

Mayor.....834-7717  
Admin/Clerk.....834-7711  
Municipal Court.....834-7718  
Police Non-Emerg.....834-7701  
Fire Dept.....834-7776



Assessor.....846-4250  
Public Works  
Superintendent.....834-7725  
Street Dept.....834-7779  
Water Dept.....834-7719  
Parks & Rec Director.....834-7706

City Hall Fax: 834-7713  
admin@cityofocountwi.gov

CITY OF OCONTO  
1210 Main Street, Oconto, WI 54153

www.cityofocountwi.com

January 26, 2023

Wisconsin Elections Commission  
201 West Washington Ave, Second Floor  
PO Box 7984 Madison, WI 53707-7984

**Sent via email:** james.witecha@wisconsin.gov; elections@wi.gov

**Re:** Complaint Filed with Wisconsin Elections Commission  
EL 23-03; Garrett Sowle v. Brittney Bickel

Dear Staff Attorney Witecha,

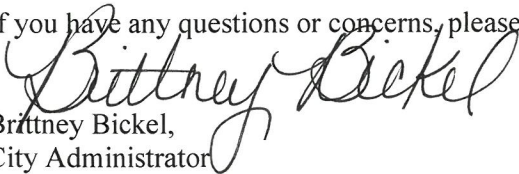
As City Administrator of the City of Oconto, upholding our City Ordinances and the Wisconsin State Statutes is of my upmost concern. I became Interim City Administrator on September 6, 2021 and a couple short months later I was conducting my very first election. An incumbent brought in his Notification on Noncandidacy on December 28, 2021, a day after the December 27, 2021 deadline. Not knowing what to do and always wanting to be educated on the rules and follow the rules perfectly, I looked at the State Statutes. I read the State Statutes and then reached out via email to the long-standing Oconto County Clerk, who is the most educated person in elections that I personally have ever spoken with, for 100% clarification. Please see Attachment A.

Fast forward to December 28, 2022, one of the Alderpersons at Large turned in her Notification of Noncandidacy. Being after the December 23, 2022 deadline, I promptly posted the public notice on the City's website and City's Facebook notifying the public of the incumbent not seeking reelection and of the nomination paper deadline for Alderperson at Large being extended 72 hours to January 6, 2023 at 5:00 pm. Please see Attachment B. I will note that I received the Notification on Noncandidacy via email in the afternoon of December 28, 2022, I left work in the afternoon on December 28, 2022, because I was feeling ill and I was out of the office sick on December 29, 2022, and promptly posted the notice on the morning of Friday, December 30, 2022, when I was back in the office.

The City of Oconto was closed on Monday, January 2, 2023, in recognition of the New Year's holiday. On Tuesday, January 3, 2023, I received messages from numerous people that Garrett Sowle was slandering my name on Facebook accusing me of inappropriately extending the deadline of Nomination Papers. I immediately contacted Wisconsin Elections Commission to get yet another verification that I was correct and following the State Statutes. I spoke with Erin at Wisconsin Elections Commission, and she was very helpful, clear, and concise. She stated: "because the Certificate of Noncandidacy was filed late it is allowable to announce extension as soon as the Certificate of Noncandidacy is received."

The purpose of public notices is to educate the public and allow them time to act appropriately. The complainant's argument is for less notice to the public, giving the public less time to react. Notifying the public of important information as soon as I am able is a top priority, and that same belief was confirmed by my phone conversation with WEC. Not only was I following the State Statutes, I believe in my core that transparency and public information is one of the most important elements of government.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me!

  
Brittney Bickel,  
City Administrator  
admin@cityofocountwi.gov  
920-834-7711



City of Oconto

County of Oconto

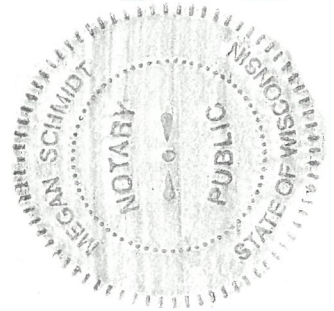
State of Wisconsin

Subscribed and sworn before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023,

by Brittney Bickel.

My commission expires May 31, 2025.

Megan Schmidt Notary Public







# Attachment A

## City of Oconto

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**From:** Kim Pytleski <kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us> on behalf of Kim Pytleski  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 29, 2021 10:36 AM  
**To:** Brittney Bickel  
**Subject:** RE: Election forms needed

A very true statement. Nothing is as hard as the first year. 😊

***Make it a great day!***

Kim Pytleski  
Oconto County Clerk  
301 Washington St., Courthouse  
Oconto WI 54153-1620  
Direct (920) 834-6806  
FAX (920) 834-6805

### **2021 ELECTION SCHEDULE**

Spring Primary Election – Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
Spring General Election – Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Wisconsin requires Photo IDs to vote! For more information, please visit the following website:  
<http://bringit.wisconsin.gov/>.

For additional election information, please visit: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>.

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**From:** Brittney Bickel <admin@cityofoconto.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 29, 2021 10:19 AM  
**To:** Kim Pytleski <kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us>  
**Subject:** RE: Election forms needed

I know right! The Friday before a holiday weekend should not be working until 5 pm. I guess the more I learn in my first year, the easier the next year will be...

Thanks, Kim!

**Brittney M. Bickel**  
City Administrator  
City of Oconto, Wisconsin  
Phone: (920)834-7711  
Fax: (920)834-7713  
[admin@cityofoconto.com](mailto:admin@cityofoconto.com)  
[www.cityofoconto.com](http://www.cityofoconto.com)

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**From:** Kim Pytleski <[kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 29, 2021 10:04 AM  
**To:** Brittney Bickel <[admin@cityofoconto.com](mailto:admin@cityofoconto.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Election forms needed

Who did this to you? And where is the LOL and Cry Out Loud emoji when I need it?

***Make it a great day!***

Kim Pytleski  
Oconto County Clerk  
301 Washington St., Courthouse  
Oconto WI 54153-1620  
Direct (920) 834-6806  
FAX (920) 834-6805

**2021 ELECTION SCHEDULE**

Spring Primary Election – Tuesday, February 16, 2021  
Spring General Election – Tuesday, April 6, 2021

Wisconsin requires Photo IDs to vote! For more information, please visit the following website:  
<http://bringit.wisconsin.gov/>.

For additional election information, please visit: <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>.

**From:** Brittney Bickel <[admin@cityofoconto.com](mailto:admin@cityofoconto.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 28, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Kim Pytleski <[kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Election forms needed

I see now it says I have to "promptly provide public notice by posting to internet site" for all Notifications of Noncandidacy. I will do that immediately.

**Brittney M. Bickel**  
City Administrator  
City of Oconto, Wisconsin  
Phone: (920)834-7711  
Fax: (920)834-7713  
[admin@cityofoconto.com](mailto:admin@cityofoconto.com)  
[www.cityofoconto.com](http://www.cityofoconto.com)

**From:** Brittney Bickel <[admin@cityofoconto.com](mailto:admin@cityofoconto.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 28, 2021 10:45 AM  
**To:** 'Kim Pytleski' <[kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Election forms needed

Good morning, Kim

After much reminding, one of our Alderpersons at Large brought in his Notification of Noncandidacy today. A day late. If I am understanding correctly, this means we have to extend the due date for nomination papers to Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 pm. Do we need to announce this anywhere? Our website or Facebook? We also wouldn't be able to submit Forms EL-405 and EL-162 until 5pm on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you!

**Brittney M. Bickel**  
City Administrator  
City of Oconto, Wisconsin  
Phone: (920)834-7711  
Fax: (920)834-7713  
[admin@cityofoconto.com](mailto:admin@cityofoconto.com)  
[www.cityofoconto.com](http://www.cityofoconto.com)

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**From:** Kim Pytleski <[kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kim.pytleski@co.oconto.wi.us)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 27, 2021 11:29 AM  
**To:** Town of Brazeau <[townofbrazeau@centurytel.net](mailto:townofbrazeau@centurytel.net)>; Little Suamico <[lsclerk@bayland.net](mailto:lsclerk@bayland.net)>; Charlene Meier <[charlene.meier@villageoflena.net](mailto:charlene.meier@villageoflena.net)>; Village of Pulaski <[villageclerk@villageofpulaski.org](mailto:villageclerk@villageofpulaski.org)>; Village of Suring <[suringclerk@ci.suring.wi.us](mailto:suringclerk@ci.suring.wi.us)>; City of Oconto <[admin@cityofoconto.com](mailto:admin@cityofoconto.com)>; Vicki Roberts <[admin@ci.ocontofalls.wi.us](mailto:admin@ci.ocontofalls.wi.us)>; Deputy Oconto <[depclerk@cityofoconto.com](mailto:depclerk@cityofoconto.com)>; Deputy Oconto Falls <[dclerk@ci.ocontofalls.wi.us](mailto:dclerk@ci.ocontofalls.wi.us)>; Chelsea Anderson <[chelsea.anderson@ci.gillett.wi.us](mailto:chelsea.anderson@ci.gillett.wi.us)>; Deputy Clerk <[deputy.clerk@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:deputy.clerk@co.oconto.wi.us)>; Allison Space <[akspace@pulaskischools.org](mailto:akspace@pulaskischools.org)>; Ben Pytleski - Lena SD <[pytleskib@lenak12.org](mailto:pytleskib@lenak12.org)>; Betsy Wickman - Peshtigo <[wickmane@peshtigo.k12.wi.us](mailto:wickmane@peshtigo.k12.wi.us)>; Brenda Walkowiak (Oconto) <[brenda.walkowiak@oconto.k12.wi.us](mailto:brenda.walkowiak@oconto.k12.wi.us)>; Crivitz School District (Jannie Marsolek) <[jmarsolek@crivitz.k12.wi.us](mailto:jmarsolek@crivitz.k12.wi.us)>; Dana Thibodeau (Pulaski) <[dmthibodeau@pulaskischools.org](mailto:dmthibodeau@pulaskischools.org)>; Dean Hess (Oconto Falls) <[dean.hess@of-ps.org](mailto:dean.hess@of-ps.org)>; Debra Woods (Oconto Falls) <[debra.woods@of-ps.org](mailto:debra.woods@of-ps.org)>; Douglas Polomis (Coleman) <[polomis@coleman.k12.wi.us](mailto:polomis@coleman.k12.wi.us)>; Emily Miller <[emily.miller@oconto.k12.wi.us](mailto:emily.miller@oconto.k12.wi.us)>; Gillett School District <[lzeitler@gillett.k12.wi.us](mailto:lzeitler@gillett.k12.wi.us)>; Jeff Walsh (Wabeno) <[jwalsh@wabeno.k12.wi.us](mailto:jwalsh@wabeno.k12.wi.us)>; Joy - Suring SD <[rohjdjo@suringk12.org](mailto:rohjdjo@suringk12.org)>; Kelly Casper (Suring) <[caspe@suringk12.org](mailto:caspe@suringk12.org)>; Lorie Karban <[karban@coleman.k12.wi.us](mailto:karban@coleman.k12.wi.us)>; Melissa Hischke (Suring) <[hiscme@suringk12.org](mailto:hiscme@suringk12.org)>; Patrick mans (Crivitz) <[mans@crivitz.k12.wi.us](mailto:mans@crivitz.k12.wi.us)>; Patrick Rau (Peshtigo) <[raup@peshtigo.k12.wi.us](mailto:raup@peshtigo.k12.wi.us)>; Sherry Birschbach (Wabeno) <[sbirschbach@wabeno.k12.wi.us](mailto:sbirschbach@wabeno.k12.wi.us)>; Tina Rouer - Lena SD <[rouert@lenak12.org](mailto:rouert@lenak12.org)>; Todd Hencsik (Gillett) <[thencsik@gillett.k12.wi.us](mailto:thencsik@gillett.k12.wi.us)>  
**Cc:** Kathy Goldschmidt <[kathy.goldschmidt@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:kathy.goldschmidt@co.oconto.wi.us)>; Susan Archie <[susan.archie@co.oconto.wi.us](mailto:susan.archie@co.oconto.wi.us)>  
**Subject:** Election forms needed

Good Afternoon Clerks –

By 4:00 p.m. on January 5, 2022 I will need the following documents. Use this link to access the forms, please. <https://elections.wi.gov/index.php/forms>

One EL-405 completed for each race. Reminder to draw the names from a hat or other random means and copy the candidate name exactly as it appears on the EL-162. We'll also want a copy of the EL-162, Declaration of Candidacy.

Please scan the documents to me directly and call with any questions. Thank you!

***Make it a great day!***

Kim Pytleski  
Oconto County Clerk  
301 Washington St., Courthouse  
Oconto WI 54153-1620  
Direct (920) 834-6806  
FAX (920) 834-6805

## **2021 ELECTION SCHEDULE**

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# Attachment B



City of Oconto, WI

December 30, 2022 at 9:42 AM ·

...

December 30, 2022 | Public Notice

## **Incumbents who have filed Notification of Non-Candidacy for the April 4, 2023 Spring Election Due by December 23, 2022:**

- Jean Feldt – Alderperson at Large – Filed 12/28/2022

\*Per Wis Stat. §§ 8.10(2)(a), the filing deadline for Alderperson at Large is extended by 72 hours from the original deadline for all candidates except the incumbent. The new deadline is **Friday, January 6, 2023 at 5:00 pm.**

cityofoconto.com/general/non-candidacy-notifications-2/

Oconto 0 + New Edit Post Smart Slider ExactMetrics

Phone: 920-834-7711



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## Non-Candidacy Notifications

[Edit](#)

December 30, 2022 | Public Notice

### **Incumbents who have filed Notification of Non-Candidacy for the April 4, 2023 Spring Election Due by December 23, 2022:**

- Jean Feldt – Alderperson at Large – Filed 12/28/2022

\*Per Wis Stat. §§ 8.10(2)(a), the filing deadline for Alderperson at Large is extended by 72 hours from the original deadline for all candidates except the incumbent. The new deadline is **Friday, January 6, 2023 at 5:00 pm.**



## Elections FAQ 10

**What happens if an incumbent does not file a Certificate of Noncandidacy and then fails to file nomination papers? Is there a penalty? Can the person still run as a write-in candidate?**

If an incumbent does not file a Certificate of Noncandidacy and fails to file nomination papers, the deadline for filing nomination papers for that office is automatically extended an additional seventy-two hours. However, the incumbent does not get the benefit of the deadline extension. Wis. Stat. sec. 8.10(2)(a). There is no additional penalty. The incumbent can still run as a write-in candidate, but must comply with all other requirements relating to candidates.

1-3-23

\*per Erin @ WEC — extend 72 hours  
if not filed Cert. of Noncandidacy on time  
AND does not file Nom. Papers, "because  
the Cert. of Noncand. was filed late it is  
allowable to announce extension as soon  
as Cert. of Noncand. is received."





November 2022		Statute
-	WEC, as well as county and municipal clerks issue certificates of election after the deadline to file a petition for recount and appeal of recount has passed. Certificates can be issued immediately if there is no aggrieved party.	7.53(4), 7.60(6), 7.70(5)(a)
22	County clerks publish Type A notice of the Spring Primary and the Spring Election.	10.01(2)(a), 10.06(2)(a) – 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday in November
22	Municipal clerks publish Type A notice of the Spring Primary and the Spring Election.	10.01(2)(a), 10.06(3)(a), (4)(a) – 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday in November
29	Clerks may clear memory devices for their voting equipment from the General Election if the data has been transferred to another medium to be retained for 22 months.	7.23(1)(g) – 21 days after an election
TBD	Deadline for completion of 2022 voting equipment audit in selected municipalities and submission of audit reports and associated materials to WEC.	U.S.C. §301(a)(5), Wis. Stat. §7.08(6) – Following each general election, timeline set by Commission
December 2022		Statute
1	Last day for chairperson of the Wisconsin Elections Commission to certify the results of the General Election.	7.70(3)(a) – December 1
1	First day for candidates to circulate nomination papers for the 2023 Spring Election.	8.05(3)(a), (4)(b), 8.10(2)(a) – December 1
1	First day for town or village governing body to set the date for caucus.	8.05(1)(a) – Between December 1 and January 1
1	Municipal clerks certify the approximate number of electors in municipality to county clerks.	5.66(1) – 1 <sup>st</sup> day of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> month preceding a primary
1	Deadline for electors of a village to petition for a primary.	8.11(1m)(c) – December 1
13	Deadline for filing officer to receive referendum questions or petitions for referendum intended for the Spring Primary ballot.	8.37 – 70 days prior to the election
14	Deadline for filing officer to file a copy of the referendum question intended for the Spring Primary with the county clerk.	8.37 – next business day after receipt by filing officer
16	Poll lists from the February 16, 2021 Spring Primary may be destroyed.	7.23(1)(e) – 22 months after election
23	Deadline for municipal clerk to submit voter participation, Inspectors' Statement data, and Election Reconciliation data for the 2022 General Election via WisVote.	6.33(5)(a)(3) – 45 days to enter registrations. Reconciliation must be entered after registrations. Therefore, 45 days for reconciliation.  6.275 – within 30 days of each primary and election for a state or national office
23	Deadline (5:00 p.m.) for incumbents not seeking reelection to file Notification of Noncandidacy (EL-163) with the filing officer. Failure to notify will extend nomination paper deadline 72 hours for that office.	8.10(2)(a), 120.06(6)(b) – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday preceding the deadline for nomination papers
-	Clerks to provide public notice of all Notification of Noncandidacy (EL-163) information received from incumbents.	8.05(1)(j)2m, 8.10(2)(am), 8.15(1m), 8.20(8)(ae), 120.06(6)(b)3m – Clerk shall promptly provide public notice by posting to internet site or posting notice in three places if no internet site is maintained
January 2023		Statute
1	Last day for town or village governing body to set a date for caucus.	8.05(1)(a) – between December 1 and January 1

January 2023		Statute
-	Clerks to provide public notice of all Notification of Noncandidacy (EL-163) information received from incumbents not seeking nomination at caucus.	8.05(1)(j)2m, 8.10(2)(am), 8.15(1m), 8.20(8)(ae) 120.06(6)(b)3m– Clerk shall promptly provide public notice by posting to internet site or posting notice in three places if no internet site is maintained
-	Municipal clerk publishes caucus notice.	8.05(1)(b) – at least 5 days before the date of the caucus
2	First day for town or village governing body to hold caucus.	8.05(1)(a) – between January 2 and January 21
3	Deadline (5:00 p.m.) for candidates to file nomination papers, declarations of candidacy, and campaign registration statements for the 2023 Spring Election with the filing officer.	8.05(3)(a), (4)(b), 8.10(2)(a), (5), 8.21– 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday in January
6	Deadline (4:30 p.m.) for all judicial candidates to file Statement of Economic Interests with Wisconsin Ethics Commission.	19.43(4) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> day following the deadline for nomination papers
6	Last day for governing body of a city or village to decide upon a primary, or for electors of a city to petition for a primary, if not required by ordinance.	8.11(1)(a), (c), (1m)(a) – 3 <sup>rd</sup> day following the deadline for nomination papers
6	Deadline for filing officer to accept challenges to nomination papers.	8.07, EL 2.07 – within 3 calendar days of the deadline to file nomination papers
-	Filing officer arranges to deliver a copy of the challenge to the challenged candidate.	EL 2.07 (2)(a) – within 24 hours of receipt of challenge
-	Deadline for challenged candidate to file a verified response with the filing officer.	EL 2.07(2)(b) – within 3 calendar days of the challenge being filed
10	Deadline for filing officers to draw names of candidates by lot for placement on the Spring Primary ballot or the Spring Election ballot if no primary is required.	5.58(1b)(bm), (cm), (1c), (1g)(c), (2), (2m) 5.60(1)(ag), (b), (3)(b), (4)(c), (5)(ar), (6)(a) – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January
10	Wisconsin Elections Commission sends Type B notice information and certification of candidates to county clerks for the Spring Primary or the Spring Election if no primary is required.	10.01(2)(b), 10.06(1)(c) – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January
-	County clerks send notification of election to municipal clerks as soon as possible after receipt of Type B notice from Wisconsin Elections Commission and after adding any county offices or referenda.	10.06(2)(b) – as soon as possible after receipt of Type B notice
-	County clerks prepare Spring Primary ballots and send proofs to Wisconsin Elections Commission for review as soon as possible before printing.	5.72(1), 7.10(2) – as soon as possible
17	Deadline (if primary is scheduled) for municipal governing body to designate an alternate location for requesting and voting an absentee ballot. <b>This location will remain in use through the and Spring Election.</b>	6.855(1) – no fewer than 14 days prior to the time that absentee ballots are available
21	Last day for town or village governing body to hold caucus.	8.05(1)(a) – no later than January 21
-	Municipal clerk notifies in writing the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes at the caucus of their nomination.	8.05(1)(j)1 – as soon as possible
-	Caucus nominees file declarations of candidacy and campaign registration statements for the Spring Election with the municipal clerk.	8.05(1)(j)2 – no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 5 <sup>th</sup> day after notification is mailed or personally delivered
-	Filing officers in municipalities using caucus draw names of candidates by lot for placement on the Spring Election ballot.	8.05(1)(j)4 – no later than 3 <sup>rd</sup> day after qualification of candidates from the caucus



nomination by the circulation of nomination papers shall incorporate in the nomination papers a statement that the signers are qualified electors of that ward.

**History:** 1971 c. 304 s. 29 (2); 1973 c. 280; 1977 c. 340; 1977 c. 447 ss. 11, 210; 1979 c. 311; 1983 a. 484; 1985 a. 304; 1987 a. 391; 1989 a. 56, 192; 1991 a. 316; 1993 a. 184, 266; 1995 a. 16 s. 2; 1999 a. 182; 2005 a. 149, 253; 2007 a. 1, 83; 2015 a. 37, 117, 118; 2021 a. 33.

**Cross-reference:** See also ss. EL 2.05 and 2.07, Wis. adm. code.

**8.06 Special elections may be called.** Towns, cities, villages, and, subject to ss. 67.05 (6a) (a) 2. and 121.91 (3) (a), school districts, may call special elections for any purpose authorized by law. If an election is called for a special referendum, the election shall be noticed under s. 8.55.

**History:** 1979 c. 32; 1989 a. 192; 2017 a. 59.

**8.07 Validity of nomination papers.** The commission shall promulgate rules under this chapter for use by election officials in determining the validity of nomination papers and signatures thereon.

**History:** 1983 a. 484; 1989 a. 359; 2015 a. 118 s. 266 (10).

**Cross-reference:** See also ss. EL 2.05 and 2.07, Wis. adm. code.

**8.10 Nominations for spring election.** (1) Candidates for office to be filled at the spring election shall be nominated by nomination papers, or by nomination papers and selection at the primary if a primary is held, except as provided for towns and villages under s. 8.05. Unless designated in this section or s. 8.05, the general provisions pertaining to nomination at the partisan primary apply.

(2) (a) Nomination papers for offices to be filled at the spring election may be circulated no sooner than December 1 preceding the election and may be filed no later than 5 p.m. on the first Tuesday in January preceding the election, or the next day if Tuesday is a holiday, except as authorized in this paragraph. If an incumbent fails to file nomination papers and a declaration of candidacy by the time prescribed in this paragraph, all candidates for the office held by the incumbent, other than the incumbent, may file nomination papers no later than 72 hours after the latest time prescribed in this paragraph. No extension of the time for filing nomination papers applies if the incumbent files written notification with the filing officer or agency with whom nomination papers are filed for the office which the incumbent holds, no later than 5 p.m. on the 2nd Friday preceding the latest time prescribed in this paragraph for filing nomination papers, that the incumbent is not a candidate for reelection to his or her office, and the incumbent does not file nomination papers for that office within the time prescribed in this paragraph.

(am) If, under par. (a), an incumbent holding local office files written notification that the incumbent is not a candidate for reelection to his or her office or fails to file a declaration of candidacy within the time prescribed in par. (a), the officer or body with whom the declaration of candidacy is required to be filed shall promptly provide public notice of that fact on the officer's or body's Internet site or, if the officer or body does not maintain an Internet site, by posting notices in at least 3 different locations within the jurisdiction that the officer or body serves.

(b) Each nomination paper shall have substantially the following words printed at the top:

I, the undersigned, request that the name of (insert candidate's last name plus first name, nickname or initial, and middle name, former legal surname, nickname or middle initial or initials if desired, but no other abbreviations or titles), residing at (insert candidate's street address) be placed on the ballot at the (spring or special) election to be held on (date of election) as a candidate so that voters will have the opportunity to vote for (him or her) for the office of (name of office). I am eligible to vote in the (name of jurisdiction or district in which candidate seeks office). I have not signed the nomination paper of any other candidate for the same office at this election.

(c) Each candidate shall include his or her mailing address on the candidate's nomination papers.

(3) The certification of a qualified circulator under s. 8.15 (4) (a) shall be appended to each nomination paper. The number of required signatures on nomination papers filed under this section is as follows:

(a) For statewide offices, not less than 2,000 nor more than 4,000 electors.

(am) For court of appeals judges, not less than 1,000 nor more than 2,000 electors.

(b) For judicial offices not specified in pars. (a), (am), and (c), not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors.

(c) For judicial offices in counties over 750,000 population, not less than 1,000 nor more than 2,000 electors.

(cm) For county executives in counties over 750,000 population, not less than 2,000 nor more than 4,000 electors.

(cs) For comptrollers in counties with a population of at least 750,000, not less than 500 nor more than 1,000 electors.

(d) For county executives in counties between 100,000 and 750,000 population, not less than 500 nor more than 1,000 electors.

(e) For county executives in counties under 100,000 population, not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors.

(f) For supervisors in counties over 750,000 population, not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors.

(g) For supervisors in counties between 100,000 and 750,000 population, not less than 100 nor more than 200 electors, except as provided in sub. (3m).

(h) For supervisors in counties under 100,000 population, not less than 20 nor more than 100 electors.

(hm) For members of the metropolitan sewerage commission in districts over 1,000,000 population, not less than 1,000 nor more than 2,000 electors, in districts over 200,000 but not over 1,000,000 population, not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors, and in districts not over 200,000 population, not less than 100 nor more than 200 electors.

(i) For city offices in 1st class cities, not less than 1,500 nor more than 3,000 electors for city-wide offices, not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors for alderpersons elected from aldermanic districts and not less than 400 nor more than 800 electors for members of the board of school directors elected from election districts.

(j) Except as provided in par. (jm), for city offices in 2nd and 3rd class cities, not less than 200 nor more than 400 electors for city-wide offices and not less than 20 nor more than 40 electors for alderpersons elected from aldermanic districts.

(jm) For city offices in 2nd and 3rd class cities, not less than 100 nor more than 200 electors for alderpersons who are not elected from aldermanic districts.

(k) For city offices in 4th class cities, not less than 50 nor more than 100 for city-wide offices and not less than 20 nor more than 40 electors for alderpersons elected from aldermanic districts.

(km) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2. and subject to sub. (3s), for school district officer in any school district that contains territory lying within a 2nd class city, not less than 100 nor more than 200 electors.

2. For a school district officer in any school district described in subd. 1., not less than 20 and not more than 100 signatures if the annual meeting or the school board of the school district adopts a resolution to reduce the number of required signatures and if, on the date that the annual meeting or school board acts under this subdivision, the territory of the school district lying within one or more 2nd class cities is less than or equal to 10 percent of the territory of the school district.

(ks) For school district officer in any school district which does not contain territory lying within a 1st or 2nd class city, if nomination papers are required under s. 120.06 (6) (a), not less than 20 nor more than 100 electors.

(L) For other offices, not less than 20 nor more than 100 electors.







# Wisconsin Elections Commission

201 West Washington Avenue | Second Floor | P.O. Box 7984 | Madison, WI 53707-7984  
(608) 266-8005 | [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov) | [elections.wi.gov](http://elections.wi.gov)

January 12, 2023

Garrett Sowle  
712 McDonald Street  
Oconto, WI 54153

Brittany Bickel, City Administrator  
1210 Main Street  
Oconto, WI 54153

**Sent via email:** [Garrett.Sowle@outlook.com](mailto:Garrett.Sowle@outlook.com); [admin@cityofoconto.com](mailto:admin@cityofoconto.com)

**Re:** Complaint Filed with Wisconsin Elections Commission  
EL 23-03: Garrett Sowle v. Brittany Bickel

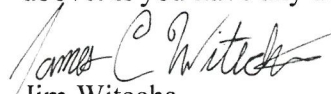
Dear Administrator Bickel,

Enclosed with this letter, please find a sworn Wisconsin Statute § 5.06 complaint filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission (Commission) by Garrett Sowle. The complaint pertains to alleged violations of Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(a), concerning what is reported to be a premature extension of the nomination paper submission deadline by your office.

Individuals that believe the actions of an election official were contrary to an election law or were an abuse of discretion in applying an election law may file a complaint with the Commission. As respondents, you may now provide a sworn written response to the complaint within 13 business days of the date appearing on this letter, which would be February 1, 2023. Your response should address the allegations raised in the complaint.

After you file your response, the complainant may file a reply within 13 business days of the date that the Commission transmits your response to the complainant. Once all allowable filings have been received, the Commission staff will review the information and draft a decision in consultation with the Commission Administrator. The Administrator will then consult with the Commission Chair and issue the decision after permitting Commission members an opportunity to provide any feedback or request a special meeting.

You may file your response via email addressed to [james.witecha@wisconsin.gov](mailto:james.witecha@wisconsin.gov) and [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov) so long as it is clear that the original document has in fact been sworn before an individual that can administer oaths, like a notary public. You may also file the response via regular mail to the address listed in the header above. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at (608) 266-0136.



Jim Witecha

Staff Attorney

**WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

Cc: Meagan Wolfe, Commission Administrator  
Enclosure

*Wisconsin Elections Commissioners*

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

Administrator  
Meagan Wolfe





**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
ELECTIONS COMMISSION**

COMPLAINT FORM

**Please provide the following information about yourself:**

Name Garrett Sowle

Address 712 McDonald St, Oconto, WI 54153

Telephone Number 920-737-3658

E-mail Garrett.Sowle@outlook.com

**State of Wisconsin  
Before the Elections Commission**

The Complaint of Nominations (premature extension of filing deadline)

\_\_\_\_\_, Complainant(s) against

Brittany Bickel (City of Oconto Administrator), Respondent, whose  
address is 1210 Main St, Oconto, WI 54153.

This complaint is under 8.10(2)(a) (Insert the applicable sections of law in chs. 5 to 10 and 12 and other laws relating to elections and election campaigns, other than laws relating to campaign financing)

I, Garrett Sowle, allege that:

Brittany Bickel prematurely Announced the extension for the nomination paper submission deadline on 12/30/22. 8.10(2)(a) reads that "If an incumbent fails to file nomination papers..." then an extension shall be granted. She couldn't know for certain if an incumbent will fail to file until the deadline of 1/3/22. An incumbent's declaration of non-candidacy is NOT a failure to file nomination papers by the original prescribed deadline.



(Set forth in detail the facts that establish probable cause to believe that a violation has occurred. Be as specific as possible as it relates to dates, times, and individuals involved. Also provide the names of individuals who may have information related to the complaint. Use as many separate pages as needed and attach copies of any supporting documentation.)

Date: 1/4/23

[Signature]  
Complainant's Signature

I, Garrett Soule, 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.

[Signature]  
Complainant's Signature

STATE OF ~~WISCONSIN~~ North Carolina

County of Wake,  
(county of notarization)

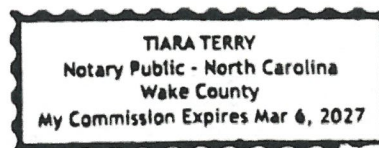
Sworn to before me this 4<sup>th</sup> day of

January, 20 23.

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

My commission expires March 6, 2027, or is permanent.

Notary Public or \_\_\_\_\_  
(official title if not notary)



**Please send this completed form to:**

**Mail:** Wisconsin Elections Commission  
P.O. Box 7984  
Madison, WI 53707-7984

**Fax:** (608) 267-0500

**Email:** [elections@wi.gov](mailto:elections@wi.gov)



## City of Oconto

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**From:** Witecha, James - ELECTIONS <james.witecha@wisconsin.gov> on behalf of Witecha, James - ELECTIONS  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 12, 2023 11:34 AM  
**To:** admin@cityofoconto.com  
**Cc:** Hunzicker, Brandon L - ELECTIONS; Wolfe, Meagan - ELECTIONS  
**Subject:** EL 23-2: Sowle v. Bickel - New Wis. Stat. s. 5.06 Complaint Filed with the WEC  
**Attachments:** Complaint\_Sowle v. Bickel.pdf; Notice of Complaint\_Sowle v. Bickel.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Administrator Bickel,

Please find a new Wis. Stat. s. 5.06 complaint filed with our office attached above, along with a notice letter detailing the next steps. Feel free to contact me if any questions remain.

Regards,

**Jim Witecha**

Staff Attorney  
Wisconsin Elections Commission  
201 West Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53703  
608.266.0136 (direct)  
608.712.8683 (cell)  
608.267.0500 (fax)  
[james.witecha@wisconsin.gov](mailto:james.witecha@wisconsin.gov)

