

Did I capture everything correctly in putting this into non-WEC language? If so, I'll contact Dylan next.

-Maribeth

From: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 10:37 AM
To: Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>; Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

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Let me know if this looks good!

Who is responsible for the public statement? Have we contacted Dylan yet, or would you like me to do that?

Best,

Nikki

From: Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 9:50 AM
To: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Wards 56 and 65 Reconciliation Override Statement DRAFT

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Mike

From: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nikki Perez, WCMC
Madison City Clerk's Office
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"We exist to assist."

From: [Witzel-Behl, Maribeth](#)
To: [Wisconsin Elections Commission](#); [Perez, Nikki](#)
Cc: [McReynolds, Amber](#); [Haas, Michael R](#)
Subject: RE: Reconciliation Override Statement - Wards 56/65 C Madison
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 2:36:50 PM

I'll work on this in the office on Thursday, and will let you know as soon as we've finished.

Thank you!

-Maribeth

From: Sarah Statz (Wisconsin Elections Commission) <helpdesk@electionsupport.wi.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 2:16 PM
To: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Reconciliation Override Statement - Wards 56/65 C Madison

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Your Wisconsin Elections Commission request number (77049) is updated with the information below.

Sarah Statz (Wisconsin Elections Commission)

Dec 23, 2024, 14:16 CST

Hello Nikki,

I'll let Riley respond on whether the statement is sufficient.

The one thing you will still need to do is remove all of the participations for those individuals from WisVote. The absentee ballots will stay marked as Returned, but their participations will all need to be removed from the poll books.

We also think you should enter a Note into each of the voter's records as to why they do not have participation recorded in case there is ever a future question from these voters there is reference that we, or future munis could reference. This involves going into each individual voter record, scrolling down to Activities and Notes section. Click on that to make it dropdown then choosing Notes. And entering one. Please do not attach any documents into those ever, just add notes of whatever you think it should say.

If you are not sure how to do either of these things, please let us know. Once you have removed all the participations I can enter the state override, so just let me know when at least that part

of it is done.

Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah Statz
IT Project Manager
Wisconsin Elections Commission
201 West Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-266-8005

Nikki Perez (C. Madison)

Dec 23, 2024, 12:25 CST

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.
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Good afternoon, Riley.

Below is our statement for our reconciliation override request. Please let me know what steps I need to take in WisVote (if any). Also let us know if you have further questions. Thank you!

The City of Madison Clerk's Office is requesting a reconciliation override for Wards 56 and 65 for the November 5, 2024 Presidential Election. The following is an explanation of events:

All absentee ballots were sealed in Absentee Ballot Carrier Envelopes (EL-125) to be delivered to each polling place. To facilitate transport of high numbers of ballots, carrier envelopes were sealed in larger green or red courier bags.

Ward 56: On Election night, materials were brought back to the Clerk's Office. Due to high numbers of absentee ballots, the same courier bags were also used to return absentee certificate envelopes contained in Used Certificate Envelopes (EL-103). Reconciliation, the process of comparing all counts and assigning participation in WisVote, began immediately after the election. Clerks have 45 days to complete this process after a presidential election. On Monday December 3, reconciliation began on Ward 56. During this process, it was noticed that there were many outstanding returned absentee ballots. The certificate envelopes were retrieved and a sealed courier bag was discovered (Seal [#21183883](#)). Upon breaking the seal and opening, two sealed EL-125 carrier envelopes were discovered (Seal [#17142](#) and [#29057](#)). Upon opening, [#17142](#) contained 51 unprocessed absentee ballots and [#29057](#) contained 74 unprocessed absentee ballots, for a total of 125 unprocessed absentee ballots.

Ward 65: To facilitate the transport of absentee ballots, absentee ballot carrier envelopes are sealed inside the tabulator and then delivered to the polling place before each election. If a ward has a high number of ballots, courier bags are used and delivered next to the tabulator, in our secure red cages. After the November 5 Election, City of Madison Clerk's Office staff were clearing out tabulators and discovered 1 green courier bag on Tuesday November 12th. That bag was then delivered to the Clerk's Office on Wednesday November 13th. The courier bag seal [#22117341](#) was broken and opened after arriving at the Clerk's Office. Inside was one Absentee Ballot Carrier Envelope (seal [#017034](#)). The envelope contained 68 unprocessed absentee ballots, 67 for Ward 65 and 1 for Ward 68 (mis-sorted).

The City of Madison Clerk's Office staff plans to debrief these incidents and implement better processes to ensure all delivered carrier envelopes are accounted for and processed on Election Night.

Nikki Perez, WCMC

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From: [Perez, Nikki](#)
To: [Witzel-Behl, Maribeth](#); [Wisconsin Elections Commission](#)
Cc: [McReynolds, Amber](#); [Haas, Michael R](#)
Subject: RE: Reconciliation Override Statement - Wards 56/65 C Madison
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 3:05:35 PM

Hi Sarah,

I've got all the participation deleted. It looks like we will also need an override for Ward 68, since there was 1 ward 68 ballot in with the 65s. That is also included in the statement below.

Thank you for your help!

Nikki Perez, WCMC

Madison City Clerk's Office
City-County Bldg, Room 105
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Madison, WI 53703
TEL: (608) 266-4601
Pronouns: she, her, hers

www.cityofmadison.com/clerk

Twitter: @MadisonWIClerk

"We exist to assist."

From: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 2:37 PM
To: Wisconsin Elections Commission <helpdesk@electionsupport.wi.gov>; Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: Reconciliation Override Statement - Wards 56/65 C Madison

I'll work on this in the office on Thursday, and will let you know as soon as we've finished.

Thank you!

-Maribeth

From: Sarah Statz (Wisconsin Elections Commission) <helpdesk@electionsupport.wi.gov>

Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 2:16 PM

To: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Re: Reconciliation Override Statement - Wards 56/65 C Madison

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Your Wisconsin Elections Commission request number (77049) is updated with the information below.

Sarah Statz (Wisconsin Elections Commission)

Dec 23, 2024, 14:16 CST

Hello Nikki,

I'll let Riley respond on whether the statement is sufficient.

The one thing you will still need to do is remove all of the participations for those individuals from WisVote. The absentee ballots will stay marked as Returned, but their participations will all need to be removed from the poll books.

We also think you should enter a Note into each of the voter's records as to why they do not have participation recorded in case there is ever a future question from these voters there is reference that we, or future munis could reference. This involves going into each individual voter record, scrolling down to Activities and Notes section. Click on that to make it dropdown then choosing Notes. And entering one. Please do not attach any documents into those ever, just add notes of whatever you think it should say.

If you are not sure how to do either of these things, please let us know. Once you have removed all the participations I can enter the state override, so just let me know when at least that part of it is done.

Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah Statz
IT Project Manager
Wisconsin Elections Commission
201 West Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-266-8005

Nikki Perez (C. Madison)

Dec 23, 2024, 12:25 CST

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization.

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Good afternoon, Riley.

Below is our statement for our reconciliation override request. Please let me know what steps I need to take in WisVote (if any). Also let us know if you have further questions. Thank you!

The City of Madison Clerk's Office is requesting a reconciliation override for Wards 56 and 65 for the November 5, 2024 Presidential Election. The following is an explanation of events:

All absentee ballots were sealed in Absentee Ballot Carrier Envelopes (EL-125) to be delivered to each polling place. To facilitate transport of high numbers of ballots, carrier envelopes were sealed in larger green or red courier bags.

Ward 56: On Election night, materials were brought back to the Clerk's Office. Due to high numbers of absentee ballots, the same courier bags were also used to return absentee certificate envelopes contained in Used Certificate Envelopes (EL-103). Reconciliation, the process of comparing all counts and assigning participation in WisVote, began immediately after the election. Clerks have 45 days to complete this process after a presidential election. On Monday December 3, reconciliation began on Ward 56. During this process, it was noticed that there were many outstanding returned absentee ballots. The certificate envelopes were retrieved and a sealed courier bag was discovered (Seal [#21183883](#)). Upon breaking the seal and opening, two sealed EL-125 carrier envelopes were discovered (Seal [#17142](#) and [#29057](#)). Upon opening, [#17142](#) contained 51 unprocessed absentee ballots and [#29057](#) contained 74 unprocessed absentee ballots, for a total of 125 unprocessed absentee ballots.

Ward 65: To facilitate the transport of absentee ballots, absentee ballot carrier envelopes are sealed inside the tabulator and then delivered to the polling place before each election. If a ward has a high number of ballots, courier bags are used and delivered next to the tabulator, in our secure red cages. After the November 5 Election, City of Madison Clerk's Office staff were clearing out tabulators and discovered 1 green courier bag on Tuesday November 12th. That bag was then delivered to the Clerk's Office on Wednesday November 13th. The courier bag seal [#22117341](#) was broken and opened after arriving at the Clerk's Office. Inside was one Absentee Ballot Carrier Envelope (seal [#017034](#)). The envelope contained 68 unprocessed absentee ballots, 67 for Ward 65 and 1 for Ward 68 (mis-sorted).

The City of Madison Clerk's Office staff plans to debrief these incidents and implement better processes to ensure all delivered carrier envelopes are accounted for and processed on Election Night.

Nikki Perez, WCMC
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"We exist to assist."

From: [Witzel-Behl, Maribeth](#)
To: [Wisconsin Elections Commission](#); [Perez, Nikki](#)
Cc: [McReynolds, Amber](#); [Haas, Michael R](#)
Subject: RE: Reconciliation Override Statement - Wards 56/65 C Madison
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 5:18:58 PM

I have finished adding notes to each voter record.

From: Sarah Statz (Wisconsin Elections Commission) <helpdesk@electionsupport.wi.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 2:16 PM
To: Perez, Nikki <NPerez@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; McReynolds, Amber <AMcReynolds@cityofmadison.com>; Haas, Michael R <MHaas@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: Reconciliation Override Statement - Wards 56/65 C Madison

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Dec 23, 2024, 14:16 CST

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Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah Statz
IT Project Manager
Wisconsin Elections Commission
201 West Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-266-8005

Nikki Perez (C. Madison)

Dec 23, 2024, 12:25 CST

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opened after arriving at the Clerk's Office. Inside was one Absentee Ballot Carrier Envelope (seal #017034). The envelope contained 68 unprocessed absentee ballots, 67 for Ward 65 and 1 for Ward 68 (mis-sorted).

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From: [Witzel-Behl, Maribeth](#)
To: [Munger, Sam R.](#)
Cc: [Verbick, Jim](#); [Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen](#)
Subject: RE: News: Mayor Rhodes-Conway's Statement on Unprocessed Absentee Ballots
Date: Thursday, December 26, 2024 2:43:01 PM

I think it is Verveer and Vidaver, but I will verify that in WisVote. I thought I should send them the letter that will be sent to their voters once the draft is final.

-Maribeth

From: Munger, Sam R. <SMunger@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 26, 2024 2:41 PM
To: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Verbick, Jim <JVerbick@cityofmadison.com>; Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen <KKapusta-Pofahl@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Re: News: Mayor Rhodes-Conway's Statement on Unprocessed Absentee Ballots

Alder Field's email does prompt me to think that we should probably let the alders whose district were affected know. Do you know off-hand which Districts were affected?

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From: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 26, 2024 10:40 AM
To: Field, Derek <district3@cityofmadison.com>; Verbick, Jim <JVerbick@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen <KKapusta-Pofahl@cityofmadison.com>; Munger, Sam R. <SMunger@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: RE: News: Mayor Rhodes-Conway's Statement on Unprocessed Absentee Ballots

None of these voters are in District 3.

-Maribeth

From: Field, Derek <district3@cityofmadison.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 26, 2024 11:52 AM
To: Witzel-Behl, Maribeth <MWitzel-Behl@cityofmadison.com>; Verbick, Jim <JVerbick@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen <KKapusta-Pofahl@cityofmadison.com>; Munger, Sam R. <SMunger@cityofmadison.com>; Figueroa Cole, Yannette <district10@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Fwd: News: Mayor Rhodes-Conway's Statement on Unprocessed Absentee Ballots

This incident and the timing of notice are extremely problematic. Were any of these affected voters in my district 3)? If so, how many and can you share their names with me?

Derek
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: City of Madison <noreply@cityofmadison.com>

Date: December 26, 2024 at 10:42:08 AM CST

To: "Field, Derek" <district3@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: News: Mayor Rhodes-Conway's Statement on Unprocessed Absentee Ballots

Reply-To: City of Madison <noreply@cityofmadison.com>

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Mayor Rhodes-Conway's Statement on Unprocessed Absentee Ballots

For Immediate Release
December 26, 2024

"Today, the Madison Clerk's Office [released a statement](#) alerting the public of 193 unprocessed absentee ballots found after November 5, 2024. The City of Madison prides itself on administering safe, fair and accurate elections. While the discovery of these unprocessed absentee ballots did not impact the results of any election or referendum, a discrepancy of this magnitude is unacceptable. This oversight is a significant departure from the high standard our residents expect and must be addressed and avoided in future elections.

Unfortunately, Clerk's Office staff were apparently aware of the oversight for some time and the Mayor's Office was not notified of the unprocessed ballots until December 20 (please see the timeline of events below for additional details.) We immediately asked the Clerk's Office to prepare an explanation and then moved quickly to inform the public. The City will also be individually contacting each of the voters affected to notify them and apologize.

We plan to conduct a thorough review of the City's election policies and procedures to ensure this kind of oversight does not recur. My office is committed to taking whatever corrective action is necessary to maintain a high standard of election integrity in

Madison, and to provide ongoing transparency into that process. This statement and the timeline are a first step in doing so.

I also wish to offer an apology to affected voters. You have my word that immediate steps will be taken to ensure this kind of mistake will not happen again."

— *Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway*

Timeline of Discovery of Unprocessed Ballots

November 5, 2024

- Election Day

November 12, 2024

- Clerk's Office personnel discover a sealed courier bag with two sealed envelopes containing 125 unprocessed absentee ballots.

November 29, 2024

- Wisconsin Election Commission certifies the November 5, 2024 election.

December 3, 2024

- During ballot reconciliation process, Madison Clerk's Office personnel discover a sealed courier bag containing a sealed envelope with 68 unprocessed absentee ballots.

December 18, 2024

- Madison Clerk's Office emails Wisconsin Election Commission about unprocessed absentee ballots and asks for guidance.

December 19, 2024

- Wisconsin Election Commission attorney contacts Madison City Attorney Michael Haas about the unprocessed ballots. This was the first time Attorney Haas is informed of the situation.
- Wisconsin Election Commission asks for a virtual meeting with Madison Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl, Clerk personnel, and Madison City Attorney Michael Haas.

December 20, 2024

- City Attorney Haas emails Mayor's Office staff to inform them of the unprocessed ballots.
- Chief of Staff to the Mayor Sam Munger directs Clerk Witzel-Behl to write a statement informing the public of the unprocessed ballots.

December 23

- Clerk's Office traces ballots and provides written explanation.

December 26

- Public statement released.

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