



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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Wisconsin Elections Commission

Ballot Access Meeting

201 W. Washington Avenue, Second Floor
Madison, Wisconsin
11:00 a.m. January 14, 2025

Open Session Minutes

Present: Commissioner Marge Bostelmann, Commissioner Ann Jacobs, Commissioner Don M. Millis, Commissioner Carrie Riepl, Commissioner Robert Spindell Jr., and Commissioner Mark Thomsen, all by teleconference.

Staff present: Ahna Barreau, Joel DeSpain, Sharrie Hauge, Brandon Hunzicker, Robert Kehoe, Anna Langdon, Angela Sharpe, Riley Vetterkind, Riley Willman, Jim Witecha, and Meagan Wolfe, all by teleconference.

A. Call to Order

Commission Chair Jacobs called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. All Commissioners were present.

B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice

Administrator Meagan Wolfe informed the Commission that the meeting was noticed in accordance with Wisconsin's open meetings laws.

C. Ballot Access Challenges

- a. EL 25-04 - Jennifer Weber v. Cortney Iverson - Jefferson County Circuit Court, Branch 2**
- b. EL 25-05 - Theresa Beck v. Cortney Iverson - Jefferson County Circuit Court, Branch 2**

Chair Jacobs informed the Commission that the two challenges against respondent Cortney Iverson would be taken together. Each challenger had five minutes to present and the respondent had ten minutes to respond to both challengers.

Staff Attorney Brandon Hunzicker presented the challenges and staff's recommendation.

Discussion.

Chair Jacobs noted that she did not call the roll at the start of the meeting. She did so at this point and all Commissioners were present.

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

Ann S. Jacobs, chair | Marge Bostelmann | Don M. Millis | Carrie Riepl | Robert Spindell | Mark L. Thomsen

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

MOTION: Amend the minutes to reflect that all Commissioners were present at the beginning of the meeting.

Moved by Chair Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Millis.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

Challenger Jennifer Weber presented arguments.

Discussion.

David Hollander appeared on behalf of challenger Theresa Beck and presented arguments.

Discussion.

George Burnett appeared on behalf of respondent Cortney Iverson and presented arguments.

Discussion.

MOTION: The Commission sustains the challenges of Jennifer Weber and Theresa Beck against Cortney Iverson, and exercises its authority under Wis. Stat. s. 8.30(1)(b) and (c) to exclude Cortney Iverson from the ballot because it conclusively appears that she is not eligible to be elected on April 1, 2025, and, if elected, could not qualify for the office sought because she will not have been an attorney licensed to practice law in Wisconsin for five years immediately preceding the election. Accordingly, the Commission denies ballot status to Candidate Iverson, and her name will not be added to the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Chair Jacobs. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

Discussion.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	No	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	No
	Millis:	No	Thomsen:	No

Motion failed 2-4.

Commissioner Millis questioned whether the failed motion meant that Candidate Iverson would be included on the list of candidates approved for ballot access. Chief Legal Counsel Jim Witecha explained that the way the recommended motion in Item D was written, any candidate that did not have a sustained challenge against them was included in the motion to approve ballot access.

c. EL 25-06 - Natalia Taft v. Jeff Wright - State Superintendent

Staff Attorney Angela Sharpe presented the challenge and staff's recommendation.

The Commission did not have any questions for Attorney Sharpe.

Michael Maistelman appeared on behalf of challenger Natalia Taft and presented arguments.

The Commission did not have any questions for Attorney Maistelman.

Barret Van Sicklen appeared on behalf of respondent Jeff Wright and presented arguments.

The Commission did not have any questions for Attorney Van Sicklen.

MOTION: The Wisconsin Elections Commission (“the Commission”) sustains 0 challenges, and does not sustain 2,662 challenges, in accordance with staff recommendations and the accompanying materials for EL 25-06. The Commission finds that Jeff Wright submitted 2,662 valid signatures, and the Commission adds Jeff Wright to the list of candidates to be approved for ballot access. Commission staff shall issue a closure letter to the parties consistent with this motion.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Millis.

Roll call vote: Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

D. Ballot Access Report and Certification of Candidates for the February 18, 2025, Primary and April 1, 2025, Spring Election

Elections Supervisor Riley Willman presented the rest of the ballot access memo. He clarified that Cortney Iverson and Jeff Wright were included in the “56” figure listed in the recommended motion.

Discussion.

MOTION: The 56 candidates marked “approve” on the “Candidates Tracking by Office” report are approved for ballot access for the April 1, 2025, Spring Election, in addition to any candidates who were subject to challenge but were ultimately approved for ballot access by the Commission.

Moved by Commissioner Millis. Seconded by Commissioner Thomsen.

Roll call vote: Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission took a break at 1:17 p.m. and returned at 1:37 p.m.

E. Discussion and Potential Approval of a Ballot Access Appeal Meeting Date (Appeals of Local Challenge Decisions) and Other 2025 Meeting Dates of the Commission

Administrator Wolfe presented the agenda item.

Discussion.

MOTION: The Commission adopts the quarterly meeting schedule as follows for 2025: The Quarter 1 meeting will be held on March 7 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in-person, the Quarter 2 meeting will be held on April 17 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in-person, the Quarter 3 meeting will be held on July 17 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in-person, and the Quarter 4 meeting will be held on October 23 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in-person.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Riepl.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission agreed to schedule a special meeting for March 12, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.

F. Discussion and Approval of Ballot Templates for the 2025 Primary and Spring Election

Administrator Wolfe presented the agenda item.

MOTION: The Commission approves the ballot design presented by staff and directs staff to utilize the ballot design for the 2025 Spring Primary and Spring Election.

Moved by Commissioner Riepl. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

G. Discussion, Review, and Possible Action Pertaining to the Interpretation and Implementation of Wis. Stat. § 19.36(14), Identities of Election Officials or Election Registration Officials, Including a Possible Attorney General Opinion Request.

Attorney Sharpe provided an overview of Wis. Stat. § 19.36(14) and explained the recommended action before the Commission.

Discussion.

MOTION: Approve the draft request, moving question four to be question one. Provide, with approval, language from the staff to indicate that the new question one is of utmost importance to the Commission, but the remaining three questions should be promptly addressed by the Attorney General.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Millis.

Discussion.

Chair Jacobs clarified that she would work with staff to draft the language indicating that while question one is the priority for the Commission, the Attorney General should promptly address all of the questions in the request.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

H. Closed Session

a. Litigation update

MOTION: Move into closed session.

Moved by Commissioner Thomsen. Seconded by Commissioner Bostelmann.

Roll call vote:	Bostelmann:	Aye	Riepl:	Aye
	Jacobs:	Aye	Spindell:	Aye
	Millis:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 6-0.

The Commission left open session at 2:12 p.m.

I. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned in closed session at 2:28 p.m.

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January 14, 2025, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

January 14, 2025, Wisconsin Election Commission meeting minutes certified by:

Marge Bostelmann, Commission Secretary

March 7, 2025

DRAFT