



**Get Ready for the April Election**

March 9, 2022

# Get Ready for the April Election

## Agenda

- New Training Materials
- Elections Security
- LAB Report
- Counting Write-In Votes
  - Registered Write-Ins
  - Voter Intent
  - Training Examples
  - Reminders for Counting Write-In Votes
  - Scattering

# Get Ready for the April Election



## New Training Materials

- Videos in The Learning Center (TLC)
  - UOCAVA
  - In Person Absentee Voting
  - Voting Equipment Security
- Reminder: Clerks who did not report at least six hour of election training during the 2020-2021 term, should take and report at least six hours of election training by their first election in 2022, including the 3-hour MCT Core class.
- Clerks are encouraged to report their election training periodically while the training details are still fresh.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Elections Security

- 2020 Election and General Election Process FAQs
  - WEC provided information to help the public understand election processes and and election administration.
  - Includes information about Wisconsin statutes, court decisions and Commission directives.
  - Provides answers to frequently asked questions.
- Securing Wisconsin Elections video
- Special Counsel Second Report
  - WEC released a report to address some of the inaccuracies in the report.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## LAB Report

- Clerks must initial the absentee certificate envelope to indicate the voter has met the photo ID requirement.
- Tamper-evident serial numbers must be listed on the Inspectors' Statement and reviewed before the polls open and after the polls close by the chief inspector.
- Inspectors need to provide accurate voter statistics on the Inspectors' Statement (# of voters, EDRs, absentee, provisional, etc.), so clerks can reconcile in WisVote post-election.
- Pre-election testing of all voting equipment needs to be conducted within 10 days of an election.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Registered Write-Ins

- A candidate who wishes to run as a write-in is required to file a Campaign Registration Statement (CF-1) by 12:00 p.m. the Friday before the election.
- If the candidate has already filed an CF-1 with the filing officer and decides to run as a write-in, WEC recommends the candidate submit a written statement to that effect to the filing officer.
- The municipal clerk should give the election inspectors a list of registered write-ins. A voter who asks if there are any registered write-ins should be allowed to look at the list. The list should not be posted or otherwise offered to voters.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Voter Intent

- Wis. Stat. § 7.50(2)(d): When write-in votes may be counted vs. ballot candidate votes.
- Wis. Stat. § 7.50(2)(em): When write-in votes may be counted for registered vs. non-registered candidates.
- The Four Principles for Determining Eligibility of Write-In Votes.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## The Four Principles for Determining Eligibility of Write-In Votes

1. If the number of ballot candidates for a given office is equal to or greater than the number seats to be filled--  
**Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible for counting.**
2. If there are fewer ballot candidates for a given office than the number of seats to be filled—  
**All write-in votes are eligible for counting.**
3. If there are any ballot candidates for a given office and one or more has passed away—  
**All write-in votes are eligible for counting.**
4. If there are enough write-in votes to fill the number of seats up for election (regardless of the eligibility of the write-in votes)--  
**Votes for ballot candidates may not be considered.**



# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example: Voter 1

Registered Write-in Candidates  
Fanny Hill  
Lizzy Serton

Village Trustee Vote for 1
<input type="radio"/> Ida Thotso
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Write-in: <i>Lizzy Serton</i>

Ballot instructions

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example Result: Voter 1

Question 1: How many votes is the voter entitled to cast in this contest? (refer to ballot instructions)

Question 2: Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (refer to principle 2)

Question 3: Is the write-in vote registered? (refer to principle 3)

Question 4: Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (refer to principle 4)

### Final Result

There is 1 vote marked. The write-in vote for Lizzy Serton is counted for this office. The voting equipment recorded a vote for Lizzy because the oval was filled in.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example: Voter 2

Registered Write-in Candidates  
Fanny Hill  
Lizzy Serton

Village Trustee Vote for 1
<input type="radio"/> Ida Thotso
<input type="radio"/> Write-in: <i>Lizzy Serton</i>

Ballot instructions

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example Result: Voter 2

Question 1: How many votes is the voter entitled to cast in this contest? (refer to ballot instructions)

Question 2: Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (refer to principle 2)

Question 3: Is the write-in vote registered? (refer to principle 3)

Question 4: Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (refer to principle 4)

### Final Result

- There is 1 vote marked. The write-in vote for Lizzy Serton is counted for this office.
- The voting equipment did not record a vote for Lizzy because the oval was not filled in. The voting equipment tape will need to be adjusted.
- Adjust the tape to add a vote to Lizzy. Record the reason on the Inspectors' Statement.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example: Voter 3

Registered Write-in Candidates  
Fanny Hill  
Lizzy Serton

Village Trustee Vote for 1
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Ida Thotso
<input type="radio"/> Write-in: <i>Sergiy Weathers</i>

Ballot instructions

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example Result: Voter 3

Question 1: How many votes is the voter entitled to cast in this contest? (refer to ballot instructions)

Question 2: Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (refer to principle 2)

Question 3: Is the write-in vote registered? (refer to principle 3)

Question 4: Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (refer to principle 4)

### Final Result

- There are 2 votes marked. The write-in vote for Sonny Weathers is not counted for this office and the vote for Ida Thotso is not counted.
- The voting equipment has recorded a vote for Ida (because Ida's oval was filled in) but has not recorded a vote for Sonny because the oval was not filled in.
- Adjust the tape to subtract a vote from Ida Lizzy. Record the reason on the Inspectors' Statement.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example: Voter 4

Registered Write-in Candidates  
Don L. Duck

<b>1</b>
Mayor
Vote for 1
<input checked="" type="radio"/> write-in: <i>Mickey Mouse</i>

Ballot instructions

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example Result: Voter 4

Question 1: How many votes is the voter entitled to cast in this contest? (refer to ballot instructions)

Question 2: Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (refer to principle 2)

Question 3: Is the write-in vote registered? (refer to principle 3)

Question 4: Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (refer to principle 4)

### Final Result

- There is 1 vote marked. The write-in vote for Mickey Mouse is counted for this office.
- The voting equipment has correctly recorded a write-in vote for Mickey Mouse.



# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example: Voter 5

Registered Write-in Candidates  
Fanny Hill  
Lizzy Serion

Village Trustee  
Vote for not more than 2

- Wanda Round
- Bill Melator
- write-in: Martin Sauer
- write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

Ballot instructions

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example Result: Voter 5

Question 1: How many votes is the voter entitled to cast in this contest? (refer to ballot instructions)

Question 2: Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (refer to principle 2)

Question 3: Is the write-in vote registered? (refer to principle 3)

Question 4: Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (refer to principle 4)

### Final Result

- There are 3 votes marked. The votes for ballot candidates Wanda Round and Bill Melator are counted for this office.
- The voting equipment has recorded this office as overvoted (3 ovals filled in a Vote for 2 contest) – no votes were recorded by the voting equipment.
- Adjust the take to reflect two votes for the ballot candidates. Record the reason on the Inspectors' Statement.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example: Voter 6

Registered Write-in Candidates  
Fanny Hill  
Lizzy Serton

Village Trustee  
Vote for not more than 3

Ballot instructions

- Wanda Round
- Rob R. Barron
- write-in: *April Skowron*
- write-in: \_\_\_\_\_
- write-in: \_\_\_\_\_

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Training Example Result: Voter 6

Question 1: How many votes is the voter entitled to cast in this contest? (refer to ballot instructions)

Question 2: Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (refer to principle 2)

Question 3: Is the write-in vote registered? (refer to principle 3)

Question 4: Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (refer to principle 4)

### Final Result

- There are 3 votes marked. The votes for Wanda Round, Rob R. Barron and April Showers are counted for this office.
- The voting equipment has correctly recorded votes for Wanda, Rob and April.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Reminders for Counting Write-In Votes

- There may be certain contests on the ballot that you will know ahead of time to only count registered write-in votes:
  - When the number of ballot candidates equals the number of votes the voter is entitled to cast.
- There may be certain contests on the ballot that you will know ahead of time to count all write-in votes, registered or unregistered:
  - If there is no ballot candidate on a vote for 1 contest.
  - If there are fewer ballot candidates for a contest than the number of votes the voter is entitled to cast. For example, 2 ballot candidates in a vote for 3 contest.
- Regardless, the presence of a write-in vote, registered or not, may affect a marked ballot candidate.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Reminders for Counting Write-In Votes

- Inspectors need to go through the ballots when the polls close to determine if there were any write-in votes not counted by the voting equipment.
- A write-in vote does not have to have the oval or arrow next to it filled in on an optical scan ballot. A voter can indicate their intent through other means, such as simply writing in the candidate's name or circling a candidate on the ballot.
- Review "Counting Votes" Manual: <http://elections.wi.gov/manuals/counting-votes>
- Important notes:
  - If the winner of a contest declines to serve, it creates a vacancy for that office.
  - If the winner of a contest is deceased, it creates a vacancy for that office.

# Get Ready for the April Election



## Scattering

- Will appear on your tape and tally sheet
- Accounts for votes that were not cast for a ballot candidate
- Could be for registered write-ins, or non-registered write-ins



**Thank you!**

For further information, contact the WEC  
PH: 608-266-8005 Email: elections@wi.gov



## Results: Voter 1

*Question 1: How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)*

- One. The instructions are “Vote for 1.”
- The voter has cast a vote for 1 candidate, which is the number of votes the voter is entitled to.

*Question 2: Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1)*

- There is 1 position to be filled and 1 ballot candidate.
- Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

*Question 3: Is the write-in candidate registered?*

- Lizzy Serton is a registered write-in candidate. The vote for Lizzy Serton is counted.

*Question 4: Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4)*

- Yes. There is 1 position to be filled and 1 write-in vote. There are enough write-in votes to fill the 1 position. Ballot candidates may not be considered.

*Final result*

- There is 1 vote marked. The write-in vote for Lizzy Serton is counted for this office. The voting equipment recorded a vote for Lizzy because the oval was filled in.

## Results: Voter 2

Question 1: *How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)*

- One. The instructions are "Vote for 1."
- The voter has cast a vote for 1 candidate, which is the number of votes the voter is entitled to.

Question 2: *Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1)*

- There is 1 position to be filled and 1 ballot candidate.
- Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

Question 3: *Is the write-in candidate registered?*

- Lizzy Serton is a registered write-in candidate. The vote for Lizzy Serton is counted.

Question 4: *Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4)*

- Yes. There is 1 position to be filled and 1 write-in vote. There are enough write-in votes to fill the 1 position. Ballot candidates may not be considered.

*Final result*

- There is 1 vote marked. The write-in vote for Lizzy Serton is counted for this office.
- The voting equipment did not record a vote for Lizzy because the oval was not filled in. The voting equipment tape will need to be adjusted.
- Adjust the tape to add a vote to Lizzy.

<u>Village Trustee</u>		
Ida Thotso	0	
Write-in	0	+1

- The reason for the adjustment is recorded on the Inspectors' Statement (EL-104).

## Results: Voter 3

Question 1: *How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)*

- o One. The instructions are "Vote for 1."
- o The voter has cast a vote for 2 candidates, which is one too many.

Question 2: *Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1)*

- o There is 1 position to be filled and 1 ballot candidate.
- o Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

Question 3: *Is the write-in candidate registered?*

- o Sonny Weathers is not a registered write-in candidate. The vote for Sonny Weathers is not counted.

Question 4: *Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4)*

- o Yes. There is 1 position to be filled and 1 write-in vote. There are enough write-in votes to fill the 1 position – **even if they are not eligible to be counted** – to fill the seat. Ballot candidates may not be considered.

*Final result*

- o There are 2 votes marked. The write-in vote for Sonny Weathers is not counted for this office, and the vote for Ida Thotos is not counted.
- o The voting equipment has recorded a vote for Ida (because Ida's oval is filled in) but has not recorded a vote for Sonny Weathers because the oval was not filled in.
- o Adjust the tape to subtract a vote from Ida.

<u>Village Trustee</u>		
Ida Thotso	0	-1
Write-in	0	

- o The reason for the adjustment is recorded on the Inspectors' Statement (EL-104).

## Results: Voter 4

*Question 1: How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)*

- One. The instructions are "Vote for 1."
- The voter has cast a vote for 1 candidate, which is the number of votes the voter is entitled to.

*Question 2: Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1)*

- There is 1 position to be filled and no ballot candidates.
- Votes for both registered write-in and unregistered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

*Question 3: Is the write-in candidate registered?*

- Mickey Mouse is not a registered write-in candidate. But votes for both registered and unregistered candidates may be counted. The vote for Mickey Mouse is counted.

*Question 4: Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4)*

- Yes. There is 1 position to be filled and 1 write-in vote. There are enough write-in votes to fill the 1 position. There are no ballot candidates to consider.

*Final result*

- There is one vote marked. The write-in vote for Mickey Mouse is counted for this office.
- The voting equipment has correctly recorded a write-in vote for Mickey Mouse.

## Results: Voter 5

Question 1: *How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)*

- Two. The instructions are "Vote for not more than 2."
- The voter has cast votes for 3 candidates, which is one too many.

Question 2: *Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1)*

- There are 2 positions to be filled and 2 ballot candidates.
- Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

Question 3: *Is the write-in candidate registered?*

- Martin Sheen is not a registered write-in. Only registered write-ins can be counted for this contest, so the vote for Martin Sheen is not counted.

Question 4: *Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4.)*

- No. There are 2 positions to be filled and 1 write-in vote. There are not enough write-in votes to fill the 2 positions. Ballot candidates may be considered.

*Final result*

- There are 3 votes marked. The votes for ballot candidates Wanda Round and Bill Melator are counted for this office.
- The voting equipment has recorded this office as overvoted (3 ovals filled in for a Vote for 2 contest)—no votes were recorded by the voting equipment.
- Adjust the tape to reflect two votes for the ballot candidates.

<u>Village Trustee</u>		
Wanda Round	0	+1
Bill Melator	0	+1
Write-in	0	

- The reason for the adjustment is recorded on the Inspectors' Statement (EL-104).

## Results: Voter 6

Question 1: *How many votes is the voter entitled to cast? (Refer to the ballot instructions.)*

- Three. The instructions are "Vote for not more than 3."
- The voter has cast a vote for 3 candidates.

Question 2: *Are all write-in votes eligible for counting or only votes cast for registered write-in candidates? (Refer to Principle 1)*

- There are 3 positions to be filled and 2 ballot candidates.  
Votes for both registered write-in candidates and unregistered write-in candidates are eligible to be counted.

Question 3: *Is the write-in candidate registered?*

- April Showers is not a registered write-in candidate, but unregistered write-ins may be counted. The vote for April Showers is counted.

Question 4: *Are there enough write-in votes to fill the seats up for election? (Refer to Principle 4.)*

- No. There are 3 positions to be filled and one write-in vote. There are not enough write-in votes to fill the 3 positions. Ballot candidates may be considered.

*Final result*

- There are 3 votes marked. The votes for Wanda Round, Rob R. Barron and April Showers are counted for this office.
- The voting equipment has correctly recorded votes for Wanda, Rob and April.