

**KRUEGER FOR JUDGE
W1962 S. Lawson Drive
Green Lake WI 54941**

January 7, 2017

**Wisconsin Elections Commission
212 East Washington Avenue, Third Floor
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7984**

Re: Denial of Ballot Status for Dennis Krueger, candidate for Waupaca County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 1

I write this memorandum to request that the Commission move to approve ballot status for Dennis Krueger, candidate for Waupaca County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 1. I write to oppose Commission staff's recommendation to deny ballot status.

I outline in detail why my ballot status should be approved:

I. Election Commission staff has concluded that I have filed a sufficient number of signatures to qualify for ballot access.

On January 4, 2017 Legal Counsel Nathan Judnic confirmed via email that: "Commission staff has reviewed the signatures the campaign submitted and concluded had the date of election been properly included in the header portion of the papers, 211 signatures would have been accepted by the Commission staff." A copy of the email as attached to this document as Attachment "A."

II. There has been no challenge filed to the nomination papers filed.

On January 6, 2017 Legal Counsel Nathan Judnic confirmed via email that: "No challenge to your nomination papers was received by our office by the 5:00 deadline." A copy of the email is attached to this document as Attachment "B" The staff memorandum submitted for the January 10, 2017 Commission Meeting Ballot Access for the 2017 Spring Election confirms No formal challenges to nomination papers were filed for this election cycle.

III. My nomination papers circulated by qualified circulators are in substantial compliance with the requirements of Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(b).

Wis. Stat. § 8.10(2)(b) states that:

"Each nomination paper shall have substantially the following words (emphasis added) 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.

In all respects, each nomination form is “substantially” correct. It informs the elector of the candidate’s name. It provides the candidate’s street address. It informs the elector that the candidate is requesting to be placed on the ballot at the Spring Election so that voters will have the opportunity to vote for the candidate for the office of Waupaca County Circuit Court Branch 1, the only judicial race on the ballot in Waupaca County. The date of election was left blank by circulators to inform electors of the Spring election and to not mislead electors into believing that the election would be in April, 2017, when in fact a primary will occur on February 21, 2017, because two candidates had already been approved for ballot status.

The plain meaning of the word “substantially,” as recognized in ordinary usage and dictionary definitions is: “for the most part; essentially.” See for example <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/substantially> <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/substantially> Had the legislature determined that exact words be used for formatting nomination papers and required that exact wording, it could have easily done so by stating that the nomination papers “shall have the following language,” but elected not to do so, choosing instead to liberally grant ballot access for nomination papers that substantially comply with the statute as opposed to hypertechnical requirements.

Also, the fact that some of the information in the statute has parentheses suggests that some interpretation by the circulator of the nomination paper is necessary, especially when the date of election is different when a primary will occur.

More importantly, the omission of the date of election is crucial to inform electors of the correct information as to the date of election. Following the instructions as prepared by staff would have in fact misled the electors who signed my nomination papers into believing that the only time I would appear on the ballot for election to Waupaca County Circuit Judge Branch 1 would be on April 4, 2017, when in fact, if ballot status is approved, there would be a primary election on February 21, 2017. The Commission’s website states exactly that: (See Attachment “C”).

IV. The commission’s form and “INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING NOMINATION PAPERS FOR NONPARTISAN OFFICE”

if followed in this instance would have misled electors who signed the nomination papers about when the date of election would occur.

The commission's form and "INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING NOMINATION PAPERS FOR NONPARTISAN OFFICE" if followed, as instructed, in this particular instance would have misled the electors who signed the nomination papers as to the election date because it would have led them to believe the election date applicable in this race was the first Tuesday in April of 2017 as opposed to the commissions posted date for the primary election set for February 21, 2017. The form and instructions (attached as Attachment "D", and highlighted in yellow) if followed as instructed, would have required circulators to inform electors willing to sign the petition that the election date would have been in April 2017, 6 weeks too late for those electors and others to assure that I would be on the ballot for the Spring election. Had the circulators entered the correct primary date, the staff stated that even though "correct information" as to the date of the election would have been provided to the elector, staff would have rejected the nomination papers anyway, because of past precedent, an absurd result.

Prior to the first nomination paper for my candidacy being circulated, Commission staff had already approved ballot status before December 29, 2017, for Troy Nielsen, who subsequently filed additional signatures for approval on January 3, 2017 at 1:45 pm, and for Eric Hendrickson on December 23, 2016. Because both Nielsen and Hendrickson had been granted ballot status prior to the circulators for my candidacy seeking electors to sign the nomination, my nomination, if approved would have forced a primary. It was in part based on two other candidates having been approved prior to December 29, 2017, that circulators contacted me seeking permission to circulate nomination papers for my candidacy.

In any event, as detailed below, it had been previously well publicized that Nielsen and Hendrickson were the only candidates to date that had sought nomination to the ballot for Waupaca County Circuit Court Branch 1. The circulators knew that a primary in February would be necessary. The form and instructions (attached as Attachment "D") if followed as instructed would have required circulators to inform electors willing to sign the petition that the election date would have been in April 2017, 6 weeks for those electors and others to assure that I would be on the ballot for the Spring election.

V. Staff's reliance on past decisions of the former State Elections Board and Government Accountability Board strongly suggest that ballot access should be approved in this instance

Staff's reliance on past decisions of the former State Elections Board and Government Accountability Board strongly suggest that ballot access should be approved in this instance because Precedent relied on by staff is akin if not identical to the instance in which the predecessor Government Accountability Board allowed signatures to be accepted on papers that did not include a date of election for Candidate Edward M. Baumann for a special election in 2013 for the 98th Assembly District. (See footnote one

in the staff's memorandum to the committee.) In that instance, Edward Baumann, was running for a publicized vacant seat in a special election. His papers were not challenged as insufficient. The Board chose to grant Candidate Baumann ballot access despite the missing date of election.

Applying these same criteria, my nomination papers, are identical to the ones staff previously approved for ballot status for Baumann.

1. Just as in Baumann, the election for Waupaca County Circuit Judge Branch 1 has been, and continues to be, widely publicized in Waupaca media. Attached with this memorandum as Attachment "E" are Facebook.com political social media pages for each candidate which in turn promote news media articles about the race. News articles available on social media include:

Facebook political candidate links:

Dennis Krueger for Waupaca Circuit Court Branch 1

<https://www.facebook.com/Dennis-Krueger-for-Waupaca-Circuit-Court-Branch-1-1855834034659315/>

Hendrickson for Judge:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=hendrickson%20for%20judge>

Troy Nielsen for Waupaca County Judge

<https://www.facebook.com/troynielsenforjudge/>

MEDIA:

“Krueger files for judge Waupaca now.com”

http://www.waupacanow.com/2017/01/04/krueger-files-for-judge/#_

“Two attorneys running for judge waupacanow.com”

<http://www.waupacanow.com/2016/12/07/two-attorneys-running-for-judge/>

“Two Attorneys run for Waupaca Judge Seat tchdailynews.com”

<http://www.tchdailynews.com/2016/12/12/two-attorneys-run-for-waupaca-judge-seat/>

“Voters will have choice in judicial election”

<http://wduxradio.com/voters-will-choice-judicial-election/>

“New candidate for Waupaca County Judge TCH daily news”

<http://www.tchdailynews.com/2017/01/05/new-candidate-for-waupaca-county-judge/>

“A third person has thrown his hat in the ring wduxradio.com”
<http://www.tchdailynews.com/2017/01/05/new-candidate-for-waupaca-county-judge/>

“Krueger ballot status denied”
<http://wduxradio.com/krueger-ballot-status-denied>

“Krueger to appeal elections
commission”<http://wduxradio.com/krueger-appeal-elections-commission/>

All this media is being generated in a county that is expected to have a voter turnout in the range of less than 4000 voters and a total population of around 50,000. The seat up for election is widely publicized.

2. My nomination papers were not challenged as insufficient.

Circulators for my candidacy and the electors of Waupaca County have the right to vote for the candidate of their choosing in a widely publicized race for Waupaca County Circuit Court Branch 1. They should not be denied the opportunity by the elections commission when the circulators, and electors, in good faith looking at the rules, and applying common sense, chose to circulate substantially correct nomination papers for my candidacy for Waupaca County Circuit Court Branch 1.

For all of the above reasons I request that the Commission approve ballot status for Dennis Krueger, candidate for Waupaca County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 1.

Sincerely,

Dennis Krueger
Candidate for Waupaca County Circuit Court Branch 1

Attachment "A"

from: **Judnic, Nathan - ELECTIONS**<Nathan.Judnic@wisconsin.gov>
to: "dk4judge2017@gmail.com" <dk4judge2017@gmail.com>
cc: "Haas, Michael R - ELECTIONS" <Michael.Haas@wisconsin.gov>, "Lowe, Diane - ELECTIONS" <Diane.Lowe@wisconsin.gov>, "Webb, Jennifer - ELECTIONS" <Jennifer.Webb@wisconsin.gov>
date: Wed, Jan 4, 2017 at 4:47 PM
subject: Nomination Paper Signatures
mailed- wisconsin.gov
by:

Mr. Krueger,
I will follow-up with a more detailed response hopefully tomorrow, but based on the past precedent of the Government Accountability Board (the WEC has not directly dealt with ballot access issues since beginning their work on June 30, 2016), the staff will recommend that 0 signatures be accepted due to the missing date of election on your papers. **Our staff has reviewed the signatures that you did submit, and had the date of election been properly included in the header portion of the papers, 211 signatures would have been accepted by the Commission staff (subject to any other challenges that could come in prior to the Friday deadline).**

The Commission will meet on January 10, 2017 via teleconference to decide ballot access issues and certify candidates for the Spring ballot.

Here is the call-in information for that meeting:

Dial: [1-855-947-8255](tel:1-855-947-8255)
Passcode: 8498252#

Regards,
Nate

Nathan W. Judnic
Legal Counsel
Wisconsin Elections Commission
212 East Washington Ave, Third Floor
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984
[608.267.0953](tel:608.267.0953) (direct)
[608.264-9319](tel:608.264.9319) (fax)
nathan.judnic@wi.gov

Attachment "B"

from: **Judnic, Nathan - ELECTIONS**<Nathan.Judnic@wisconsin.gov>
to: dennis krueger <dk4judge2017@gmail.com>
cc: "Haas, Michael R - ELECTIONS" <Michael.Haas@wisconsin.gov>
date: Fri, Jan 6, 2017 at 5:11 PM
subject: RE: Nomination Paper Signatures
mailed- wisconsin.gov
by:

Mr. Krueger,

No challenge to your nomination papers was received by our office by the 5:00 deadline. Attached please find the full packet of materials for the January 10, 2017 Commission meeting, which includes the aforementioned ballot access memorandum prepared by our staff.

Regards,
Nate

Nathan W. Judnic
Legal Counsel
Wisconsin Elections Commission
212 East Washington Ave, Third Floor
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984
[608.267.0953](tel:608.267.0953) (direct)
[608.264-9319](tel:608.264-9319) (fax)
nathan.judnic@wi.gov

Attachment “C”

[Skip to main content](#)

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Administering Wisconsin's Election Laws

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Upcoming Events

- Wisconsin Elections Commission
January 2017 Meeting
01/10/2017 - 10:00am - 4:00pm
- Wisconsin Elections Commission
March 2017 Meeting
03/14/2017 - 10:00am - 4:00pm
- Wisconsin Elections Commission
June 2017 Meeting
06/20/2017 - 10:00am - 4:00pm

[More ...](#)

Upcoming Elections

- 2017 Spring Primary
February 21, 2017 - 7:00am
- 2017 Spring Election
April 4, 2017 - 7:00am
- 2018 Spring Primary
February 20, 2018 - 7:00am
- 2018 Spring Election
April 3, 2018 - 7:00am

[More ...](#)

Home

Spring 2017 Election

Spring Primary: February 21, 2017
Spring Election: April 4, 2017

State offices to be elected are State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Supreme Court Justice, Court of Appeals Judge (Districts 1, 2 and 4), and Circuit Court Judge.

The deadline for candidates to file declarations of candidacy and nomination papers is 5 p.m. Tuesday, January 3, 2017. The deadline for filing Statements of Economic Interests with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission is 4:30 p.m. Friday, January 6, 2017.

See Offices to be Elected attachment below for complete list of offices and officeholders.

See Candidates Tracking by Office attachment below for the names of the candidates who have registered and filed papers to get on the ballot.

Attachment

Attachment	Size
Candidates Tracking By Office (1.6.2017 6pm).pdf	39.19 KB
Nomination Paper Tracking (1.3.17 Final).pdf	29.83 KB
Supplemental Nomination Papers (1.3.2017 Final).pdf	16.78 KB
Notification of Noncandidacy List-Spring 2017 (FINAL).pdf	15.85 KB
Offices to be Elected Spring 2017 (as of 1.5.17).pdf	18.15 KB
Amended Type A Notice_spring 2017.pdf	42.27 KB

Wisconsin Elections Commission | 212 East Washington Avenue, Third Floor P.O. Box 7984 | Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7984

tele (608) 266-6065 | fax (608) 267-0500 | ttp: 1-800-917-3329 | e-mail elections@wi.gov

Toll-Free Voter Help Line: 1-866-VOTE-WIS

A "Hackment" D

NOMINATION PAPER FOR NONPARTISAN OFFICE

Candidate's name (required): no titles may be used. _____

Candidate's residential address (required) *No P.O. Box addresses*
 Street, fire, or rural route number; box number (if rural route); and name of street or road

Candidate's municipality for voting purposes (required)
 Village
 Town
 City

Candidate's mailing address, including municipality for mailing purposes (required if different than residential address or voting municipality)

State (required) **WI** Zip code _____

Type of election (required)
 Spring
 Special

Election date (required) *Do not use primary date*
 Mo/Day/Year _____

Title of office (required) _____

Branch, district or seat number (required if applicable)
 Branch
 District
 Seat

Name of jurisdiction or district in which candidate seeks office (required) _____

I, the undersigned, request that the candidate, whose name and residential address are listed above, be placed on the ballot at the election described above as a candidate so that voters will have the opportunity to vote for him or her for the office listed above. 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.

The municipality used for mailing purposes, when different than municipality of residence, is not sufficient. The name of the municipality of residence must always be listed.

Signatures of Electors	Printed Name of Electors	Residential Address (No P.O. Box Addresses) (Rural address must also include box or fire no.)	Municipality of Residence Check the type and write the name of your municipality for voting purposes.	Date of Signing Mo/Day/Year
1.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
2.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
3.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
4.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
5.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
6.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
7.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
8.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
9.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	
10.			<input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> City	

CERTIFICATION OF CIRCULATOR

(Name of circulator) _____ certify: I reside at _____

(Circulator's residential address - include number, street, and municipality.) _____

I further certify I am either a qualified elector of Wisconsin, or a U.S. citizen, age 18 or older who, if I were a resident of this state, would not be disqualified from voting under Wis. Stat. §6.03. I personally circulated this nomination paper and personally obtained each of the signatures on this paper. I know that the signers are electors of the jurisdiction or district the candidate seeks to represent. I know that each person signed the paper with full knowledge of its content on the date indicated opposite his or her name. I know their respective residences given. I intend to support this candidate. I am aware that falsifying this certification is punishable under Wis. Stat. § 12.13(3)(a).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING NOMINATION PAPERS FOR NONPARTISAN OFFICE

This is a sample nomination paper form. It conforms to the statutory requirements for nomination papers for nonpartisan office. All information concerning the candidate must be completed in full before circulating this form to obtain signatures of electors. All information concerning the signing electors and the circulator must be completed in full before filing with the appropriate filing officer. This form may be reproduced in any way. A candidate's picture and biographical data may also be added to this form. The Wisconsin Elections Commission has determined that no disclaimer or other attribution statement is required on nomination papers. Candidates are advised to send a sample of their completed form the filing officer for review before circulation.

Page Numbers – Number each page consecutively, beginning with "1", before submitting to the filing officer. A space for page numbers has been provided in the lower right-hand corner of the form.

Candidate's Name - Insert the candidate's name. A candidate may use his or her full legal name, or any combination of first name, middle name, and initials or nickname with last name. The Wisconsin Elections Commission has determined that, absent any evidence of an attempt to manipulate the electoral process, candidates are permitted to choose any form of their name, including nicknames, by which they want to appear on the ballot.

No titles are permitted. In addition, names such as "Red" or "Skip" are permitted, but names which have an apparent electoral purpose or benefit, such as "Lower taxes," "None of the above" or "Lower Spending" are not permitted. It is also not permissible to add nicknames in quotes or parentheses between first and last names. For example, John "Jack" Jones or John (Jack) Jones are not acceptable, but John Jones, Jack Jones or John Jack Jones are acceptable.

Candidate's Address – Insert the candidate's residential address (*no P.O. Box addresses*) and the municipality for voting purposes. Indicate if the municipality of residence is a town, village, or city. If a candidate's mailing address is different from the residential address or voting municipality, a complete mailing address must also be given.

Date of Election - Insert the date of the election. If the nomination paper is being circulated for a spring election, the date is the first Tuesday in April. If the election is a special nonpartisan election, the date of the special election must be listed.

Title of Office - The name of the office must be listed **along with any branch, district, or seat number** (if applicable) that clearly identifies the office the candidate is seeking. If necessary, the name of the jurisdiction that identifies the office, such as Dane County Circuit Court Judge, Branch 3, must also be listed.

Name of Jurisdiction - The nomination papers must also indicate the municipality or jurisdiction in which the signing electors are qualified to vote, as it relates to the office sought by the candidate named on the nomination paper. For example, for a statewide office the jurisdiction is the State of Wisconsin. Others may be the county, town, village, city, aldermanic district, school district, or town sanitary district, as required.

Signatures and Printed Name of Electors - Only qualified electors of the jurisdiction or the district the candidate seeks to represent may sign the nomination papers. Each signer must also legibly print their name. Each elector must provide their residential address (*no P.O. Box addresses*), including any street, fire or rural route number, box number (if rural route) and street or road name, and municipality of residence. A post office box number alone does not show where the elector actually resides. The name of the Municipality of Residence must be listed for each signing elector and must clearly identify the town, village or city where the elector's voting residence is located. The date the elector signed the nomination paper, including month, day and year, must be indicated. Ditto marks that follow correct and complete address or date information are acceptable. The circulator may add any missing or illegible address or date information before the papers are filed with the filing officer.

Signature of Circulator - The circulator should carefully read the language of the *Certification of Circulator*. THE CIRCULATOR MUST PERSONALLY PRESENT THE NOMINATION PAPER TO EACH SIGNER. THE NOMINATION PAPER MAY NOT BE LEFT UNATTENDED ON COUNTERS OR POSTED ON BULLETIN BOARDS. The circulator's complete residential address including municipality of residence must be listed in the certification. After obtaining signatures of electors, the circulator must sign and date the certification.

Other Instructions - Candidates and circulators should review Ch. GAB §§ 2.05, 2.07, Wis. Adm. Code.

- **Original nomination papers** must be in the physical custody of the appropriate filing officer by the filing deadline. A postmark on the filing deadline is NOT sufficient. Nomination papers cannot be faxed to the filing officer. Ch. GAB § 6.04(2), Wis. Adm. Code.
- Nomination papers with the required number of signatures must be filed with the appropriate filing officer no later than 5:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday in January (or the next day if the first Tuesday is a holiday) before the spring election. Special elections may have different filing deadlines. Check with the filing officer.
- In order for a candidate's name to be placed on the ballot, a candidate must file a *Campaign Registration Statement* (ETHC-1), a *Declaration of Candidacy* (EL-162), and *Nomination Papers* (EL-169) containing the appropriate number of signatures for the office sought no later than the filing deadline. Wis. Stat. § 8.10(3). Candidates for state office and municipal judge must also file a statement of economic interests with the Wisconsin Ethics Commission by the third business day after the nomination paper filing deadline. Wis. Stat. § 19.43. If any one of these required forms is not filed by the deadline, the candidate's name will not be placed on the ballot. Wis. Stat. § 8.30.
- If a candidate or circulator has any questions, he or she should contact the filing officer.

Facebook political candidate links:

Dennis Krueger for Waupaca Circuit Court Branch 1

<https://www.facebook.com/Dennis-Krueger-for-Waupaca-Circuit-Court-Branch-1-1855834034659315/>

Hendrickson for Judge:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=hendrickson%20for%20judge>

Troy Nielsen for Waupaca County Judge

<https://www.facebook.com/troynielsenforjudge/>

HomeNewsAround Waupaca CountyTwo attorneys running for judge



Hendrickson (left) and Nielsen

December 7, 2016

Judge Kirk not seeking re-election in 2017

By Robert Cloud

Two attorneys have filed to run for Waupaca County Circuit Court judge.

Judge Philip Kirk, who plans to retire, will not seek re-election in 2017.

Seeking to replace him are Troy Nielsen and Eric Hendrickson.

Nielsen

Born and raised in Racine, Nielsen graduated in 2005 from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

"When I was an undergrad, I thought I would go into law enforcement," Nielsen said. "I had a professor who was a lawyer, and he encouraged me to go into law school."

Nielsen attended Hamline Law School in St. Paul, Minnesota, and received his law degree in the spring of 2008.

He passed his bar exam in the fall of 2008 and began working for the Wisconsin Public Defender's Office out of Stevens Point in January 2009.

"There were two things I wanted to do, public service and helping people," Nielsen said. "The best way I could see to accomplish both of those things was as a public defender."

Nielsen said he learned the importance of public service from his grandmother, Phyllis Nielsen, who was the clerk of courts in Racine County.

As a public defender, Nielsen spends most of his time serving clients in Waupaca County.

"At any time, I have at least 100 open cases," Nielsen said. "I've handled approximately 3,000 cases in my career."

Initially, Nielsen did not plan to remain in the area. He expected to relocate to the southeastern part of Wisconsin where his family lived.

"Then I met the person who ultimately became my wife," Nielsen said.

Angela (Reynolds) Nielsen is from Iola and currently works for Waupaca County Health and Human Services.

“When I met her and fell in love, I couldn’t foresee myself raising my children anywhere other than Scandinavia,” Nielsen said.

The Niensens have a 4-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter.

As a public defender, Nielsen represents defendants who cannot afford to hire attorneys.

He is also responsible for defending juvenile delinquents and children over age 12 who have been abused by their parents or step-parents.

Public defenders serve as advocates for children in cases involving protective services.

“Let’s say a 14-year-old girl is alleged to have been sexually abused by her father. The county may want to place the child in foster care and limit the parents’ access to the child,” Nielsen said. “I represent the child. If the child objects to being placed with grandma or objects to being placed in foster care, it’s my job to advocate for the interests and expectations of the child.”

The public defender’s office also handles Chapter 51 petitions that order people into mental health services.

Nielsen noted that Chapter 51 cases involve the county forcing a person to take medication, obtain counseling and even be institutionalized.

“Public defenders make sure they are not locked up in a mental institution without due process,” Nielsen said.

Nielsen said his experience as a public defender has helped him learn to be patient and to listen to people’s concerns.

“Doing all the cases I’ve done and the various ways I’ve represented people, I think those experiences have given me the ability and insight to help the citizens of Waupaca County deal with their legal issues,” Nielsen said.

Nielsen believes common sense is nearly as important as knowledge of the law when it comes to helping people resolve legal issues.

Hendrickson

A 1980 graduate of Lincoln High School in Wisconsin Rapids, Hendrickson earned his bachelor’s degree in business finance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1984 and his law degree from the UW Law School in Madison in 1987.

He then moved to Wausau, where he spent three years specializing in business law with a small private firm, then worked eight years in-house for Wausau Insurance.

While working on a file in Wausau, Hendrickson met Waupaca attorney Steve Hansen, who persuaded him to move to Waupaca in March 1998.

"I worked with Steve Hansen for about a year and a half, then I began working with Tom Johnson in New London in September 1999," Hendrickson said. "We have offices in New London and Waupaca. I spend the bulk of my week in Waupaca."

Hendrickson said he has not done any criminal cases. Most of his work for the past 10 years has involved family law – divorces custody, adoptions, child protective cases and guardian ad litem work.

"In a contested custody case, I'm appointed by the court to represent the best interests of the children," Hendrickson said. "That was a niche that just developed because people liked the job I do and I liked doing it."

As a guardian ad litem, Hendrickson said he is required to listen to both sides, take evidence from both sides and make value judgments.

"The judges are counting on me to make good recommendations to them, so I take that very seriously," Hendrickson said.

One of the most important characteristics of a good judge is the ability to listen to people and give sound reasons for a decision, Hendrickson said.

"People are in our justice system at terrible times in their lives," Hendrickson said. "I think we owe it to them to listen and try to get the decision correct. If people believe they have been heard and they know solid reasons for the decision, it makes tough news more palatable."

Hendrickson is especially concerned with the growing drug problem in Waupaca County.

"My practice sees the consequences of drug problems early and often," Hendrickson said. "So many of the broken families and placement problems involve drugs and alcohol."

As a judge, Hendrickson said he would work to be consistent and even handed.

He believes Waupaca County's plan to start a drug-treatment court will help those defendants who are ready to be helped.

"But there are repeat offenders who are just going to go out there and wreak havoc on the community," Hendrickson said. He described the judge's role as sifting and winnowing between those who are ready for help and those who are not ready.

Hendrickson said he has lived, worked and been active in the Waupaca community a long time and raised his family here.

“I think I’m ready at this point,” he said. “I know enough about the law, the county and the people to do a good job.”



Tags: [Eric Hendrickson](#), [Featured](#), [Troy Nielsen](#), [Waupaca County 2017 spring elections](#), [Waupaca County Circuit Court](#), [Waupaca County Judge Philip Kirk](#)

Source: <http://www.waupacanow.com/2016/12/07/two-attorneys-running-for-judge/>



January 4, 2017

A third candidate has entered the race for Waupaca County circuit court judge.

Dennis Krueger filed his declaration of candidacy on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

Krueger has been the deputy district attorney in Fond du Lac County since January 2014.

His prior experience includes working as a state prosecutor.

A 1987 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, Krueger currently lives in Green Lake.

The two other candidates who have filed for the seat are Troy Nielsen of Scandinavia and Eric Hendrickson of Waupaca.

They are seeking to replace Judge Philip Kirk who is retiring at the end of his term in 2017.



Tags: [Dennis Krueger](#), [Waupaca County Circuit Court](#)

Source: http://www.waupacanow.com/2017/01/04/krueger-files-for-judge/#_

Two Attorneys Run For Waupaca Judge Seat

Shawano, WI, United States / TCHDailyNews

[Brad Williams](#)

December 12, 2016 05:31 pm

Two attorneys have filed their papers and will be in the running for Waupaca County Circuit Court judge. Troy Neilson and Eric Hendrickson will seek the position. The race will be filling the vacancy of Judge Phillip Kirk, who will not seek re-election and plans to retire in 2017. Nielson passed the bar exam in 2008 and began to work for the Wisconsin Public Defender's Office in Stevens Point. In that position of public defender, he mostly serves clients in Waupaca County. Neilson believes his experience as a public defender has helped him learn to be patient and listen to concerns of his clients.

For Hendrickson, he spent three years in business law at a private firm before spending eight years working for Wausau Insurance. He moved to Waupaca in 1999 and in the past decade he's spent most of his time working family cases, such as divorce, custody, and adoptions. Hendrickson hopes his ability to listen and give sound reasoning are all important characteristics of a judge. As judge, he would promise to be consistent and even, in his rulings.

Source: <http://www.tchdailynews.com/2016/12/12/two-attorneys-run-for-waupaca-judge-seat/>

New Candidate For Waupaca County Judge

Shawano, WI, United States / TCHDailyNews

[Brad Williams](#)

January 05, 2017 07:27 pm

The race for the new Waupaca County judge picked up a new candidate on Tuesday, as Attorney Dennis Krueger successfully filed his nomination papers with the State Elections Commission. Krueger had been an attorney in Fond Du Lac County and now joins Troy Neilson and Eric Hendrickson as those hoping to replace the retiring Judge Phillip Kirk. Before Krueger's ballot status can become official, however, the state elections commission must first approve the signatures on his candidacy papers.

Source: <http://www.tchdailynews.com/2017/01/05/new-candidate-for-waupaca-county-judge/>

VOTERS WILL HAVE CHOICE IN JUDICIAL ELECTION

Waupaca County voters will have a choice for circuit court judge in the spring election. Two local attorneys have thrown their hats in the ring for the job currently held by long-time Judge Phillip Kirk, who is retiring, and not seeking re-election. Troy Nielsen of Scandinavia and Eric Hendrickson of Waupaca are seeking the judgeship. Nielson is a public defender out of the Stevens Point state public defender's office. He earned his law degree from Hamline Law School in 2008. Hendrickson specializes in family law. He earned his law degree from UW-Madison in 1987. Judge Kirk will be retiring after 36 years on the bench, having been first elected in 1981.

12-7-16

Source: <http://wduxradio.com/voters-will-choice-judicial-election/>

A THIRD PERSON HAS THROWN HIS HAT IN THE RING IN THE RACE FOR A WAUPACA CO. JUDGESHIP

Attorney Dennis Krueger filed his nomination papers with the state elections commission Tuesday afternoon, prior to the 5pm deadline. Krueger, a Green Lake resident, is currently a Deputy District Attorney in Fond du Lac Co., and has previously worked as an Assistant District Attorney General under Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen. Krueger joins attorneys Troy Nielson of Scandinavia and Eric Hendrickson of Waupaca in seeking the seat that is currently held by retiring Judge Phillip Kirk. According to the state elections commission, Krueger's ballot status is still pending approval of a qualifying number of signatures on his candidacy papers.

Source: <http://wduxradio.com/third-person-thrown-hat-ring-race-waupaca-co-judgeship/>

KRUEGER TO APPEAL ELECTIONS COMMISSION

A Fond du Lac County deputy district attorney will appeal a decision by state elections commission staff that, for the time being, would keep him off the ballot in Waupaca County's spring judicial race. Dennis Krueger, a former state prosecutor in the Attorney General's office, had his ballot status denied by the elections commission this week, when it was determined he failed to put the election date on his nominating petitions, as is required by law. Krueger says he left the date off intentionally. He says he was told by commission members to put April 4th on the petitions, but knowing that there were already two candidates on the ballot, Krueger says the actual date should be the primary election date of February 21st. So instead of putting what he thought was a wrong date on his papers, he put no date at all. He will have an appeal hearing before the election commission next week.

1-6-17

Source: <http://wduxradio.com/krueger-appeal-elections-commission/>

KRUEGER BALLOT STATUS DENIED

A Fond du Lac attorney has had his ballot status denied as he attempts to join the race for what will be an open Waupaca County judgeship. Dennis Krueger of Green Lake got his nominating papers into the state elections commission Tuesday afternoon, ahead of the 5 pm deadline. But Krueger's ballot status was denied today. Reid Magney, the spokesperson for the elections commission, says Krueger failed to put the election date on his nominating petitions, as is required by law. Magney says Krueger can appeal the staff's decision to the elections commission next week. A message left with Krueger Tuesday seeking comment about a possible appeal has not been returned.

1-5-17

Source: <http://wduxradio.com/krueger-ballot-status-denied/>