



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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DATE: For the January 15, 2021 Meeting of the Wisconsin Elections Commission

TO: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission

FROM: Meagan Wolfe, Administrator

SUBJECT: Ballot Access for Senate District 13 Special Election

Summary

Due to a resignation of the incumbent State Senator, Governor Tony Evers has issued Executive Order 100 to call a special election to fill the Senate District 13 seat. The special election for this office will be held in conjunction with the April 6, 2021 Spring Election. A primary will be held on the same day as the Spring Primary on February 16, 2021.

The filing deadline for the special elections began on December 22, 2020, and the deadline for filing nominating paperwork was January 8, 2021. Seven candidates have completed a campaign registration statement for the seat, and six candidates have filed all necessary paperwork for ballot access. A primary will be required for all ballot access parties as there are multiple candidates running for the Republican nomination.

Nomination Paper Review Process and Ballot Access Document Filing

Staff continues to use internal nomination paper review standards based on the requirements set forth in Wis. Stat. §§ 8.10 and 8.30 and Wis. Admin. Code Ch. EL 2 to determine if a candidate has filed a sufficient number of signatures to qualify for ballot access. During the review process, staff did not identify any irregularities in the nomination papers of the six candidates who filed nomination papers.

The table below lists all of the candidates that filed nomination paperwork, their party, and the amount of signatures identified by staff:

Name of Candidate	Party or Statement of Principle	Number of Signatures
Melissa Winker	Democratic	752
Todd Menzel	Republican	453
Don Pridemore	Republican	641
John Jagler	Republican	648
Spencer Zimmerman	Independent, Trump Conservative	427
Ben Schmitz	Independent, American Solidarity Party	480

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Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

Challenges to Nomination Paper Sufficiency

One challenge to ballot access was received by the deadline of 4:30 on Monday, January 11, 2021.

Recommended Motion:

Staff recommends that the Commission certify ballot access for the six candidates listed in the table above, notwithstanding any candidate who was denied ballot status due to a challenge.