



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Wisconsin Elections Commission
Special Teleconference Meeting
201 W. Washington Avenue, Second Floor
Madison, Wisconsin
3:00 p.m. March 12, 2025

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, Riley Willman, Jim Witecha, and Meagan Wolfe, all by teleconference.

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and called the roll. All Commissioners were present. Chair Jacobs noted that this meeting was held to address carryover items from the March 7, 2025, Commission meeting.

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. Discussion, Review, and Possible Action Pertaining to Communications Strategies for the Avoidance and Noticing of Inadvertently Uncounted Ballots

Elections Supervisor Riley Willman presented the draft clerk communication and noted it was a compilation of already existing guidance. He recommended adding the word "Reminder" to the subject line and adding a "Purpose" section after the introduction section, detailing that the memo is intended as a reminder for clerks and all guidance included in the document is already published in WEC manuals.

MOTION: Approve the clerk communication with the changes proposed by Mr. Willman.

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

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

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

Motion carried 6-0.

D. Discussion, Review, and Possible Action Pertaining to Commission compliance with Wis. Stat. § 757.07, including Discussion, Review, and Possible Action Pertaining to the Judicial Privacy Rule (EL Chapter 19)

Staff Attorney Brandon Hunzicker presented the letter to be sent to the chief officers of the Wisconsin Legislature regarding the Commission's interpretation of "judicial officer" as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 757.07(1)(e)3.

The Commissioners had no questions or comments.

Attorney Hunzicker reviewed redline edits to the letter to judicial officers.

Discussion.

Attorney Hunzicker reviewed redline edits to the judicial privacy draft rule.

Commissioner Millis clarified with Attorney Hunzicker EL 19.06(a)(2) refers to "judicial candidate" rather than "judicial officer or judicial candidate" because the paragraph only applies to judicial candidates.

Attorney Hunzicker continued to review redline edits to the judicial privacy draft rule.

Commissioner Spindell suggested requiring judicial candidates who file a certification of residence to list their county of residence in their nomination paper header and Declaration of Candidacy.

Attorney Hunzicker expressed that a judicial candidate could withhold their full residential address under a straightforward reading of Wis. Stat. § 8.10(8)(a) and could not be required to list their county of residence. Chair Jacobs and Commissioner Millis indicated agreement with that interpretation.

Attorney Hunzicker continued to review redline edits to the judicial privacy draft rule.

Discussion.

Attorney Hunzicker reviewed the template nomination paper and Declaration of Candidacy.

Commissioner Spindell reiterated his preference that judicial candidates list their county of residence on ballot access documents. Commissioner Thomsen indicated agreement with Attorney Hunzicker's reading of Wis. Stat. § 8.10(8)(a) consistent with that of Chair Jacobs and Commissioner Millis.

MOTION: The Commission approves the Info Sheet provided in the March 12 Commission materials, subject to any revisions that received consensus during discussion, and directs staff to provide it to any judicial officer who makes a request pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 757.07(4).

The Wisconsin Elections Commission approves the proposed rulemaking draft for SS 096-24 for permanent rulemaking relating to judicial privacy protection consistent with any edits made during this meeting. The Commission directs staff to proceed with the necessary permanent rulemaking steps for SS

096-24, as outlined in this memo and in materials provided in the March 12 Commission materials. As of April 1, 2025, staff are directed to follow the procedure outlined in the proposed administrative rule for processing certification of residence requests from judicial officers.

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.

E. Discussion, Review, and Possible Action Pertaining to the Agency Internal Control Plan

Chief Administrative Officer Sharrie Hauge presented the agenda item.

MOTION: Approve WEC 2025 Internal Control Plan and authorize staff to submit the Plan to the Chief Clerks of the Senate and Assembly for distribution to the appropriate standing committees and to the State Controller's Office.

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

**F. Consideration and Resolution of Wis. Stat. § 5.06 Complaints
a. EL 24-39 – Charles Hanna et al. v. Claire Woodall et al**

Chief Legal Counsel Jim Witecha presented the agenda item. He noted additional materials submitted by the respondent at the request of a Commissioner.

Commissioner Millis stated he had no issue with staff's finding of no probable cause but couldn't go along with the decision letter as drafted, as it did not address issues with the Milwaukee Election Commission's Employee Information Sheet which illegally requests that applicants indicate their marital status and ethnicity.

Commissioner Spindell agreed that the forms requested inappropriate information.

Discussion.

MOTION: Send the decision letter back to staff to redraft consistent with today's discussion, to be brought back at the April 17, 2025, Commission meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

b. EL 24-107 – Beth Kreitzer v. Brad Calder

Attorney Hunzicker presented the agenda item.

MOTION: Approve the letter found at page 193-200 of the Commission’s materials finding probable cause that Clerk Calder violated law or abused his discretion regarding handling of absentee ballots.

Moved by Commissioner Riepl. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

c. EL 24-120- Michael Nedvidek v. Michelle Nelson

Attorney Hunzicker presented the agenda item.

MOTION: The Commission has reviewed Complainant Nedvidek’s written request to withdraw his Wis. Stat. § 5.06(1) complaint filed against Respondent Michelle Nelson, and accordingly declines to issue an order dismissing the matter for the reasons stated during discussion of this matter. Staff are directed to prepare a proposed decision letter for the Commission’s consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

Discussion.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

G. Discussion, Review, and Possible Action Pertaining to Agency Records Policy, Retention, and Planning

Attorney Witecha presented the agenda item.

Discussion.

MOTION: The Commission hereby authorizes staff to take the necessary steps to begin preparations for renewing agency Records Disposition Authorizations sunseting in 2027, to prepare and submit new Records Disposition Authorizations requests to the State Public Records Board in accordance with this memo and the Commission’s discussion at its March 12, 2025, meeting, and to publish and implement the Electronic Records Management Policy and associated practices as directed by the Commission at its March 12, 2025, meeting and operationalized by the WEC Administrator and Commission Records Officer. Staff will return and present Records Disposition Authorization paperwork, drafts, or proposed edits to the Commission as may be necessary or prudent.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Millis.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

H. Staff Updates to the Commission

Administrator Wolfe presented the agenda item. She answered questions from Commissioner Spindell regarding Badger Voters revenue and federal grant funding. She answered questions from Commissioner Thomsen regarding changes to federal support of election security initiatives.

I. Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn.

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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March 12, 2025, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

March 12, 2025, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:

Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

April 17, 2025

DRAFT