



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Wisconsin Elections Commission
Special Teleconference Meeting
212 E. Washington Avenue, Third Floor
Madison, Wisconsin
9:00 a.m. March 31, 2020

Open Session Minutes

Present: Commissioner Ann Jacobs, Commissioner Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner Julie Glancey, Commissioner Dean Knudson, Commissioner Robert Spindell Jr., and Commissioner Mark Thomsen, all by teleconference.

Staff present: Meagan Wolfe, Richard Rydecki, Sharrie Hauge, Robert Kehoe, Michael Haas, Reid Magney, and Nathan Judnic, all by teleconference.

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair Dean Knudson called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 proper notice was given for the meeting.

C. Discussion of Election Day Preparations

Administrator Wolfe and Deputy Administrator Richard Rydecki began by providing an overview of a WEC staff memo, beginning on page 2 of the Commission meeting materials packet, concerning frequently asked questions regarding absentee ballot processing on election day, results reporting, and canvass.

Discussion.

Administrator Wolfe made a presentation on a staff memo that begins on page 10 of the meeting materials packet related to consolidating polling places and the use of WisVote.

Discussion.

Administrator Wolfe spoke to the state of polling place supplies and personnel shortages. Corresponding memorandum can be found on page 12 of the meeting materials packet.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

Dean Knudson, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Julie M. Glancey | Ann Jacobs | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

Discussion.

MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission advises the federal court that if the court moves the election date, it should be moved to May 12.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobs.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	No	Glancey:	No
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	No
	Knudson:	No	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion fails 4-2.

MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission advises the federal court against changing the date of the 2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote due to the problems that such an action would create.

Moved by Commissioner Knudson. Seconded by Commissioner Spindell.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	No
	Jacobs:	No	Spindell:	Aye
	Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	No

Motion failed 3-3.

MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission believes that, given concerns around timing, the 2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote should proceed as scheduled for April 7, 2020. Further, the Commission asks that the federal court consider the unprecedented amount of absentee ballots that will be received in this election when determining how absentee ballots shall be processed and counted.

Moved by Commissioner Bostelmann. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Discussion.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: That the first sentence of the motion, advocating for holding the election on April 7, be removed.

Proposed by Commissioner Jacobs. Not accepted by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: That only absentee ballots with a postmark of April 7, 2020 or earlier shall counted.

Proposed by Commissioner Spindell. Accepted by Commissioner Bostelmann.

AMENDED MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission believes that, given concerns around timing, the 2020 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Vote should proceed as scheduled for April 7, 2020. Further, the Commission asks that the federal court consider the unprecedented amount of absentee ballots that will be received in this election when determining how absentee ballots shall be processed and counted. The Commission also asks the court to rule such that only absentee ballots with a postmark of April 7, 2020 or earlier shall be counted.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: That a cut-off date be established, after which absentee ballots may no longer be counted.

Proposed by Commissioner Spindell. Not accepted by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Discussion.

Roll call vote on the amended motion:

Bostelmann:	Aye	Glancey:	No
Jacobs:	No	Spindell:	Aye
Knudson:	No	Thomsen:	No

Motion fails 4-2.

D. Closed Session

MOTION: Move to closed session for the purposes of conferring with legal counsel concerning litigation strategy as permitted by Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(g).

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Roll call vote:	Thomsen:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
	Bostelmann:	Aye	Knudson:	Aye

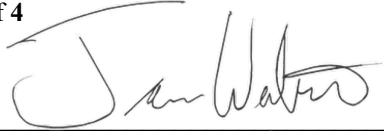
Motion carried 6-0.

Open session concluded at 11:24 a.m.

E. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned in closed session at 1:18 p.m.

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Jacob Walters, Operations Program Associate

March 18, 2021

March 31, 2020 Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:



Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

June 2, 2021