



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Wisconsin Elections Commission

Quarterly Meeting

Wisconsin Capitol Building, Room 412E

Madison, Wisconsin

10:00 a.m. March 25, 2026

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 in person.

Staff present: Ahna Barreau, Sharrie Hauge, Brandon Hunzicker, Robert Kehoe, Anna Langdon, Emilee Miklas, Angela Sharpe, Riley Willman, Jim Witecha, and Meagan Wolfe, all in person.

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 10:00 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. Public Comment

Chair Jacobs stated that each speaker would have three minutes to provide comments.

Ann Chartier

Ann Chartier appeared via Zoom and requested that the Commission provide greater support to municipalities that must comply with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

Kole Torres

Kole Torres appeared via Zoom and requested that the Commission provide greater support to municipalities that must comply with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

Chair Jacobs and Commissioner Spindell followed up with comments and questions.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

Ms. Torres shared her negative experience serving as an election observer in the Village of Sharon.

Jay Schroeder

Jay Schroeder asked two questions regarding compatibility for state constitutional office and whether a study existed regarding how each state maintains their voter rolls.

Chair Jacobs answered his questions.

Debra Cronmiller

Debra Cronmiller appeared in person representing the League of Women Voters Wisconsin. She praised the Commission's work running its polling place accessibility review program and requested that the Commission provide greater support to municipalities that must comply with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

Commissioner Spindell and Commissioner Thomsen followed up with comments.

Eloisa Gomez

Eloisa Gomez appeared in person and requested that the Commission provide greater support to municipalities that must comply with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

Chair Jacobs followed up with comments.

D. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

a. February 24, 2026

MOTION: To approve the February 24, 2026, open meeting minutes.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

E. Discussion and Potential Action Relating to *Nancy Kormanik v. Wisconsin Elections Commission* Post-Litigation Guidance

Chief Legal Counsel Jim Witecha gave a brief overview of past developments and Commission actions regarding *Kormanik v. Wisconsin Elections Commission* and noted that the judge in the case had asked the parties for a status conference.

Discussion.

The Commission agreed to postpone discussion of the agenda item until after the status conference, and changed the start time of its April 22, 2026, meeting to 8:30 a.m. to accommodate discussion then.

F. Discussion and Possible Action on Manual Revisions Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 7.08(3)(c)

Staff Attorney Angela Sharpe provided an overview of the Commission’s materials regarding manual revisions. She acknowledged receipt of feedback from Commissioner Riepl and Chair Jacobs and noted that some of the questions before the Commission were carryovers from the previous meeting.

Attorney Sharpe solicited answers to the questions starting on page 2 of the Commission’s manuals materials:

Question 1: The legality of “ballot selfies” in Wisconsin is an unsettled legal question. On one hand, statute prohibits voters from intentionally showing their marked ballots to other people. On the other hand, other courts in other states have held similar statutes to be an unconstitutional encroachment on voters’ First Amendment rights. Staff are not proposing the Commission answer the legal question, but rather, seek the Commission’s input on including both sides of this context for this issue in the manual.

Discussion.

MOTION: In the proposed revisions for Question 1, replace “Taking a photograph of a marked ballot for personal use is likely permitted, but if a voter posts that photo on social media, shares it with someone else, or livestreams their voting choices, they can run the risk of ‘showing his or her marked ballot to any person,’ which is prohibited,” with the following language:

“Taking a photo of a marked ballot for personal use is not prohibited. Posting that photo on social media, sharing it with someone else, or livestreaming voting choices is prohibited by state law.”

Add the following footnote to this language:

“Under certain circumstances, this prohibition may not be enforceable.”

Moved by Commissioner Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	No
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 5-1.

Question 2: Not a change, but staff are seeking the Commission’s input on including a new section focused on special types of federal observers who operate under slightly different laws than Wisconsin’s observer laws. These federal observers include congressional observers under the COCOA Act (who appeared in the 2024 General) as well as U.S. DOJ federal election monitors, which are becoming more common.

Discussion.

The Commission agreed to include this content in the manual.

Question 3: Electioneering and unauthorized election-related material are unequivocally prohibited in voting areas, as well as within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place. But staff have fielded questions in recent years about mixed use buildings where voters must pass through a hallway (or several) to get to the voting area. Staff believe the prohibitions against campaigning and election material should equally apply to these reasonable paths (though not the whole building), and seek the Commission’s consideration and approval of this interpretation.

Discussion.

MOTION: Adopt the redlines on page 4.

Moved by Commissioner Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	No
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 5-1.

Question 4: The Commission has existing guidance on weapons in the polling place, but not in the Election Day manual. Staff propose adding a brief section that provides initial guidance on this topic, with a link to where users can find additional detail.

Discussion.

The Commission agreed to include this content in the manual.

Attorney Sharpe provided an overview of the new chapters before the Commission.

Discussion.

Chair Jacobs directed staff to rework the Counting Votes & Write-In Scenarios chapter:

- Divide the write-in scenarios by situation: 1-candidate races, 2-candidate races, etc.
- Make “Determining Voter Intent” into its own chapter
 - Add specific examples of defective ballots

MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission (“the Commission”) has reviewed the recommended manual revisions presented in these materials and accepts the recommendations consistent with discussion during the meeting.

- The Commission directs staff to make the following specific revisions:
 - Replace “Taking a photograph of a marked ballot for personal use is likely permitted, but if a voter posts that photo on social media, shares it with someone else, or livestreams their

voting choices, they can run the risk of ‘showing his or her marked ballot to any person,’ which is prohibited,” with the following language:

“Taking a photo of a marked ballot for personal use is not prohibited. Posting that photo on social media, sharing it with someone else, or livestreaming voting choices is prohibited by state law.”

Add the following footnote to this language:

“Under certain circumstances, this prohibition may not be enforceable.”

- In the “Counting Votes & Write-In Scenarios” chapter, divide the write-in scenarios by situation: 1-candidate races, 2-candidate races, etc.
- In the “Counting Votes & Write-In Scenarios” chapter, make “Determining Voter Intent” into its own chapter
 - Add specific examples of defective ballots
- Staff are also directed to update any formatting, numbering, scrivener’s errors, or hyperlinks necessary to finalize these chapters and forms.
- Finally, staff are directed to implement the edits consistent with the outcomes of the Questions presented in this memo, along with any revisions in response to Commissioner comments, and finalize the substance of the revised drafts with Chair Jacobs and Commissioner Millis.

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.

G. Discussion and Approval of Clear Ballot Group ClearVote 2.5

Elections Specialist Cody Davies appeared and presented a summary of the report recommending approval of Clear Ballot Group ClearVote 2.5.

Discussion.

MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission adopts the staff’s recommendations for approval of the Clear Ballot Group, Inc. ClearVote 2.5 electronic voting in compliance with US EAC certificate CBG-CV-25, including the conditions described above.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

H. Discussion and Action on Accessibility Review Plan

Riley Willman presented a summary of the Commission’s accessibility review plan.

MOTION: The Commission approves the polling place review plan for the 2026-2027 election cycle and for continued use in future election cycles.

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.

I. Discussion of Voter Felon Audit

Deputy Administrator Robert Kehoe presented the agenda item.

Discussion.

J. Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to 2026 Administrative Rulemaking¹

Attorney Sharpe provided an overview of the suggested administrative rulemaking projects.

Discussion.

MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission (“the Commission”) directs staff to begin the process of promulgating the proposed rules listed herein:

- Rule #1 – Revised and Standardized Complaint Procedure for 5.05, 5.06, and 5.061 (“HAVA”) Complaints
- Rule #2 – Finish Revisions to EL Chapter 2 – Treatment and Sufficiency of and Challenges to Election Petitions (Recalls and Referenda)
- Rule #3 – Revisions to EL Chapter 3 – Maintaining Electronic Registration Records, Removing Special Registration Deputy Rules, and Revisiting Voter Registration Drives
- Rule #4 – Updates and Expansion Within EL Chapter 9
- Rule #5 – New Rule – Procedures for What it Means to “Publicly Canvass the Returns”
- Rule #6 – New Rule – Post-Election Audit Authorization
- Rule #7 – New Rule – Election Day Registration (“EDR”) Undeliverable Postcard Guidance
- Rules #9, 10, and 11 – Unpromulgated Rules Required by Statute

Staff is further directed to begin the process of promulgating Rule #1 first.

Staff will return to a future Commission meeting with draft scope statements for these proposed rules, so the Commission may consider and approve them for submission to the Wisconsin Department of Administration and Office of the Governor.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Millis.

Discussion.

¹ The Commission took up this item after Item O.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

K. Discussion and Action on Internal Controls Plan²

Chief Administrative Officer Sharrie Hauge presented the agenda item.

Discussion.

MOTION: Approve WEC 2026 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 Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

L. Consideration and Possible Action on Wis. Stat. § 5.06 Complaints³
a. Karen Christoffersen v. Paulina Gutierrez (EL 25-21)

Attorney Sharpe presented the complaint memo.

MOTION: The Commission has reviewed the proposed draft decision letter in Appendix 1 and summarily decides this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06(6) by adopting the proposed decision letter in full. The Commission directs staff to immediately transmit a copy of this order to the parties.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Millis.

Commissioner Spindell provided comments regarding the City of Milwaukee's conduct of the 2024 General Election.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

b. Becca Uminowicz v. DaNean Naeger (EL 25-29)

² The Commission took up this item after Item I.

³ The Commission took up this item after Item J.

Staff Attorney Brandon Hunzicker presented the complaint memo.

Discussion.

Chair Jacobs suggested that staff send the Village of Arena clerk a link to the statutory deadline calendar on the Commission's website.

MOTION: The Commission has reviewed the proposed draft decision letter in Appendix 2 and summarily decides this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06(6) by adopting the proposed decision letter in full. The Commission directs staff to immediately transmit a copy of this order to the parties. The Commission further directs staff to send the Village of Arena clerk a link to the statutory deadline calendar on the Commission's website.

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.

Discussion.

c. Jeffrey Wolf v. Patty Swaffield (EL 25-77)

Attorney Witecha presented the agenda item.

MOTION: The Commission has reviewed the proposed draft decision letter in Appendix 3 and summarily decides this matter pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06(6) by adopting the proposed decision letter in full. The Commission directs staff to immediately transmit a copy of this order to the parties.

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.

M. Discussion and Possible Action on Withdrawal of Candidacy Form⁴

Elections Supervisor Riley Willman presented the agenda item.

Discussion.

⁴ The Commission took up this item after Item K.

MOTION: The Commission hereby prescribes the Candidate Withdrawal Form in Appendix 1 with any alterations agreed upon during the meeting. Commission staff shall update the dates on the form as needed for succeeding General Elections.

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.

N. Staff Updates to the Commission

Administrator Wolfe provided an overview of the staff updates document to the Commission. She fielded questions from Commissioner Spindell.

O. Closed Session

- a. Litigation Update and Consideration of Potential Litigation**
- b. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
- c. Wis. Stat. § 5.05 Complaints**
- d. Voter Felon Audit**

MOTION: Move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §§ 19.81(1)(g), 19.851, and 19.85(1)(f).

Moved by Commissioner Spindell. 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 moved into closed session at 12:02 p.m. and returned to open session at 1:50 p.m.

P. Adjourn

MOTION: To adjourn.

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.

The Commission adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

March 25, 2026, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

Anna Langdon, Elections Specialist

May 7, 2026

March 25, 2026, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:

Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

May 7, 2026

DRAFT