



# Wisconsin Elections Commission

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**Wisconsin Elections Commission**  
Special Teleconference Meeting  
201 W. Washington Avenue, Second Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin  
10:00 a.m. June 10, 2024

Open Session Minutes

**Present:** Commissioner Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner Ann Jacobs, Commissioner Don M. Millis, Commissioner Carrie Riepl, Commissioner Robert Spindell Jr., and Commissioner Mark Thomsen, all by teleconference.

**Staff present:** Ahna Barreau, Sharrie Hauge, Brandon Hunzicker, Robert Kehoe, Anna Langdon, Angela Sharpe, Riley Vetterkind, Riley Willman, Jim Witecha, and Meagan Wolfe, all by teleconference.

## **A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Millis called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and called the roll. All Commissioners were present.

## **B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice**

Administrator Meagan Wolfe informed the Commission that the meeting was noticed in accordance with Wisconsin's open meetings laws.

## **C. Ballot Access Challenges and Issues**

Chair Millis noted that the challenges for which challengers did not submit rebuttals would be addressed first, followed by the challenges with rebuttals. Staff Attorney Hunzicker noted that all challenges were evaluated under the standards of Wis. Admin. Code Chapter EL 2 and the requirements of Chapter 8 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

### **a. EL 24-54 Jane Benson v. Alexia Unertl (AD4)**

Chair Millis noted that no challenger or candidate presentations were listed and that the challenger had requested a retraction of their complaint.

Staff Attorney Brandon Hunzicker noted that staff recommended proceeding with the complaint in keeping with past actions and to address valid challenges to signatures.

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

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

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Administrator  
Meagan Wolfe

Discussion.

**MOTION:** After reviewing all materials submitted by the parties and the staff worksheet and analysis, the Commission sustains 5 challenges against signatures lines, and does not sustain 26 challenges against signature lines, in accordance with staff recommendations and the 2024 General Election Challenge Worksheet for EL 24-54. The Commission finds that Alexia Unertl submitted 227 valid signatures for the office of Assembly District 4, and the Commission adds Alexia Unertl to the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**b. EL 24-55 Tony Theisen v. Tony Wied (CD8 – Special)**

**c. EL 24-56 Tony Theisen v. Tony Wied (CD8 – General)**

Chair Millis confirmed the Commission could consider both complaints against Candidate Wied together.

Chief Legal Counsel Jim Witecha presented the facts of the case.

No one appeared on behalf of the challenger.

Kurt Goehre appeared and presented arguments on behalf of Candidate Wied.

Discussion.

**MOTION:**

**Motion #1:** The Commission sustains 0 challenges, and does not sustain 228 challenges, in accordance with staff recommendations and the 2024 General Election Challenge Worksheet for EL 24-55. The Commission finds that Tony Wied submitted 1,667 valid signatures, and the Commission adds Tony Wied to the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

**Motion #2:** The Commission sustains 0 challenges, and does not sustain 197 challenges, in accordance with staff recommendations and the 2024 General Election Challenge Worksheet for EL 24-56. The Commission finds that Tony Wied submitted 1,647 valid signatures, and the Commission adds Tony Wied to the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote: Bostelmann: Aye Riepl: Aye  
                  Jacobs: Aye Spindell: Aye  
                  Millis: Aye Thomsen: Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**d. EL 24-58 Erin Esser v. Andrew Beck (CD5)**

Attorney Hunzicker presented the facts of the case.

Discussion.

Commissioners Jacobs expressed that challenges should not be accepted against electors who provided a first initial and a last name. Staff Attorney Hunzicker stated that he would review the challenge and nomination papers to determine how many of these challenges had been recommended as “burden met” by staff. There were 4 such challenges, and the Commission determined to reject those challenges, and changed the staff recommendation from sustaining 43 challenges to sustaining 39 challenges.

Erin Esser appeared and presented arguments.

Vincent Bobot appeared and presented arguments on behalf of Candidate Beck.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** After reviewing all materials submitted by the parties and the staff worksheet and analysis, the Commission sustains 39 challenges against signatures lines, does not sustain 54 challenges against signature lines, and adds 1 signature to the total that was initially struck by staff but not challenged in accordance with staff recommendations and the 2024 General Election Challenge Worksheet for EL 24-58. The Commission finds that Andrew Beck submitted 980 valid signatures for the office of Congressional District 5, and the Commission removes Andrew Beck from the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

Roll call vote: Bostelmann: Aye Riepl: Aye  
                  Jacobs: Aye Spindell: Aye  
                  Millis: Aye Thomsen: Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**e. EL 24-61 Trevor Ford v. David Heffel (AD70)**

Attorney Witecha presented the facts of the case.

No one appeared on behalf of the challenger.

Candidate Heffel appeared and presented arguments.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** The Commission sustains 320 challenges, and does not sustain 0 challenges, in accordance with staff recommendations for EL 24-61. The Commission finds that David Heffel submitted 0 valid signatures, and the Commission adds David Heffel to the list of candidates to be denied ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**f. EL 24-63 Morgan Hess v. Deanna Alexander (AD12)**

Chair Millis noted that the challenger requested to retract the challenge.

Staff Attorney Angela Sharpe presented the facts of the case.

Discussion.

No one appeared on behalf of the challenger.

Candidate Alexander appeared and presented arguments.

**MOTION:** The Commission sustains 11 challenges, and does not sustain 11 challenges, in accordance with staff recommendations and the 2024 General Election Challenge Worksheet for EL 24-63. The Commission finds that Deanna Alexander submitted 207 valid signatures for the office of Assembly District 12, and the Commission adds Deanna Alexander to the list of candidates to be approved ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell.

Candidate Alexander appeared and presented arguments.

Commissioner Bostelmann seconded Commissioner Spindell's motion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**g. EL 24-64 Brennan Balestrieri v. Angela Kennedy (AD18)**

Attorney Sharpe presented the facts of the case.

No one appeared on behalf of the challenger.

No one appeared on behalf of the candidate.

**MOTION:** The Commission sustains 12 challenges, and does not sustain 121 challenges, to 118 signature lines in accordance with staff recommendations and the 2024 General Election Challenge Worksheet for EL 24-64. The Commission finds that Angela Kennedy submitted 224 valid signatures for the office of Assembly District 18, and the Commission adds Angela Kennedy to the list of candidates to be approved ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs.

Roll call vote: Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission took a break at 11:20 a.m. and returned at 12:01 p.m.

#### **h. EL 24-57 LaKeshia Myers v. Dora Drake (SD4 – General)**

Attorney Sharpe presented the facts of the case.

LaKeshia Myers appeared and presented arguments.

Michael Maistelman appeared and presented arguments on behalf of Candidate Drake.

**MOTION:** The Commission does not sustain the challenge to Dora Drake’s nomination papers because they are substantially compliant with s. 8.15(5)(a) and still indicate that she is a partisan candidate for a partisan office, despite some pages being labeled “nonpartisan.” The Commission finds that Dora Drake submitted 692 valid signatures for the office of Wisconsin State Senate District 4, and the Commission adds Dora Drake to the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote: Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

#### **i. EL 24-59 Trevor Ford v. Kelly Clark (AD33)**

Attorney Hunzicker presented the facts of the case.

Discussion.

Tyler Ellisen appeared and presented arguments on behalf of the challenger.

Candidate Clark appeared and presented arguments.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** After reviewing all materials submitted by the parties and the staff worksheet and analysis, the Commission sustains 0 challenges against signatures lines, and does not sustain 102 challenges against signature lines, in accordance with staff recommendations and the 2024 General Election Challenge Worksheet for EL 24-59. The Commission finds that Kelly Clark submitted 236 valid signatures for the office of Assembly District 33, and the Commission adds Kelly Clark to the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**j. EL 24-60 Trevor Ford v. Steve Rydzewski (AD37)**

Attorney Witecha presented the facts of the case.

Tyler Ellisen appeared and presented arguments on behalf of the challenger.

Candidate Rydzewski appeared and presented arguments.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** The Commission sustains 0 challenges, and does not sustain 103 challenges, in accordance with staff recommendations and the 2024 General Election Challenge Worksheet for EL 24-60. The Commission finds that Steve Rydzewski submitted 253 valid signatures, and the Commission adds Steve Rydzewski to the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**k. EL 24-62 Purnima Nath v. Tim Rogers (CD4)**

Attorney Hunzicker presented the facts of the case.

Purnima Nath appeared and presented arguments.

Candidate Rogers appeared and presented arguments.

**MOTION:** After reviewing all materials submitted by the parties and the staff analysis, the Commission dismisses the challenge to Tim Rogers' Declaration of Candidacy in accordance with staff recommendations for EL 24-62. The Commission finds that Tim Rogers submitted a timely and valid Declaration of Candidacy and 1,119 valid signatures for the office of Congressional District 4, and the Commission adds Tim Rogers to the list of candidates to be approved ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Spindell. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**l. EL 24-53 Ann Stevning-Roe v. Elsa Duranceau (CD7)**

Attorney Sharpe presented the facts of the case.

Discussion. Commissioners Millis, Jacobs and Thomsen agreed that new issues and facts could not be raised in a challenger's rebuttal.

No one appeared on behalf of the challenger.

Candidate Duranceau appeared and made herself available for questions.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** The Commission sustains 16 challenges, and does not sustain 488 challenges, in accordance with staff recommendations and the 2024 General Election Challenge Worksheet for EL 24-53. The Commission finds that Elsa Duranceau submitted 1,004 valid signatures, and the Commission adds Elsa Duranceau to the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

#### **D. Ballot Access Report and Certification of candidates for the Partisan Primary Election and Certification of Independent Candidates for the General Election**

Chair Milis confirmed the Commission could vote on the recommended motions en masse.

##### **MOTION:**

**Motion #1:** The 356 candidates representing ballot-status parties marked “approve” on the “Candidates Tracking by Office” report in Appendix B are approved for ballot access for the August 13, 2024 Partisan Primary, in addition to any candidates who were subject to challenge but were ultimately approved for ballot access by the Commission.

**Motion #2:** The two candidates representing ballot-status parties marked “approve” on the “Candidates Tracking by Office” report in Appendix C are approved for ballot access for the July 2, 2024 Special Partisan Primary.

**Motion #3:** The 17 candidates not representing ballot-status parties marked “approved” on the “Candidates Tracking by Office” report in Appendix B are approved for ballot access for the November 5, 2024 General Election, in addition to any independent candidates who were subject to challenge but were ultimately approved by the Commission.

**Motion #4:** The 43 candidates representing ballot-status parties and independent candidates marked “denied” on the “Candidates Tracking by Office” report in Appendix B are denied ballot access for the August 13, 2024 Partisan Primary and the November 5, 2024 General Election respectively, in addition to any candidates who were subject to challenge but were ultimately denied ballot access by the Commission.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

#### **E. Review and Approval of Communication Pertaining to the Use of Form EL-122**

Attorney Witecha presented the agenda item.

Discussion.

**MOTION:** Approve the FAQ on pages 74 and 75 of the Commission’s materials.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye



Millis:           Aye   Thomsen:       Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

## **F. Consideration and Election of 2024-2026 Wisconsin Elections Commission Officers**

### **a. Election of the Chair**

Commissioner Thomsen thanked Chair Millis for his work as chair.

**MOTION:** Nominate Commissioner Jacobs to be the next chair.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Chair Millis.

Commissioner Spindell also thanked Chair Millis for his work as chair.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

### **b. Election of the Vice-Chair and Secretary**

**MOTION:** Nominate Commissioner Thomsen to be the next vice-chair.

Moved by Commissioner Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

**MOTION:** Nominate Commissioner Bostelmann to be the next secretary.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

Chair Jacobs thanked staff for their work on the ballot access challenges and thanked Commissioner Millis for his work as chair.

## **G. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To adjourn.

Moved by Commissioner Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

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June 10, 2024, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



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Anna Langdon, Help Desk Staff

June 27, 2024

June 10, 2024, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:



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Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

June 27, 2024