



Wisconsin Elections Commission

Preparing for the April Election

March 13, 2019

Preparing for the April Election

Agenda

Updates

- Elections Security
- Badger Book
- ERIC Process for April

Registered Write-Ins

- Deadline
- CF-1 Form

Counting Votes

- General Procedures
- Counting Votes Manual
- Scenarios

Drawdowns

Breaking a Tie

Filling a Vacancy

Recounts

- Who/How/What...
- Recount Manual

Cell Phones and Photography/ Videography

Reminders

Agenda

Elections Security



- ▶ The WEC has access to state and federal resources to assist locals that have had cyber security incidents
- ▶ State and federal law enforcement take attacks on local governments very seriously
- ▶ TTXs (table top exercises) are here to stay. Expect new material this summer with new scenarios and incidents
- ▶ Anyone that hasn't had a TTX in their area should look into it. We have info available, and most of the counties have now been to a train-the-trainer event
- ▶ New and interesting projects are expected to come out of the security advisory committee
- ▶ Of particular note: change your passwords, use long and hard to guess passwords, don't share account info

Elections Security

Badger Book



- ▶ 20 new municipalities will be using Badger Books for the first time on April 2, for a total of 31 statewide
- ▶ 4 additional municipalities will be trying them out through the Badger Book borrowing program. 2 municipalities used them in the Spring Primary
 - From a MKE poll worker:
"I thought it was pretty neat how every step and contingency was factored into the Badger Book interface—for example, the prompts about provisional voting. The manual is basically baked into the system, which should lead to a more consistent voter experience."
- ▶ The newest version of Badger Book includes slightly larger text and the ability to scan a WI DL or State ID to populate fields in the registration process
- ▶ We're expecting to hold another purchasing round later in Fall 2019 (As of right now with the expected tariffs, the cost of a Badger Book may increase)

Badger Book

ERIC Process for April



- ▶ ERIC Supplemental Poll List was retired starting with the February 19, 2019 Spring Primary.
- ▶ Inspectors should follow standard procedure for a voter not in poll book:
 - Has voter moved since they last voted? Are they in the correct polling place?
 - Direct to correct polling place or process EDR.
 - If voter has not moved, ask clerk to check WisVote to determine reason for inactive status. If there is an ERIC record, voter can vote without re-registering.
- ▶ If clerk unable to determine reason for inactive status, contact WEC for assistance.

ERIC Process for April

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.
- ▶ In some cases, the votes cast for write-in candidates who did not register may not be counted.
- ▶ 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.

Registered Write-Ins

Counting Votes



- ▶ Always count votes for registered write-in candidates
 - Candidate must submit CF-1 by noon the Friday before the election to the filing officer
- ▶ Count votes for nonregistered write-in candidates only if:
 - There are fewer ballot candidates for a given office than there are seats to fill
 - There are one or more candidates on the ballot for the office, but one or more is deceased
- ▶ Review “Counting Votes” Manual:
<http://elections.wi.gov/manuals/counting-votes>

Counting Votes

Counting Votes for Multiple Seat Offices



- ▶ If there are at least as many ballot candidates as there are seats to be filled, only votes for registered write-in candidates may be counted.
- ▶ If the number of write-in votes equals the number of seats to be filled, *whether or not they can be counted*, marked ballot candidates may not be considered.
- ▶ If the number of write-in votes is less than the number of seats to be filled, marked ballot candidates may be counted *only if* adding votes for marked ballot candidates to the eligible write-in votes does not exceed the number of votes to which the voter is entitled.

Counting Votes for Multiple Seat Offices



Write-in Scenarios

Example 1

Village Trustee
Vote for not more than 2

Ballot instructions

- Mark Mywerds
- Shirley Ugest
- Rusty Pipe
- _____

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.
Rusty is a registered write-in candidate.
Count votes for: Rusty Pipe

Write-in Scenarios



Write-in Scenarios

Example 2

Village Trustee
Vote for not more than 2

Ballot instructions

- Mark Mywerds
- Shirley Ugest
- Joe Smith
- _____

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.
Joe is not a registered write-in candidate.
Count votes for: Mark Mywerds and Shirley Ugest
Machine will read as overvote

Write-in Scenarios



Write-in Scenarios

Example 3

Village Trustee
Vote for not more than 2

Ballot instructions

- Mark Mywerds
- Shirley Ugest
- Rusty Pipe
- Joe Smith

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.
Rusty is a registered write-in candidate.
Joe is not a registered write-in candidate
Count votes for: Rusty Pipe
Adjust tape for: Shirley Ugest

Write-in Scenarios



Write-in Scenarios

Example 4

Village Trustee
Vote for not more than 2

Ballot instructions

- Mark Mywerds
- Shirley Ugest
- Rusty Pipe
- _____

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.
Rusty is a registered write-in candidate.
Count votes for: Shirley Ugest, Rusty Pipe

Write-in Scenarios



Write-in Scenarios

Example 5

Village Trustee
Vote for not more than 2

Ballot instructions

- Mark Mywerds
- Shirley Ugest
- Rusty Pipe
- Joe Smith Bob Hope

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.
Rusty and Bob are registered write-in candidates
Joe Smith is not a registered write-in candidate
Count votes for: Rusty Pipe and Bob Hope
The machine will read as overvote

Write-in Scenarios



Write-in Scenarios

Example 6

Village Trustee
Vote for not more than 2

Ballot instructions

- Mark Mywerds
- Shirley Ugest
- Joe Smith
- Mary Williams

2 ballot candidates for a 2-seat office.
Joe and Mary are not registered write-in candidates
Count votes for: No candidates
Machine will read as overvote

Write-in Scenarios

Draw Downs



- ▶ If there are more ballots than voters, inspectors may face a draw down situation.
- ▶ Before drawing down ballots, be certain that there is no alternative reason for the ballot overage. For example:
 - The issuance of the same ballot number to two or more voters.
 - For two or more reporting units, there are more ballots than voters for one reporting unit and less ballots for the other reporting unit, but the total is equal to or less than the total number of voters.
 - Known inspector error such as allowing a voter to vote more than once.
 - Process outlined in Election Day Manual.
- ▶ Note the reason for difference on the Inspectors Statement (EL-104)

Draw Downs

Breaking a Tie in a Municipal Contest

- ▶ A tie vote in a municipal contest is broken by the MBOC.
- ▶ The tie is broken by a method that results in a random outcome.
 - Flip a coin, draw names out of hat, etc.
 - Document procedure
- ▶ If all candidates are present, they may draw for themselves.
- ▶ When a municipal referendum ties, the referendum fails.
No need to break tie.



Breaking a Tie in a Municipal Contest

Filling a Vacancy

- ▶ Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 17:
Resignations, Vacancies and Removals from
Office
 - Not under WEC jurisdiction
 - Contact county or municipal attorney
- ▶ Examples
 - Candidate receiving the most votes declines
position
 - Candidate is elected to more than one non-partisan
position
 - Several candidates receive the same number of
votes

Filling a Vacancy

Recounts

- ▶ Who may request a recount?
- ▶ How is a recount requested?
- ▶ What is a recount petition?
- ▶ When is a filing fee required?
- ▶ Where is the recount filed?
- ▶ When must the petition be filed?
- ▶ Review Recount Manual:
<https://elections.wi.gov/manuals/recount>

Recounts

Cell Phones and Photography/Videography

- ▶ **Voters**
 - Voters may silently use cell phones
 - Voters may take photos or videos of themselves if not disruptive
 - Voters may not take photos or videos of others or their ballots without their consent
 - Chief inspectors may prohibit if disruptive
- ▶ **Election Observers**
 - Observers may silently use cell phones, but not take or make voice calls
 - Observers may not take photos or videos of themselves or others
 - Chief inspectors may prohibit if disruptive
- ▶ **Media**
 - Permitted to use photography/videography if not used to record how an elector has voted and not disruptive
 - Contact with voters should be limited
 - Interviews should be held outside of the voting area

Cell Phones and Photography/Videography

Reminders!



- ▶ While voters are required to state their name and address in accordance with Wis. Stat. 6.79 (2), accommodations for voters unable to do so must be made. Another person or an election inspector can do so on the voter's behalf
- ▶ Be prepared for bad weather in April. Snow and ice removal in the pathways to the polling area should be part of your election contingency plan
- ▶ Be sure to have copies of the IDPP handout at the polls
- ▶ The Photo ID does not have to include a current address
- ▶ Timekeeping
- ▶ Training available in the WEC Learning Center

Reminders



Questions?

Questions?