

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Special Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2025

11:00 A.M.

This meeting is being held via video teleconference only. Members of the public and media may attend online or by telephone. Please visit <https://elections.wi.gov/event/special-meeting-1272025> to view the notice and agenda for the meeting. All public participants' phones/microphones will be muted during the meeting. Members of the public wishing to communicate to the Commissioners should email electioncomments@wi.gov with "Message to Commissioners" in the subject line.

Zoom information:

When: Jan 27, 2025, 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Meeting of the Wisconsin Elections Commission

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85747785251?pwd=SZvx8x50fDOQEWuLNmhp0AueveZMcg.1>

Passcode:529729

Phone one-tap:

+13126266799,,85747785251#,,,,*529729# US (Chicago)

+13092053325,,85747785251#,,,,*529729# US

Join via audio:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 305 224 1968 US

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 386 347 5053 US, +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US

+1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US, +1 720 707 2699 US (Denver), +1 253 205 0468 US

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US

Webinar ID: 857 4778 5251

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International numbers available: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85747785251>

OPEN SESSION AGENDA

- A. **Call to Order**
- B. **Deputy Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice**
- C. **Following an oral decision in *Theresa Beck v. Wisconsin Elections Commission* (Dane County Circuit Court Case 2025-CV-00238), withdraw the candidate list sent to the Jefferson County Clerk, generate and send a new candidate list without Courtney J. Iverson's name, and discuss possible revisions to Common Nomination Paper Challenges manual**
- D. **Adjourn**



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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(608) 266-8005 | elections@wi.gov | elections.wi.gov

MEMORANDUM

DATE: For the Jan. 27, 2025, Commission Meeting

TO: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission

FROM: Staff, Wisconsin Elections Commission

SUBJECT: Ballot Access for the April 1, 2025, Spring Election

This memorandum presents a summary of ballot access updates for the April 1, 2025, Spring Election, as necessitated by *Theresa Beck v. WEC et al.* (Case No. 25-CV-0238).

Summary

The nomination paper filing deadline for the 2025 Spring Election for circuit court judges was 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025. The circulation period for nomination papers began on Dec. 1, 2024. The Wisconsin Elections Commission (“Commission”) considered challenges to nomination papers at its Jan. 14, 2025, public meeting.

Two of the three ballot access challenges considered by the Commission at that meeting pertained to the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court, Branch 2, with Candidates Jennifer Weber and Theresa Beck each filing a challenge against Candidate Cortney Iverson. The challenges, in substantive part, noted that Wis. Const. Art. 7 Sec. 24(1) requires as follows: “To be eligible for the office of supreme court justice or judge of any court of record, a person must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state and have been so licensed for 5 years immediately prior to election or appointment.”

Ms. Iverson was licensed to practice law in May of 2020, and five years from that date will be May 27, 2025. In substantive part, Ms. Iverson argued that she will have attained five years of licensure by the time she assumed office. The Commission voted not to sustain the challenge, by a vote of 4-2, and Ms. Iverson was granted ballot access.

Challenger Beck appealed the decision in the Dane County Circuit Court. The Commission was served in the lawsuit on Jan. 21, 2025, and the Honorable Stephen Ehlke issued an oral ruling from the bench on Jan. 24, 2025. Counsel for each party is still working on negotiating a final written order to propose to the court, so Judge Ehlke will not have considered and signed that order by the time these materials are sent to the Commission. The final order will be shared with Commissioners if it is completed prior to the Jan. 27, 2025, meeting.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

Finding in Theresa Beck v. WEC et al.

The *Beck* Court found that the Commission has ballot access discretion under Wis. Stat. § 8.30(1)(c), but stated that the discretion exercised must be bounded by law. To that end, the court also determined it was clear that “election” means the day of the election, not the day an office is assumed. Thus, the Commission should have sustained the challenges to Ms. Iverson’s qualifications.

The proposed final order, currently unsigned by the judge, states as follows:

The Court orders

- A. That Cortney J. Iverson is ineligible to hold the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court, Branch 2 under Wis. Const. Art. VII, § 24(1);
- B. That Cortney J. Iverson does not qualify for placement on the ballot as a candidate for the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court, Branch 2 in the February 18, 2025 Primary Election or the April 1, 2025 General Election;
- C. That the Clerk of Jefferson County, Wisconsin is barred by Wisconsin law from issuing or in any way providing ballots to voters with Cortney J. Iverson’s name on them;
- D. That Wisconsin Elections Commission must withdraw any certified list of candidates previously provided to the Jefferson County Clerk provided under Wis. Stat. § 7.08(2) which contains Cortney J. Iverson’s name, and the matter is remanded to the Wisconsin Elections Commission to the extent necessary to comply with this paragraph of the Order;
- E. That the Wisconsin Elections Commission must generate a new certified list of candidate names for ballot printing under Wis. Stat. § 7.08(2), which does not contain Cortney J. Iverson’s name, and the matter is remanded to the Wisconsin Elections Commission to the extent necessary to comply with this paragraph of the Order; and
- F. That the Wisconsin Elections Commission and the Jefferson County Clerk are enjoined from placing Cortney J. Iverson on the ballots for the February 18, 2025 Primary and the April 1, 2025 General Election.

It is staff counsel and litigation counsel’s belief that this proposed order is an accurate reflection of Judge Ehlke’s oral ruling, and thus, the compliance recommendations found in this memo are based on this representation of the findings.

Compliance Recommendations

The court’s directives are forward-looking. Judge Ehlke did not mandate that the Commission revisit or overrule its Jan. 14, 2025, ballot access decision and motion. As such, the recommended staff motion does not contemplate such reconsideration.

Instead, Commission staff recommend that the Commission approve a new certified list of candidates for the Jefferson County Clerk under Wis. Stat. § 7.08(2), without Ms. Iverson’s name included as “Approved.”

This would reduce the number of candidates for the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch II, to two individuals, and eliminate the need for a primary in this race. The Jefferson County Clerk has already ordered two sets of ballots, including a batch without Ms. Iverson's name present, and the Commission need not consider the ballot printing implications for this clerk, as she is likely to receive correct and timely ballots.

Additionally, it was requested that staff bring proposed edits to the Nomination Paper Challenges Manual for the Commission's consideration at this meeting. Specifically, these edits contemplate the *Beck* Court's findings and the Commission's consideration of similar eligibility questions raised by challengers (*See* Attachment B).

Materials Included for the Commission's Consideration

Included with this memorandum are the following attachments:

- Attachment A: Jan. 27, 2025, Candidate Tracking by Office Report (packet pg. 6)
- Attachment B: Proposed Edits to the Nomination Paper Challenges Manual (packet pg. 17)
- Attachment C: Staff Memorandum from the Jan. 14, 2025, Meeting, Regarding Ballot Access Challenges (packet pg. 27)
- Attachment D: Prior Filings from the Two Cortney Iverson Ballot Access Challenges (pg. 38)

Candidates Recommended for Approval of Ballot Status

Staff recommend that the Commission certify ballot access for the candidates listed as "approved" in Attachment A, the Jan. 27, 2025, Candidate Tracking by Office report. The only change from the Jan. 14, 2025, report is that Ms. Iverson is now marked as "Denied," rather than being recommended for approval.

Commission Action

Recommended Motion: The candidates marked "Approve" on the "Jan. 27, 2025, Candidate Tracking by Office" report are approved for ballot access for the April 1, 2025, Spring Election, and the previous "Candidate Tracking by Office" report approved on Jan. 14, 2025, is hereby superseded. Staff are directed to send two clerk communications regarding the updated report, one to the Jefferson County Clerk noting the removal of Cortney Iverson's ballot status for Branch II of the Jefferson County Circuit Court, and another to all county clerks noting that the updated "Jan. 27, 2025, Candidate Tracking by Office" report does not impact any ballot candidates in their counties. Staff are further directed to implement and publish the changes to the Nomination Paper Challenges Manual, as recommended by staff and/or modified and approved by the Commission at its Jan. 27, 2025, meeting.

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION			Incumbent:	Jill Underly			
	Jeff Wright E3048 MARBLE QUARRY ROAD PLAIN, 53577		10/06/2024	1/6/2025	01/08/2025	01/06/2025	2662	Approved
	Jill Underly 1838 County Road K Hollandale, 53544-0023		09/09/2024	1/3/2025	12/03/2024	01/03/2025	3629	Approved
	Brittany Kinser 9801 ESCHWEILER DR WAUWATOSA, 53226		01/09/2025	1/6/2025	01/09/2025	01/06/2025	4000	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 3							
Office :	JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT			Incumbent:	Ann Walsh Bradley (Filed Notification of Noncandidacy)			
	Ann Walsh Bradley 2505 Bay Shore Drive Wausau, 54401		07/10/2023					Denied
	Brad Schimel W295S2609 JAMIE CT WAUKESHA, 53188		11/30/2023	12/19/2024	12/19/2024	01/02/2025	3818	Approved
	Susan Crawford 6417 MASTHEAD DR MADISON, 53705		06/09/2024	12/27/2024	12/02/2024	12/27/2024	4000	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 3							
Office :	COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 2			Incumbent:	Mark Gundrum			
	Mark Gundrum N2 W28791 SYLVAN TRAIL WAUKESHA, 53188		12/30/2024	11/4/2024	12/30/2024	12/30/2024	2000	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 3			Incumbent:	Lisa K. Stark			
	Lisa K. Stark 4421 MEMORY LN EAU CLAIRE, 54701		12/04/2024	9/24/2024	12/29/2024	12/30/2024	1345	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 4			Incumbent:	Jennifer Nashold			
	Jennifer Nashold 167 N PROSPECT AVE MADISON, 53726		01/15/2025	12/23/2024	12/27/2024	12/23/2024	1642	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	BROWN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3			Incumbent:	Tammy Jo Hock			
	TAMMY JO HOCK 3500 LARK ROAD GREEN BAY, 54313		11/25/2024	12/18/2024	12/18/2024	12/18/2024	400	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	BROWN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 4			Incumbent:	Samantha Wagner			
	Samantha Wagner 826 ONTONAGON CT GREEN BAY, 54301		11/26/2024	12/27/2024	12/23/2024	12/27/2024	387	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	BROWN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 7			Incumbent:	Timothy A. Hinkfuss			
	Timothy A. Hinkfuss 525 ANTELOPE TRL GREEN BAY, 54313		12/16/2024	12/4/2024	01/01/2025	12/23/2024	270	Approved
	Timothy Funnell 122 N BEDFORD RD GREEN BAY, 54311		12/10/2024					Denied
	Office Subtotal : 2							

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Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	CRAWFORD COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE			Incumbent:	Lukas Steiner			
	Lukas L. Steiner 400 East Paquette Street Prairie du Chien, 53821		01/06/2025	1/7/2025	01/08/2025	01/07/2025	222	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	Payal Khandhar			
	Payal Khandhar 4921 SOUTH HILL DR MADISON, 53705		11/24/2024	12/20/2024	12/28/2024	12/20/2024	394	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 16			Incumbent:	Rhonda L. Lanford			
3	Rhonda L. Lanford 529 S RANDALL AVE MADISON, 53715		12/02/2024	12/6/2024	12/19/2024	12/13/2024	246	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	DODGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3			Incumbent:	Joseph G. Sciascia (Filed Notification of Noncandidacy)			
	Chad Wozniak 1832 GLENN SPRING CT OCONOMOWOC, 53066		08/15/2024	12/26/2024	01/07/2025	12/26/2024	323	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	EAU CLAIRE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	Douglas Hoffer			
	Douglas Hoffer 2109 VIENNA TER EAU CLAIRE, 54703		11/11/2024	12/23/2024	01/02/2025	12/26/2024	389	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							

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Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	GREEN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	Jane Bucher			
	Jane Bucher 2715 3RD ST MONROE, 53566		04/20/2024	12/23/2024	12/31/2024	12/23/2024	400	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1			Incumbent:	Will Gruber			
	Will Gruber N7214 DEER LAKE LN MARSHALL, 53559		12/18/2024	11/14/2024	12/02/2024	12/18/2024	389	Approved
	John Jack A. Chavez 1011 BREWSTER DR LAKE MILLS, 53551		12/17/2024	12/20/2024	01/04/2025	01/02/2025	286	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 2							
Office :	JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	Theresa Beck			
	Theresa Beck 363 East North Street Jefferson, 53549		09/17/2024	9/20/2024	12/28/2024	01/02/2025	387	Approved
	Jennifer L Weber W155 HILLENDALE DR OCONOMOWOC, 53066		12/01/2024	12/10/2024	01/06/2025	01/03/2025	248	Approved
	Cortney Iverson W9211 RED FEATHER DR CAMBRIDGE, 53523		12/23/2024	1/6/2025	01/09/2025	01/06/2025	289	Denied
	Office Subtotal : 3							

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Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	LA CROSSE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1			Incumbent:	Ramona A. Gonzalez (Filed Notification of Noncandidacy)			
	Joe Veenstra 213 PEARL ST LA CROSSE, 54601		08/14/2024	9/6/2024	12/31/2024	01/03/2025	394	Approved
	Eric S. Sanford 1967 McGilvray Way Holmen, 54636		01/02/2025	1/3/2025	01/03/2025	01/03/2025	307	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 2							
Office :	LA CROSSE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	Elliott M. Levine			
	Elliott M. Levine 208 9TH ST S LA CROSSE, 54601		12/27/2024	12/20/2024	12/27/2024	12/27/2024	218	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	LA CROSSE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 4			Incumbent:	Scott L. Horne			
	Scott L. Horne 3930 FAIRWAY ST LA CROSSE, 54601		11/26/2024	12/27/2024	12/16/2024	12/27/2024	283	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE			Incumbent:	Jenna Gill			
	Jenna Gill 14595 Olson Lane Mineral Point, 53565		08/11/2024	1/7/2025	01/02/2025	01/07/2025	214	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	LINCOLN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	Robert R. Russell (Filed Notification of Noncandidacy)			
	Jessica Fehrenbach 701 WILDWOOD LN MERRILL, 54452		12/11/2024	11/25/2024	01/07/2025	12/23/2024	329	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							

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Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	MANITOWOC COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1			Incumbent:	Mark Rohrer			
	Mark Rohrer 2408 JEFFERSON ST TWO RIVERS, 54241		10/08/2024	10/11/2024	12/03/2024	12/26/2024	382	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1							
Office :	MARINETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1			Incumbent:	Peggy Miller			
	DeShea D. Morrow 2506 OAK VIEW RD MARINETTE, 54143		03/30/2024	12/26/2024	12/23/2024	12/26/2024	400	Approved
	Peggy L. Miller 1701 DUNLAP AVE MARINETTE, 54143		12/04/2024	1/2/2025	12/04/2024	01/02/2025	258	Approved
Office Subtotal :	2							
Office :	MARINETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	James A. Morrison			
2	James A. Morrison N4306 CAROLYN CIR MARINETTE, 54143		12/12/2024	11/1/2024	12/13/2024	12/12/2024	346	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1							
Office :	MARQUETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE			Incumbent:	Chad A. Hendee			
	Chad A. Hendee W8353 FAWN AVE OXFORD, 53952		12/02/2024	12/30/2024	01/10/2025	12/30/2024	215	Approved
Office Subtotal :	1							

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Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 6			Incumbent:	John Remington			
	John Remington 2812 N 68TH ST MILWAUKEE, 53210		06/26/2024	11/6/2024	12/17/2024	12/23/2024	1243	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 11			Incumbent:	David Swanson			
	David Swanson 2841 N SHEPARD AVE MILWAUKEE, 53211		11/20/2024	12/30/2024	01/06/2025	12/30/2024	1070	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 26			Incumbent:	William Pocan			
	William S. Pocan 1522 NORTH PROSPECT AVENUE MILWAUKEE, 53202		04/03/2024	4/12/2024	12/15/2024	12/20/2024	1742	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 36			Incumbent:	Laura A. Crivello			
	Laura A. Crivello 2514 N 73RD ST WAUWATOSA, 53213		11/01/2024	3/1/2024	12/11/2024	12/20/2024	1405	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 40			Incumbent:	Danielle Shelton			
	Danielle L. Shelton 2474 N LAKE DR MILWAUKEE, 53211		12/26/2024	12/26/2024	12/24/2024	12/30/2024	1273	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							

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Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 41			Incumbent:	Lena Taylor			
	Lena C. Taylor 3407 W HIGHLAND BLVD MILWAUKEE, 53208		12/21/2024	12/26/2024	12/21/2024	12/26/2024	1606	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	MONROE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1			Incumbent:	Todd L. Ziegler			
	Todd L. Ziegler 9198 GARDENER AVENUE SPARTA, 54656		12/05/2024	12/26/2024	12/25/2024	12/26/2024	224	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	OZAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1			Incumbent:	Adam Gerol			
	Adam Y. Gerol 11067 N ORIOLE LN MEQUON, 53092		12/18/2024	12/18/2024	12/12/2024	12/18/2024	208	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	OZAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	Steve Cain			
	Steve Cain N50W6890 WESTERN RD CEDARBURG, 53012		12/06/2024	12/18/2024	12/29/2024	01/03/2025	306	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	RACINE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 4			Incumbent:	Scott Craig			
	Scott Craig 4417 WESTWAY AVE RACINE, 53405		10/25/2024	12/20/2024	12/20/2024	12/20/2024	396	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							

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Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	RACINE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 7			Incumbent:	Jon Fredrickson			
	Jon Fredrickson 5606 RIVER HILLS RD CALEDONIA, 53402		11/12/2024	1/3/2025	12/02/2024	01/03/2025	326	Approved
	Jamie M. McClendon 3706 DOUGLAS AVE RACINE, 53402		11/19/2024	11/26/2024	12/14/2024	12/26/2024	388	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 2							
Office :	ROCK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1			Incumbent:	Karl R. Hanson			
	Karl Hanson 5638 N LILLY LN MILTON, 53563		10/31/2024	11/4/2024	12/10/2024	12/12/2024	258	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	ROCK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	Derrick A. Grubb			
	Derrick A. Grubb 2812 S RIVERSIDE DR BELOIT, 53511		11/08/2024	11/1/2024	12/12/2024	12/16/2024	387	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 1							
Office :	SAINT CROIX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2			Incumbent:	Edward F. Vlack (Filed Notification of Noncandidacy)			
	James Jamie Johnson 737 GHERTY LN HUDSON, 54016		11/13/2024	12/27/2024	12/26/2024	12/27/2024	387	Approved
	Heather M. Amos 552 SPRUCE DR HUDSON, 54016		11/26/2024	12/10/2024	12/09/2024	12/27/2024	398	Approved
	Brian T. Smestad 670 6TH AVE BALDWIN, 54002		11/18/2024	12/10/2024	01/01/2025	01/02/2025	342	Approved
	Office Subtotal : 3							

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Candidate Tracking by Office

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

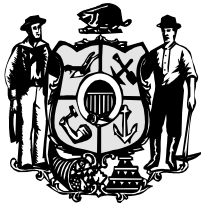
Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
Office :	WAUKESHA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1			Incumbent:	Michael O. Bohren (Filed Notification of Noncandidacy)			
	Daniel Rieck 3170 South Regal Drive New Berlin, 53151		01/03/2025					Denied
	Scott Wagner N27W22538 BURNINGWOOD LN WAUKESHA, 53186		04/29/2024	12/23/2024	01/06/2025	12/23/2024	397	Approved
Office Subtotal : 2								
Office :	WAUKESHA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 4			Incumbent:	Bridget Schoenborn			
	David Maas 390 THUROW DR OCONOMOWOC, 53066		05/28/2024	12/30/2024	01/07/2025	12/30/2024	397	Approved
	Bridget Schoenborn 14905 Lata Vista Drive Elm Grove, 53122		08/09/2024	12/30/2024	12/28/2024	12/17/2024	394	Approved
Office Subtotal : 2								
Office :	WAUKESHA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 6			Incumbent:	Brad Schimel (Filed Notification of Noncandidacy)			
	Zach Wittchow 3912 OAKMONT TRL WAUKESHA, 53188		04/27/2024	5/20/2024	01/03/2025	12/27/2024	396	Approved
	Fred Strampe W198N4950 HICKORY ST MENOMONEE FALLS, 53051		11/27/2024	12/30/2024	01/02/2025	12/30/2024	297	Approved
Office Subtotal : 2								
Office :	WOOD COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1			Incumbent:				
	Gregory J. Jerabek 4611 GRAND PINE DR WISCONSIN RAPIDS, 54494		01/13/2025	12/27/2024	12/30/2024	12/27/2024	390	Approved
Office Subtotal : 1								

Total Candidates : 61

NOMINATION PAPER
BALLOT ACCESS
CHALLENGES
MANUAL

January 2018
January 2025

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Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Introduction

Parties wishing to challenge nomination papers, declarations of candidacy, or candidate eligibility of state and federal candidates file such challenges with the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC). Parties wishing to challenge local candidates file such challenges with the local filing officer for that office, usually the municipal clerk. Parties wishing to appeal a decision of a local election official regarding ~~nomination papers or~~ challenges related to local candidates may also file a complaint with the WEC. ~~In either case, parties are reminded that the Board may, if it finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a challenge or complaint is frivolous, order the complainant to forfeit up to the greater of \$500 or the expenses incurred by the WEC, in investigating the complaint.~~

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The requirements and standards related to nomination papers and challenges to nomination papers are governed generally by Ch. 8, Wis. Stats, and EL Ch. 2, Wis. Admn. Code. Pursuant to Wis. Admn. Code EL §2.05(5), “where a required item of information on a nomination paper is incomplete, the filing officer shall accept the information as complete if there has been substantial compliance with the law.” Furthermore, any information on a nomination paper is entitled to a presumption of validity. Wis. Admn. Code EL § 2.05(4). Both challenges and responses must be verified (notarized) and may include supporting documentation. The burden is on the challenger to establish, by clear and convincing evidence, any insufficiency of the nomination papers and if the challenger does so, the burden then shifts to the challenged candidate to establish that the nomination papers or any challenged signatures are sufficient. Wis. Admn. Code EL §§ 2.07(2) and (3).

In recent years, challengers have also brought challenges to the sufficiency of declarations of candidacy as well as candidate eligibility by using the existing nomination paper challenge process established in Wis. Admin. Code EL Chapter 2.¹ The Commission has regularly accepted and heard these challenges under Wis. Admin. Code EL § 2.07(2)(a).

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In deciding ballot access challenges, the Commission may exercise its discretion to either sustain or dismiss ~~dismiss~~ the challenge, but that discretion is bounded by the legal requirements for candidate eligibility and ballot access. In other words, the Commission cannot exercise its discretion to grant ballot access to a candidate who does not meet the legal requirements for that office.²

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Over the years, WEC staff and its governing body have analyzed numerous types of challenges and developed a consistent methodology for resolving the most common challenges that have been filed. This document should hopefully help candidates and political parties concentrate their efforts on challenges with a supportable legal basis, and reduce the filing of frivolous challenges or those involving legal issues which have been well settled.

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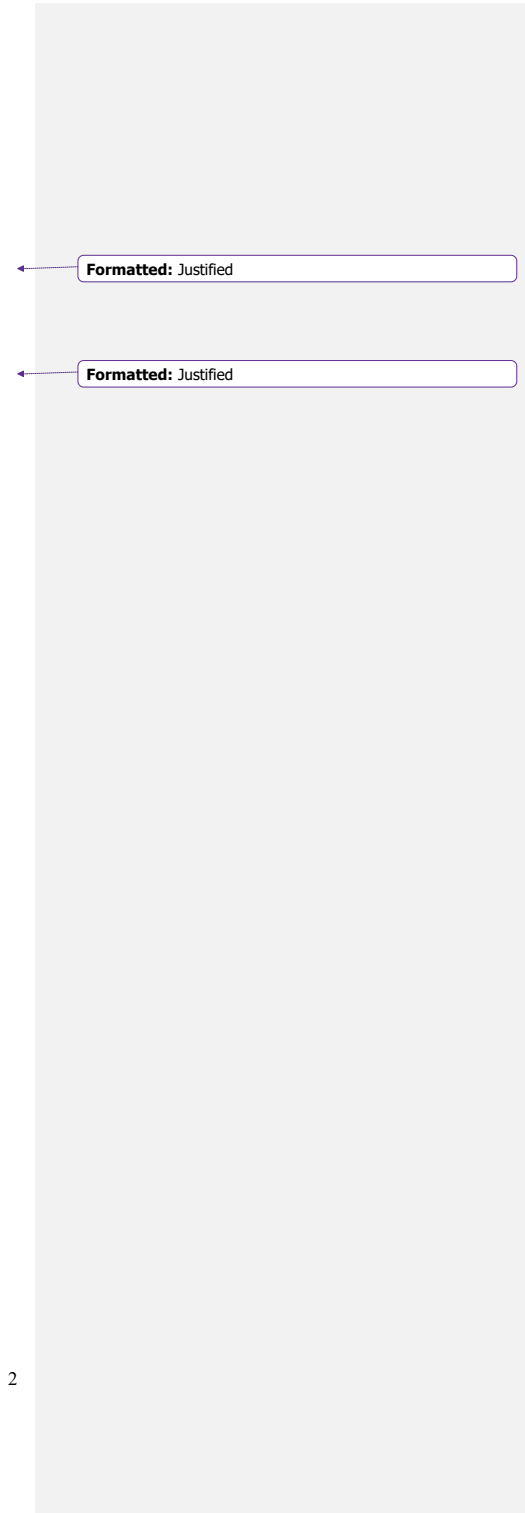
¹ In 2023, the Commission initiated administrative rulemaking that would have created a parallel process for bringing these types of challenges. In 2024, the emergency versions of those rules were suspended by the Joint Committee for the Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR), and are no longer in effect.

² *Beck v. WEC et al* (2025CV000238), Oral Ruling (Jan. 24, 2025).

While [nomination paper](#) challenges are not limited to those described in the administrative rules, there are two general categories of challenges – challenges to the header of the nomination papers which may result in declaring all signatures contained on nomination papers using that header to be invalid, and challenges to individual signatures which do not affect the validity of other signatures on the nomination papers.

[The Commission will update this manual further to add additional common nomination paper challenges decided since 2018, and will also add examples of challenges to declarations of candidacy and candidate eligibility that have been recently decided.](#)

Please Note: This document summarizes previous decisions of the State Elections Board, the Government Accountability Board and the Wisconsin Elections Commission related to the most common challenges to nomination papers and other election petitions. It is intended to itemize and consolidate previous decisions which state and local filing officers may rely on as [precedents](#) [guidance](#) regarding the general legal questions and principles involved. However, the facts of individual circumstances and challenges vary, and the application of these principles will be determined on a [case-by-case](#) basis.



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Summary of Previous Board Decisions - Common Nomination Paper Challenges

1. Candidate Information (Header Portion of Paper)

None of the information in the header of the nomination paper, (i.e., candidate's name, candidate's address, political party represented, date of election, office sought, name of jurisdiction or district in which candidate seeks office), may be altered, amended, corrected or added after circulation of the nomination paper. This is the nomination information that each signatory saw and relied upon in deciding to sign the paper in support of placing the candidate's name on the ballot.

a. Office Title and District Designation

Challenge: Irregularities in the title of the office or the district number as required by Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(2)(b), 8.15(a).

Analysis: Staff has typically allowed for variances in listing the office title, such as "Assembly," "Representative," "State Assembly." In the past, staff determined that the papers were sufficient as long as the electors could determine the office and district the candidate was pursuing by other information provided in the nomination paper heading. Additionally, where the title or district designations are illegible or in the incorrect boxes, staff has found these pages to substantially comply when the required information could be determined elsewhere in the nomination paper heading. This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

b. Election Date

Challenge: Incomplete or missing date of election as required by Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(2)(b), 8.15(5)(a).

Analysis: When a date of election is completely missing from a petition, staff has recommended approving the challenge and striking the signatures on those pages. When a date is listed but incomplete or incorrect (e.g., using the date of the primary, not indicating the year, indicating the month and year but not the day, indicating an incorrect date, or incorrectly indicating "general" as the type of election on the petition heading), past policy for this Board and the former Elections Board found substantial compliance with Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10 or 8.15 where there was sufficient notice to the signers that the candidate was seeking office at the election immediately following circulation of the nomination papers. Consequently, staff has typically allowed for irregularities in the listed election date where it can be determined that electors understood the nomination papers were for the fall election event. This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

c. Candidate Address

Challenge: The candidate has not specified a municipality for voting purposes.

Analysis: Challenges to petitions where the candidate has not specified a municipality for voting purposes have been rejected in the past. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(2)(c) and 8.15(5)(b) provide that “[e]ach candidate shall include his or her mailing address on the candidate’s nomination papers,” but is silent with regards to inclusion of municipality for voting purposes. The established policy of the Commission in reviewing nomination papers has been to find substantial compliance with Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10 and 8.15 by presuming the validity of the information listed unless evidence to the contrary is presented. Absent such evidence, the municipality listed for voting purposes is presumed to be the same as the municipality listed for mailing purposes.

Challenge: The space in the header for candidate street number, fire number, rural route number, box number if a rural route and street name is blank.

Analysis: When the candidate’s basic address information (number and name of street) is blank in the header, staff has recommended approving the challenge and striking the signatures on those pages. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(2)(b) and (c), 8.15(5)(a) and (b) clearly indicate that a candidate’s address must appear on the nomination paper to provide signers the opportunity to evaluate the candidate prior to supporting their nomination. Similar to a blank date of election in the header, the Commission has found that papers must contain a minimum amount of information about the candidate and the election for which they are asking to be nominated, for the paper to substantially comply with the law. This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

d. Candidate Certification

Challenge: The candidate has not completed the gender identification checkbox in the candidate certification statement.

Analysis: Staff has considered such an omission to be an oversight of a technical requirement and have considered papers that are otherwise correct to be in substantial compliance with statutory requirements. This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

e. Candidate Dates of Circulation

Challenge: The candidate circulated nomination papers prior to the date he or she filed a campaign registration statement or declaration of candidacy.

Analysis: Staff has recommended dismissing these challenges. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(5), 8.15(4)(b) provide that if a candidate has not filed a campaign registration statement prior to the time of filing nomination papers, “the candidate shall file the statement with the papers.” Wis. Stat. § 8.21(1) provides that each candidate shall file a declaration of candidacy “no later than the latest time provided for filing nomination papers.” This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

2. Circulator Information

a. Circulator Address

Challenge: The circulator’s address, required by Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(3)(a) or 8.15(4)(a), is insufficient because the circulator has not indicated type of municipality of residence (e.g., “Town of” or “City of”).

Analysis: Staff has recommended dismissing these challenges. Wis. Stat. §8.15(4)(a) (Wis. Stat. § 8.10(3) incorporates the standard in § 8.15(4)(a)) states in the relevant portion that “the certification of a qualified circulator stating his or her residence with street and number, if any, shall appear at the bottom of each nomination paper, stating he or she personally circulated the nomination paper and personally obtained each of the signatures.” There is no separate requirement that the circulator indicate the type of municipality of residence. This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

Challenge: The circulator’s address, required by Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(3), 8.15(4)(a), is insufficient because the circulator has not indicated the municipality of residence.

Analysis: Staff has recommended finding substantial compliance for papers missing the municipality in the circulator’s address where the circulator is the candidate and where the missing information is supplied by reference to other information on the same page (e.g., the candidate’s address in the nomination paper heading). Staff has typically struck signatures on pages in which the circulator was someone other than the candidate, and the certification of circulator did not include the circulator’s municipality. Staff has determined that the circulator’s ‘residence’ should include the name of their municipality for it to substantially comply with the statutory requirement. This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

b. Circulator Date and Signature

Challenge: The date of certification is incomplete or incorrect, as required by Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(3), 8.15(4)(a).

Analysis: The circulator may correct errors in the certificate of the circulator, such as the circulator failed to sign or otherwise complete the certificate, or entered inadvertently erroneous data (for instance: the circulator dated the certificate before circulation, not after). If the circulator has not corrected these errors by affidavit by the correction deadline, the challenge must be approved and the signatures on those pages struck. Recommendations to this effect have been approved in prior cases.

3. Elector Signatures

Only one signature per person for the same office is valid. In addition to his or her signature, in order for the signature to be valid, each signer of a nomination paper shall legibly print his or her name in a space provided next to his or her signature and shall list his or her municipality of residence for voting purposes, the street and number, if any, on which the signer resides, and the date of signing. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(4)(b), 8.15(2).

a. Multiple Signatures

Challenge: The elector has signed nomination papers for more than one candidate for the same office.

Analysis: Where the elector has signed another candidate’s papers prior to the signature on the challenged papers, the later signatures should be struck. This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

b. Signature

Challenge: The elector has “signed” with a printed name.

Analysis: Staff has allowed signatures where the name has been printed. Wis. Admn. Code EL § 2.05(8) requires that the elector “sign his or her own name;” the rule does not require that the signature be made in cursive. The dictionary definition of “signature” simply states that it is “the name of a person written with his own hand.” Staff recommendations that signatures be permitted where both the “printed name” and “signature” have been printed have been approved in prior cases.

Challenge: The elector’s signature is illegible.

Analysis: Staff has recommended denying challenges that alleged that signatures are illegible. Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(4)(b), 8.15(2) require each signer of a nomination paper to provide a signature and address. There is no requirement that a signature must be legible, and individual signers mark their signatures in a wide variety of ways (e.g., by marking an “X”). This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

c. Printed Name

Challenge: The elector’s printed name is illegible or in cursive.

Analysis: Challenges to printed names were first considered and decided by the former Government Accountability Board in 2014. The statutory requirement is that “. . . in order for the signature to be valid, each signer of a nomination paper shall legibly print his or her name in a space provided next to his or her signature” Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(4)(b) and 8.15(2).

There are some practical difficulties in determining an objective standard for a legibly printed name. For example, some signatures are clearly legible but the “printed name” may have been written in cursive, or included some letters that were not separated, as a dictionary definition of “printed” might require.

Based upon the WEC’s experience in evaluating printed names on nomination papers, as well as the stated legislative intent of 2013 Act 160 and related administrative rules, the WEC has developed standards and guidance for local election officials charged with reviewing nomination papers and other election petitions. The legislative record

emphasized that the purpose of Act 160 was to preserve the ability of opposing candidates to identify petition signers in order to consider filing challenges, and not to reject signatures that were legible. At its meeting of October 28, 2014, the Government Accountability Board directed its staff and local filing officers to apply the following standards to determine the sufficiency of signatures and printed names on nomination papers and other election petitions:

1. The filing officer shall confirm that the signer has completed information in both the "Signature" box and the "Printed Name" box of the nomination paper or other election petition. The signature may be marked as the signer customarily marks his or her signature, including by using an "X" or by using either traditional printed letters or a handwritten signature. Similarly, the signer's printed name is not required to include only letters that are separated from one another.
2. If the filing officer can discern no part of the signer's name, after reviewing both the signature and the printed name, it should be deemed illegible and the signature should not be counted.
3. After reviewing both the signature and printed name of a signer, if the filing officer can discern a possible name, but may not be certain of the exact spelling of the name, the printed name is deemed legible and the signature shall be counted if otherwise valid.
4. The filing officer is not required to consult extrinsic sources of information (voter registration records, telephone directories, etc.), but may do so if it assists the filing officer in discerning a possible name.
5. The signer must print his or her name, and the signer must execute a correcting affidavit if the printed name is missing or insufficient for the signature to be counted. However, a circulator may print the name of a signer with a disability who requests such assistance.

While requiring some subjective judgment by filing officers, these standards accurately capture the intent of 2013 Act 160 and do not require a hyper-technical application of the phrase "legibly print." In reviewing nomination papers and other election petitions, WEC staff and local filing officers will be able to apply a common-sense approach which does not eliminate legible names simply because letters in a printed name are connected or cross over one another. In essence, the printed name requirement is used to clarify or complete a signature which may not be legible or readable, not to invalidate signatures on the basis of a name failing to meet a literal definition of "printed."

d. Signature Address

Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(4)(b), 8.15(2) require that a signer of a nomination paper "shall list his or her municipality of residence for voting purposes, the street and number, if any, on which the signer resides." Errors in which the elector used an address or listed a municipality which does not reflect

his or her actual residence or wrote an incomplete address may be corrected by the elector or by the circulator in a correcting affidavit filed by the correction deadline.

Challenge: The elector's address is missing an apartment number.

Analysis: Staff has recommended that signatures be found in substantial compliance where the insufficiency is a missing apartment number. This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

Challenge: The elector's address is missing the municipality designation or the elector has checked a box in error.

Analysis: The Commission and its staff have advised candidates and challengers that a signatory's failure to check the correct box to indicate "Town, Village or City" is not a basis for disqualifying a signature unless a challenger can show that the given address is outside the subject jurisdiction or district. For instance, the challenger needs to show that a given address has to be in the Village of X, not in the Town of X and, therefore is outside District Y. The signatory's error or omission in checking a box on a form is not sufficient evidence for a challenge.

Challenge: The elector's address is incomplete because the elector has abbreviated the name of the municipality.

Analysis: Challenges to signatures alleged not to include the proper municipality of residence, where the municipality can be determined by other information contained on the nomination papers, pursuant to Wis. Admn. Code EL § 2.05(15)(c) have been rejected in the past. For instance, the municipality of "WFB" was determined by the mailing address to indicate "Whitefish Bay," or "Gtown" was determined by the zip code to indicate "Germantown."

Challenge: The elector has used a P.O. Box as his or her address.

Analysis: Commission policy has been to accept signatures with a P.O. Box rather than a residential address if the entire municipality in which the P.O. Box is located is within the candidate's District.

Challenge: The elector lives outside the district.

Analysis: A complaint challenging the eligibility of a signatory to a nomination paper based on the signer's non-residency must be accompanied by reference to MyVote Wisconsin or "Who is My Legislator?" web searches, by a map of the district demonstrating that the address is outside the district, or by a signed statement from the election official, (municipal clerk or deputy clerk), whose responsibility it is to determine the residency of electors of the district. Without such references, the complainant challenger's bare assertion of the signer's non-residency is not sufficient to sustain the challenger's burden of proof. Time permitting, Commission staff may attempt to verify the location of the address via MyVote Wisconsin and WisVote. This policy has been approved in prior cases.

e. Signature Date

Challenge: The date of the elector’s signature, as required by Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10(4)(a), 8.15(2), is incomplete or missing.

Analysis: Wis. Admn. Code EL § 2.05(15)(a) allows for a signature to survive an incomplete date challenge if “the date can be determined by reference to the dates of other signatures on the paper.” In the past, the Board policy has required that signatures on the first and last line of a nomination paper contain the complete date information, and not allowed missing date information on those lines to be determined by reference to the dates of other signatures on the page. However, in the context of a court case challenging the Board’s application of Wis. Admn. Code EL § 2.05(15)(a), the WI Department of Justice (DOJ) has advised that the Board’s interpretation of that rule was too restrictive in that it required incomplete dates to be “bracketed” by complete dates. The DOJ recommended that the Board equally apply the principle of determining missing date information by reference to other information on the page, even if the incomplete date appeared on the first or last signature line. This recommendation has been approved in prior cases.

Challenge: The elector’s signature is dated after the date of the circulator’s certification.

Analysis: Staff has struck these signatures pursuant to the Commission’s administrative rules that provide that a signature may not be counted if it is dated after the date of the certificate of the circulator. Wis. Admn. Code EL § 2.05(15)(b).

MEMORANDUM

DATE: For the Jan. 14, 2025, Commission Meeting
TO: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission
FROM: WEC Legal Counsel
SUBJECT: Ballot Access Challenges – Spring Election 2025

EL 25-04 – Jennifer Weber v. Cortney Iverson
Circuit Court Judge, Jefferson County Branch 2

EL 25-05 – Theresa Beck v. Cortney Iverson
Circuit Court Judge, Jefferson County Branch 2

EL 25-06 – Natalia Taft v. Jeff Wright
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Introduction

The Wisconsin Elections Commission (“the Commission”) accepted nomination papers from December 1, 2024 through January 7, 2025 for the 2025 Spring Election.

The Commission received 3 ballot access challenges by the deadline of 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2025. Two of those challenges were both filed by different challengers against the same candidate for the same reason.

Wisconsin Statute 8.07 states that “the commission shall promulgate rules under this chapter for use by election officials in determining the validity of nomination papers and signatures thereon.” The Commission has carried out this duty within Wis. Admin. Code Chapter EL 2. For nonpartisan elections, all nomination papers must comply with Wis. Stat. s. 8.10, and all declarations of candidacy must comply with Wis. Stat. s. 8.21. Each challenge below is evaluated under Wis. Stat. s. 8.10 using the standards of Wis. Admin. Code EL 2, and a recommendation to approve signatures is a recommendation that the signature complies with the requirements of Wis. Stat. s. 8.10. A recommendation to approve ballot access is a recommendation that enough valid signatures were submitted for the office under Wis. Stat. s. 8.10(3).

Challenges to the sufficiency of nomination papers are brought pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code EL s. 2.07(2)(a). The Commission applies the standards in EL s. 2.05 to determine sufficiency. Wis. Admin. Code EL s. 2.07(1). Any information which appears on a nomination paper is entitled to a presumption of validity. Wis. Admin. Code EL s. 2.05(4). Where any required item of information on a nomination paper is

incomplete, the Commission will accept the information as complete if there has been substantial compliance with the law. Wis. Admin. Code EL s. 2.05(5). The burden of proof applicable to establishing or rebutting a challenge is clear and convincing evidence. Wis. Admin. Code EL s. 2.07(4).

Explanation of Materials

This memo provides staff analysis and recommendations for all three ballot access challenges. Each challenge has its own section, which is intended to be read alongside the materials provided in the corresponding appendices as well as alongside the staff analysis spreadsheets. Each Appendix includes a copy of the challenge and response. Any rebuttals received by 9 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 will be provided as supplemental materials.

None of the challenges include the Excel worksheets that have accompanied previous ballot access memos because those worksheets are used for staff to assess signature challenges, and none of these challenges contain challenges to individual signatures.

I. EL 25-04 - Jennifer Weber v. Cortney Iverson Circuit Court Judge, Jefferson County Branch 2

Challenger Name: Jennifer Weber

Candidate Name: Courtney Iverson

Office Sought: Circuit Court Judge, Jefferson County Branch 2

Signatures Required: 200 – 400

Signatures Filed (After Facial Review): 289

Signatures Challenged: All – Declaration of Candidacy Challenge

Supplemental Signatures: None Filed

Correcting Affidavits: No

Final Staff Recommendation: Deny ballot access

The Challenge:

Jennifer Weber brings a Declaration of Candidacy challenge, alleging that all 289 nomination paper signatures initially verified by staff are insufficient because the candidate is not qualified for the office. The challenge states that the Wisconsin Constitution in art. VII sec. 24(1) requires that: “[t]o be eligible for the office of supreme court justice or judge of any court of record, a person must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state and have been so licensed for 5 years immediately prior to election or appointment.” It then alleges that “[t]he Clerk of the Wisconsin Supreme Court confirmed the date of [Ms. Iverson’s] admission to practice law in the State of Wisconsin as May 27, 2020.” The complaint alleges that Ms. Iverson “has not been an attorney licensed to practice law in this state immediately prior to election on April 1, 2025.” The challenge cites both the declaration of candidacy statute, Wis. Stat. s. 8.21, and the candidate ineligibility statute, Wis. Stat. s. 8.30, in support of its allegation. The challenge attached as evidence Ms. Iverson’s Declaration of Candidacy and a page from the wisbar.org website showing Ms. Iverson’s graduation date and bar admission date.

The Response:

The response argues that Ms. Iverson will have been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for more than 5 years by the time she would take office, and argues that she has properly filed nomination papers and a declaration of candidacy for the office of Circuit Court Judge for Jefferson County, Branch 2. The response admits that Ms. Iverson will not have been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for 5 years at the time of the Spring Election, but argues that the Wisconsin Supreme Court has addressed a closely related question in at least two cases, and that the qualifications for office must instead be met at the time of assuming office, citing Wis. Stat. s. 8.21(2)(b) for support.

The response cites *State v. Howerwas*, 254 Wis. 336, 36 N.W.2d 427 (1949), and explains that the Wisconsin Supreme Court examined a former constitutional provision in that matter, art. VII, sec. 10, requiring, in relevant part, that a person be at least 25 “at the time of his election” to the office of judge. The response summarizes the court’s ruling and states that:

the Court held that there was no requirement, either through the Constitutional provision or statutes, that the candidate possess all qualifications prior to being placed on the ballot.

Rather, such qualifications must exist at the time of taking office and, if they don’t meet the qualifications at that time, the person may be subject to challenge—but that challenge is not one that takes place prior to placement on the ballot. *Id.* at 340.

The response also cites an earlier case, *State ex rel. Barber v. Circuit Court for Marathon County et al.*, 178 Wis. 468, 190 N.W.563 (1922), discussed in *Howerwas*, that states that individuals may appear on the ballot even if they are not qualified, and that only a declaration of candidacy is required as a condition to appear on the ballot. The response argues that the reasoning of these cases remains correct, and that, “there is no statutory requirement that Iverson meet the qualifications for the judicial office in order to be a candidate for that office or be placed on the ballot.” Instead, the response argues that Wis. Stat. s. 8.10(2)(b), which states that, “[t]hat the signer meets, or will at the time he or she assumes office meet, applicable age, citizenship, residency, or voting qualification requirements, if any prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and of this state[.]” shows that a candidate must meet the requirements for candidacy at the time of assuming office.

The response argues that Ms. Iverson will meet the 5-year requirement by the time of assuming the judicial office on August 1, and alleges that Ms. Weber did not cite any provision of law that “would require Iverson to hold all qualifications in order to be placed on the ballot—and none exists, other than Wis. Stat. s. 8.21 requiring that she certify that she will meet the qualifications at the time she assumes office.” The response argues that Wis. Stat. s. 8.30 is discretionary, that the declaration of candidacy was accurately completed because Ms. Iverson will meet the requirement at the time of taking office, and therefore that the Commission has no basis in the declaration of candidacy to deny ballot access due to this challenge. The response concludes by stating, again citing *Howerwas* and *Barber*, that “as determined by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as long as Iverson can meet the qualifications by the time she would take office, there is no basis to deny her the right to run for the office or place her name on the ballot.”

Discussion:

Both challenges against Ms. Iverson’s candidacy are discussed together after the summary of the next challenge immediately below.

II. EL 25-05 – Theresa Beck v. Cortney Iverson Circuit Court Judge, Jefferson County Branch 2

Challenger Name: Theresa Beck

Candidate Name: Cortney Iverson

Office Sought: Circuit Court Judge, Jefferson County Branch 2

Signatures Required: 200-400

Signatures Filed (After Facial Review): 289

Signatures Challenged: All – Declaration of Candidacy Challenge

Supplemental Signatures: None Filed

Correcting Affidavits: None

Final Staff Recommendation: Deny Ballot Access

The Challenge:

Theresa Beck brings a Declaration of Candidacy challenge, alleging that all 289 nomination paper signatures initially verified by staff are insufficient because the candidate is not qualified for the office. As in *Weber v. Iverson*, the challenge also alleges that Ms. Iverson is not qualified under Wis. Const. Art. VII, Sec. 24(1) because she was admitted to practice law on May 27, 2020 rather than prior to April 1, 2020. The challenge states that Ms. Iverson’s declaration of candidacy, which was provided as an attachment, stated that she would “qualify for the office if nominated and elected” under Wis. Stat. s. 8.21(2)(c). The challenge also cites Wis. Stat. s. 8.30(1) and emphasizes that the Commission may deny ballot access if “the candidate is ineligible to be nominated or elected” or if “the candidate, if elected, could not qualify.” It also alleges that the Commission may deny ballot access under Wis. Stat. s. 8.30(4) due to the failure to file a valid declaration of candidacy. The challenge cites *In re Raineri*, 102 Wis. 2d 418, 421, 306 N.W.2d 699 (1981) to show that the Wisconsin Supreme Court has analyzed Wis. Const. Art. VII sec. 24(1) and found that at least one candidate was rendered ineligible for the office of judge under it.

The challenge cites for support the Commission’s recent decision in *Michael Hoffman v. Shiva Ayyadurai & Crystal Ellis*, Complaint No. EL 24-81, in which the Commission denied ballot access under Wis. Stat. S. 8.30(1)(b) and (c) due to a citizenship qualification challenge. The challenge shows that, on review by the Eastern District of Wisconsin, the court affirmed the Commission’s decision and stated that the candidate could not submit a valid declaration of candidacy given the deficiency, and that the WEC was required to withhold ballot access.

The Response:

The response to this challenge largely mirrors the response for *Weber v. Iverson*, and staff will only summarize the aspects unique to this response. In addition to what was discussed above for the response to Ms. Weber’s challenge, the response argues *In re Raineri* is distinguishable because it involved a judge who was found guilty of a felony and had his license revoked while in office, thus becoming ineligible to hold

office at that time, rather than any issue arising from the 5 year requirement at the time of the election to the office. The response also argues that the Commission’s decision in Michael Hoffman v. Shiva Ayyadurai, EL 24-81, is inapplicable because that challenge involved a citizenship requirement that could not be met at any time, and that in this case the requirement would be met before assuming office.

Discussion:

First, this section will explain why staff believe that April 1, 2025, is the applicable qualifying deadline, and second, it will explain why staff do not believe the responses overcame this reasoning and that the Commission should sustain the challenges and deny ballot access.

Both challenges to Ms. Iverson’s candidacy state that the Wisconsin Constitution bars anyone who has not been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for five years immediately prior to being elected or appointed from the office of circuit court judge, arguing that such a candidate is not qualified for the office. As such, both challenges further allege that Ms. Iverson will not have been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for five years at the time of the April 1, 2025, Spring Election, and ask that the Commission deny ballot access under Wis. Stat. s. 8.30(1). Staff believe that each complaint has presented clear and convincing evidence that Ms. Iverson will not have been a licensed attorney in Wisconsin for 5 years by the date of the election, that the Wisconsin Constitution bars her from assuming the office, and thus that the Commission should affirm the challenge and deny ballot access to Ms. Iverson under Wis. Stat. S. 8.30(1)(b) and (c) as she is ineligible to be elected to the office, and, if elected, could not remedy the impediment.

Neither response offers an interpretation of what “immediately prior to election” in Wis. Const. Art. 7 Sec. 24(1) means and staff propose a plain language reading of the provision. The plain language of the constitutional text supports the conclusion that “election or appointment” means the date on which the judicial candidate is chosen for the office, not the date they actually assume the duties of that office. The word “election” is intuitive—“every public primary and election.” Wis. Stat. § 5.02(4). The adjective “elect” also has common, accepted meaning—“chosen for office or position but not yet installed.”¹ Accordingly, the plain language of the text supports an interpretation that a judicial candidate must be a licensed attorney for five years immediately prior to the election date for the office.

Second, other relevant constitutional and statutory provisions support the conclusion that the Legislature has consistently interpreted “election or appointment” to mean the date of election or appointment. Article IV, Section 28 requires certain government officials to complete their oath of office “before they enter upon the duties of their respective offices.” This demonstrates that the Legislature knew how to distinguish election from assumption of office, and made an intentional choice to use “election” when they passed the joint resolution that led to the constitutional amendment to create Article VII, Section 24. Likewise, the phrase “election or appointment” is used consistently throughout Wisconsin statutes to refer to the event that earns the individual the public office sought, not the event at which they assume the duties of that office.²

Third, the Commission has traditionally interpreted the requirements of Article VII, Section 24 of the Wisconsin Constitution to mean that a judicial officer must have been an attorney for five years immediately

¹ Available at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/electing>.

² A few examples, of dozens, include Wis. Stat. §§ 83.01(2)(b) (county highway commissioner); 45.82(2) (county veterans service officer); 120.06(10) (school board members); 61.25(2) (village clerk); 60.31(1) (town officers); 62.09(4)(a) (city officers); and 59.21(1) (county officers). The guidance document is available here: Microsoft Word - Candidate eligibility (Rev. 2017-09).doc/.

prior to election day or date of appointment. Commission guidance on Wisconsin candidate eligibility states that judicial candidates must be: “[l]icensed to practice law in Wisconsin for 5 years immediately prior to the election and a qualified elector [of the jurisdiction] at the time of election.” The guidance document cites Article VII, Section 24 of the Wisconsin Constitution after that line, which demonstrates that Commission staff have interpreted this constitutional requirement to mean that it must be met prior to election day.

The response argues that because Ms. Iverson properly filed nomination papers and completed her declaration of candidacy under Wis. Stat. s. 8.21, and that the declaration of candidacy contains the legislative principle that a candidate need only qualify for the office at the time he or she assumes office, and that the Commission thus has no basis on which to deny ballot access.

Commission staff agree with the responses that all candidates need not possess all qualifications prior to being placed on the ballot, and also agree that Ms. Iverson would become qualified on May 27, 2025, before the August 1 date that judges take office. However, staff believe that qualifications are unique to each office, that the statutory landscape has significantly changed since the cases cited in the responses, and that not Wis. Stat. s. 8.21(b), but rather subsection (c), is at issue in these challenges.

First, different offices have different qualifying dates, particularly regarding residency. For example, county candidates must be electors of the county at the time of filing nomination papers under Wis. Stat. s. 59.20(1), but the Governor merely needs to be an elector of Wisconsin at the time of taking office under Wis. Const. Art. V sec. 2. In this case, the Wisconsin Constitution placed a required date as “immediately prior to election,” and staff have understood this to mean the date of the election to the office. Were the requirement to land on the date of assuming office, staff would agree that the Commission would be required to place Ms. Iverson’s name on the ballot because she would be able to qualify by the relevant date. The issue is not that she is not qualified now, but that she will not be qualified by the date of the election, which is the applicable date provided in the constitution for this specific office.

At the time of *Hawerwas* (1949) and *Barber* (1922), staff believe that no version of Wis. Stat. s. 8.30 existed. The prior version of Wis. Stat. s. 8.30 was numbered 5.30, and the earliest version staff found is in the 1949-1950 statutory archive.³ In the 1947-1948 statutory archive, that section is not present. Staff believe that the addition of Wis. Stat. s. 5.30 sometime soon after *Hawerwas* was decided in 1949 created the ability that the Wisconsin Supreme Court stated did not exist at the time of the case, and allowed filing officers to refuse to place a candidate’s name on the ballot due being ineligible to be nominated or elected, or due to an inability to qualify within the time allowed by law. In this case, the time allowed by law ends on April 1, 2025 and Ms. Iverson will not be able to qualify before that time.

Finally, staff believe that the citations to Wis. Stat. s. 8.21(2)(b) are not directly relevant, and that that section merely states that candidates must meet all “applicable age, citizenship, residency, or voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and of this state.” The statement “meets, or will at the time he or she assumes office meet” does not lessen any other

³ The language is essentially the same as the current Wis. Stat. S. 8.30 and states that: “If nomination papers are not prepared, signed and executed as required by law; or if it should appear conclusively, either from the face of the nomination papers offered to be filed, or by admission of the candidate or otherwise, that said candidate is ineligible to be nominated or elected, or if elected could not; by reason of age, residence, or other impediment, qualify for the office sought within the time allowed by law for qualification, the officer or officers with whom such nomination papers are required by law to be filed may refuse either to accept said nomination papers for filing or to place the name of said candidate upon the ballot.” Available here: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/1949/statutes/statutes/5.pdf>.

requirement found in law, but rather acknowledges that some requirements take effect earlier than others, and it does not lower the higher standards that apply to some offices. Further, that section only applies to age, citizenship, residency, or voting qualifications, none of which have been addressed in either challenge. Rather, both challenges allege that a unique requirement will not be met, which falls under the more general requirement in Wis. Stat. s. 8.21(1)(c) “that the signer will otherwise qualify for office if nominated and elected.” The qualification here is a specific professional requirement pertaining to the office of judge, and it must be analyzed under its unique constitutional language. Staff do not at all imply that Ms. Iverson believed she would not be qualified for the office—her responses indicate her exact reasons for believing she would be qualified—but nonetheless believe that she cannot in the future, on May 27, meet a requirement that must be met on April 1.

Overall, staff believe that both challenges meet the clear and convincing evidence standard established in Wis. Admin. Code EL s. 2.07(4) that Ms. Iverson will not have been a licensed attorney in Wisconsin for 5 years immediately prior to the April 1, 2025, Spring Election, and therefore that she is not eligible to be elected to the office and cannot qualify within the time allowed by law under Wis. Stat. s. 8.30(1)(b) and (c), allowing the Commission to deny ballot access. Commission staff therefore recommend sustaining the challenges and denying ballot access.

Recommended Motion:

The Commission sustains the challenges of Jennifer Weber and Theresa Beck against Cortney Iverson, and exercises its authority under Wis. Stat. s. 8.30(1)(b) and (c) to exclude Cortney Iverson from the ballot because it conclusively appears that she is not eligible to be elected on April 1, 2025, and, if elected, could not qualify for the office sought because she will not have been an attorney licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for five years immediately preceding the election. Accordingly, the Commission denies ballot status to Candidate Iverson, and her name will not be added 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.

III. EL 25-06 – Natalia Taft v. Jeff Wright (State Superintendent of Public Instruction)

Challenger Name: Natalia Taft
Candidate Name: Jeff Wright
Office Sought: State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Signatures Required: 2,000 – 4,000
Signatures Filed (After Facial Review): 2,662
Signatures Challenged: All – Header Challenge
Supplemental Signatures: None Filed
Correcting Affidavits: No
Final Staff Recommendation: 2,662

Commission staff initially verified that Jeff Wright submitted 2,662 valid signatures.

Challenger Taft brings a challenge to two aspects of the header of Candidate Wright’s nomination papers. She asserts that these header insufficiencies render all 2,662 signatures on 325 pages of nomination papers as invalid, and that Candidate Wright should be denied ballot access.

The Challenge:

Challenger Taft brings a ballot access challenge, alleging that all nomination paper signatures are insufficient because of two insufficiencies in the header of the nomination papers. First, she claims that the header contains the incorrect name of the office sought, and that it should be “Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction,” not “State Superintendent of Public Instruction.” Second, she claims that the signatory voter eligibility jurisdiction section should have also been specific to “Wisconsin” instead of containing general language that the voter is eligible to vote in the jurisdiction represented by the office sought.

Challenger Taft alleges that Candidate Wright fails to have the name “Wisconsin” anywhere in the header of his nomination paper. She alleges that in 2022, WEC staff gave the guidance that “Wisconsin” must be listed as the signatories’ voting jurisdiction in the header of the nomination papers. Challenger Taft also asserts that Candidate Wright failed to include the full name of the office sought in the header of the nomination papers. Challenger Taft alleges the full name of the office is “Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction.”

As supporting exhibits, Challenger Taft included a singular representative page of Candidate Wright’s nomination papers (Exhibit A) and an email exchange with WEC staff from 2022 purporting to show that including “Wisconsin” as the jurisdiction is required in order for nomination papers to be substantially compliant (Exhibit B).

The Response:

Candidate Wright argues that Challenger Taft has not alleged that any of his signatories were misled by information on his nomination papers, nor has she alleged that the format of his papers caused any actual confusion among signatories, or was likely to do so. He asserts that the header of his nomination papers specifies that his home address and mailing address are in Wisconsin, contrary to Challenger Taft’s assertion that the word “Wisconsin” does not appear anywhere in the header.

With respect to Challenger Taft’s first claim, Candidate Wright argues that the legal title of the office he seeks is “State Superintendent of Public Instruction” per Article X, Section 1 of the Wisconsin Constitution, and Subchapter II of chapter 115 of state statutes. He alleges that he correctly included this title in his header, in substantial compliance with the law.

With respect to Challenger Taft’s second claim, Candidate Wright provides a list of recent nomination papers of candidates that also did not contain “Wisconsin” as the jurisdiction of signatory voter eligibility. He argues that the 2022 Commission staff email in Challenger Taft’s complaint is a guidance document at best and has no relevant, legal, or precedential effect.

Finally, Candidate Wright argues that even if the Commission believes he erred in failing to specify the jurisdiction as “Wisconsin,” it should still exercise discretion to place his name on the ballot in the interest of not restricting ballot access due to a technicality.

Discussion:

Wisconsin statute specifies the information that is required to appear at the top of a nomination paper in the “header” section. Wis. Stat. s. 8.10(2)(b). The purpose of the header is so that the signatories can verify that they are making an intentional choice to support a specific candidate for a specific office, and that they are qualified to sign to support the candidate for that office. The law requires the header to “have substantially the following words printed at the top...I am eligible to vote in the (name of jurisdiction or district in which candidate seeks office),” in addition to other required fields. The Commission has developed a nomination paper template that contains all of the required fields, but candidates often design their own nomination papers and their own headers. A candidate is free to design their own header to their nomination papers, so long as it substantially contains the information required by s. 8.10(2)(b).

Candidate Wright’s personalized header, which appears at the top of all 325 pages of his nomination papers, is reproduced below. As a preliminary matter, Challenger Taft’s assertion that the header does not have the name “Wisconsin” anywhere in the header is misleading. The commonly-accepted postal code for Wisconsin, “WI” appears in two places in the header, once as part of Candidate Wright’s residence and once as part of his mailing address.



I, the undersigned, request the name of

Jeff Wright

Residing at E3048 Marble Quarry Rd, Plain, WI 53577, be placed on the ballot for the Spring election to be held on April 1, 2025 as a candidate, so that voters will have the opportunity to vote for him for the office of **State Superintendent of Public Instruction**.

Candidate’s Municipality for Voting Purposes: Town of Bear Creek. Candidate mailing address: P.O Box 64, Prairie Du Sac, WI 53578.

I am eligible to vote in the jurisdiction or district in which the candidate named above seeks office. I have not signed the nomination paper of any other candidate for the same office at this election.

Claim 1 – Full Title of Office Sought

Challenger Taft first claims that Candidate Wright’s nomination papers do not contain what she says is the full title of the office sought: “Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction.” Instead, the header of each nomination paper lists the intended office as: “State Superintendent of Public Instruction.”

Commission legal staff were unable to find any statute or authority that states the proper name of the office sought is “*Wisconsin* Superintendent of Public Instruction,” and Challenger Taft points to none. To the contrary, the office sought by Candidate Wright is a state constitutional office, and is named by Article III, Section 1 as “State Superintendent of Public Instruction.” Wis. Const. Art. III, Sec. 1, Clause (1)(d). The same office is referred to as “State Superintendent” throughout Wisconsin statutes. Wis. Stat. ss. 8.11(3); 8.25(4); 8.50(4)(c); 39.76(1). Within the Commission’s internal systems, the office is also listed as “State Superintendent of Public Instruction,” and that is also how the name of the office is displayed on Wisconsin ballots.

Even if some authority existed to support a claim that the office is titled “Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction,” the Commission has found previously that candidates have substantially complied with s. 8.10(2)(b) so long as the electors could determine the office and district the candidate was pursuing by

other information provided in the nomination paper heading.⁴ In this instance, Commission staff believe that signatories would have understood that a candidate circulating nomination papers in Wisconsin for the office of “State Superintendent of public Instruction” meant that the office sought was statewide office in Wisconsin, especially given the title still contained the word “State.”

Claim 2 – Specific versus General Jurisdiction of Signatory Eligibility

Challenger Taft also claims that Candidate Wright’s nomination papers are insufficient because the section of jurisdiction of signatory voter eligibility wasn’t specific enough because it didn’t state “Wisconsin.” The law requires the header to contain certification language that the signatories reside in the jurisdiction for which the candidate seeks office. The jurisdiction for the office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction is the State of Wisconsin. Candidate Wright’s header contained the following statement: “I am eligible to vote in the jurisdiction or district in which candidate named above seeks office.”

Statute Substantially Requires:	Header Contained:
“...I am eligible to vote in the (name of jurisdiction or district in which candidate seeks office) ...” Wis. Stat. s. 8.10(2)(b).	“I am eligible to vote in the jurisdiction or district in which the candidate named above seeks office.”

Challenger Taft appears to argue that the inclusion of “name of” in s. 8.10(2)(b), coupled with the use of a parenthetical, required Candidate Wright to specify in the header that signatories certify that they are eligible to vote in the state of Wisconsin specifically. The only support she offers for this interpretation is a series of 2022 emails from Commission staff, where staff offered the recommendation for a different candidate to include “Wisconsin as the jurisdiction in there somewhere.” The emails from Commission staff stated: “the name of the jurisdiction is still required even for statewide offices.”

Recent statewide candidates who were approved for ballot access contained a wide variety of language in the header for the jurisdiction of signatory eligibility section. None of the candidates below were challenged, and all were granted ballot access.⁵

Statewide Office Sought	Header Language for Jurisdiction
WI Supreme Court	“I am eligible to vote in the jurisdiction or district in which the candidate named above seeks office.”
WI Supreme Court	“Wisconsin”
Attorney General	“I am eligible to vote in the state of Wisconsin.”
Secretary of State	“I am eligible to vote in the state of Wisconsin.”
Governor	“I am eligible to vote in the state of Wisconsin in which the candidate name above seeks office.”
Governor	“I am eligible to vote in the state of Wisconsin.”

⁴ See “Common Nomination Paper Challenges” (2018), pg. 2. Available at: <https://elections.wi.gov/resources/manuals/common-nomination-paper-challenges-manual>.

⁵ In his response, Candidate Wright provides sample nomination paper templates from four other candidates, and he claims they do not include the word “Wisconsin” in the jurisdiction section. However, while they may not include “Wisconsin,” each example provided is specific to the office sought, as opposed to the general language used by Candidate Wright. Brad Cook’s header, for example, says: “I am eligible to vote in the 40th Assembly District.” Commission staff are unable to determine how the example nomination papers in Exhibit A of the response aid or support Candidate Wright’s arguments.

However, Commission legal counsel believe that it is not necessary for the header of Candidate Wright's nomination papers to specifically contain the word "Wisconsin" in the signatory voter eligibility line. Candidate Wright's nomination paper header is substantially compliant with s. 8.10(2)(b) because it contains every word of what is required by that provision. While other recent statewide candidates may have modified the "name of jurisdiction or district in which candidate seeks office" to say "Wisconsin" instead, that is a distinction without a difference with respect to the requirements of s. 8.10(2)(b), at least for statewide candidates.⁶

What's important for s. 8.10(2)(b) is that the signatory understand and certifies that they are eligible to vote in the jurisdiction represented by the candidate for the office sought. Commission staff believe that a reasonably informed signatory would understand that they need to be an eligible voter of Wisconsin in order to sign nomination papers for the *statewide* office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. For other offices, it may not be substantially compliant for a candidate to fail to specify the jurisdiction of signatory voter eligibility (such as for a specific Senate District for example). But for statewide office, any eligible voter anywhere in the state of Wisconsin is eligible to sign nomination papers, so as long as the nomination papers clearly identify a statewide office, signatories can confirm they are eligible to vote in the applicable jurisdiction. Here, Candidate Wright's nomination papers clearly identify the statewide office he seeks – State Superintendent of Public Instruction – so signatories would reasonably understand that they must be eligible to vote in the state of Wisconsin in order to sign.

While it might have been *perfect* compliance for Candidate Wright to modify the jurisdiction language to be specific to Wisconsin, the law does not require perfect compliance. All that is required is that Candidate Wright's header substantially comply with the requirements of s. 8.10(2)(b).

Accordingly, Commission staff have concluded that Challenger Taft has not met her burden

Recommended Motion:

The Wisconsin Elections Commission ("the Commission") sustains 0 challenges, and does not sustain 2,662 challenges, in accordance with staff recommendations and the accompanying materials for EL 25-06. The Commission finds that Jeff Wright submitted 2,662 valid signatures, and the Commission adds Jeff Wright 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.

⁶ Before elections, candidates will often submit templates of their nomination papers to WEC staff for facial review, which is done as a courtesy to the candidate. While WEC staff's review is not binding, WEC staff will bring potential issues to candidates' attention that could potentially form the basis of a challenge so that they candidate can assess their own risk and can decide for themselves how and whether to address it. WEC staff's observations are not binding and certainly do not set precedent for future candidates.

JENNIFER L. WEBER

W155 Hillendale Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
Jennifer.weber0610@gmail.com
Tele: 414-313-5700

January 9, 2025

Wisconsin Elections Commission
PO Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984

Sent via Email to: Elections@wi.gov

Dear Commissioners:

Please find enclosed the verified complaint regarding eligibility for ballot access for Jefferson County Circuit Court Br. 2, candidate Cortney J. Iverson. All relevant documentation has been attached to the complaint. The basis for the complaint is that Ms. Iverson fails to meet the eligibility requirement for the position of Circuit Court Judge as she will not have been an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Wisconsin for the immediately preceding 5 years to the election scheduled for April 1, 2025.

A copy of the verified complaint has been mailed to Cortney J. Iverson at the address listed on her Declaration of Candidacy.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer L. Weber

cc: Cortney J. Iverson

**STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

The Complaint of: Eligibility of Candidacy of Cortney J. Iverson

Jennifer L. Weber
W155 Hillendale Drive
Oconomowoc, WI 53066,
Complainant

Against

Cortney J. Iverson
W9211 Red Feather Drive
Cambridge, WI 53523,
Respondent.

This complaint is under Wis. Stats. 5.02, Wis. Stats 8.21, Wis. Stats. 8.30(1)(c) and the Wisconsin Constitution, Article VII, Sections 7, 10, and 24.


I, Jennifer L. Weber, alleges that:

1. The Complainant, Jennifer L. Weber, is an adult resident, residing at W155 Hillendale Drive in the Town of Ixonia, Jefferson County, Wisconsin.
2. The Respondent, Cortney J. Iverson, is an adult resident, residing at W9211 Red Feather Drive in the Town of Oakland, Jefferson County, Wisconsin.
3. The Declaration of Candidacy is a sworn statement stating the candidate meets or will meet at the time office is assumed the applicable age, citizenship, residency and voting qualification requirements, if any prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that the candidate will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected, Wis. Stats. 8.21.
4. Pursuant to The Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, section 24(1), to be eligible for the office of supreme court justice or judge of any court of record, a person must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state and have been so licensed for 5 years immediately prior to election or appointment.
5. Wisconsin Statute sec. 5.02(4) mean every public primary and election.
6. The Wisconsin Elections Commission issued a Notice of Spring Election on November 15, 2024. The Notice states an election is to be held in the towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 and includes the judicial officers in Jefferson County Circuit Court, Br. 2.

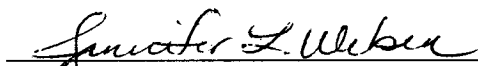
7. Cortney J. Iverson filed a Declaration of Candidacy with the Wisconsin Elections Commission on January 6, 2025.
8. Based upon information and belief, Cortney J. Iverson graduated from University of Wisconsin Law School in 2020.
9. Based upon information and belief, the Wisconsin State Bar records indicate her date of admission to practice law in the State of Wisconsin on May 27, 2020. The Clerk of the Wisconsin Supreme Court confirmed the date of admission to practice law in the State of Wisconsin as May 27, 2020.
10. At the time of the election for judicial officer of Jefferson County Circuit Court, Br. 2 on April 1, 2025, Cortney J. Iverson is not eligible for the office of judge of Jefferson County as she fails to meet the eligibility requirement. Cortney J. Iverson is ineligible as she has not been an attorney licensed to practice law in this state for 5 years immediately prior to election on April 1, 2025.
11. Pursuant to Wis. Stats. 8.30(1), the Wisconsin Elections Commission may refuse to place the candidate's name on the ballot if the candidate is ineligible to be nominated or elected or if the candidate could not qualify because of age, residence, or other impediment.

The facts set forth above in the complaint establish probable cause to believe that a violation occurred and that Cortney J. Iverson shall be denied ballot access as she is not eligible for the position.

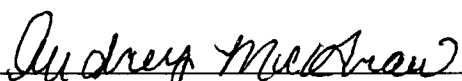
Dated this 9th day of January, 2025.

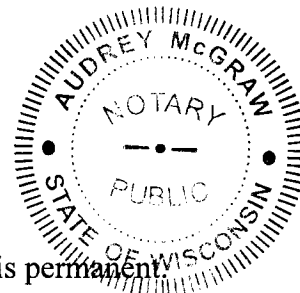

 Jennifer L. Weber

I, Jennifer L. Weber, being first duly sworn on oath state that I personally read the above complaint, and that the above allegations are true based on my personal knowledge and, as to those stated on information and belief, I believe them to be true.


 Jennifer L. Weber

State of Wisconsin
 County of Jefferson
 Sworn to before me this 9th day of January, 2025


 Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
 My commissioner expires 6/5/2027 or _____ is permanent.



8.21 Declaration of candidacy.

- (1) Each candidate, except a candidate for presidential elector under s. 8.20 (2) (d), shall file a declaration of candidacy, no later than the latest time provided for filing nomination papers under s. 8.10 (2) (a), 8.15 (1), 8.20 (8) (a) or 8.50 (3) (a), or the time provided under s. 8.16 (2) or 8.35 (2) (c). A candidate shall file the declaration with the officer or agency with which nomination papers are filed for the office that the candidate seeks, or if nomination papers are not required, with the clerk or board of election commissioners of the jurisdiction in which the candidate seeks office.
- (2) The declaration of candidacy shall be sworn to before any officer authorized to administer oaths. The declaration shall contain the name of the candidate in the form specified under s. 8.10 (2) (b) for candidates for nonpartisan office or s. 8.15 (5) (a) or 8.20 (2) (a) for candidates for partisan office and shall state all of the following:
 - (a) That the signer is a candidate for a named office.
 - (b) That the signer meets, or will at the time he or she assumes office meet, applicable age, citizenship, residency, or voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and of this state.
 - (c) That the signer will otherwise qualify for office if nominated and elected.
- (3) The declaration of candidacy shall include the candidate's name in the form in which it will appear on the ballot.
- (4) Each candidate for state and local office shall include in the declaration of candidacy all of the following:
 - (a) A statement that the candidate has not been convicted of any misdemeanor designated under state or federal law as a violation of the public trust or any felony for which the candidate has not been pardoned.
 - (b) A statement that discloses the candidate's municipality of residence for voting purposes, and the street and number, if any, on which the candidate resides.
- (5) The declaration of candidacy is valid with or without the seal of the officer who administers the oath.
- (6) A candidate for state or local office shall file an amended declaration of candidacy under oath with the same officer or agency if any information contained in the declaration of candidacy changes at any time after the original declaration of candidacy is filed and before the candidate assumes office or is defeated for election or nomination.

History: 1983 a. 484 s. 94; 1985 a. 304; 1987 a. 391; 1993 a. 140; 1999 a. 182; 2001 a. 109; 2005 a. 149.

Cross-reference: See also s. EL 6.04, Wis. adm. code.

A candidate for election to Congress need not be a resident of the district at the time he or she files nomination papers and executes the declaration of intent to accept the office if elected. A candidate for Congress must be an inhabitant of the state at the time of election. 61 Atty. Gen. 155.

Declaration of Candidacy

(See instructions for preparation on back)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Is this an amendment?

Yes (if you have already filed a DOC for this election)

No (if this is the first DOC you have filed for this election)

I, Cortney Iverson, being duly sworn, state that
Candidate's name

I am a candidate for the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2
Official name of office - Include district, branch or seat number

representing _____
If partisan election, name of political party or statement of principle - five words or less (Candidates for nonpartisan office may leave blank.)

and I meet or will meet at the time I assume office the applicable age, citizenship, residency and voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.

I have not been convicted of a felony in any court within the United States for which I have not been pardoned.¹

My present address, including my municipality of residence for voting purposes is:

W9211	Red Feather Dr.	Cambridge, WI	53523	Town of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oakland
House or fire no.	Street Name	Mailing Municipality and State	Zip code	Village of <input type="checkbox"/>	
				City of <input type="checkbox"/>	

My name as I wish it to appear on the official ballot is as follows:

Cortney J. Iverson

(Any combination of first name, middle name or initials with surname. A nickname may replace a legal name.)

Cortney J. Iverson
(Signature of candidate)

STATE OF WISCONSIN

County of Dane
(County where oath administered)

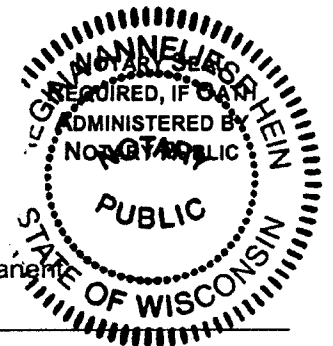
ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 2025.

Regina Anneliese Hein
(Signature of person authorized to administer oaths)

Notary Public or other official _____
(Official title, if not a notary)

If Notary Public: My commission expires 8/20/27 or is permanent



The information on this form is required by Wis. Stat. § 8.21, Art. XIII, Sec. 3, Wis. Const., and must be filed with the filing officer in order to have a candidate's name placed on the ballot. Wis. Stats. §§ 8.05 (1)(j), 8.10 (5), 8.15 (4)(b), 8.20 (6), 120.06 (6)(b), 887.01.

EL-162 | Rev. 2019-08 | Wisconsin Elections Commission, P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984
608-266-8005 | web: elections.wi.gov | email: elections@wi.gov

¹ A 1996 constitutional amendment bars any candidate convicted of a misdemeanor which violates the public trust from running for or holding a public office. However, the legislature has not defined which misdemeanors violate the public trust. A candidate convicted of any misdemeanor is not barred from running for or holding a public office until the legislature defines which misdemeanors apply.

Justices and judges: eligibility for office; retirement. SECTION 24. *[As created April 1955 and amended April 1968 and April 1977]* (1) To be eligible for the office of supreme court justice or judge of any court of record, a person must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state and have been so licensed for 5 years immediately prior to election or appointment.

(2) Unless assigned temporary service under subsection (3), no person may serve as a supreme court justice or judge of a court of record beyond the July 31 following the date on which such person attains that age, of not less than 70 years, which the legislature shall prescribe by law.

(3) A person who has served as a supreme court justice or judge of a court of record may, as provided by law, serve as a judge of any court of record except the supreme court on a temporary basis if assigned by the chief justice of the supreme court. *[1953 J.R. 46, 1955 J.R. 14, vote April 1955; 1965 J.R. 101, 1967 J.R. 22 and 56, vote April 1968; 1975 J.R. 13, 1977 J.R. 7, vote April 1977]*

ARTICLE VIII.

FINANCE

Rule of taxation uniform; income, privilege and occupation taxes. SECTION 1. *[As amended Nov. 1908, April 1927, April 1941, April 1961, and April 1974]* The rule of taxation shall be uniform but the legislature may empower cities, villages or towns to collect and return taxes on real estate located therein by optional methods. Taxes shall be levied upon such property with such classifications as to forests and minerals including or separate or severed from the land, as the legislature shall prescribe. Taxation of agricultural land and undeveloped land, both as defined by law, need not be uniform with the taxation of each other nor with the taxation of other real property. Taxation of merchants' stock-in-trade, manufacturers' materials and finished products, and livestock need not be uniform with the taxation of real property and other personal property, but the taxation of all such merchants' stock-in-trade, manufacturers' materials and finished products and livestock shall be uniform, except that the legislature may provide that the value thereof shall be determined on an average basis. Taxes may also be imposed on incomes, privileges and occupations, which taxes may be graduated and progressive, and reasonable exemptions may be provided. *[1905 J.R. 12, 1907 J.R. 29, 1907 c. 661, vote Nov. 1908; 1925 J.R. 62, 1927 J.R. 13, vote April 1927; 1939 J.R. 88, 1941 J.R. 18, vote April 1941; 1959 J.R. 78, 1961 J.R. 13, vote April 1961; 1971 J.R. 39, 1973 J.R. 29, vote April 1974]*

Appropriations; limitation. SECTION 2. *[As amended Nov. 1877]* No money shall be paid out of the treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation by law. No appropriation shall be made for the payment of any claim against the state except claims of the United States and judgments, unless filed within six years after the claim accrued. *[1876 J.R. 7, 1877 J.R. 4, 1877 c. 158, vote Nov. 1877]*

Credit of state. SECTION 3. *[As amended April 1975]* Except as provided in s. 7 (2) (a), the credit of the state shall never be given, or loaned, in aid of any individual, association or corporation. *[1973 J.R. 38, 1975 J.R. 3, vote April 1975]*

Contracting state debts. SECTION 4. The state shall never contract any public debt except in the cases and manner herein provided.

Annual tax levy to equal expenses. SECTION 5. The legislature shall provide for an annual tax sufficient to defray the estimated expenses of the state for each year; and whenever the expenses of any year shall exceed the income, the legislature shall provide for levying a tax for the ensuing year, sufficient, with other sources of income, to pay the deficiency as well as the estimated expenses of such ensuing year.

Public debt for extraordinary expense; taxation. SECTION 6. For the purpose of defraying extraordinary expenditures the state may contract public debts (but such debts shall never in the aggregate exceed one hundred thousand dollars). Every such debt shall be authorized by law, for some purpose or purposes to be distinctly specified therein; and the vote of a majority of all the members elected to each house, to be taken by yeas and nays, shall be necessary to the passage of such law; and every such law shall provide for levying an annual tax sufficient to pay the annual interest of such debt and the principal within five years from the passage of such law, and shall specially appropriate the proceeds of such taxes to the payment of such principal and interest; and such appropriation shall not be repealed, nor the taxes be postponed or diminished, until the principal and interest of such debt shall have been wholly paid.

Public debt for public defense; bonding for public purposes. SECTION 7. *[As amended April 1969, April 1975, and April 1992]* (1) The legislature may also borrow money to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, or defend the state in time of war; but the money thus raised shall be applied exclusively to the object for which the loan was authorized, or to the repayment of the debt thereby created.

(2) Any other provision of this constitution to the contrary notwithstanding:

(a) The state may contract public debt and pledges to the payment thereof its full faith, credit and taxing power:

1. To acquire, construct, develop, extend, enlarge or improve land, waters, property, highways, railways, buildings, equipment or facilities for public purposes.

2. To make funds available for veterans' housing loans.

(b) The aggregate public debt contracted by the state in any calendar year pursuant to paragraph (a) shall not exceed an amount equal to the lesser of:

1. Three-fourths of one per centum of the aggregate value of all taxable property in the state; or

2. Five per centum of the aggregate value of all taxable property in the state less the sum of: a. the aggregate public debt of the state contracted pursuant to this section outstanding as of January 1 of such calendar year after subtracting therefrom the amount of sinking funds on hand on January 1 of such calendar year which are applicable exclusively to repayment of such outstanding public debt and, b. the outstanding indebtedness as of January 1 of such calendar year of any entity of the type described in paragraph (d) to the extent that such indebtedness is supported by or payable from payments out of the treasury of the state.

(c) The state may contract public debt, without limit, to fund or refund the whole or any part of any public debt contracted pursuant to paragraph (a), including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest to accrue thereon, or to fund or refund the whole or any part of any indebtedness incurred prior to January 1, 1972, by any entity of the type described in paragraph (d), including any premium payable with respect thereto and any interest to accrue thereon.

(d) No money shall be paid out of the treasury, with respect to any lease, sublease or other agreement entered into after Jan-

5.02 Definitions. In chs. 5 to 12, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1c)** “Automatic tabulating equipment” means apparatus which automatically examines and counts votes recorded on ballots or voting machines and tabulates the results.
- (1e)** “Ballot” means a ballot label, sheet of paper or envelope on which votes are recorded. The term also includes a sheet or card, filmstrip or other device listing or containing information relative to offices, candidates and referenda which is placed, projected or composed on the board or screen inside a voting machine.
- (1q)** “Block” means an area which is the smallest geographic area used by the U.S. bureau of the census for data collection and tabulation.
- (2)** “County clerk” includes the executive director of the county board of election commissioners and their authorized representatives.
- (3)** “Educational officer” means the state superintendent and school board members.
- (3m)** “Elected official” means an individual who is elected to a national, state or local office.
- (4)** “Election” means every public primary and election.
- (4c)** “Election district” means a municipality that is not divided into wards, except as otherwise provided in s. 8.17 (1) (b).
- (4e)** “Election official” means an individual who is charged with any duties relating to the conduct of an election.
- (4g)** “Election registration official” means an election official assigned under s. 6.28 (1) (a) or 7.30 to register electors.
- (4m)** “Electronic voting system” means a system in which votes are recorded on ballots, and the votes are subsequently counted and tabulated by automatic tabulating equipment. The term also includes a voting machine on which votes are recorded and tabulated by electronic means.
- (4s)** “Federal election” means any election at which a national office appears on the ballot.
- (4v)** For purposes of chs. 5 to 10 and 12, “filing officer” means the following:
- (a)** For a candidate for state office, as defined in sub. (23), the elections commission.
 - (b)** For a candidate seeking local office, the clerk of the most populous jurisdiction for which the candidate seeks office.
 - (c)** For a candidate for municipal judge elected under s. 755.01 (4), the county clerk or board of election commissioners of the county having the largest portion of the population in the jurisdiction served by the judge.
 - (d)** For a candidate for school board member, the school district clerk.
- NOTE: Sub. (4v) is created eff. 7-1-25 by 2023 Wis. Act 126.**
- (5)** “General election” means the election held in even-numbered years on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November to elect United States senators, representatives in congress, presidential electors, state senators, representatives to the assembly, district attorneys, state officers other than the state superintendent and judicial officers, and county officers other than supervisors and county executives.
- (6)** “Governing body” means the common council of a city, board of supervisors of a town or board of trustees of a village.
- (6m)** “Identification” means any of the following documents issued to an individual:
- (a)** One of the following documents that is unexpired or if expired has expired after the date of the most recent general election:
 1. An operator’s license issued under ch. 343.
 2. An identification card issued under s. 343.50.
 3. An identification card issued by a U.S. uniformed service.
 4. A U.S. passport.
 - (b)** A certificate of U.S. naturalization that was issued not earlier than 2 years before the date of an election at which it is presented.
 - (c)** An unexpired driving receipt under s. 343.11.
 - (d)** An unexpired identification card receipt issued under s. 343.50.
 - (e)** An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in this state.

(f) An unexpired identification card issued by a university or college in this state that is accredited, as defined in s. 39.30 (1) (d), or by a technical college in this state that is a member of and governed by the technical college system under ch. 38, that contains the date of issuance and signature of the individual to whom it is issued and that contains an expiration date indicating that the card expires no later than 2 years after the date of issuance if the individual establishes that he or she is enrolled as a student at the university or college on the date that the card is presented.

NOTE: In *Luft v. Evers*, 963 F.3d 665 (2020), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit affirmed the judgment in *One Wisconsin Institute, Inc. v. Thomsen*, 198 F. Supp. 3d 896 (2016), that “the student-ID provision is invalid” on the alternative ground that the restriction that a student ID card “is not sufficient for voting unless the student also shows proof of current enrollment” is unconstitutional.

(g) An unexpired veterans identification card issued by the veterans health administration of the federal department of veterans affairs.

(7) “Judge” means a court of appeals judge or a judge of a circuit court.

(8) “Justice” means a justice of the supreme court.

(8m) “Labor organization” means any employee organization in which employees participate and which exists primarily for the purpose of engaging in collective bargaining with any employer concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, hours or conditions of employment, or the promotion and advancement of the professional or occupational standards and the welfare of its members and families and any organization established for the same purposes composed of individuals or affiliates of any such employee organization.

(9) “Local office” means any elective office other than a state or national office.

(10) “Municipal clerk” means the city clerk, town clerk, village clerk and the executive director of the city election commission and their authorized representatives. Where applicable, “municipal clerk” also includes the clerk of a school district.

(11) “Municipality” means city, town or village.

(12) “National office” means the offices of president and vice president of the United States, U.S. senator and representative in congress.

(12m) “Nickname” means a familiar or shortened form of a proper name by which an individual is commonly known.

(12n) “Overseas elector” means a U.S. citizen who is residing outside of the United States, who is not disqualified from voting under s. 6.03, who has attained or will attain the age of 18 by the date of an election at which the citizen proposes to vote, who was last domiciled in this state or whose parent was last domiciled in this state immediately prior to the parent’s departure from the United States, and who is not registered to vote or voting in any other state, territory, or possession.

(12s) “Partisan primary” means the primary held the 2nd Tuesday in August to nominate candidates to be voted for at the general election.

(13) “Political party” has the meaning given in s. 11.0101 (26).

(14) “Poll list” means the list which is compiled by election officials on election day showing the names and addresses of electors who actually cast votes in an election.

(15) “Polling place” means the actual location wherein the elector’s vote is cast.

(16) “Primary” means a primary election.

(16c) “Proof of identification” means identification that contains the name of the individual to whom the document was issued, which name conforms to the individual’s voter registration form, if the individual is required to register to vote, and that contains a photograph of the individual, except as authorized in s. 343.14 (3m) or 343.50 (4g).

(16g) “Qualified circulator” means a qualified elector of this state or any U.S. citizen age 18 or older who, if he or she were a resident of this state, would not be disqualified from voting under s. 6.03.

(16m) “Recognized political party” means a political party which qualifies for a separate ballot or column under s. 5.62 (1) (b) or (2).

(16s) “Referendum” means an election at which an advisory, validating or ratifying question is submitted to the electorate.

(17) “Registration list” means the list of electors who are properly registered to vote.

(19) “Special election” means any election, other than those described in subs. (5), (12s), (21), and (22), to fill vacancies or to conduct a referendum.

- (20)** “Special primary” means the primary held 4 weeks before the special election except when the special election is held on the same day as the general election the special primary shall be held on the same day as the general primary or if the special election is held concurrently with the spring election, the primary shall be held concurrently with the spring primary.
- (20g)** “Special purpose district” means any local governmental unit other than a county or municipality.
- (20r)** “Special referendum” means any referendum held at a special election which is not held concurrently with the elections described in sub. (5), (12s), (21), or (22).
- (21)** “Spring election” means the election held on the first Tuesday in April to elect judicial, educational and municipal officers, nonpartisan county officers and sewerage commissioners and to express preferences for the person to be the presidential candidate for each party in a year in which electors for president and vice president are to be elected.
- (22)** “Spring primary” means the nonpartisan primary held on the 3rd Tuesday in February to nominate nonpartisan candidates to be voted for at the spring election.
- (23)** “State office” means the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, state superintendent, justice of the supreme court, court of appeals judge, circuit court judge, state senator, state representative to the assembly and district attorney.
- (24)** “State superintendent” means the state superintendent of public instruction.
- (24g)** “Voting device” means an apparatus other than a voting machine which the elector uses to record his or her votes on a ballot.
- (24r)** “Voting machine” means a machine which serves in lieu of a voting booth and which mechanically or electronically records the votes cast by electors, who depress levers or buttons located next to the choices listed on a ballot to cast their votes.
- (24w)** “Voting system” means:

- (a)** The total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic equipment, including the software, hardware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment, that is used to define ballots, to cast and count votes, to report or display election results, and to maintain and produce any audit trail information.
- (b)** The practices and associated documentation for any of the following purposes:
1. To identify equipment components and versions of such components.
 2. To test the equipment during its development and maintenance.
 3. To maintain records of equipment errors and defects.
 4. To determine specific equipment changes to be made after the initial qualification of the equipment.
 5. To make available any materials to an elector.

- (25)** “Ward” means a town, village or city subdivision created for the convenience of the electors therein and to facilitate the division of such municipalities into election districts of substantially equal population numbers along common boundaries observing the community of interest of existing neighborhoods and other settlements.

History: 1971 c. 211; 1971 c. 304 ss. 2, 29 (2); 1973 c. 280, 334; 1975 c. 93; 1977 c. 107, 187, 394; 1977 c. 427 ss. 3 to 14; 1977 c. 449; 1979 c. 32, 89, 221; 1979 c. 260 ss. 1m, 73 to 75; 1979 c. 311, 328; 1981 c. 4, 391; 1983 a. 484 ss. 5, 5c, 124m, 128; 1985 a. 303; 1985 a. 304 ss. 1m, 2, 155; 1987 a. 391 ss. 1 to 1r, 66w; 1989 a. 31; 1991 a. 5; 1993 a. 140, 184; 1995 a. 16 s. 2; 1995 a. 27 s. 9145 (1); 1995 a. 219; 1997 a. 35; 2001 a. 16, 109; 2003 a. 24, 265; 2005 a. 177, 451; 2007 a. 1; 2009 a. 397; 2011 a. 23, 32, 45, 75; 2013 a. 165; 2015 a. 117, 118, 261; 2017 a. 369; 2023 a. 126; s. 35.17 correction in (4v) (a).

Municipal clerks are the officials primarily responsible for election administration in Wisconsin. A “board of election commissioners” is established in Wisconsin’s high population cities and counties to carry out the duties otherwise accomplished by municipal and county clerks everywhere else. The phrase “municipal clerk or board of election commissioners” appears in tandem all over the election statutes because that describes the duties of local election officials. *State ex rel. Zignego v. Wisconsin Elections Commission*, 2021 WI 32, 396 Wis. 2d 391, 957 N.W.2d 208, 19-2397.

Photographic identification is necessary for in-person voting. Students may use college-issued credentials under sub. (6m) (f), but only before an ID’s expiration date. There’s nothing wrong with a requirement that IDs be current. *Luft v. Evers*, 963 F.3d 665 (2020).

Treating students differently from other potential voters without a rational basis violates the equal protection clause. Under sub. (6m) (f), a student identification card, alone among the sorts of photo ID that Wisconsin accepts, is not sufficient for voting unless the student also shows proof of current enrollment. No other category of acceptable identification depends on ongoing affiliation of any sort. That differential treatment violates the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. *Luft v. Evers*, 963 F.3d 665 (2020).

The requirements in sub. (6m) (f) that a student identification card must display: 1) an issuance date; 2) an expiration date; 3) an expiration date not more than two years after the issuance date; and 4) a signature, are rationally related to a legitimate governmental interest and do not violate the equal protection clause. *Common Cause v. Thomsen*, 574 F. Supp. 3d 634 (2021).

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION

State of Wisconsin

April 1, 2025

Election Details

An election is to be held in the towns, villages, cities, wards, and election districts of the State of Wisconsin, on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The following officers are to be elected:

Department of Public Instruction

One (1) State Superintendent, for the term of four (4) years to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term of office will expire on July 31, 2025:

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION Jill Underly

Judicial Officers

One (1) Justice of the Supreme Court, for the term of ten (10) years, to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term of office will expire on July 31, 2025:

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT Ann Walsh Bradley

Three (3) Court of Appeals Judges, for the term of six (6) years, to succeed the present incumbents listed, whose terms of office will expire on July 31, 2025:

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 2 Mark Gundrum
COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 3 Lisa K. Stark
COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 4 Jennifer Nashold

Thirty-seven (37) Circuit Court Judges, each for the term of six (6) years, to succeed the present incumbents listed, whose terms of office will expire on July 31, 2025:

BROWN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3	Tammy Jo Hock
BROWN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 4	Samantha Wagner
BROWN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 7	Timothy A. Hinkfuss
CRAWFORD COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE	Lukas Steiner
DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2	Payal Khandhar
DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 16	Rhonda L. Lanford
DODGE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3	Joseph G. Sciascia*
EAU CLAIRE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2	Douglas Hoffer
GREEN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2	Jane Bucher
JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1	Will Gruber

Type A Notice (for counties) | Rev 2022-11 | Wisconsin Elections Commission, P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984 | 608-261-2028 | web: elections.wi.gov | email: elections@wi.gov

JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2
 LA CROSSE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1
 LA CROSSE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2
 LA CROSSE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 4
 LAFAYETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
 LINCOLN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2
 MANITOWOC COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1
 MARINETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1
 MARINETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2
 MARQUETTE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
 MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 6
 MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 11
 MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 26
 MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 36
 MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 40
 MILWAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 41
 MONROE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1
 OZAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1
 OZAUKEE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2
 RACINE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 4
 RACINE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 7
 ROCK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1
 ROCK COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2
 SAINT CROIX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 2
 WAUKESHA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 1
 WAUKESHA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 4
 WAUKESHA COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 6

Theresa Beck
 Ramona A. Gonzalez
 Elliott M. Levine
 Scott L. Horne
 Jenna Gill
 Robert R. Russell
 Mark Rohrer
 Peggy Miller
 James A. Morrison
 Chad A. Hendee
 John Remington
 David Swanson
 William Pohan
 Laura A. Crivello
 Danielle Shelton
 Lena Taylor
 Todd L. Ziegler
 Adam Gerol
 Steve Cain
 Scott Craig
 Jon Fredrickson
 Karl R. Hanson
 Derrick A. Grubb
 Edward F. Vlack*
 Michael O. Bohren*
 Bridget Schoenborn
 Brad Schimel

**Candidates who have submitted non-candidacy forms*

County Executive

A County Executive (if required), for a term of four (4) years, to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term will expire on April 14, 2025:

(insert name of incumbent)

County Supervisor

A County Supervisor for each county supervisory district (if required), for a term of two (2) years, to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term will expire on April 14, 2025:

(insert district numbers and names of incumbents)

Information concerning county supervisory district boundaries may be obtained from (insert name and address of county clerk and any other source).

Municipal Judge

A Municipal Judge, serving more than one municipality, for a term of four years*, to succeed the present incumbent listed, whose term of office will expire on April 30, 2025:

(insert municipalities in jurisdiction and name of incumbent)

District Boundaries

Information concerning multi-jurisdictional municipal judge district boundaries may be obtained from (insert name and address of county clerk and any other source).

*(*Note: Multi-jurisdictional municipal judges have terms of 4 years unless a term of 2 or 3 years is provided by CHARTER ordinance. Consult the ordinances that created the judgeship to determine the length of the term.)*

For Candidates

The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2024, and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. Candidates for (list statewide and judicial titles) file nomination papers and declarations of candidacy with the Wisconsin Elections Commission. Candidates for (list county titles) file (insert your own office filing information).

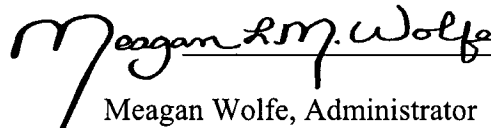
Primary Election

If a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Additional Information

Acceptable Photo ID will be required to vote at this election. If you do not have a photo ID, you may obtain a free ID for voting from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

DONE in the City of Madison on November 15, 2024



Meagan Wolfe, Administrator
Wisconsin Elections Commission
201 West Washington Avenue, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7984
608-261-2028

**Wisconsin Elections Commission
Candidate Tracking by Office**

2025 Spring Election - 4/1/2025

Receipt #	Candidate	Party	Campaign Registration Statement	Declaration of Candidacy Date	Statement of Economic Interests Date	Nomination Papers Date	Valid Signatures	Staff Review
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Office : GREEN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
BRANCH 2

Jane Bucher 2715 3RD ST MONROE, 53566	04/20/2024	12/23/2024	12/31/2024	12/23/2024	400	Approved
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Office Subtotal : 1

Office : JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE BRANCH 1

Will Gruber N7214 DEER LAKE LN MARSHALL, 53559	12/18/2024	11/14/2024	12/02/2024	12/18/2024	389	Approved
John Jack A. Chavez 1011 BREWSTER DR LAKE MILLS, 53551	12/17/2024	12/20/2024	01/04/2025	01/02/2025	286	Approved

Office Subtotal : 2

Office : JEFFERSON COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE BRANCH 2

Theresa Beck 363 E NORTH ST JEFFERSON, 53549	09/17/2024	9/20/2024	12/28/2024	01/02/2025	387	Approved
Cortney J. Iverson W9211 RED FEATHER DR CAMBRIDGE, 53523	12/23/2024	1/6/2025		01/06/2025	289	Pending
Jennifer L. Weber W155 HILLENDALE DR OCONOMOWOC, 53066	12/01/2024	12/10/2024	01/06/2025	01/03/2025	248	Approved

Office Subtotal : 3

Office : LA CROSSE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE BRANCH 1

Joe Veenstra 213 PEARL ST LA CROSSE, 54601	08/14/2024	9/6/2024	12/31/2024	01/03/2025	394	Approved
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ATTORNEY INFORMATION

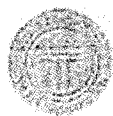


PHOTO NOT FOUND

Atty. Cortney Joy Iverson

County: Walworth

Member ID: 1116892

Graduation Year: 2020

Languages: English

Law School:
University of Wisconsin Law School

WI Admission: 05/27/2020

License Status:
Good Standing

Member Type:
Active

Full Profile

Current State Bar Memberships

No Current Memberships Listed

Courts of Admittance

None Provided

Other States Licensed

None Provided

Advanced Degrees

None Provided

Other Memberships

None Provided

Social Media Sites

None Provided

Biography

None Provided

Articles Authored

No Current Articles Authored

8.30 Candidates ineligible for ballot placement.

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the official or agency with whom declarations of candidacy are required to be filed may refuse to place the candidate's name on the ballot if any of the following apply:
- (a) The nomination papers are not prepared, signed, and executed as required under this chapter.
 - (b) It conclusively appears, either on the face of the nomination papers offered for filing, or by admission of the candidate or otherwise, that the candidate is ineligible to be nominated or elected.
 - (c) The candidate, if elected, could not qualify for the office sought within the time allowed by law for qualification because of age, residence, or other impediment.
- (2) If no registration statement has been filed by or on behalf of a candidate for state or local office in accordance with s. 11.0202 (1) (a) by the applicable deadline for filing nomination papers by such candidate, or the deadline for filing a declaration of candidacy for an office for which nomination papers are not filed, the name of the candidate may not appear on the ballot. This subsection may not be construed to exempt a candidate from applicable penalties if he or she files a registration statement later than the time prescribed in s. 11.0202 (1) (a).
- (2m) The official or agency with whom nomination papers and declarations of candidacy are required to be filed shall not place a candidate's name on the ballot if the candidate's name is ineligible for ballot placement under s. 5.05 (2m) (d) 2., 15.61 (3), or 19.49 (2) (c) 2.
- (3) The official or agency with whom declarations of candidacy are required to be filed may not place a candidate's name on the ballot if the official or agency is prohibited from doing so under s. 19.43 (4) or an ordinance adopted under s. 19.59 (3) (b).
- (4) The official or agency with whom a declaration of candidacy is required to be filed may not place a candidate's name on the ballot if the candidate fails to file a declaration of candidacy within the time prescribed under s. 8.21.

History: 1975 c. 93; 1979 c. 120, 328; 1979 c. 355 ss. 28, 29; 1983 a. 484; 1985 a. 304; 1987 a. 391; 2001 a. 109; 2005 a. 149, 177; 2007 a. 1; 2015 a. 117, 118.

Cross-reference: See also ss. EL 2.09 and 2.11, Wis. adm. code.

A petitioner who timely filed with the county clerk rather than with the State Elections Board under former s. 8.10 (6) (a), 1975 stats., was barred from the ballot. State ex rel. Ahlgrimm v. State Elections Board, 82 Wis. 2d 585, 263 N.W.2d 152 (1978).

STATE OF WISCONSIN
WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF the Certificate of Candidacy for the
Office of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2
with respect to the April 1, 2025 Election

THERESA A. BECK,
363 East North Street
Jefferson, WI 53549

Complainant,

v.

Case No. _____

CORTNEY J. IVERSON,
W9211 Red Feather Drive
Oakland, WI, 53523

Respondent.

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

1. This Verified Complaint is brought against Cortney J. Iverson (“Iverson”) pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06, Wis. Stat. § 8.30(1), Wis. Admin. Code § EL 2.07, and other Wisconsin laws governing elections and election campaigns.

2. Iverson has submitted to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (“WEC”) a Declaration of Candidacy and nomination papers to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2, for the Spring Election, which will occur on April 1, 2025.

3. The Wisconsin Constitution provides that: “To be eligible for the office of supreme court justice or judge of any court of record, a person must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state and have been so licensed for 5 years immediately prior to election or appointment.” Wis. Const. Art. VII, § 24(1).

4. According to Iverson’s profile with the State Bar of Wisconsin, she was not admitted to practice law in the State of Wisconsin until May 27, 2020. Thus, Iverson will not have been “licensed for 5 years immediately prior to election” as mandated by Wis. Const. Art. VII, § 24(1), she is ineligible for ballot placement, and the Commission must exclude her from the ballot.

PARTIES

5. Theresa A. Beck (“Complainant”) is a qualified Wisconsin elector residing at 363 East North Street, Jefferson, Wisconsin 53549.

6. In July 2024, Governor Evers appointed Complainant to serve as a Judge on the Jefferson County Circuit Court, with a term that expires on July 31, 2025.

7. Complainant currently holds the office of Judge on the Jefferson County Circuit Court, Branch 2.

8. Complainant has submitted to WEC a Declaration of Candidacy and nomination papers to be placed on the ballot in the April 1 Spring Election as a candidate for the same office she currently holds as a Judge on the Jefferson County Circuit Court, Branch 2. A true and correct copy of Complainant’s Declaration of Candidacy is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** to the Complaint.

9. On information and believe, Iverson is a qualified Wisconsin elector who resides at W9211 Red Feather Drive, Oakland, Wisconsin, 53523.

THE SPRING ELECTION

10. The 2025 Spring Election will occur on April 1, 2025. Wis. Stat. § 5.02(21).¹

¹ See also <https://elections.wi.gov/event/2025-spring-election> (last accessed January 8, 2025).

11. As an aspiring candidate for Circuit Court Judge, Iverson was required to file nomination papers and a Declaration of Candidacy with WEC before Tuesday January 7, 2025.

Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a); Wis. Stat. § 8.21.

12. On information and belief, Iverson filed her Declaration of Candidacy and nomination papers with WEC on or around January 6, 2025.

13. A true and correct copy of Iverson’s Declaration of Candidacy, obtained through Badger Voters, is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

14. In her Declaration of Candidacy, Iverson was required to swear that, among other things, she would “qualify for office if nominated and elected.” Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(c); *see also* Exhibit B.

15. According to WEC, the deadline to file a challenge to Iverson’s candidacy is Friday January 10, 2025. *See* <https://elections.wi.gov/event/deadline-filing-ballot-access-challenges> (citing Wis. Stat. § 8.07, EL 2.07). Thus, this challenge is timely.²

IVERSON’S MAY 27, 2020 ADMISSION TO THE WISCONSIN BAR

16. According to Iverson’s profile with the State Bar of Wisconsin, she is a is a licensed attorney who was admitted to practice law in the State of Wisconsin on May 27, 2020.

A true and correct copy of Iverson’s State Bar of Wisconsin profile is attached hereto as **Exhibit C** to the Complaint.

² This is not a challenge to the “sufficiency of a nomination paper” and so the three-day deadline arguably does not apply. *See* Wis. Admin. Code EL § 2.07(1) (“Any challenge to the sufficiency of a nomination paper shall be filed within 3 calendar days after the filing deadline for the challenged nomination papers.”). Instead, Chapter 5 governs: “A complaint under this section shall be filed promptly so as not to prejudice the rights of any other party. In no case may a complaint relating to nominations, qualifications of candidates or ballot preparation be filed later than 10 days after the complainant knew or should have known that a violation of law or abuse of discretion occurred or was proposed to occur.” Wis. Stat. § 5.06(3). In any event, Complainant first learned on January 6, 2025 (when Iverson filed her Declaration of Candidacy) that Iverson in fact sought the office for which she is not qualified. Thus, this Verified Complaint is timely under either standard.

17. Likewise, according to a University of Wisconsin Hooding Ceremony Program, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit D** to the Complaint, Iverson graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School on May 15, 2020.³

18. Under the governing Supreme Court Rules, Iverson could not have been admitted to practice law through Wisconsin's diploma privilege until after her May 15, 2020 graduation. *See* SCR 40.03 (Providing for diploma privilege for an "applicant who has been awarded a first professional degree in law from a law school in this state" and meets other criteria); SCR 40.02(2) (must satisfy SCR 40.03 or alternative legal competency requirements in order to "be admitted to practice law in this state").

ARGUMENT

I. Legal Standards.

19. The Wisconsin Supreme Court has recognized that "[w]hile the right to vote is an inherent or constitutional right, the right to be a candidate is not of that character. It is a political privilege which depends upon the favor of the people and this favor may be coupled with reasonable conditions for the public good." *State ex rel. Frederick v. Zimmerman*, 254 Wis. 600, 617, 37 N.W.2d 473 (1949).

20. Indeed, the State of Wisconsin has "an interest, if not a duty, to protect the integrity of its political processes from frivolous or fraudulent candidacies." *Bullock v. Carter*, 405 U.S. 134, 145 (1972). Thus, the Supreme Court of the United States has rejected the contention that "voters are entitled to cast their ballots for unqualified candidates," explaining "that limiting the choice of candidates to those who have complied with state election law requirements is the prototypical example of a regulation that, while it affects the right to vote, is eminently

³ On information and belief, the graduate listed as "Cortney Joy Runnels" is Iverson. "Runnels" is her maiden name.

reasonable.” *Burdick v. Takushi*, 504 U.S. 428, 440 n.10 (1992). “[I]t is both wasteful and confusing to encumber the ballot with the names of frivolous candidates.” *Anderson v. Celebrezze*, 460 U.S. 780, 788 n.9 (1983).

21. Consistent with the State’s “duty” to protect the ballot from frivolous candidacies, Wisconsin Statutes Section 8.30 addresses “candidates ineligible for ballot placement.” Under that statute, “[t]he official or agency with whom a declaration of candidacy is required to be filed may not place a candidate’s name on the ballot if the candidate fails to file a declaration of candidacy within the time prescribed under s. 8.21.” Wis. Stat. § 8.30(4).

22. Likewise, the Commission “may refuse to place the candidate’s name on the ballot if any of the following apply:”

- (a) The nomination papers are not prepared, signed, and executed as required under this chapter.
- (b) It conclusively appears, either on the face of the nomination papers offered for filing, or by admission of the candidate or otherwise, that *the candidate is ineligible to be nominated or elected*.
- (c) The *candidate, if elected, could not qualify* for the office sought within the time allowed by law for qualification because of age, residence, or other impediment.

Wis. Stat. § 8.30(1) (emphasis added).

II. The Commission must exclude Iverson from the ballot.

23. The Wisconsin Constitution provides that: “To be eligible for the office of supreme court justice or judge of any court of record, a person must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state and have been so licensed for 5 years immediately prior to election or appointment.” Wis. Const. Art. VII, § 24(1); *see also In re Raineri*, 102 Wis. 2d 418, 421, 306 N.W.2d 699 (1981) (citing Art. VII, § 24(1) for the proposition that “the revocation of [Iron County Circuit Court]

Judge Raineri’s license to practice law in Wisconsin on April 14, 1981 rendered him ineligible for the office of judge of any court of record.”).

24. Iverson, therefore, must be excluded from the ballot under each of: (1) Section 8.30(4) (candidate did not file a valid declaration of candidacy); (2) Section 8.30(1)(b) (candidate is ineligible to be nominated or elected); and (3) Section 8.30(1)(c) (candidate, if elected, could not qualify).

25. This case is on all fours with a recent WEC decision in *Michael Hoffman v. Shiva Ayyadurai & Crystal Ellis*, Complaint No. EL 24-81.⁴ There, an independent presidential candidate’s ballot access was challenged on the basis that he was a naturalized citizen and not a “natural born citizen” as required of presidential candidates by Art. II, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution (“Constitutional Citizenship”). (**Exhibit E** at 4 (p. 31)) Commission Staff recommended excluding the candidate under both Wis. Stat. §§ 8.30(1) (b) and (c). Commission Staff explained that “[w]hile there may be circumstances where the Commission cannot, or chooses not to, answer a constitutional question, in the context of candidate qualifications and ballot access, staff believe that the Commission has an obligation under Wis. Stat. § 8.30 to examine candidate qualifications, especially in the context of a sworn challenge.” (*Id.* at 6 (p. 33)) By a 5-1 vote, the Commission adopted the proposed motion from the Staff Memo providing that “the Commission exercises its authority under Wis. Stat. § 8.30(4) to exclude [the candidates] from

⁴ A true and correct copy of the Staff Memo from Complaint No. EL 24-81 is attached hereto as **Exhibit E**. Exhibit E includes pages 1-3 and 31-34 from within Open Session Packet for the August 27, 2024 Commission meeting. Because the full materials are 193 pages long, Complainant includes only the relevant pages within Exhibit E. The full packet is available on the Commission website at: https://elections.wi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Open%20Session%208.27.24%202_0.pdf (last accessed January 8, 2025).

the ballot because Candidate Ayyadurai does not meet the constitutional requirements for the Office of President of the United States.”⁵

26. The Commission’s decision to exclude Ayyadurai was later affirmed by the District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in *Marshall v. WEC*, No. 24-C-1095 (E.D. Wis. Sep. 10, 2024). A true and correct copy of the District Court’s Memorandum and Order is attached hereto as **Exhibit F** to the Complaint. In *Marshall*, the Eastern District concluded that, because Ayyadurai was not a natural born citizen, “he could not submit a *valid* declaration of candidacy” and “*WEC was required by statute* to prohibit his name from being on the ballot. Wis. Stat. § 8.30(4).” *Id.* at 3-4 (emphasis added).⁶

27. As with Ayyadurai, Iverson was required to swear that she “will ... qualify for office if nominated and elected.” Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(c). But because she was not admitted to practice until May 27, 2020—*less than* five years before the April 1 Spring Election—it is *impossible* for her to have been “an attorney licensed to practice law in this state and have been so licensed for 5 years immediately prior to election” on April 1, 2025 as mandated by the Wisconsin Constitution. Consequently, she will not qualify because she *cannot*. Iverson therefore did not file a “valid declaration of candidacy,” and “WEC [is] required by statute to prohibit [her] name from being on the ballot.” **Exhibit F** at 3-4. Likewise, because Iverson will not have practiced law for the constitutionally prescribed minimum length of time, she “is ineligible to be nominated or

⁵ A true and correct copy of the minutes of the August 27, 2024 hearing at which this vote occurred is attached hereto as Exhibit F and also available on WEC’s website: <https://elections.wi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/August%2027%2C%202024%2C%20Open%20Session%20Minutes%20APPROVED.pdf> (last accessed January 8, 2025).

⁶ The Plaintiffs in *Marshall* filed an appeal that remains pending. *See Marshall v. WEC*, Seventh Circuit Case No. 24-2756. However, WEC is rightly opposing that appeal, and should follow its own precedent and the district court precedent unless and until the Seventh Circuit reverses that decision.

elected” and “if elected, could not qualify,” Wis. Stat. § 8.30(1)(b) (c). WEC should exclude her on that independent basis as well.

28. Wisconsin not an outlier. States do not place a candidate on the ballot when they cannot possibly win the election and assume the office. *See Am. Party of Texas v. White*, 415 U.S. 767, 782 (1974) (holding that states may “insist that political parties appearing on the general ballot demonstrate a significant, measurable quantum of community support”); *Lindsay v. Bowen*, 750 F.3d 1061, 1063 (9th Cir. 2014) (excluding a candidate from a ballot “based on undisputed ineligibility due to age do not limit political participation by an identifiable political group whose members share a particular viewpoint, associational preference or economic status” (internal quotations omitted)); *Hassan v. Colorado*, 495 F. App’x 947, 948-49 (10th Cir. 2012) (affirming decision to exclude a naturalized citizen, ineligible to hold office, from the presidential ballot); *Socialist Workers Party of Ill. v. Ogilvie*, 357 F. Supp. 109, 113 (N.D. Ill. 1972) (*per curiam*) (affirming Illinois’ exclusion of a thirty-one-year-old candidate from the presidential ballot).

29. For example, in a case decided by then-Circuit Judge Gorsuch, a candidate argued that even if he was “ineligible to *assume the office* of president [...] it was still an unlawful act of discrimination for the state to deny him *a place on the ballot*.” *Hassan*, 495 F. App’x at 948 (emphasis in the original). Justice Gorsuch rejected that contention, concluding that “a state’s legitimate interest in protecting the integrity and practical functioning of the political process permits it to exclude from the ballot candidates who are constitutionally prohibited from assuming office.” *Id.* So too here.

30. Accordingly, the Commission should follow its precedent of excluding ineligible candidates from the ballot under Wis. Stat. § 8.30.

CONCLUSION

Complainant respectfully requests that, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.30, the Wisconsin Elections Commission refuse to place Courtney J. Iverson's name on the ballot for Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2 for the spring election in April 2025.

Dated January 10, 2025.

Complaint prepared by:

STAFFORD ROSENBAUM LLP

Douglas M. Poland, SBN 1055189

David P. Hollander, SBN 1107233

Zoe A. Pawlisch, SBN 1119278

Attorneys for Complainant Theresa A. Beck

222 West Washington Ave., Suite 900

Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2744

dpoland@staffordlaw.com

dhollander@staffordlaw.com

zpawlisch@staffordlaw.com

608.256.0226

VERIFICATION

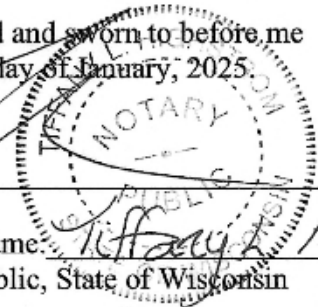
Theresa A. Beck, being duly sworn, on oath, deposes and states that:

1. Theresa A. Beck is a qualified elector and resident of the State of Wisconsin.
2. Theresa A. Beck has read the foregoing Verified Complaint and avers that the facts alleged therein are true and correct to the best of her knowledge, except as to those matters therein stated upon information and belief, as to which matters she believes them to be true.

Signed in Jefferson, Wisconsin this 10th day of January, 2025.

Theresa Beck
Theresa A. Beck

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 10th day of January, 2025.


Printed Name: Tiffany A. Highster
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin

My commission expires ^{is} permanently.

✓

Declaration of Candidacy

(See instructions for preparation on back)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Is this an amendment?

Yes (if you have already filed a DOC for this election)

No (if this is the first DOC you have filed for this election)

I, Theresa A. Beck, being duly sworn, state that
I am a candidate for the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court, Br. 2
Official name of office - include district, branch or seat number

representing _____
If partisan election, name of political party or statement of principle - five words or less (Candidates for nonpartisan office may leave blank.)

and I meet or will meet at the time I assume office the applicable age, citizenship, residency and voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.

I have not been convicted of a felony in any court within the United States for which I have not been pardoned.¹

My present address, including my municipality of residence for voting purposes is:

363	East North St	Jefferson, WI	53549	<input type="checkbox"/> Town of <input type="checkbox"/> Village of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of
<small>House or fire no.</small>	<small>Street Name</small>	<small>Mailing Municipality and State</small>	<small>Zip code</small>	<small>Municipality of Residence for Voting</small>

My name as I wish it to appear on the official ballot is as follows:

Theresa Beck

(Any combination of first name, middle name or initials with surname. A nickname may replace a legal name.)

Justice

(Signature of candidate)

STATE OF WISCONSIN

County of Jefferson }
(County where oath administered)

ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of September, 2024

[Signature]
(Signature of person authorized to administer oaths)

NOTARY SEAL
REQUIRED, IF OATH
ADMINISTERED BY
NOTARY PUBLIC



Notary Public or other official _____
(Official title, if not a notary)

If Notary Public: My commission expires _____ or is permanent.

The information on this form is required by Wis. Stat. § 8.21, Art. XIII, Sec. 3, Wis. Const., and must be filed with the filing officer in order to have a candidate's name placed on the ballot. Wis. Stats. §§ 8.05 (1)(j), 8.10 (5), 8.15 (4)(b), 8.20 (6), 120.06 (6)(b), 887.01.

EL-162 | Rev. 2019-08 | Wisconsin Elections Commission, P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984
608-266-8005 | web: elections.wi.gov | email: elections@wi.gov

¹ A 1996 constitutional amendment bars any candidate convicted of a misdemeanor which violates the public trust from running for or holding a public office. However, the Legislature has not defined which misdemeanors violate the public trust. A candidate convicted of any misdemeanor is not barred from running for or holding a public office until the legislature defines which misdemeanors apply.

Declaration of Candidacy

(See instructions for preparation on back)

WEG 06 JAN 2025 AM 11:39
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
WEG 06 JAN 2025 AM 11:39

Is this an amendment?

Yes (if you have already filed a DOC for this election)

No (if this is the first DOC you have filed for this election)

I, Cortney Iverson, being duly sworn, state that
Candidate's name

I am a candidate for the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2
Official name of office - Include district, branch or seat number

representing _____
If partisan election, name of political party or statement of principle - five words or less (Candidates for nonpartisan office may leave blank.)

and I meet or will meet at the time I assume office the applicable age, citizenship, residency and voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.

I have not been convicted of a felony in any court within the United States for which I have not been pardoned.¹

My present address, including my municipality of residence for voting purposes is:

<u>W9211</u>	<u>Red Feather Dr.</u>	<u>Cambridge, WI</u>	<u>53523</u>	Town of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Oakland</u>
House or fire no.	Street Name	Mailing Municipality and State	Zip code	Village of <input type="checkbox"/>	
				City of <input type="checkbox"/>	

My name as I wish it to appear on the official ballot is as follows:

Cortney J. Iverson

(Any combination of first name, middle name or initials with surname. A nickname may replace a legal name.)

Cortney J. Iverson
(Signature of candidate)

STATE OF WISCONSIN

County of Dane
(County where oath administered)

} ss.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 2025.

Regina Anneline Hein
(Signature of person authorized to administer oaths)

Notary Public or other official _____
(Official title, if not a notary)

If Notary Public: My commission expires 8/20/27 or is permanent



The information on this form is required by Wis. Stat. § 8.21, Art. XIII, Sec. 3, Wis. Const., and must be filed with the filing officer in order to have a candidate's name placed on the ballot. Wis. Stats. §§ 8.05 (1)(j), 8.10 (5), 8.15 (4)(b), 8.20 (6), 120.06 (6)(b), 887.01.

EL-162 | Rev. 2019-08 | Wisconsin Elections Commission, P.O. Box 7984, Madison, WI 53707-7984
608-266-8005 | web: elections.wi.gov | email: elections@wi.gov

¹ A 1996 constitutional amendment bars any candidate convicted of a misdemeanor which violates the public trust from running for or holding a public office. However, the legislature has not defined which misdemeanors violate the public trust. A candidate convicted of any misdemeanor is not barred from running for or holding a public office until the legislature defines which misdemeanors apply.



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To find pending public disciplinary cases or to view public disciplinary histories regarding a specific attorney, visit the Wisconsin Court System's [database](#).

To provide you with greater control over how your personal information displayed in the Lawyer Directory, the State Bar is introducing more selective privacy options. Please [visit the updated Lawyer Directory Preferences](#) or [read about these changes in InsideTrack](#).

ATTORNEY INFORMATION



Atty. Cortney Joy Iverson

County: Walworth

Member ID: 1116892

Graduation Year: 2020

Languages: English

Law School:
University of Wisconsin Law School

WI Admission: 05/27/2020

License Status:

Good Standing

Member Type:

Active

You must [Login](#) to view full profile

LAWYER SEARCH

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

COUNTY

SEARCH ADVANCED

- [myStateBar](#)
- [myMedia](#)







**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
LAW SCHOOL**

**CLASS OF 2020
GRADUATE CEREMONY**

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020
3 P.M.

PROGRAM

Introduction & Welcome Dean Margaret Raymond

Keynote Address The Honorable James D. Peterson

Remarks by Student Representatives

Nancy Cruz

Taijae Evans

Daniela Fachiano Nakano

Remarks by Faculty Representative

Professor Howard Erlanger

Presentation of Candidates

Farewell Dean Margaret Raymond

#UWLAWGRAD



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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

James D. Peterson

James D. Peterson has served as Chief United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin since 2017. He joined the federal judiciary in 2014, after being nominated by President Barack Obama.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Peterson was a shareholder with the law firm of Godfrey & Kahn. There, he was a member of the litigation and intellectual property practice groups, and the leader of the intellectual property litigation working group. He also taught at the UW Law School as an adjunct professor.

Before his legal career, Judge Peterson was a professor of film and television history and production at the University of Notre Dame. He returned to Wisconsin to study law, earning his JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1998, graduating Order of the Coif. After law school, he clerked with David G. Deininger of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals.

In addition to his law degree, he received a bachelor's degree in 1979, a master's degree in 1984, and a PhD in 1986, all from the University of Wisconsin, making Judge Peterson a quadruple Badger.

STUDENT SPEAKERS

Nancy Cruz

Nancy Cruz was born and raised in Tulare, California, and also lived in Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico, for a couple of years. She received her bachelor's degree in European history with a focus on late-modern Europe from the University of California, Berkeley. Post-graduation, she worked in San Francisco for two years as a business immigration paralegal.

During her time in law school, Nancy served as the president of the Moot Court Board, vice president of academic affairs for the Student Bar Association, and for two years as co-president of UW's Latinx Law Student Association. She also worked with the Immigrant Justice Clinic. Locally, Nancy volunteered with the non-profit Centro Hispano's Juventud program, mentoring Latinx middle school students. She received the Foreign Language Area Studies Scholarship and studied the German language.

During her summers, Nancy interned at a local non-profit, Community Justice Inc., and she was a summer associate at Michael Best & Friedrich, where she will be returning as a full-time associate in the fall. She is extremely honored that her classmates selected her to speak and would like to thank her family, friends, and classmates who have always believed in her and supported her along the way.

Taijæ W. Evans

Taijæ Evans was born and raised in Canton, Ohio. He earned an associate degree in intelligence operations from Cochise College, bachelor's degrees in criminal justice and political science from Kent State University, and a master's degree in criminal justice focusing on criminology from Boston University. Prior to attending law school, Taijæ was an active-duty intelligence analyst in the United States Army.

During law school, Taijæ served as the vice president of the Labor and Employment Student Association, the community service liaison and director of education for the Black Law Students Association, and the secretary for the Middle Eastern Law Students Association. Taijæ competed in UW Law's Mock Trial program, and he competed in and coached the International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Team in Vienna, Austria. He was active in the Unemployment Appeals Clinic and Victims of Crime Act Restraining Order Clinic. Additionally, Taijæ participated in Legal Assistance for Disaster Relief, a pro bono student organization, assisting victims of natural disasters in New Orleans and Houston. He worked as a law clerk at Alliant Energy and as a summer associate at Stafford Rosenbaum.

Taijæ was inducted into the University of Wisconsin Law School Pro Bono Society with special recognition for providing 150 or more hours of pro bono service during his tenure at the Law School. He is continuing his public service as a Judge Advocate General in the United States Navy. Taijæ is extremely honored that his fellow classmates have chosen him to speak and would like to thank the faculty, his classmates, and his loved ones for their continued support.

Daniela Fachiano Nakano

Daniela Fachiano Nakano was born and raised in Presidente Prudente, a city in the countryside of the state of São Paulo, Brazil. She received her bachelor in laws degree from Antônio Eufrásio de Toledo University in her hometown. While in law school in Brazil, she was part of the summer internship program of the Organization of the American States (OAS) at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, DC.

Daniela was always passionate about social justice, and during law school she nurtured an interest in international human rights law. After graduating, she worked as a teaching fellow with the international law chair of her university. The experience brought her to UW Law School to pursue her master's degree and become a professor. At UW Law, Daniela volunteered with the Immigrant Justice Clinic and was a member of the Indigenous Law Students Association. She would like to thank both organizations for warmly welcoming her to take part in their inspiring work.

Daniela is honored to represent graduate law students and her fellow classmates, who, regardless of circumstances, always take care of each other. Finally, she would like to thank her family and friends who supported her throughout this year.

FACULTY SPEAKER

Howard S. Erlanger

Howard S. Erlanger is Voss-Bascom Professor of Law Emeritus and Professor of Sociology Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he served as a full-time faculty member from 1971 to 2013. He continues to teach part-time. He holds a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley and a JD from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

Professor Erlanger is the recipient of a number of awards for his teaching and research, including the Emil H. Steiger Teaching Award from the UW-Madison, the Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award from the UW System, and the Stan Wheeler Mentorship Award from the Law & Society Association. He is an academic fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, and a former president of the Law & Society Association. This is the seventh time that he has been invited as faculty commencement speaker.

Professor Erlanger served for many years as director of the Institute for Legal Studies at UW Law and as director of the Center for Law, Society & Justice in UW's College of Letters and Science.

He was a reporter for a committee of the State Bar of Wisconsin that prepared a comprehensive revision of the Wisconsin Probate Code, and he has served as review section editor of the interdisciplinary journal *Law & Social Inquiry* since 1982. His own socio-legal research focused on the legal profession — especially on the careers of lawyers in public interest practice and the socialization of law students — and on topics related to dispute resolution and to organizational implementation of law.

GRADUATES



CANDIDATES FOR JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE

Hannah R. Albrecht

Jacob M. Alonzo

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Dean's List

Susan Steingass Outstanding Trial Advocacy Award, 2020

Dallas Tate Andersen

Sarah Arbaje

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Dean's List

Leakhena Au

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Dean's List

Outstanding 3L Award, Asian Law Students Association

Austin D. Auleta

Dean's List

Nikolas Alexander Austin

Mason Richard Baranczyk

Octavio Tengco Barretto

Steven R. Beckham

Joseph Samuel Beckmann

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award, 2020

Cheryl Weston Outstanding Mensch Award

Outstanding 3L Award, Jewish Law Students Association

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Ray and Ethel Brown Award, 2019

Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association Scholarship, 2019

Paul D. Beery

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Cricket Beeson

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize, 2020

Thorin A. Blitz

Joshua Alec Blumenfeld

Cheryl Weston Outstanding Mensch Award

Dean's List

Brian Francis Bradley

Best Performance in a Course, 2019

Daniel H. Grady Award, 2020

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Nicholas Dean Bratsos

Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List

Deborah Brauer

Amy Buchmeyer

Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List

Conor M. Cannon

Jack T. Carroll

Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List

Kyle Clinton Caudill

Best Performance in a Course, 2017
Dean's List
Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier Two

Brian P. Cawley

Burton Distinguished Legal Writing Award, 2020
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List
George Laikin Award, 2020
Mathys Memorial Award for Excellence in Moot Court Competitions, 2019

Bryan A. Charbogian

Colton J. Chase

Best Performance in a Course, 2017, 2018
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List
J. Michael Riley Award, 2019

Hannah Claire Chelimsky

Katherine Held Memorial Award, 2020
Susan Steingass Outstanding Trial Advocacy Award, 2020

Tyler A. Chriscoe

Best Performance in a Course, 2019
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List

M. Parker Conover

Patrick J. Courteau

Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List

William H. Cowell

Best Performance in a Course, 2018, 2019
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List
Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize, 2020

John James Crawford

Michael T. Crosby

Dean's List

Nancy Cruz

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award, 2020

Dean's List

Mathys Memorial Award for Outstanding Service to the Moot Court Board, 2019

Outstanding 3L Award, Latinx Law Student Association

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier Two

Jared John Dakovich

Dean's List

Ian Scott Davis

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Jedidiah Dodge

Dean's List

Sophia Patricia Dolan

Catherine Manning Memorial Award, 2019

Lindsey Douglass

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Samuel James Erickson

Dean's List

Taijae Williams Evans

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Spencer Carter Ezell

Dean's List

Farah N. Famouri

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Mary Kelly Quackenbush Memorial Award, 2019

Melvin J. Friedman Memorial Scholarship, 2019

Jesse Fernandez

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Emery Benton Flaherty

Dean's List

Samuel David Frasher

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier Two

Nathan Froemming

Dean's List

Natalie Lauren Gerloff

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Jared S. Gjertson

Barbara B. Crabb Award, 2019

Dean's List

Habush Habush & Rottier Outstanding Trial Advocacy Award, 2020

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Unemployment Compensation Appeals Clinic Outstanding Student Advocate Award

Michael Reed Glawe

Megan Gomez

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Nadia L. Gonzalez

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Dean's List

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize, 2020

Kathleen Marie Gresham

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Mathys Memorial Award for Excellence in Moot Court Coaching, 2020

Zachary A. Guerin

Sydney L. Handrich

Amy T. Harriman

Abner Brodie Award, 2019

Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award, 2020

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Women's Law Student Association Summer Scholarship

Emily Jane Hicks

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Dean's List

Sarah Jeanette Horner

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Emily Jane Hyde

Dean's List

Julia Johanna Jagow

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Institute for Regional and International Studies International Research and Training Grant, 2017

Joseph Davies Award, 2019

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Ray and Ethel Brown Award in Legal Writing, 2020

William Herbert Page Award, 2020

Jonas Oren Jakobson
Dean's List
Peter Hoepfer Solo and Small Practice Award, 2020

Karin Jonch-Clausen
Melvin J. Friedman Memorial Scholarship

Benjamin Jordan
Dean's List
Mathys Memorial Award for Outstanding Service to the Moot Court Board, 2020

E'bria M. Karega
Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award, 2020

Gordon Kochman

Kevin G. Koelling
Dean's List

Kirsten Adrienne Koschnick
Best Performance in a Course, 2018
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List

Nathan Mark Kuenzi
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List
Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize, 2020
Ray and Ethel Brown Award, 2019

Samuel Thomas Kuzniewski
Best Performance in a Course, 2017, 2018, 2019
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List
Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Lauren Elaine LaCasto

Abigail Levenhagen
Dean's List

Alex Shafran Levy

Robert M. Ling III
Best Performance in a Course, 2017
Dean's List

Adam Jose Lowe
Dean's List

Jacob R. Lund
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List

Megan E. Lyneis

Thomas John Lyneis
Dean's List

Keegan John Madden

Mathys Memorial Award for Excellence in Moot Court Competitions, 2019

Katherine Aileen Mahoney

Donnie Malchow

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize, 2020

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier Two

Patrick F. Malloy

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Dean's List

Tyler T. Manley

John Duero Mathie

Catherine Manning Memorial Award, 2020

Dean's List

Gracie Public Interest Fellowship

Leon Feingold Memorial Award, 2020

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Larenda Jean Maulson

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award, 2019

Outstanding 3L Award, Indigenous Law Students Association

John C. McCarthy

Olivia G. McCarthy

Ezekial Craig McDonald-Lewis

Joseph Frederick McDonald

Kelly Ann McGraw

Best Performance in a Course, 2019

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize, 2020

Douglas Christopher McIntosh

Best Performance in a Course, 2019

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Ray and Ethel Brown Award in Legal Writing, 2020

Adam J. Meyers

Dean's List

Miles J. Miannecki

Dean's List

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

Public Interest Law Foundation Scholar Award, 2018

Devan Montgomery

Samuel Geoffrey Morris

Best Performance in a Course, 2018, 2019
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List

Dania Nadeem

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Leonard Loeb Award, 2019
Children's Justice Project Fellowship
Outstanding 3L Award, Middle Eastern Law Students Association

Nina Marie Neff

Barbara B. Crabb Award, 2020
Bercovici Prize for Jurisprudence and Legal Philosophy, 2020
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship
Joe and Barbara Weston Corry Scholarship, 2019
Julie Stearns Memorial Award, 2019
Ms. JD Fellowship, 2019
QLaw Book Scholarship, 2018

Westen Newman

Dean's List
Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier Two

Peter Thomas Nowak

Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List

Angela Brienne O'Brien

Best Performance in a Course, 2017, 2018, 2019
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List
Mathys Memorial Award for Excellence in Moot Court Coaching, 2020
Mathys Memorial Award to Outstanding Moot Court Oralist, 2019
Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Abby D. Padlock

Cody W. Pansing

Vanja Pamac

American Association for Justice Mike Eidson Scholarship, 2019
Serbian Bar Association of America Sasich/Kordich Memorial Scholarship
Susan Steingass Outstanding Trial Advocacy Award, 2019

Tyler Alan Fisher Piddington

Bascom Brick Award
Best Performance in a Course, 2017, 2018, 2019
Dean's Academic Achievement Award
Dean's List
Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One
Stewart Macaulay Award, 2020

Liam M. Pisan

Dean's List

Gabriel Andres Pollak

Wisconsin International Law Journal Outstanding 3L Editor

Kathryn Elizabeth Potratz

Dean's List

McKenna Marie Quinter

Children's Justice Project Fellowship

Olivia S. Radics

American Intellectual Property Law Association Robert C. Watson Award, 2019-2020

Best Performance in a Course, 2019

Constitution Award, 2020

Davis Award in Constitutional Law, 2019, 2020

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize, 2019, 2020

Salmon Dalberg Award, 2020

Matthew Alexander Repp

Steven W. Ripley

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Catherine Cornelia Rose Roen

Best Performance in a Course, 2019

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Edward and Esther Bloedorn Award, 2020

Perla J. Rubio Terrones

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Julie Strasser Scholarship, 2020

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

Cortney Joy Runnels

Noah T. Rusch

Alyssa M. Schaefer

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Katherine Held Memorial Award, 2020

Daniel W. Schwartz

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Brian J. Seidl

Leah E. Selmek

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier Two

Kevin M. Smith

Cum Laude

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Bella Abla Sobah

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award, 2019, 2020

Outstanding 3L Award, Black Law Students Association

Meg Hannah Sternitzky

Dean's List

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize, 2020

Hannah Marie Stewart

Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award, 2019

Dean's List

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize, 2020

Mettner Foundation Public Interest Fellowship, 2019

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier One

William David Straube

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Outstanding 3L Award, QLaw

Erika-Dorothy C. Strebel

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier Two

Laina Petersen Stuebner

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Kimberly Dawn Sweatt

Erika Joy Tecua

Dean's List

Erik L. Tierney

Cara Tolliver

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Best Performance in a Course, 2018

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Outstanding 1L Award, Asian Law Students Association

Amanda M. Trecartin

Dean's List

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize

Kristopher Michael Turner

Dean's List

John Robert VanDeHey

Dean's List

Lisa Vang

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier Two

Gregory A. Venturini

Aaron Thomas Vruwink

Best Performance in a Course, 2019

Dean's List

Peter Hoepfer Solo and Small Practice Award, 2019

Scott Robert Wellhausen

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Justice William Bablitch Remington Center Award, 2020

Gideon William O. Wertheimer

Dean's List

Sarah Maguire Wertz

Best Brief Award, 2018

Best Performance in a Course, 2018, 2019

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Dean's List

Kelly Theresa Wilfert

Best Performance in a Course, 2018, 2019

Dean's List

James J. and Dorothy T. Hanks Memorial Award, 2020

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction, Tier Two

Ryan McKinley Williams

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

Thomas Evan Witzel

Dean's List

Brad D. Woods

Xiaofan Zhang

Dean's List

Samantha M. Zlevor

Best Performance in a Course, 2019

Dean's List

*Honor designations of cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude are listed for December 2019 graduates. Honors for May 2020 graduates will be designated upon degree completion.

CANDIDATES FOR DOCTOR OF JURIDICAL SCIENCE DEGREE

Koffi Dogbevi

Dissertation: "Seeds, Patent Infringement, and Food Sovereignty in Africa"

Yuanyuan Ren

CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF LAWS— LEGAL INSTITUTIONS DEGREE

Hewan Areaya

Victor Beltran Roman

ShuangXiong Chen

Roberto Cordova Guerra

Daniela Fachiano Nakano

Luying Fang

Luqi Han

Shiwei He

Liangqin Hong

Dongya Huang

Han-I Huang

Maryam Ismail

Hui Jiang

Jiaqi Li

Wen-Yu Li

Yanan Li

Best Performance in a Course, 2019

Xinyi Liu

Lovelyn Loresca

Yicheng Ma

Anastasia Martyanova

Tianchun Mo

Ke Peng

Settakij Phongputthangkoon

David Preminger Samet

Soromnear Sin

Betelhem Tafere

Kanokkorn Viriyasutum

Xiqi Wang

Xiaoyu Xia

Jun Yang

Yue Yu

Dacheng Zhang

Ke Zhang

Jiatong Zhong

Zhou Zhou

Best Performance in a Course, 2019

AWARD LISTINGS



AWARDS

Members of the Class of 2020 have earned accolades for scholastic achievement, contributions to their community, and outstanding service to the Law School and the legal profession. This list includes honors and awards as reported by students and faculty.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Advanced Opportunity Program Fellowship

To highly qualified underrepresented graduate students at UW-Madison

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Leonard Loeb Award

For excellence in family law and dedication to community service

Bascom Brick Award

For outstanding performance in commercial property development

Bercovici Prize for Jurisprudence and Legal Philosophy

For excellence in the study of jurisprudence and legal philosophy

Best Brief Award

For outstanding legal writing by a first-year law student

Best Performance in a Course

Best performance in at least one Law School course, as awarded by their instructors

Burton Distinguished Legal Writing Award

To ten students nationally for excellence in legal writing

Constitution Award

For excellence in the study of constitutional law

Daniel H. Grady Award

To the top-ranking student in the graduating class

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

For students graduating with a cumulative GPA of 3.35 or higher

Dean's List

For students meeting high GPA requirements during at least one semester of law school

Edward and Esther Bloedorn Award
For excellence in labor and employment law

J. Michael Riley Award
For excellence in the study of torts law

James J. and Dorothy T. Hanks Memorial Award
For excellence in the study of corporate law

Salmon Dalberg Award
To an outstanding member of the graduating class

Ray and Ethel Brown Award in Legal Writing
For excellence in legal research and writing

Stewart Macaulay Award
For excellence and leadership in contract law

CLINICAL AWARDS

Abner Brodie Award
For outstanding achievement in legal study and practical application of law

Catherine Manning Memorial Award
For outstanding contributions to the Legal Assistance to Institutionalized Persons Project

Julie Strasser Scholarship
For demonstrating concern for the needy and working to benefit society

Justice William Bablitch Remington Center Award
For a student in the Remington Center who has expressed a desire to pursue a career in public service

Melvin J. Friedman Memorial Scholarship
For exemplary work in the Wisconsin Innocence Project

MOOT COURT AWARDS

Mathys Memorial Awards for Appellate Advocacy
To outstanding Moot Court oralist
For outstanding service to the Moot Court Board
For excellence in Moot Court coaching
For excellence in Moot Court competitions

SERVICE, COMMITMENT, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

American Association for Justice Mike Eidson Scholarship

For female students who have demonstrated a commitment to a career as a plaintiff lawyer or criminal defense lawyer

American Intellectual Property Law Association Robert C. Watson Award

For students interested in intellectual property issues

Barbara B. Crabb Award

For promoting the ideals of honesty, fairness, and equality

Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award

For outstanding service to the Law School

Cheryl Weston Outstanding Mensch Award

In recognition of tremendous support and tireless contribution to the Jewish community and the Jewish Law Students Association

Children's Justice Project Fellowship

For outstanding contributions and commitment to children's law

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

For meritorious students undergoing training in modern foreign languages or international studies

Gracie Public Interest Fellowship

For students demonstrating a commitment to public interest law

Habush Habush & Rottier Outstanding Trial Advocacy Award

For outstanding trial advocacy throughout a law student's career at UW Law School

Institute for Regional and International Studies International Research and Training Grant

For internationally- or area-studies-oriented graduate students in all fields

Joe and Barbara Weston Corry Scholarship

To support an exceptional student who is a single parent

Julie Stearns Memorial Award

For contribution and commitment to the LGBTQ and Law School community

Leon Feingold Memorial Award

For outstanding commitment to the Law School and greater community

Mettner Foundation Public Interest Fellowship

For law students interested in a career in public service

Ms. JD Fellowship

For outstanding academic achievement, involvement, passion for the legal profession, and commitment to Ms. JD's mission

Outstanding Student Awards

For outstanding contributions by law students to their respective student organizations

Peter Hoepfer Solo and Small Practice Award

To a second- or third-year law student with an expressed interest in solo/small practice in rural Wisconsin

Pro Bono Society Membership and Award of Distinction

For exemplary pro bono service
Tier One (100+ hours of service)
Tier Two (50+ hours of service)

Public Interest Law Foundation Scholar Award

In recognition of students who demonstrated academic excellence, consistent service, and dedication to a public interest career

QLaw Book Scholarship

For commitment and service to the LGBTQ and Law School community

Ray and Ethel Brown Award

For character, leadership, and service demonstrated by first- or second-year students

Serbian Bar Association of America Sasich/Kordich Memorial Scholarship

In recognition of the ideals put forth by Milan and Jelena Sasich and Nikola and Desa Kordich and in support of Serbian causes

Susan Steingass Outstanding Trial Advocacy Award

For outstanding performance in the Mock Trial program

Unemployment Compensation Appeals Clinic Outstanding Student Advocate Award

For excellent work with the Unemployment Compensation Appeals Clinic

Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association Scholarship

For Hispanic law students who best exemplify achievement and commitment to professional development and service within the Hispanic community

Women's Law Student Association Summer Scholarship
For students who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing women's issues

JOURNAL AWARDS

George Laikin Award

For best article on a general interest topic in the *Wisconsin Law Review*

Gwynette E. Smalley Law Review Prize

For scholarship and service to the *Wisconsin Law Review*, or
For special contributions to the *Wisconsin Law Review*

Joseph Davies Award

For outstanding service to the *Wisconsin Law Review* by a second-year student

Katherine Held Memorial Award

For outstanding contributions to the *Wisconsin Journal of Law, Gender & Society*

Mary Kelly Quackenbush Memorial Award

For the outstanding student article in the *Wisconsin International Law Journal*

Outstanding 3L Editor

For scholarship and service to the *Wisconsin International Law Journal*

William Herbert Page Award

For best student article on a Wisconsin-specific topic in the *Wisconsin Law Review*

REMARKS



Joseph Beckman

Dearest Class of 2020,

CONGRATULATIONS! We made it against some very unique odds. It has been a pleasure experiencing these three years together. I am both humbled and honored to have served as your Student Bar Association president. It was rewarding and exhilarating, and I hope that my efforts provided you with at least one pleasant memory during law school.

If the quarantine has taught us anything, it is to not take things for granted. Our class is entering into a profession that is vital to the development of our local, national, and international communities. We are positioned to help advance causes for which we are passionate and to improve the lives of many. We also need to support one another and help each other grow. Do not take these responsibilities lightly. I hope that we stay connected and that each of us sees great success.

Cheers,
Joseph



Koffi Dogbevi

Doctorate of Juridical Science and PhD minor in Political Science

“WISCONSIN IDEA” FOR THRIVING THROUGH DIFFICULT TIMES

One thing we learn as Badgers is the Wisconsin Idea: “[We] shall never be content until the beneficent influence of the University reaches every family of the State.” (Van Hise, 1905). My journey during these past years was not an easy one, especially when I lost my brother at age 39. However, I overcame these challenges because of the support I received from faculty, staff, and friends.

Today, the very foundation of our society is shaken to its core, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ideals of our life and institutions are threatened, and the economy is in the midst of the worst recession the world has ever seen.

As I graduate today, I reflect on the Wisconsin Idea, and I see a world with immense and limitless opportunities. Go Badgers!

Farah Famouri

What will you miss most about your law school experience?

I will miss the Remington Center! My clinical work through the center has been my favorite part of law school, and I will miss interacting with my fellow clinicians and discussing our cases. Even knowing that some of us will be defense attorneys, some of us prosecutors, and some of us will never practice criminal law again, it was great to work in an environment where we focused only on the client. I can't say that I will miss the tiny desk in the office, but I will absolutely miss the people.

What advice would you give your classmates at this moment?

Stay in touch! Although we are unfortunate to be the COVID-19 graduating class, we are fortunate to be a group of highly motivated, competent folk, who I am sure will make big changes in Wisconsin and beyond.



Nadia Gonzalez

I am deeply saddened that our final semester of law school was cut short. However, I will always be proud to be a member of this graduating class with all of you. Regardless of the route our law degrees will take us, whether it be the law firm life or the public interest route, I am confident that we will do great things. If our conversations in the atrium over the last three years are indicative of anything, it is that we are strong-willed and passionate individuals. Thank you for the last three years; it's been a wild ride.



Angela O'Brien

What advice would you give your classmates at this moment?

Eventually, opportunities will come that will put us in a position where we have to take a risk and bet on ourselves. Everyone in this graduating class is talented, capable, and resourceful, so I hope when that moment comes, we all bet big.

What hope or wish do you have for your classmates?

I hope that we all remember to leave time in our busy work weeks to donate our considerable talent, skill, and resources by offering free or low-cost legal representation to those who need it most. I hope we can all use the law to fight for the causes we are passionate about so that no vulnerable person ever has to face the legal system alone.

Bella Sobah


My life has been an ongoing battle of challenging both the external and internal voices telling me what I can and cannot do. The last three years have been an exploration into what “can” and “cannot” mean as it relates to me and the world. Can I actually not do something because it just is not in my wheelhouse? *See Torts Grade*. Or are there larger, systemic barriers entrenched in our society that impact the way I and other people relate to and exist in the world? *See all of American History on Race, Disability, Gender, etc*. Law school helped me navigate answering both questions.

In the event that the answer to the first question is “yes,” I have learned that, instead of accepting defeat, I can look towards my colleagues, friends, and professors for support. Even in a hyper-competitive space such as law school, I still found when it’s two in the morning and you’re trying to finish the impossible feat of writing a 20-page paper while studying for another class’s final, someone will send you an outline for that class because they are good. You can always choose to be good to others. Be good.

As for the second question: this is the reason I came to law school. This is why I pushed through those impossibly late nights and took advantage of opportunities that pushed me outside of my comfort zone. I have every intention of using this degree to help dismantle oppressive societal structures that seek to disadvantage black and brown people, disabled people, LGBT+ people, or poor people. The last three years have given me invaluable tools to examine and analyze these structures and find solutions to seemingly unanswerable questions.

I am forever grateful to those friends who did share those outlines and who sent me words of encouragement when I had thoughts of defeat. I am grateful for the professors who pushed me to think about why our world is the way it is and for giving me the tools and resources to change what I believe needs changing.





UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL
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608-262-2240 | LAW.WISC.EDU

Wisconsin Elections Commission
Quarterly Meeting
Wisconsin Capitol Building, Room 412E
Madison, Wisconsin
10:00 a.m. June 27, 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 in person.

Staff present: Ahna Barreau, Sharrie Hauge, Brandon Hunzicker, Matthew Kabbash, Robert Kehoe, Anna Langdon, Benji Pierson, Angela Sharpe, Riley Vetterkind, Riley Willman, Jim Witecha, and Meagan Wolfe, all in person.

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 10:06 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 announced that the Commission would hear from in-person speakers first, then move on to speakers appearing via Zoom. She also noted that speakers would get three minutes to speak.

Bianca Shaw

Bianca Shaw, representing All Voting is Local, appeared in person and called for Commissioner Spindell to resign.

Discussion.

Nick Ramos

Nick Ramos, the executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, appeared in person and called for Commissioner Spindell to resign.

Rebecca Alwin

Rebecca Alwin of Middleton appeared in person and expressed dissatisfaction with the partisan nature of the Commission.

Rev. Greg Lewis

Rev. Greg Lewis, Executive Director of Souls to the Polls, appeared in person and called on Commissioner Spindell to resign.

Vaun Mayes

Vaun Mayes, representing Community Task Force Milwaukee, appeared in person and called for accountability from individuals in positions of power.

Barbara Beckert

Barbara Beckert appeared via Zoom and expressed support for the emergency rule pertaining to election observers.

Discussion.

Delany Zimmer

Delany Zimmer appeared on behalf of the League of Women Voters Wisconsin via Zoom and encouraged the Commission to provide sample ballots translated into Spanish on the MyVote Wisconsin website.

Discussion.

Lane Ruhland

Lane Ruhland appeared via Zoom and encouraged the Commission to appeal the DRW v. WEC circuit court order.

Vicki Aro-Shackmuth

Vicki Aro-Shackmuth appeared via Zoom and questioned Commissioner Spindell's fitness to serve on the Commission.

Kathryn Bartelli

Kathryn Bartelli of Waukesha County appeared via Zoom and provided comments regarding a temporary injunction in Oldenburg v. WEC.

Debra Morin

Debra Morin appeared via telephone and encouraged the Commission to act with decorum. She expressed concern regarding 17-year-olds’ potential to register to vote under current DMV and WEC policies.

Ms. Klinge

Ms. Klinge appeared in person and questioned Commissioner Spindell’s fitness to serve on the Commission.

D. Written Comments

Chair Jacobs noted the significant number of written comments submitted to the Commission.

E. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. May 14, 2024**
- b. May 16, 2024**
- c. June 10, 2024**

MOTION: Approve the May 14, 2024, May 16, 2024, and June 10, 2024, open session 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.

F. Discussion and Potential Action Related to the Recall Petition Pertaining to Assembly Representative Robin Vos, and Any Related Recall Policy Considerations and Action.

Staff Attorney Brandon Hunzicker presented the agenda item following the sequence of the corresponding memo.

Discussion.

Matthew Fernholz presented arguments on behalf of Rep. Vos. Five minutes were allowed for each side’s initial presentation.

The Commissioners followed up with questions.

Kevin Scott presented arguments on behalf of the Racine Recall Committee.

The Commissioners followed up with questions.

declaration of candidacy is valid with or without the seal of the officer administering the oath. Accordingly, if the Legislature intended a declaration of candidacy to be valid even if a notary seal were missing, it must have also intended a declaration of candidacy to be valid even if there are other minor errors or omissions in the jurat that do not affect the ability to confirm that the declaration was sworn before an official authorized to give oaths.

Recommended Motion:

The Commission does not sustain the challenge of David Strange to the declarations of candidacy of Cornel West and Melina Abdullah and will not exercise its authority under Wis. Stat. § 8.30(4) to exclude them from the ballot for failure to timely file a declaration of candidacy. The Commission adds Cornel West and his running mate Melina Abdullah 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.

EL 24-81 – Michael Hoffman v. Shiva Ayyadurai & Crystal Ellis

Challenger Name: Michael Hoffman

Candidate Name: Shiva Ayyadurai & Crystal Ellis

Office Sought: President and Vice President of the United States

Signatures Required: 2,000-4,000

Signatures Filed (After Facial Review): 3,014

Signatures Challenged: None – Challenge to Natural Born Citizenship Status as Required by Art. II, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution

Supplemental Signatures: 0

Correcting Affidavits: 0

Final Staff Recommendation: 3,014 - But Deny Ballot Access on Eligibility Grounds

Commission staff verified that Candidates Ayyadurai and Ellis had 3,014 signatures. Based on the analysis below, staff assert that Challenger Hoffman has met his burden to show by clear and convincing evidence that Candidate Shiva Ayyadurai does not meet the legal requirements for the office he seeks because he is not a natural born citizen of the United States. *See* Wis. Admin. Code EL § 2.07(4). Accordingly, staff recommend that the Commission sustain the challenge and deny ballot access for Candidates Ayyadurai and Ellis.

Challenger Hoffman is not challenging the sufficiency of anything on the nomination papers of Candidates Ayyadurai and Ellis, per se, although a candidate does attest to their qualifications for the office sought. Instead, he is challenging whether Candidate Ayyadurai is a “natural born citizen” as required of presidential candidates by Art. II, Section 1, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution (“Constitutional Citizenship”). Challenger Hoffman brings this challenge under the provisions found in Wis. Admin. Code § EL 2.07 and Wis. Stat. § 8.20. Specifically, Challenger Hoffman concedes that Candidate Ayyadurai has been a lawfully naturalized citizen since 1983 but argues that Constitutional Citizenship requires that only “...those individuals who are a ‘natural born citizen,’ at least ‘thirty five years’ of age, and a resident of the United States for at least 14 years qualify to be ‘eligible to the Office of President.’” In essence, Challenger Hoffman asserts that there is a difference between being a “natural born” citizen and an individual who has gained citizenship through naturalization under 8 U.S.C. § 1427.

Challenger Hoffman provided exhibits supporting this contention, including a Certificate of Nomination of Unaffiliated Candidate filed by, or caused to be filed by, Candidate Ayyadurai in the State of Utah. This filing expressly states that Candidate Ayyadurai "attest[s]" that he "was 'naturally born' in Bombay, India, on December 2, 1963." Additionally, Challenger Hoffman filed another exhibit in support of these claims — a recent decision of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in which the court found that "Dr. Ayyadurai was born in Mumbai, India, and became a naturalized American citizen in November 1983."

In the response, Candidate Ayyadurai does not address or refute claims that he is not a natural born U.S. citizen and does not admit or deny that he was born outside the United States and gained citizenship through naturalization. Instead, he argued the Commission lacks subject matter and personal jurisdiction over the

nomination papers, and also contends there is a lack of standing related to Challenger Hoffman and his ability to bring the matter. The cited authority for those defenses was Wis. Stat. Chapter 801, which relates specifically to civil procedure in a court of law. However, Candidate Ayyadurai further elaborates that "...the Challenger's petition has not provided any evidence challenging the Electors' nomination papers pursuant to *Wis. Admin. Code EL § 2.07* and *Wisconsin Legislature: 8.20* or pursuant to the kind of challenges identified in the publication entitled *Wisconsin Nomination Paper Challenges*." Candidate Ayyadurai then further argues that it would be an overreach of the jurisdiction of the Commission, a state entity, to impede the processes of the Electoral College.

The Commission also received a sworn declaration from Elector Frank Marshall, one of the designated presidential electors for the challenged candidates. Primarily, Elector Marshall contends that he and the other electors were not named as respondents and were never served with notice of this challenge filing. The implication appears to be that Elector Marshall is supporting the arguments of Candidates Ayyadurai and Ellis that the Commission is improperly impeding the Electoral College process and that Commissioners lack jurisdiction over those procedures and parties.

The verified rebuttal of Challenger Hoffman notes that Candidates Ayyadurai and Ellis do not respond to the only challenge actually raised against the nomination papers — that he [Candidate Ayyadurai] was born in Bombay, India, and, therefore, does not meet the qualification of being a "natural born citizen," as required by the U.S. Constitution. Challenger Hoffman further argues that, "A failure to contest an argument is deemed as a concession." *Charolais Breeding Ranches, Ltd. v. FPC Secs. Corp.*, 90 Wis. 2d 97, 109,279 N.W.2d 493 (Ct. App. 1979) (Unrefuted arguments are deemed admitted.)

Challenger Hoffman, thus, posits that it is undisputed in the record that Candidate Ayyadurai was not born in the United States. Additionally, Challenger Hoffman argues that Candidates Ayyadurai and Ellis instead chose to argue "inapplicable and irrelevant aspects of the Electoral College" instead of addressing the merits. The challenger cites further case law which he believes supports the Commission's authority and duty to determine presidential candidate qualifications for state ballot access.

Discussion

As a preliminary matter, there are a few ways an individual can gain U.S. citizenship under federal law, though only two are pertinent to this challenge. First, all individuals born in the U.S. gain citizenship immediately upon birth and are not required to qualify for and apply for it. U.S. CONST. AMEND. 14. This is commonly known as "birthright citizenship." Second, qualifying individuals may apply for U.S. citizenship through a process called naturalization, usually after holding a green card for a certain number of years and meeting other legal requirements. 8 U.S.C. § 1427.

The Supreme Court has upheld the distinction between natural-born and naturalized citizens' eligibility to be President. *Schneider v. Rusk*, 377 U.S. 163 (1964) ("...the rights of citizenship of the native born and of the naturalized person are of the same dignity and are coextensive. The only difference drawn by the Constitution is that only the 'natural born' citizen is eligible to be President."); see also *Hassan v. Federal Election Com'n*, 893 F.Supp.2d 248, 256-57 (D.D.C. 2012) (holding that the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments did not implicitly repeal the natural-born citizen requirement). Thus, Commission staff recommend that the Commission conclude that a naturalized citizen does not meet the constitutional requirement to be a "natural born citizen." A naturalized citizen would not meet the requirements of Constitutional Citizenship, and subsequently, would not be qualified to run for the Office of President of the United States.

Commission staff agree with Challenger Hoffman's argument that it is uncontested within the administrative record that Candidate Ayyadurai was born in India, and that the "natural born citizen" arguments were essentially unaddressed in the candidates' response filings. The challenger also submitted sufficient exhibits to create a record of Candidate Ayyadurai's country of birth and subsequent naturalization as a United States citizen. Commission staff also agree with Challenger Hoffman that the Electoral College arguments were vague and irrelevant. Regardless, Commission staff provide analysis below to refute the argument that the Commission cannot consider

this matter. This leaves the Commission to answer only two questions pertaining to the challenge — whether naturalization as a citizen fails to meet the Constitutional requirements for presidential ballot access, and whether the Commission has the authority to consider constitutional questions in this context.

Challenger Hoffman provided, as Exhibit B, a Westlaw case file for *Shiva Ayyadurai v. Merrick Garland et al.*, Civil Action No. 23-2079 (D.D.C. 2024). The challenger’s purpose appears to have been establishing a record of Candidate Ayyadurai’s own admission, and a court record, that Candidate Ayyadurai was born in India and subsequently naturalized as a United States citizen in 1983. Commission staff independently reviewed the case and believe that Candidate Ayyadurai’s birth location and naturalized citizenship status has been sufficiently established and undisputed in the administrative record. It is thus recommended that the Commission conclude the same.

The *Garland* case also raises an important point. Candidate Ayyadurai’s own arguments in that case centered on a belief that his "campaign will be hampered by a variety of state and federal officials who will refuse to permit ballot access to [him] on the basis of his place of birth." This evidences Candidate Ayyadurai’s own, though premature, concern that his Constitutional qualification for office would be called into question. The *Garland* Court found that these arguments were premature and granted motions to dismiss in favor of the defendants. The matter was dismissed without prejudice. The *Garland* Court’s decision was largely based on its assessment that certain states had only sought further clarification of Candidate Ayyadurai’s citizenship status, but none had made an affirmative denial of his ballot access at that time.

A staff search of LexisNexis on August 15, 2024, at 8:05 a.m., yielded no results to evidence that Candidate Ayyadurai had appealed that decision or subsequently filed a timelier lawsuit on these questions of law on a country-wide basis. Further, the consistent interpretation of Art. II, Section I, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution has been that it precludes a naturalized citizen from running for the Office of President of the United States.

This leaves only the second question, that being whether the Commission has the authority to consider Constitutional Citizenship questions in the context of ballot access decisions at the state level. This question is not without precedent, even in the instant matter. While there may be circumstances where the Commission cannot, or chooses not to, answer a constitutional question, in the context of candidate qualifications and ballot access, staff believe that the Commission has an obligation under Wis. Stat. § 8.30 to examine candidate qualifications, especially in the context of a sworn challenge. Likewise, while the Supreme Court has concluded that it would be undesirable to leave certain constitutional questions of candidate eligibility up to the states out of fears of a patchwork of inconsistent ballot access results, this challenge presents a much more direct question that staff believe the Commission is directed by statute to answer. *Trump v. Anderson*, 601 U.S. 100 (2024). Here, the Constitution prescribes a “yes” or “no” requirement — is the candidate for president a natural born citizen? The parties in this matter appear to agree that he is not.

The Commission is authorized by statute to consider this very type of qualification in determining ballot access. Wisconsin Statute § 8.30, “Candidates ineligible for ballot placement,” provides:

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the official or agency with whom declarations of candidacy are required to be filed may refuse to place the candidate's name on the ballot if any of the following apply:
 - (a) The nomination papers are not prepared, signed, and executed as required under this chapter.
 - (b) It conclusively appears, either on the face of the nomination papers offered for filing, or by admission of the candidate or otherwise, that the candidate is ineligible to be nominated or elected.
 - (c) The candidate, if elected, could not qualify for the office sought within the time allowed by law for qualification because of age, residence, or other impediment. (Emphasis added)

This provision allows the Commission to consider all types of nomination papers and all facets of candidate qualification and eligibility, which Commission staff believe includes Constitutional Citizenship as required by the U.S. Constitution for the Office of President of the United States. The statute also authorizes the Commission to refuse ballot placement under those circumstances in its discretion. This argument is supported by additional statutory requirements pertaining to the very documents Candidate Ayyadurai filed. For instance, Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b) requires the signer of a declaration of candidacy to attest that they will meet the requirements of the office sought, including citizenship. As such, Commission staff contend that the Commission does have the authority to consider Constitutional Citizenship and deny ballot access if it so chooses.

Recommended Motion:

The Commission sustains the challenge of Michael Hoffman against Candidate Shiva Ayyadurai and Candidate Crystal Ellis, and the Commission exercises its authority under Wis. Stat. § 8.30(4) to exclude them from the ballot because Candidate Ayyadurai does not meet the constitutional requirements for the Office of President of the United States. The Commission directs staff not to add Shiva Ayyadurai and his running mate Crystal Ellis 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.

Wisconsin Elections Commission
Ballot Access Meeting
201 W. Washington Avenue, Second Floor
Madison, Wisconsin
11:00 a.m. August 27, 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 Jacobs called the meeting to order at 11:03 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. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. June 27, 2024**
- b. July 11, 2024**
- c. July 26, 2024**
- d. July 30, 2024**
- e. August 8, 2024**

MOTION: Approve all five sets of minutes.

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.

D. Ballot Access Challenges and Issues for Challenges Timely Received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 9, 2024

a. EL 24-80 – David Strange v. Cornel West & Melina Abdullah

Staff Attorney Angela Sharpe presented an overview of staff’s memo and recommendations to the Commission.

Discussion.

Chair Jacobs noted that individuals presenting arguments for the challenger and candidate would have five minutes to present.

David Hollander appeared and presented arguments on behalf of Challenger Strange.

Discussion.

Oliver Hall appeared and presented arguments on behalf of Candidate West and Candidate Abdullah.

Discussion.

MOTION: The Commission does not sustain the challenge of David Strange to the declarations of candidacy of Cornel West and Melina Abdullah and will not exercise its authority under Wis. Stat. § 8.30(4) to exclude them from the ballot for failure to timely file a declaration of candidacy. The Commission adds Cornel West and his running mate Melina Abdualлах 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 Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Discussion.

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

Motion carried 5-1.

The Commission took a break at 11:55 a.m. and returned at 12:05 p.m.

b. EL 24-81 – Michael Hoffman v. Shiva Ayyadurai

Chief Legal Counsel Jim Witecha presented an overview of staff’s memo and recommendations to the Commission.

Discussion.

No one appeared on behalf of the challenger.

Candidate Shiva Ayyadurai appeared and presented arguments.

Discussion.

Frank Marshall appeared and presented arguments.

Discussion.

MOTION: The Commission sustains the challenge of Michael Hoffman against Candidate Shiva Ayyadurai and Candidate Crystal Ellis, and the Commission exercises its authority under Wis. Stat. § 8.30(4) to exclude them from the ballot because Candidate Ayyadurai does not meet the constitutional requirements for the Office of President of the United States. The Commission directs staff not to add Shiva Ayyadurai and his running mate Crystal Ellis 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 Spindell. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

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

Motion carried 5-1.

E. Ballot Access Report and Certification for Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates for the General Election

Elections Supervisor Riley Willman presented staff’s ballot access memo. He noted that Wisconsin Green party vice presidential candidate Butch Ware should be listed as Rudolph Ware, according to his declaration of candidacy received by staff after the Commission’s materials had been published.

MOTION: Staff recommends that the Commission grant ballot access to the following candidates, who will appear on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot as the national nominees for President and Vice President for their respective parties:

- a. Kamala D. Harris and Tim Walz as the nominees for the Democratic party.
- b. Donald J. Trump and JD Vance as the nominees for the Republican party.
- c. Randall Terry and Stephen Broden as the nominees for the Constitution party.
- d. Chase Russell Oliver and Mike ter Maat as the nominees for the Libertarian party.
- e. Jill Stein and Rudolph Ware as the nominees for the Wisconsin Green party.

Moved by Commissioner Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Chair Jacobs noted that the Constitution, Libertarian, and Wisconsin Green parties did not run any candidates for state senate or assembly. The Commission discussed whether this constituted noncompliance with Wis. Stat. § 8.18 and made the parties’ nominated candidates ineligible for ballot access.

AMENDMENT: Divide the question so that the Democratic and Republican parties are voted on in one motion and the Constitution, Libertarian, and Wisconsin Green parties are voted on in a separate motion.

Moved by Chair Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

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

Amendment failed 3-3.

Discussion.

Chair Millis clarified that his motion was moved with the understanding that the last clause, “dependent on the timely receipt of the necessary ballot access documents as described in Wis. Stat. § 8.16(7)” was removed.

ORIGINAL MOTION: Staff recommends that the Commission grant ballot access to the following candidates, who will appear on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot as the national nominees for President and Vice President for their respective parties:

- a. Kamala D. Harris and Tim Walz as the nominees for the Democratic party.
- b. Donald J. Trump and JD Vance as the nominees for the Republican party.
- c. Randall Terry and Stephen Broden as the nominees for the Constitution party.
- d. Chase Russell Oliver and Mike ter Maat as the nominees for the Libertarian party.
- e. Jill Stein and Rudolph Ware as the nominees for the Wisconsin Green party.

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

Motion carried 4-2.

Chair Jacobs noted that Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. had publicly withdrawn from the presidential race.

MOTION: Based on the review of the nomination papers, and the conclusion of the challenges, the Commission grant ballot access to the following candidates, who will appear on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot as independent candidates for President and Vice President:

- a. Cornel West and Melina Abdullah as independent candidates representing the Justice For All party.
- b. Claudia De la Cruz and Karina Garcia as independent candidates representing the Party for Socialist and Liberation party.

(c) and (d) are removed based on withdrawal and Commission prior action, respectively.

Moved by Commissioner Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

The Commission discussed the application of Wis. Stat. § 8.35(1) to the current situation.

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

Motion failed 3-3.

MOTION: Based on the review of the nomination papers, and the conclusion of the challenges, the Commission grant ballot access to the following candidates, who will appear on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot as independent candidates for President and Vice President:

- a. Cornel West and Melina Abdullah as independent candidates representing the Justice For All party.
- b. Claudia De la Cruz and Karina Garcia as independent candidates representing the Party for Socialist and Liberation party.
- c. Robert F. Kennedy and Nicole Shanahan for the We The People party.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

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

Motion carried 5-1.

F. Discussion, Review, and Possible Action Pertaining to Ballot Proofing Best Practices

Administrator Meagan Wolfe summarized the draft clerk communication before the Commission. She clarified that the Commission proofs and approves ballot templates and county clerks generate the actual ballot styles.

Discussion.

MOTION: Approve the publication and distribution of the memo found on page 177 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.

G. Closed Session

MOTION: Move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g).

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.

The Commission left open session at 2:01 p.m.

H. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned in closed session at 2:38 p.m.

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August 27, 2024, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:



Anna Langdon, Help Desk Staff

October 4, 2024

August 27, 2024, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:



Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

October 4, 2024

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF the Certificate of Candidacy for the
Office of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2
with respect to the April 1, 2025 Election

JENNIFER L. WEBER,

Case No. 25-04

Complainant,

v.

CORTNEY J. IVERSON,

Respondent.

RESPONDENT’S RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT

Jennifer L. Weber (“Weber”) submitted a complaint alleging that Cortney J. Iverson (“Iverson”) is not eligible for the office of judge of Jefferson County, Branch 2, because Iverson will not have been an attorney licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for at least 5 years by “the election,” pursuant to Wis. Const. Art. VII, sec. 24(1), and, as a result, the Wisconsin Election Commission should deny her access to the ballot (despite implicitly acknowledging that Iverson will undoubtedly attain 5 years of being licensed to practice law in Wisconsin by the time she

would take office in August). Simply put, there is no support for Weber’s undemocratic challenge to Iverson’s candidacy, and said challenge should be swiftly rejected.¹

Iverson will have been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for over 5 years by the time she would take office for Jefferson County, Branch 2, and, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b) and clear Wisconsin precedent, that is all that matters and there is no basis to deny Iverson access to ballot. (Iverson Aff. 1-9, Ex. A). The only requirement imposed by the Legislature to appear on the ballot is filing the appropriate nomination papers and declaration of candidacy, which Iverson has fulfilled. Moreover, the Legislature clearly and specifically determined that the candidate need only meet the qualifications for the office “at the time he or she assumes [the] office.” Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b). As such, Weber’s repeated assertion that Iverson must be licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for 5 years at the time of the election is unquestionably wrong.

I. THE COMMISSION MAY NOT DENY IVERSON BALLOT ACCESS WHEN SHE WILL SATISFY ALL NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS BEFORE SHE TAKES OFFICE.

Weber’s sole argument is that, since Iverson will not have been licensed to practice law for 5 years by the time of the election, the Commission should deny her name from being placed on the ballot. While Weber’s argument appears plausible, at first pass, she clearly fails to acknowledge controlling Wisconsin law and precedent that is directly contrary to her assertion.

¹ Respondent submits this response to the complaint while reserving all rights and defenses under the Wisconsin Constitution, including the question of whether the Wisconsin Elections Commission has the authority to construe provisions of the Wisconsin Constitution relating to eligibility of judges or impose limitations on individuals running for judicial office. See *Gabler v. Crime Victims Rts. Bd.*, 2017 WI 67, ¶ 31, 376 Wis. 2d 147, 171, 897 N.W.2d 384, 396 (“Each branch’s core powers reflect zones of authority constitutionally established for each branch of government upon which any other branch of government is prohibited from intruding” and “to these areas of authority, ... any exercise of authority by another branch of government is unconstitutional.” (internal quotations omitted))

For example, in *State v. Hawerwas*, 254 Wis. 336, 36 N.W.2d 427 (1949), the Wisconsin Supreme Court addressed whether the Milwaukee Cty. Board of Election Commissioners may refuse to place the name of a judicial candidate, Michael Sullivan, on the ballot who did not attain the age of 25 prior to the primary or general election—but who would be 25 by the time he took office—pursuant to art. VII, sec. 10. At that time, Art. VII, sec. 10 read:

No person shall be eligible to the office of judge, who shall not, at the time of his election, be a citizen of the United States, and have attained the age of twenty-five years, and be a qualified elector within the jurisdiction for which he may be chosen

Id. at 341. That Court swiftly rejected the challenge to Michael Sullivan’s name being placed on the ballot. In particular, the Court held that there was no requirement, either through the Constitutional provision or statutes, that the candidate possess all qualifications prior to being placed on the ballot.

Rather, such qualifications must exist at the time of taking office and, if they don’t meet the qualifications at that time, the person may be subject to challenge—but that challenge is not one that takes place prior to placement on the ballot. *Id.* at 340. Indeed, the Court flatly rejected the idea that a candidate must meet the qualifications prior to the primary or general election:

The right of a candidate to have his name appear thereon is one created by the Legislature. Until the Legislature in the exercise of its power to regulate the exercise of the right of franchise, has prescribed as a part of the qualifications of a person who is seeking a place upon the official ballot that he shall be eligible to the office for which he is a candidate, neither the courts nor any administrative officer can so limit his right.

Id. at 340.

Likewise, the Supreme Court held similarly in *State ex rel. Barber v. Circuit Court for Marathon County et al.*, 178 Wis. 468, 190 N.W.563 (1922). *Barber* dealt with the election of a State Senator and whether he was eligible to be placed on the ballot due to a prior conviction,

which was later pardoned. The Court held that the candidate is not precluded from placement on the ballot when he has fulfilled all the statutory prerequisites to placing his name on the ballot, even if he may later prove to be ineligible for the office he seeks:

It is perfectly plain in the light of the conditions which existed at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, and in view of the fact that the Legislature has carefully refrained from lodging either with the judicial branch or with any administrative officer the power to limit free choice by the elector, that he still enjoys the right to vote for whom he will, whether the person voted for be eligible or ineligible, qualified or disqualified. The Legislature has declared that a plurality of a political party to which an elector belongs may designate as a candidate for public office whom they choose without regard to eligibility or qualifications. If the one so designated is in fact ineligible, the question of eligibility becomes a judicial question after the election when he has received a plurality of votes and is seeking the title to the office for which he is a candidate. It has been so held in other jurisdictions.

Id. at 567. In fact, the Court pointed out that the “only requirement found in the statute as a condition precedent to the right of a nominee to a place upon a ballot is that he file a declaration that, if elected, he will accept the office and qualify therefore.” *Id.* at 568. See also Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b).

Just like in *Sullivan* and *Barber*, there is no statutory requirement that Iverson meet the qualifications for the judicial office in order to be a candidate for that office or be placed on the ballot. To the contrary, the statutory requirements for candidacy directly refute Weber’s contention:

The declaration shall contain the name of the candidate in the form specified under s. 8.10(2)(b) for candidates for nonpartisan office . . . and shall state all of the following: . . .

(b) That the signer meets, **or will at the time he or she assumes office meet, applicable age, citizenship, residency, or voting qualification requirements, if any prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and of this state.**

Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b). Iverson will meet the qualifications for the office at the time she assumes the judicial office on August 1, 2025 since she will be licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for over 5 years at that time, which is exactly what she certified in her declaration of candidacy. (Iverson Aff. ¶¶ 5-9, Ex. A). Regardless, while Weber conflates the requirements for office (which are set forth in Wis. Const. Art. VII, sec. 24(1)) with the requirements to be placed on the ballot (which are met by filing the declaration of candidacy and nomination papers), Weber cites to no provision in the election code that would require Iverson to hold all qualifications in order to be placed on the ballot—and none exists, other than § 8.21 requiring that she certify that she will meet the qualifications at the time she assumes office. Neither an executive agency nor a court may insert an additional or different requirement that Iverson meet all qualifications for the office prior to being placed on the ballot. Wis. Const. Art. IV, sec. 1 (“The legislative power shall be vested in a senate and assembly.”); *State v. Kohler*, 200 Wis. 518, 228 N.W. 895, 906 (1930) (“the power of the state to deal with elections . . . is vested in the senate and assembly to be exercised under the provisions of the Constitution”).

In attempt to sidestep these foundational deficiencies to her challenge, Weber points to Wis. Stat. § 8.30 and requests that the Commission invoke its discretionary authority to deny Iverson access to the ballot—but this too fails. First, as discussed further below, Iverson fully and accurately completed the declaration of candidacy. It is undisputed that Iverson will have been licensed to practice law for over 5 years by the time she would take office on August 1, 2025 and, therefore, accurately completed the declaration of candidacy and fully complied with Wis. Stat. § 8.21 in that regard. (Iverson Aff. ¶¶ 5-7). Second, what Weber is really arguing is that Iverson is ineligible for placement on the ballot. But, as noted above, there is no basis in fact or law to support such a contention.

II. IVERSON ACCURATELY COMPLETED THE DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY, FULFILLED HER FILING REQUIREMENTS, AND ALL REQUIREMENTS TO GAIN BALLOT ACCESS.

Iverson completed and submitted her declaration of candidacy on January 6, 2025.

(Iverson Aff. ¶ 6, Ex. A). In addition to completing all aspects of the declaration of candidacy,

Iverson affirmed the following, as stated in the declaration:

I meet **or will meet at the time I assume office** the applicable age, citizenship, residency and voting qualification requirements, if any prescribed the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.

(*Id.*, emphasis added). As noted above, the declaration of candidacy form, EL-162, promulgated and published by the Wisconsin Elections Commission, aptly indicates that a candidate must be able to meet the qualifications for the office sought “at the time [the candidate] assume[s] office.” Indeed, as determined by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as long as Iverson can meet the qualifications by the time she would take office, there is no basis to deny her the right to run for the office or place her name on the ballot. *State v. Hawerwas*, 254 Wis. 336, 36 N.W.2d 427 (1949); *State ex rel. Barber v. Circuit Court for Marathon County et al.*, 178 Wis. 468, 190 N.W.563 (1922).

Iverson clearly will have been licensed as an attorney in Wisconsin for 5 years by the time she would take office on August 1, 2025 and has fulfilled all other requirements for her candidacy promulgated by the Legislature. Wis. Stat. § 753.01 (the term for circuit judge is 6 years and “until the successor is elected and qualified, commencing with the August 1 next succeeding the election”). Therefore, she has the absolute right to be placed on the ballot and there is no basis to deny her that right.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above,² Respondent Courtney J. Iverson respectfully requests that the Commission dismiss the complaint and deny the relief requested.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of January 2025.

LAW FIRM OF CONWAY, OLEJNICZAK & JERRY, S.C.
Attorneys for Respondent.

Electronically signed by Kurt A. Goehre

Kurt A. Goehre (#1068003)
231 South Adams Street
P.O. Box 23200
Green Bay, WI 54305-3200
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Facsimile: (920) 437-2868
E-mail: kag@lcojlaw.com

#5287901

² Additionally, Iverson incorporates by reference her response and affidavit to the complaint filed by Theresa Beck, which is substantially similar to the complaint filed by Weber.

6. In particular, in the declaration of candidacy form, EL-162, I certified that “I meet or will meet at the time I assume office the applicable . . . voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.” The declaration of candidacy is attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit A**.

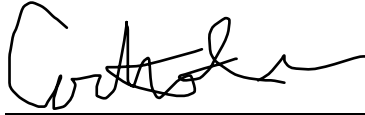
7. The above certification is consistent with the requirement set forth by the Legislature in Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b) and is true and correct.

8. In the event that the majority of the electorate determines that I should obtain the judicial office for the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Branch 2, I will not obtain that office until August 1, 2025 pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 753.01.

9. I will have been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for 5 years on May 27, 2025 and, therefore, I will have been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for over 5 years by August 1, 2025, which meets the statutory qualification for my candidacy set forth in Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b).

10. Regardless, I will meet all necessary qualifications for the office of judge of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Branch 2, before taking that office.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 11 day of January, 2025.

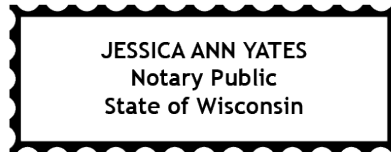


Cortney Iverson

This notarial act was an online notarization
This notarial act involved the use of communication technology.



Jessica Ann Yates
Remote Online Notary
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin.
My Commission Expires:09/15/2025



#5288036

Declaration of Candidacy

(See instructions for preparation on back)

WEG 06 JAN 2025 AM 11:39
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
WEG 06 JAN 2025 AM 11:39

Is this an amendment?

Yes (if you have already filed a DOC for this election)

No (if this is the first DOC you have filed for this election)

I, Cortney Iverson, being duly sworn, state that
Candidate's name

I am a candidate for the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2
Official name of office - include district, branch or seat number

representing _____
If partisan election, name of political party or statement of principle - five words or less (Candidates for nonpartisan office may leave blank.)

and I meet or will meet at the time I assume office the applicable age, citizenship, residency and voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.

I have not been convicted of a felony in any court within the United States for which I have not been pardoned.¹

My present address, including my municipality of residence for voting purposes is:

W9211	Red Feather Dr.	Cambridge, WI	53523	Town of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oakland
House or fire no.	Street Name	Mailing Municipality and State	Zip code	Village of <input type="checkbox"/>	
				City of <input type="checkbox"/>	

My name as I wish it to appear on the official ballot is as follows:

Cortney J. Iverson

(Any combination of first name, middle name or initials with surname. A nickname may replace a legal name.)

Cortney J. Iverson
(Signature of candidate)

STATE OF WISCONSIN }
County of Dane } ss.
(County where oath administered)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 2025.

Regina Anneliese Hein
(Signature of person authorized to administer oaths)

Notary Public or other official _____
(Official title, if not a notary)

If Notary Public: My commission expires 8/20/27 or is permanent



The information on this form is required by Wis. Stat. § 8.21, Art. XIII, Sec. 3, Wis. Const., and must be filed with the filing officer in order to have a candidate's name placed on the ballot. Wis. Stats. §§ 8.05 (1)(j), 8.10 (5), 8.15 (4)(b), 8.20 (6), 120.06 (6)(b), 887.01.

EXHIBIT A

¹ A 1996 constitutional amendment bars any candidate convicted of a misdemeanor which violates the public trust from running for or holding a public office. However, the legislature has not defined which misdemeanors violate the public trust. A candidate convicted of any misdemeanor is not barred from running for or holding a public office until the legislature defines which misdemeanors apply. 120

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF the Certificate of Candidacy for the
Office of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2
with respect to the April 1, 2025 Election

THERESA A. BECK,

Case No. EL 25-05

Complainant,

v.

CORTNEY J. IVERSON,

Respondent.

RESPONDENT’S RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT

Theresa A. Beck (“Beck”) submitted a complaint alleging that Cortney J. Iverson (“Iverson”) is not eligible for the office of judge of Jefferson County, Branch 2, because Iverson will not have been an attorney licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for at least 5 years by “the election,” pursuant to Wis. Const. Art. VII, sec. 24(1), and, as a result, the Wisconsin Election Commission should deny her access to the ballot (despite implicitly acknowledging that Iverson will undoubtedly attain 5 years of being licensed to practice law in Wisconsin by the time she

would take office in August). Simply put, there is no support for Beck’s undemocratic challenge to her opponent’s candidacy, and said challenge should be swiftly rejected.¹

Iverson will have been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for over 5 years by the time she would take office for Jefferson County, Branch 2, and, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b) and clear Wisconsin precedent, that is all that matters and there is no basis to deny Iverson access to ballot. (Iverson Aff. 1-9, Ex. A). The only requirement imposed by the Legislature to appear on the ballot is filing the appropriate nomination papers and declaration of candidacy, which Iverson has fulfilled. Moreover, the Legislature clearly and specifically determined that the candidate need only meet the qualifications for the office “at the time he or she assumes [the] office.” Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b). As such, Beck’s repeated assertion that Iverson must be licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for 5 years at the time of the election is unquestionably wrong and she falls far short of her burden to establish that Iverson’s candidacy is insufficient. Wis. Admin. EL Code 2.07(3)(a). As such, Beck’s empty attempt to circumvent her opponent’s candidacy must be denied.

I. THE COMMISSION MAY NOT DENY IVERSON BALLOT ACCESS WHEN SHE WILL SATISFY ALL NECESSARY QUALIFICATIONS BEFORE SHE TAKES OFFICE.

Beck’s entire argument rests on the assertion that, since Iverson will not have been licensed to practice law for 5 years by the time of the election, the Commission should deny her name from being placed on the ballot. While Beck’s argument appears plausible, at first pass,

¹ Respondent submits this response to the complaint while reserving all rights and defenses under the Wisconsin Constitution, including the question of whether the Wisconsin Elections Commission has the authority to construe provisions of the Wisconsin Constitution relating to eligibility of judges or impose limitations on individuals running for judicial office. See *Gabler v. Crime Victims Rts. Bd.*, 2017 WI 67, ¶ 31, 376 Wis. 2d 147, 171, 897 N.W.2d 384, 396 (“Each branch’s core powers reflect zones of authority constitutionally established for each branch of government upon which any other branch of government is prohibited from intruding” and “to these areas of authority, ... any exercise of authority by another branch of government is unconstitutional.” (internal quotations omitted))

she clearly fails to acknowledge controlling Wisconsin law and precedent that is directly contrary to her assertion. In fact, Beck does not cite to a single Wisconsin case that supports her incomplete and incorrect theory,² and she ignores clear precedent refuting her position.

For example, in *State v. Hawerwas*, 254 Wis. 336, 36 N.W.2d 427 (1949), the Wisconsin Supreme Court addressed whether the Milwaukee Cty. Board of Election Commissioners may refuse to place the name of a judicial candidate, Michael Sullivan, on the ballot who did not attain the age of 25 prior to the primary or general election—but who would be 25 by the time he took office—pursuant to art. VII, sec. 10. At that time, Art. VII, sec. 10 read:

No person shall be eligible to the office of judge, who shall not, at the time of his election, be a citizen of the United States, and have attained the age of twenty-five years, and be a qualified elector within the jurisdiction for which he may be chosen

Id. at 341. That Court swiftly rejected the challenge to Michael Sullivan’s name being placed on the ballot. In particular, the Court held that there was no requirement, either through the Constitutional provision or statutes, that the candidate possess all qualifications prior to being placed on the ballot.

Rather, such qualifications must exist at the time of taking office and, if they don’t meet the qualifications at that time, the person may be subject to challenge—but that challenge is not one that takes place prior to placement on the ballot. *Id.* at 340. Indeed, the Court flatly rejected the idea that a candidate must meet the qualifications prior to the primary or general election:

The right of a candidate to have his name appear thereon is one created by the Legislature. Until the Legislature in the exercise of its power to regulate the exercise of the right of franchise, has prescribed as a part of the qualifications of a person who is seeking a place upon the official ballot that he shall be eligible to the office for which he is a candidate, neither the courts nor any administrative officer can so limit his right.

² As noted later in this brief, Beck cites to *In re Raineri*, 102 Wis. 2d 418, 306 N.W.2d 699 (1981), but that case does not support Beck’s assertion.

Id. at 340.

Likewise, the Supreme Court held similarly in *State ex rel. Barber v. Circuit Court for Marathon County et al.*, 178 Wis. 468, 190 N.W.563 (1922). *Barber* dealt with the election of a State Senator and whether he was eligible to be placed on the ballot due to a prior conviction, which was later pardoned. The Court held that the candidate is not precluded from placement on the ballot when he has fulfilled all the statutory prerequisites to placing his name on the ballot, even if he may later prove to be ineligible for the office he seeks:

It is perfectly plain in the light of the conditions which existed at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, and in view of the fact that the Legislature has carefully refrained from lodging either with the judicial branch or with any administrative officer the power to limit free choice by the elector, that he still enjoys the right to vote for whom he will, whether the person voted for be eligible or ineligible, qualified or disqualified. The Legislature has declared that a plurality of a political party to which an elector belongs may designate as a candidate for public office whom they choose without regard to eligibility or qualifications. If the one so designated is in fact ineligible, the question of eligibility becomes a judicial question after the election when he has received a plurality of votes and is seeking the title to the office for which he is a candidate. It has been so held in other jurisdictions.

Id. at 567. In fact, the Court pointed out that the “only requirement found in the statute as a condition precedent to the right of a nominee to a place upon a ballot is that he file a declaration that, if elected, he will accept the office and qualify therefore.” *Id.* at 568. *See also* Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b).

Just like in *Sullivan* and *Barber*, there is no statutory requirement that Iverson meet the qualifications for the judicial office in order to be a candidate for that office or be placed on the ballot. To the contrary, the statutory requirements for candidacy directly refute Beck’s contention:

The declaration shall contain the name of the candidate in the form specified under s. 8.10(2)(b) for candidates for nonpartisan office . . . and shall state all of the following: . . .

(b) That the signer meets, **or will at the time he or she assumes office meet, applicable age, citizenship, residency, or voting qualification requirements, if any prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and of this state.**

Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b). Iverson will meet the qualifications for the office at the time she assumes the judicial office on August 1, 2025 since she will be licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for over 5 years at that time, which is exactly what she certified in her declaration of candidacy. (Iverson Aff. ¶¶ 5-9, Ex. A). Regardless, while Beck conflates the requirements for office (which are set forth in Wis. Const. Art. VII, sec. 24(1)) with the requirements to be placed on the ballot (which are met by filing the declaration of candidacy and nomination papers), Beck cites to no provision in the election code that would require Iverson to hold those qualifications prior to being placed on the ballot—and none exists, other than § 8.21 requiring that she certify that she will meet the qualifications at the time she assumes office. Neither an executive agency nor a court may insert an additional or different requirement that Iverson meet all qualifications for the office prior to being placed on the ballot. Wis. Const. Art. IV, sec. 1 (“The legislative power shall be vested in a senate and assembly.”); *State v. Kohler*, 200 Wis. 518, 228 N.W. 895, 906 (1930) (“the power of the state to deal with elections . . . is vested in the senate and assembly to be exercised under the provisions of the Constitution”).

In attempt to sidestep these inherent deficiencies to her challenge, Beck points to Wis. Stat. § 8.30 and requests that the Commission invoke its discretionary authority to deny Iverson access to the ballot—but this too fails. Beck suggests that Iverson’s declaration of candidacy was not valid or demonstrates she is ineligible to be elected to the office. First, as discussed further below, Iverson fully and accurately completed the declaration of candidacy. It is undisputed that Iverson will have been licensed to practice law for over 5 years by the time she

would take office on August 1, 2025 and, therefore, accurately completed the declaration of candidacy and fully complied with Wis. Stat. § 8.21 in that regard. (Iverson Aff. ¶¶ 5-7).

Second, what Beck is really arguing is that Iverson is ineligible for placement on the ballot. But, as noted above, there is no basis in fact or law to support such a contention.

Additionally, Beck suggests that Iverson could never qualify for the judicial office. Not surprisingly, Beck fails to develop any argument to support this empty conclusion. There is no dispute that Iverson will have all necessary qualifications by August 1, 2025—including, among all others, having been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for at least 5 years. As such, Beck’s suggestion is without merit.

Finally, it is necessary to review the single Wisconsin case cited by Beck, ostensibly in support of her attempt to preclude Iverson’s ballot access. Beck cites *In re Raineri* in support of her undemocratic attempt to foreclose Iverson’s candidacy, but fails to develop any substantive argument to suggest that the Commission must deny Iverson access to the ballot based on that case. In any event, *In re Raineri* is entirely distinguishable from Iverson’s circumstances since *In re Raineri* dealt with the discipline of a sitting judge who was convicted of various felonies (including racketeering, making false declarations before a grand jury, and threatening a grand jury witness) and sentenced to three years in prison. *Id.* at 419-420. Judge Raineri’s license to practice law was revoked and, as a result, there was no dispute that he could no longer hold the position of circuit court judge. In passing, the Court noted that since Judge Raineri’s license to practice law in Wisconsin was revoked, he was “ineligible for the office of judge” since Art. VII, sec. 24 requires that he “must be an attorney licensed to practice law in this state.” However, the Court was never confronted with construing the Constitutional requirement of having been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for at least 5 years or whether an executive agency may

interpret that Constitutional provision to deny a candidacy or ballot access before the election takes place. Like all the rest of Beck's arguments, her reliance on *In re Raineri* is faulty and does not support her contention that Iverson must be denied ballot access.

II. IVERSON ACCURATELY COMPLETED THE DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY, FULFILLED HER FILING REQUIREMENTS, AND ALL REQUIREMENTS TO GAIN BALLOT ACCESS.

Iverson completed and submitted her declaration of candidacy on January 6, 2025.

(Iverson Aff. ¶ 6, Ex. A).³ In addition to completing all aspects of the declaration of candidacy, Iverson affirmed the following, as stated in the declaration:

I meet **or will meet at the time I assume office** the applicable age, citizenship, residency and voting qualification requirements, if any prescribed the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.

(*Id.*, emphasis added). As noted above, the declaration of candidacy form, EL-162, promulgated and published by the Wisconsin Elections Commission, aptly indicates that a candidate must be able to meet the qualifications for the office sought “at the time [the candidate] assume[s] office.” Indeed, as determined by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, as long as Iverson can meet the qualifications by the time she would take office, there is no basis to deny her the right to run for the office or place her name on the ballot. *State v. Hawerwas*, 254 Wis. 336, 36 N.W.2d 427 (1949); *State ex rel. Barber v. Circuit Court for Marathon County et al.*, 178 Wis. 468, 190 N.W.563 (1922).

Iverson clearly will have been licensed as an attorney in Wisconsin for 5 years by the time she would take office on August 1, 2025 and has fulfilled all other requirements for her candidacy promulgated by the Legislature. Wis. Stat. § 753.01 (the term for circuit judge is 6 years and “until the successor is elected and qualified, commencing with the August 1 next

³ The complaint asserts no other challenge other than to Iverson's declaration of candidacy and, regardless, Iverson's nomination papers are presumptively valid. Wis. Admin EL Code § 2.07(4).

succeeding the election”). Therefore, she has the absolute right to be placed on the ballot and there is no basis to deny her that right.

III. BECK’S RELIANCE ON THE COMMISSION’S DENIAL OF SHIVA AYYADURAI’S ACCESS TO THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT IS MISPLACED AND DISTINGUISHABLE.

Beck’s final attempt to conjure up a reason for the Commission to preclude Iverson’s candidacy is to point to the Commission’s denial of Shiva Ayyadurai’s access to the 2024 Presidential Ballot, as set forth in *Michael Hoffman v. Shiva Ayyadurai*, EL 24-81. In that matter, Ayyadurai admitted that he was born in Bombay, India despite attempting to run for the Office of President of the United States. (Iverson Aff. ¶ 11, Ex. B). As is well known, only a “natural born citizen” is qualified to be President of the United States. U.S. Const. art. II, § 1, cl. 5. Upon review of the undisputed evidence and admission by Ayyadurai, the Commission correctly determined that Ayyadurai could never meet the constitutional requirements for the Office of President of the United States. *See* Comm’n Closing Letter in EL 24-18, August 27, 2024. The Commission was well within its statutory authority to deny him ballot access since, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b) and § 8.30(1), it was undisputed that Ayyadurai did not, and could never, meet the qualifications for the Office of President of the United States.

Ayyadurai’s circumstances are clearly different from Iverson’s. Ayyadurai’s failure to meet the qualification at issue was solidified the moment he was born and, as such, the failure to qualify could never be rehabilitated or changed. Iverson, on the other hand, will meet the qualifications of the judicial office she seeks prior to taking office on August 1, 2025. She is a licensed attorney in the State of Wisconsin and, although she does not have 5 years of being licensed, she will before she takes office. Accordingly, Ayyadurai’s denial is entirely distinguishable from the circumstances at issue here.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Respondent Cortney Iverson respectfully requests that the Commission dismiss the complaint and deny the relief requested.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of January 2025.

LAW FIRM OF CONWAY, OLEJNICZAK & JERRY, S.C.
Attorneys for Respondent.

Electronically signed by Kurt A. Goehre

Kurt A. Goehre (State Bar No. 1068003)

George Burnett (State Bar No. 1005964)

231 South Adams Street

P.O. Box 23200

Green Bay, WI 54305-3200

Telephone: (920) 437-0476

Facsimile: (920) 437-2868

E-mail: kag@lcojlaw.com

#5288434

6. In particular, in the declaration of candidacy form, EL-162, I certified that “I meet or will meet at the time I assume office the applicable . . . voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.” The declaration of candidacy is attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit A**.

7. The above certification is consistent with the requirement set forth by the Legislature in Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b) and is true and correct.

8. In the event that the majority of the electorate determines that I should obtain the judicial office for the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Branch 2, I will not obtain that office until August 1, 2025 pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 753.01.

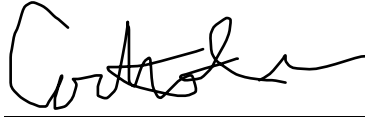
9. I will have been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for 5 years on May 27, 2025 and, therefore, I will have been licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for over 5 years by August 1, 2025, which meets the statutory qualification for my candidacy set forth in Wis. Stat. § 8.21(2)(b).

10. The Complainant cites to *Michael Hoffman v. Shiva Ayyadurai*, EL 24-81, in support of her request to deny my candidacy, but the Commission’s denial of Ayyadurai’s access to the Presidential Ballot is distinguishable.

11. In particular, Ayyadurai admitted that he was born in Bombay, India and was indisputably not a “naturally born citizen, as noted in the filings in that matter and the Certificate of Nominate for Unaffiliated Candidate filed by, or caused to be filed by, Ayyadurai in the State of Utah, which is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

12. Regardless, I will meet all necessary qualifications for the office of judge of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County, Branch 2, before taking that office.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 11 day of January, 2025.



Cortney Iverson

This notarial act was an online notarization

This notarial act involved the use of communication technology.



Jessica Ann Yates

Remote Online Notary

Notary Public, State of Wisconsin.

My Commission Expires:09/15/2025

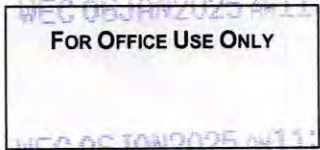


JESSICA ANN YATES
Notary Public
State of Wisconsin

#5288437

Declaration of Candidacy

(See instructions for preparation on back)



Is this an amendment?

Yes (if you have already filed a DOC for this election)

No (if this is the first DOC you have filed for this election)

I, Cortney Iverson, being duly sworn, state that
Candidate's name

I am a candidate for the office of Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 2
Official name of office - include district, branch or seat number

representing _____
If partisan election, name of political party or statement of principle - five words or less (Candidates for nonpartisan office may leave blank.)

and I meet or will meet at the time I assume office the applicable age, citizenship, residency and voting qualification requirements, if any, prescribed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Wisconsin, and that I will otherwise qualify for office, if nominated and elected.

I have not been convicted of a felony in any court within the United States for which I have not been pardoned.¹

My present address, including my municipality of residence for voting purposes is:

W9211	Red Feather Dr.	Cambridge, WI	53523	Town of <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oakland
House or fire no.	Street Name	Mailing Municipality and State	Zip code	Village of <input type="checkbox"/>	
				City of <input type="checkbox"/>	

My name as I wish it to appear on the official ballot is as follows:

Cortney J. Iverson

(Any combination of first name, middle name or initials with surname. A nickname may replace a legal name.)

Cortney J. Iverson
(Signature of candidate)

STATE OF WISCONSIN }
County of Dane } ss.
(County where oath administered)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of January, 2025.

Regina Anneliese Hein
(Signature of person authorized to administer oaths)

Notary Public or other official _____
(Official title, if not a notary)

If Notary Public: My commission expires 8/20/27 or is permanent



The information on this form is required by Wis. Stat. § 8.21, Art. XIII, Sec. 3, Wis. Const., and must be filed with the filing officer in order to have a candidate's name placed on the ballot. Wis. Stats. §§ 8.05 (1)(j), 8.10 (5), 8.15 (4)(b), 8.20 (6), 120.06 (6)(b), 887.01.

¹ A 1996 constitutional amendment bars any candidate convicted of a misdemeanor which violates the public trust from running for or holding a public office. However, the legislature has not defined which misdemeanors violate the public trust. A candidate convicted of any misdemeanor is not barred from running for or holding a public office until the legislature defines which misdemeanors apply. 133

2024
CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION FOR
UNAFFILIATED CANDIDATE

of
(print name exactly as it is to be printed on the official ballot)

Shiva

First Name

Middle Name

Ayyadurai

Last Name

For the office of **President of the United States**

State of Massachusetts } ss.
County of Middlesex

I, Shiva Ayyadurai, declare my intention of becoming an unaffiliated candidate for the office of President of The U.S.A. I do solemnly swear that I can qualify to hold that office both legally and constitutionally if selected, and that I reside at 69 Snake Hill Road Street, in the city of Belmont county of Middlesex, state of Utah, zip code 02478, phone 857-810-0007, and that I am providing, or have provided, the required number of holographic signatures of registered voters required by law; that as a candidate at the next election I will not knowingly violate any election or campaign law; I will file all campaign disclosure reports as required by law. The mailing that I designate for receiving all official election notices is:

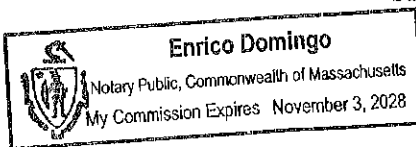
Shiva4President 701 Concord Ave, Cambridge, MA 02178

My email address is: Shiva4President@Shiva4President.com

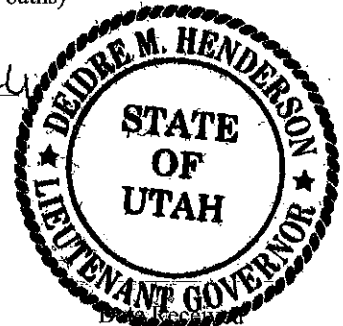
Shiva Ayyadurai
Candidate Signature

(Must be signed in the presence of an officer qualified to administer oaths)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 02/29/2024
(month/day/year)



[Signature]
Notary Public or an officer qualified to administer oaths



(Seal)

Lieutenant Governor 2024

EXHIBIT B

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
(Unaffiliated Candidate)

Before the filing officer accepts a declaration of candidacy, the filing officer must read the constitutional and statutory requirements to the candidate or the candidate's designated agent, and the candidate or the designated agent must state whether the candidate fulfills the requirements. If the candidate or the designated agent indicates that the candidate does not qualify, the filing officer shall decline the declaration of candidacy. Refer to Utah Code Annotated § 20A-9-201 and 20A-9-202.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE

United States Constitution, Article II, Section 1

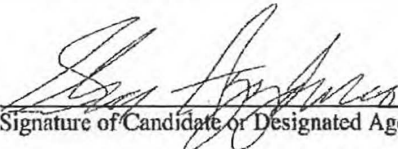
- Natural born citizen of the United States.*
- 35 years of age upon taking the oath of office
- Resident of the United States for 14 years upon taking the oath of office.

Utah Code Annotated § 20A-9-503

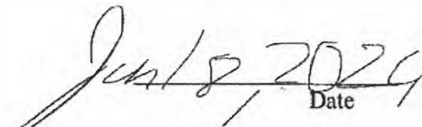
- Pay a filing fee of \$500.
- File a petition containing the signatures of at least 1,000 registered voters in Utah that have been verified by county clerks in accordance with Utah Code Annotated §20A-9-502.

READ AND SIGN BELOW (to be completed when filing the declaration in person)

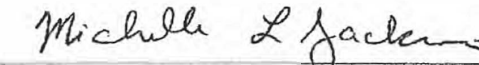
The filing officer read the constitutional and statutory requirements as listed below to me, and I or the candidate meet(s) those qualifications.



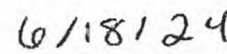
Signature of Candidate or Designated Agent



Date



Signature of Filing Officer



Date

***"Natural Born" is a term not defined in the Constitution as acknowledged by many eminent legal scholars. I attest that I was "naturally born" in Bombay, India on December 2, 1963. Regardless, the FEC in 2011 ruled that ANY citizen of the United States can run for the Office of President. In addition, pursuant to the 5th and 14th Amendments and along with multiple Supreme Court rulings e.g. Bolling v. Sharpe, Schneider v. Rusk, it is illegal and unconstitutional to discriminate between classes of citizens by National Origin. Finally, in Trump v. Anderson, No. 23-719, 601 U.S. 100 (2024), the Supreme Court unanimously ruled in a 9-0 decision that States CANNOT deny ballot access to a Candidate for President and cannot determine eligibility for federal office, and only the Congress of the United States could determine such eligibility, even if a Candidate violates a provision in the Constitution.*