

EVAN C. GOYKE
City Attorney

MARY L. SCHANNING
ROBIN A. PEDERSON
JULIE P. WILSON
Deputy City Attorneys



Milwaukee City Hall • 200 East Wells Street • Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3551
Telephone: 414.286.2601 • TDD: 414.286.2025 • Fax: 414.286.8550

KATHRYN Z. BLOCK
THOMAS D. MILLER
PETER J. BLOCK
ANDREA J. FOWLER
JOANNA FRACZEK
HANNAH R. JAHN
MEIGHAN M. ANGER
ALEXANDER R. CARSON
GREGORY P. KRUSE
ALEX T. MUELLER
ALEXANDER D. COSSI
KATHERINE A. HEADLEY
SHEILA THOBANI
STACY J. MILLER
JORDAN M. SCHETTLE
THERESA A. MONTAG
ALEXANDER E. FOUNDOS
TRAVIS J. GRESHAM
JOSEPH M. DOBBS
WILLIAM K. HOTCHKISS
CLINT B. MUCHE
TYLER M. HELSEL
ZACHARY A. HATFIELD
MEGHAN C. MCCABE
CYNTHIA HARRIS ORTEGA
KEVIN P. TODT
NATHANIEL E. ADAMSON
MATTEO REGINATO
JOSHUA B. CRONIN
ELIZABETH K. MILES
LAURI A. ROLLINGS
WILLIAM E. KEELER III
Assistant City Attorneys

September 30, 2026

VIA EMAIL ONLY: brandon.hunzicker@wisconsin.gov
elections@wi.gov

Brandon Hunzicker
Staff Attorney
Wisconsin Elections Commission
201 West Washington Avenue, Second Floor
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984

RE: Wis. Stat. § 5.06 Complaint Filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission
Justin Gavery v. Maricha Harris and Paulina Gutiérrez
Case No. EL 26-58 (filed September 10, 2026)

Dear Attorney Hunzicker:

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06 and Wis. Admin. Code § EL 20.04(3), please consider this submission to be the verified response of Respondents Paulina Gutiérrez and Maricha Harris to Complainant Justin Gavery's complaint dated September 10, 2026. For the reasons stated herein, the Wisconsin Elections Commission ("WEC") should dismiss the complaint in its entirety.

GAVERY'S COMPLAINT

Gavery was an election observer at the Milwaukee Election Commission's ("MEC") Central Count during the August 11, 2026 partisan primary election. *Compl.* ¶ 7. Gavery's complaint alleges four failures by the Respondents related to that election: first, that the Respondents failed to make a full, accurate, and timely return of the votes; second, that Respondent Gutiérrez failed to give notice of the meeting of the Board of Absentee Ballot Canvassers; third, that Respondent Gutiérrez failed to publish timely notice of the pre-election tabulator testing; and fourth, that observer access was denied at Central Count. Gavery's complaint lacks merit, and the Respondents deny that any violation of Wisconsin law or abuse of discretion occurred.

RESPONSE

Gavery oversteps the bounds of the purposes of a complaint to WEC by airing grievances of past elections, which is both inappropriate and untimely.¹ WEC's review of this current complaint is limited to Gavery's allegations concerning the August 11, 2026 primary partisan election. Those allegations fail to demonstrate "probable cause to believe that a violation of law or abuse of discretion has occurred or will occur," Wis. Stat. § 5.06(1), and fail to provide sufficient facts or reasonable inferences "that together are a sufficient to justify a reasonable, prudent person, acting with caution, to believe that the matter asserted is probably true," Wis. Admin. Code § EL 20.02(4). Consequently, the complaint must be dismissed.

I. Full, accurate, and timely return of votes

Count I of Gavery's complaint argues that the Respondents failed to make a full, accurate, and timely return of votes in violation of Wis. Stat. §§ 7.52(8), 7.51(4)(c), and 5.86(1), and that Respondent Gutiérrez separately violated Wis. Stat. §§ 7.15(1)(e), 5.86(1), and 7.15(2m). Gavery is incorrect in all respects.

The facts are as follows: Respondent Gutiérrez is MEC's Executive Director. *Declaration of Paulina Gutierrez*, ¶ 1. Respondent Harris is the MEC's Deputy Director. *Declaration of Maricha Harris*, ¶ 1. Milwaukee operates a "Central Count" on election day where all absentee ballots are counted in one central location. The MEC Operations Center, located at 1901 South Kinnickinnic Avenue in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was used as the Central Count location for the August 11, 2026 partisan primary election. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 2; *Harris Decl.*, ¶ 2.

On August 11, 2026, MEC processed 27,187 absentee ballots using nine high-speed tabulators. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 4. MEC had planned to use three download teams led separately by Respondent Gutiérrez, Respondent Harris, and the Absentee Ballot Coordinator, all of whom had written procedures available and completed the procedure before. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 5; *Harris Decl.*, ¶ 3, 5. As the Central Count results download began, MEC was also completing the final results upload procedures from polling locations across the City of Milwaukee. Respondent Gutiérrez stepped away from the download process at Central Count to assist with the completion of polling location uploads. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 6. The Deputy Director can perform all the duties imposed by law or the ordinances of the city on the executive director. MCO 302-3-1.5. The Executive Director confirmed with Respondent Harris that she could lead the Central Count download process, and it began with two bipartisan teams (members of the planned third team joined one of the now two teams). *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 7; *Harris Decl.*, ¶ 6.

Written instructions for the download procedure were available to the teams that performed the download. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 9; *Harris Decl.*, ¶ 5. Each participant had also received

¹ Wis. Stat. § 5.06(3) requires a complaint to "be filed promptly so as to not prejudice the rights of any other party."

training and successfully completed the procedure during previous elections, including Respondent Harris. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶¶ 5, 10-11; *Harris Decl.*, ¶ 4.

Following what MEC believed to be completion of the tabulation, the election results were downloaded from the tabulators, put on nine secure data sticks, and taken to the Milwaukee County Election Commission. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 13. At the Milwaukee County Election Commission, it was discovered that five of the nine data sticks contained audit logs rather than election results files. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 14. The download team led by Respondent Harris had mistakenly selected and downloaded the audit log rather than the election results files for each of the tabulators that team worked on. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 15. Aside from selecting the download of the audit log, the remainder of the transfer process was completed according to procedure, with the secured data sticks being timely transported to the Milwaukee County Election Commission. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 16.

Upon learning of the error, Respondent Gutiérrez took immediate steps to remedy the situation, including informing the media, inviting reporters to observe and record the process, and confirming that no unauthorized individuals were in the MEC's Operations Center. Respondent Gutiérrez returned with members of the bipartisan City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners and Respondent Harris under Milwaukee Police Department escort to download the election results under the observation of the available press. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 17.

The absentee ballot results were downloaded from the five affected tabulators with MEC staff, members of the bipartisan Board of Election Commissioners, Milwaukee Police Department officers, and media present. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶¶ 17-18. MEC made the original, timestamped Precincts Processed reports and newly printed Precincts Processed reports available to the media. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 19. There was no change in the number of absentee ballots processed and ward information as confirmed to remain the same. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 20. MEC provided the Milwaukee County Election Commission the original reports printed from the tabulators and the newly printed Precincts Processed reports from the corrected download, along with the secure data sticks containing election results. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 21. The Milwaukee County Election Commission then uploaded the City's results for public reporting at approximately 1:00 a.m. on August 12, 2026. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 22.

MEC has already begun implementing changes to prevent this error from occurring in future elections, including adding visual images of each relevant screen to the written download procedures to enhance the instructions, which will also be made available to observers at Central Count (excluding passwords and other security-sensitive information). The download teams will participate in a briefing immediately before the download process begins to confirm all participants understand their individual responsibilities and the steps required to complete the download. A point-and-call verification process is also being implemented whereby staff will verbally identify and confirm critical selections as they are completed, allowing others to verify each step as it happens. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 23.

There is no dispute that a full and accurate return of votes was made. Gavery acknowledges this in his complaint. *Compl.*, ¶ 49. Gavery's argument that the Respondents violated Wis. Stat. § 7.52(8)² by initially downloading audit logs rather than vote returns ignores that the error was corrected promptly, and the absentee ballot tabulation completed at Central Count fully and accurately reflected the valid votes cast.

The crux of Gavery's argument is that the return was not timely under Wis. Stat. § 7.51(4)(c).³ Although that statute identifies a two-hour time frame to report returns, it must be recognized that there is a meaningful difference between a delay due to human error, as happened here, and a deliberate flaunting of the requirement. MEC's initial delivery *did* take place within two-hour window. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶¶ 12-13. Upon learning that audit logs were accidentally downloaded, the error was corrected quickly, delaying public reporting of the official results by approximately one hour. This was a technical delay based on human error that had no effect on the results. MEC has provided WEC a comprehensive plan to guard against a similar error in the future. *Compl., Ex. A*. The purpose of Wis. Stat. § 7.51(4)(c) is to prevent an inaccurate or unverifiable return, which did not happen here.

Gavery's allegation that the Respondents violated Wis. Stat. § 5.86(1) because Respondent Harris is not a "specially trained technician within the statutory exception, and the export of results was not performed by a bipartisan team (or any team whatsoever) as the statute requires" is incorrect. Wis. Stat. § 5.86(1) states:

[T]he employees at each central counting location, other than any specially trained technicians who are required for the operation of the automatic tabulating equipment, shall be equally divided between members of the 2 major parties...and all duties performed by the employees shall be by teams consisting of an equal number of members of each political party....

That occurred here. Respondent Harris (an MEC employee at the central counting location) downloaded the results and was part of a bipartisan team. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶¶ 8-10.

Gavery alleges that Respondent Gutiérrez violated Wis. Stat. § 7.15(1)(e) (supervising registration and elections), but provides no evidence that she failed to provide election training as required by Wisconsin statutes, the Administrative Code, or published by WEC. Respondent Gutiérrez and MEC staff complied with all training required by Wis. Stat. § 7.15(1)(e), including working with and training Respondent Harris and the election workers involved with election day. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶¶ 8-11; *Harris Decl.*, ¶¶ 4, 7. Seasoned workers are paired with new workers, and only trained election workers can operate and handle the tabulating machines. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 11.

Additionally, the site was operated as if it was Respondent Gutiérrez's office for absentee ballot purpose and was adequately staffed with MEC employees and bipartisan participants

² Wis. Stat. § 7.52(8) states in relevant part, "The board of absentee ballot canvassers shall make full and accurate return of the votes cast for each candidate and proposition on the tally sheet forms."

³ Wis. Stat. § 7.51(4)(c) states, "[o]n election night the municipalities shall report the returns, by ward or reporting unit, to the county clerk no later than 2 hours after the votes are tabulated."

in compliance with Wis. Stat. § 7.15(2m).⁴ *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 3, 5, 7; *Harris Decl.*, ¶¶ 2-3. Central Count was staffed with five Chief Inspectors, a three-person board of absentee ballot canvassers led by Deputy Director Harris, and 132 central count workers. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 3; *Harris Decl.*, ¶ 2. Mistakes happen, even with a well-staffed and trained group of bipartisan workers. Importantly here, the selection of audit log downloads instead of vote returns did not result in a non-recoverable step in the return of votes as alleged, but merely a short delay, which was immediately corrected upon discovery, allowing the transparent and accurate delivery of the vote count.

There was no abuse of discretion; rather, a technical violation of a timing requirement, which was remedied expeditiously while ensuring the security and validity of the votes cast. MEC already has addressed the error with WEC, providing updates as to how the implementation of additional steps will ensure that MEC's procedures, mission and oath are fulfilled with transparency and accuracy. The remedial measures available for this complaint pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06(6) have been accomplished.

II. Notice of Board of Absentee Ballot Canvassers meeting

Count II of Gavery's complaint, alleging that Respondent Gutiérrez failed to give notice of the meeting of the Board of Absentee Ballot Canvassers in violation of Wis. Stats. §§ 7.15(1)(d)⁵ and 7.52(1)(a)⁶, also should be dismissed as Gavery obviously had notice and attended in person.

Currently, a record of the posting of the notice of the meeting of the Board of Absentee Ballot Canvassers cannot be located. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 24. However, the lack of such a record does not evidence a violation of the law nor an abuse of discretion as the meeting occurred on the day of the election with public access available and Gavery in attendance.

III. Notice of pre-election tabulator testing

Count III of Gavery's complaint, alleging that Respondent Gutiérrez failed to publish timely notice of the pre-election tabulator testing in violation of Wis. Stat. §§ 5.84(1)⁷, 7.15(1)(d), and 5.06(1), also should be dismissed.

⁴ Wis. Stat. § 7.15(2m) states, "[i]n a municipality in which the governing body has elected to establish an alternate absentee ballot site under s. 6.855, the municipal clerk shall operate such site as though it were his or her office for absentee ballot purposes and shall ensure that such site is adequately staffed."

⁵ Wis. Stat. § 7.15(1)(d) states the municipal clerk will "[p]repare the necessary notices and publications in connection with the conduct of elections or registrations."

⁶ Wis. Stat. § 7.52(1)(a) states in relevant part, "[a]t every election held in the municipality following enactment of an ordinance under this subsection, the board of absentee ballot canvassers shall, any time after the opening of the polls and before 10 p.m. on election day, publicly convene to count the absentee ballots for the municipality. The municipal clerk shall give at least 48 hours' notice of any meeting under this subsection. Any member of the public has the same right of access to a meeting of the municipal board of absentee ballot canvassers under this subsection that the individual would have under s. 7.41 to observe the proceedings at a polling place."

⁷ Wis. Stat. § 5.84(1) states that the municipal clerk "shall, on any day not more than 10 days prior to the election day on which the equipment is to be utilized, have the equipment tested to ascertain that it will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures. Public notice of the time and place of the

MEC published notice of its intent to conduct public pre-election tabulator testing on August 1, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in The Daily Reporter on Thursday, July 30, 2026. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 25; *Harris Decl.*, ¶ 8. MEC also posted the notice on its website under election notices in a Google folder. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 26; *Harris Decl.*, ¶ 9. As described above, once an election is concluded, the specific election folder containing election notices is removed from the website to avoid confusion when the next election's notices are added, which was done here. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 26; *Harris Decl.*, ¶ 9. There was no violation of law or abuse of discretion under Wis. Stats. §§ 5.84(1), 7.15(1)(d), or 5.06(1).

IV. Observer access

Finally, Count IV of Gavary's complaint alleges that the Respondents denied observer access at Central Count in violation of Wis. Stat. §§ 7.52(1)(a) and 7.41(2) and Wis. Admin. Code §§ EL 4.05(3)(a), 4.05(6)(a), and 4.03(1)(a), and that Respondent Gutiérrez separately violated Wis. Admin. Code § EL 4.03(5). These allegations, too, lack merit.

Wis. Stat. § 7.41 concerns the public's right to access and observe the voting process. Wis. Stat. § 7.41(1) states:

Any member of the public may be present at any polling place, in the office of any municipal clerk whose office is located in a public building on any day that absentee ballots may be cast in that office, or at any alternate site under Wis. Stat. § 6.855 on any day that absentee ballots may be cast at that site *for the purpose of observation of an election and the absentee voting process....*

(emphasis added); *see also* Wis. Stat. § 7.41(2) (“[t]he observation areas shall be so positioned to permit any election observer to readily observe all *public aspects of the voting process*”) (emphasis added).

Similarly, Wis. Stat. § 7.52(1)(a), concerning canvassing of absentee ballots, states:

Any member of the public has the same right of access to a meeting of the municipal board of absentee ballot canvassers...that the individual would have under Wis. Stat. § 7.41 to observe the proceedings at a polling place.”

Nowhere does Wis. Stat. §§ 7.41 or 7.52 require public access to areas dedicated to ministerial tasks or to non-election-related areas that are unrelated to the voting process. The statutes speak to observing voting activity that occurs in a polling place or central count location on election day and the actual absentee *voting process*, not observing ministerial tasks or accessing non-election-related areas.

test shall be given by the clerk at least 48 hours prior to the test by publication of a class 1 notice under ch. 985 in one or more newspapers published within the municipality if a newspaper is published therein, otherwise in a newspaper of general circulation therein.”

On August 11, 2026, there were areas of Central Count that the public was prohibited from accessing. These include the Secure Ballot Room, boiler and electrical rooms, private office spaces, and access to the Operations Center's loading bay. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 27. In previous elections, some of these areas had been blocked from view by paper or other means; however, as a result of maintenance and updates to the facility, some areas had more permanent barriers constructed, which not only allowed MEC to install a TV and boards allowing better observation of the absentee voting process, they also made clear that these areas are prohibited from public access.⁸ No updates to the Operations Center were made to obscure public aspects of the absentee canvas. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶¶ 28-29. Although Gavery asserts, without support, that something more than ministerial tasks occurred in these areas (*Compl.*, ¶ 87), the only activities that took place in these areas on August 11, 2026 were intake, sorting, and securing absentee ballot certificate envelopes. *Gutiérrez Decl.*, ¶ 29. These are non-canvassing administrative tasks that are not part of the public canvass and are not required to be open to public observation. See *Kopplin v. Gutierrez*, EL 25-64 (May 7, 2026 WEC Decision).

Gavery cites WEC's decision in *Kopplin* for the proposition that WEC "does not agree that ministerial task of the board of absentee ballot canvassers can be restricted," but importantly, fails to provide any evidence that something other than sorting or organizing took place in the restricted areas of Central Count on August 11, 2026 and omits the next sentence in *Kopplin* confirming that "the processing and sorting of those [initially returned absentee] ballots" are not required to be observable. *Kopplin*, EL 25-64 at 4-5.

Gavery's assertion that Wis. Admin. Code §§ EL 4.05(3)(a)⁹, 4.05(6)(a)¹⁰, 4.03(1)(a)¹¹, and 4.03(5)¹² were violated likewise fails. Like the statutes cited above, the Administrative Code states that an observer should be able to observe all "*public aspects*" of the voting process. See Wis. Admin. Code EL § 4.03(1)(a) (emphasis added). That was accomplished here. There was no violation of Wis. Admin. Code EL § 4.05(3)(a) because Gavery was permitted to observe the canvassing. There was no violation of Wis. Admin. Code EL § 4.05(6)(a) because Gavery was allowed to observe all counting of ballots that took place at Central Count. There was no violation of Wis. Admin. Code EL § 4.03(1)(a) because Gavery was not prevented from observing all public aspects of the voting process during

⁸ Gavery makes much of the fact that areas previously blocked from observers with paper or bins are more permanently blocked on August 11, 2026, (*Compl.* ¶¶ 25-26, 86), but those changes are irrelevant to whether the activities in those rooms were required to be open to public observation. There were not.

⁹ Wis. Admin. Code EL § 4.05(3)(a) states, "[t]he designated election official shall permit an observer to observe during all hours when a board of absentee ballot canvassers is meeting to canvass absentee ballots, and observation shall not start later than the zeroing of election equipment."

¹⁰ Wis. Admin. Code EL § 4.05(6)(a) states, "[t]he designated election official shall permit an observer to observe all counting of ballots occurring at a central counting location."

¹¹ Wis. Admin. Code EL § 4.03(1)(a) states the designated election official shall "[e]stablish at least one observation area to enable observers to readily observe all public aspects of the voting process during the election without disrupting the voting process. The designated election official shall position an observer area to minimize contact between observers and voters and election officials."

¹² Wis. Admin. Code § 4.03(5) states, "[t]he designated election official of any observable location that is unable to accommodate the observation areas as described in sub. (1) shall record the reason the requirements were not met and shall send a copy of that record to the commission within 60 days of the election for which the observable location was active."

the election. And finally, there was no violation of Wis. Admin. Code EL § 4.03(5) because there was no inability to accommodate the observation area, so no record or explanation was required.

In sum, Gavery has provided no evidence that the access to observe the *voting process* was insufficient or that MEC abused its discretion in providing such accessibility. Accordingly, there was no denial of observer access at Central Count and this count also must be dismissed.

CONCLUSION

Respondents deny Gavery's allegation that any violation of Wisconsin law or any abuse of discretion occurred. The results of the August 11, 2026 partisan primary were accurate, secure, and fully verified. MEC has taken proactive steps to address administrative procedures and enhance oversight of the upcoming November 2026 general election. Gavery's complaint should be dismissed.

The electronic signature of legal counsel follows regarding all legal arguments raised in this response and is accompanied by the declarations of Ms. Paulina Gutiérrez and Ms. Maricha Harris regarding all factual assertions. These declarations also provide the verification of Ms. Gutiérrez and Ms. Harris that they have reviewed and verify the Response to this Complaint.

The electronic signature of counsel also certifies that, pursuant to Wis. Admin. Code EL § 20.03(6), a copy of this document with all referenced attachments has been placed in the mail to Gavery and his counsel prior to filing this with the commission.

Dated and signed at Milwaukee, Wisconsin this 30th day of September, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Electronically signed by William E. Keeler, III

William E. Keeler, III (SBN 1059791)

Elizabeth K. Miles (SBN 1064284)

Attorney for Respondents

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

200 E. Wells St., Room 800

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Telephone: (414) 286-2601

Facsimile: (414) 286-8550

wkeeler@milwaukee.gov

ekmiles@milwaukee.gov

Attachments: Declaration of Paulina Gutierrez (with exhibit)

Declaration of Maricha Harris (with exhibit)

Kopplin v. Gutierrez, EL 25-64 (May 7, 2026 WEC Decision)

cc: Mr. Justin Gavery (via U.S. mail)
Atty. Nicholas J. Boerke (via U.S. mail and email)
Executive Director Paulina Gutiérrez (via email)
Deputy Director Maricha Harris (via email)

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

JUSTIN GAVERY,

Complainant,

v.

Case No. EL 26-58

MARICHA HARRIS and
PAULINA GUTIÉRREZ,

Respondents.

DECLARATION OF PAULINA GUTIÉRREZ

I, Paulina Gutiérrez, declare the following pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 887.015:

1. I am the Executive Director of the City of Milwaukee Election Commission. (“MEC”). I was confirmed for this role on June 11, 2024, and serve as an election official pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.02(4e). I served as Executive Director at all times relevant to this action. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this declaration.

2. Milwaukee operates a “Central Count” on election day where all absentee ballots are counted in one central location. The MEC Operations Center, located at 1901 South Kinnickinnic Avenue in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was used as the Central Count location for the August 11, 2026 partisan primary election.

3. Central Count was operated on August 11, 2026 as if it were my office for absentee ballot purposes. There were five Chief Inspectors, a three-person board of absentee ballot canvassers led by Deputy Director Harris, and 132 central count workers.

4. On August 11, 2026, MEC processed 27,187 absentee ballots using nine high-speed tabulators at Central Count.

5. MEC had planned to use three download teams led separately by me, Deputy Director Maricha Harris, and the Absentee Ballot Coordinator, all of whom had the written procedure and had completed the procedure before.

6. As the Central Count results download began, MEC was also completing the final results-upload procedures from polling locations across the City of Milwaukee. I stepped away from the download process to assist with the completion of polling-location uploads.

7. Before I stepped away, I confirmed with Deputy Director Harris that she could lead the Central Count download process, which began with two bipartisan teams (members of the planned third team joined one of the now two teams).

8. Deputy Director Harris' bipartisan team included Deputy Director Harris, a poll worker representing the Republican party, and a Board of Commissioners member representing the Democratic party.

9. Written instructions for the download procedure were available to the teams that performed the download on August 11, 2026.

10. As the Executive Director of MEC, I have attended the Wisconsin Election Commission's sponsored training program for Municipal Clerks, and I am in compliance with the required hours of training as defined by the Wisconsin statutes and Administrative Code.

11. I have ensured that Deputy Director Harris also attended and completed the required training pursuant to the Wisconsin statutes and Administrative Code and that election workers are trained pursuant to my obligations under Wis. Stat. § 7.15(1)(e).

12. Upon information and belief, the tabulation download process at Central Count took place after 10:00 p.m., finishing up at approximately 10:25 p.m.

13. After the tabulation process was completed at Central Count, the absentee ballot results were downloaded from the tabulators, put on nine secure data sticks, and taken to the Milwaukee County Election Commission, upon information and belief, around 11:00 p.m.

14. The Milwaukee County Election Commission then discovered that five of the nine data sticks contained audit logs rather than election results files.

15. The download team led by Deputy Director Harris had mistakenly selected and downloaded the audit log rather than the election results files for each of the tabulators that team worked on.

16. Aside from selecting the download of the audit log, the remainder of the transfer process was completed according to procedure, with the secured data sticks being timely transported to the Milwaukee County Election Commission.

17. Upon learning of the error, I took immediate steps to remedy the situation, including informing the media, inviting reporters to observe and record the process, and confirming that no unauthorized individuals were in the MEC's Operations Center. I returned with members of the bipartisan City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners and Deputy Director Harris under Milwaukee Police Department escort to download the election results from the five machines under the observation of the available press and the Milwaukee Police Department.

18. The August 11, 2026 absentee ballot results were downloaded from the five affected tabulators with MEC staff, members of the bipartisan Board of Election Commissioners, Milwaukee Police Department officers, and media present.

19. MEC made the original, timestamped Precincts Processed reports and newly printed Precincts Processed reports available to the media.

20. There was no change in the number of absentee ballots processed and ward information as confirmed to remain the same.

21. MEC provided the Milwaukee County Election Commission the original reports printed from the tabulators and the newly printed Precincts Processed reports from the corrected download, along with the secure data sticks containing election results.

22. The Milwaukee County Election Commission uploaded the City's results for public reporting at approximately 1:00 a.m. on August 12, 2026.

23. MEC has already begun implementing changes to prevent this same download error from occurring in future elections, including adding visual images of each relevant screen to the written download procedures to enhance the instructions, which will also be made available to observers at Central Count (excluding passwords and other security-sensitive information). The download teams will participate in a briefing immediately before the download process begins to confirm all participants understand their individual responsibilities and the steps required to complete the download. A point-and-call verification process is also being implemented whereby staff will verbally identify and confirm critical selections as they are completed, allowing others to verify each step as it happens.

24. Following a diligent search, I have not been able to substantiate that notice of the convening of the August 11, 2026 Board of Absentee Ballot Canvassers was included on MEC's website in the "Election Notices" folder at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or posted in any other fashion.

25. MEC published notice of its intent to conduct public pre-election tabulator testing on August 1, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. in The Daily Reporter on Thursday, July 30, 2026. A copy of the published notice, in Spanish and English, is attached as Exhibit A.

26. Upon information and belief, MEC also posted notice of its intent to conduct public pre-election tabulator testing on its website under "Election Notices." Once an election is concluded, MEC removes the specific election folder with election notices from its website to avoid confusion when the next election's notices are added, which was done here following the August 11, 2026 election.

27. On August 11, 2026, there were areas of Central Count that the public was prohibited from accessing. These include the Secure Ballot Room, private office spaces, boiler and electrical rooms, and access to the Operations Center's loading bay.

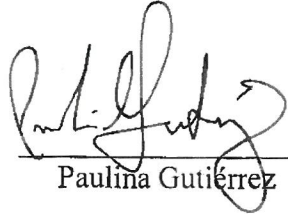
28. In previous elections, some of these prohibited areas had been blocked from view by paper or other means; however, as a result of maintenance and updates to the facility, some areas had more permanent barriers constructed, which not only allowed MEC to install a TV and boards allowing better observation of the absentee voting process, they also made clear that these areas are prohibited from public access. No updates to the facility were made to obscure public aspects of the absentee canvas.

29. The only activities that took place in these prohibited areas on August 11, 2026 were intake, sorting, and securing absentee ballot certificate envelopes.

30. I declare under the penalty of false swearing that I personally read the referenced Response and verify that it is true and correct based on my personal knowledge.

**I declare under the penalty of false swearing under the law of Wisconsin
that the foregoing is true and correct.**

Signed on the 30th day of September, 2026, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.


Paulina Gutiérrez

LAW OFFICE, LLC
SBN: 1000535
7115 W. Forest Home Avenue
Greenfield, WI 53220
(414)327-2323

4181420/7-23-30/8-6

Notice Setting Time to Hear Application and Deadline for Filing Claims

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 26-PR-646

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOELLEN M. SCHEI Deceased

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 10/24/1944 and date of death 4/12/2026 was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 4138 N. Newhall Street, Shorewood, WI 53211.

3. The application will be heard at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room Via Zoom - Meeting ID 817 0108 6479 Password 511397, before Whitney H. DeVoe, Deputy, Probate Registrar, on September 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 23, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 414-278-4444 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

DATE SIGNED: July 20, 2026

Electronically signed by

Whitney H. DeVoe

Deputy Registrar in Probate

Derek T. Daron
SBN: 1089058
500 W. Silver Spring Drive, Suite K-300
Glendale, WI 53217
(414) 409-7122

4181432/7-23-30/8-6

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR000070

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Dennis Joseph March Date of Death: 11-29-2025

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 04-08-1955 and date of death 11-29-2025, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 1441 S. 68th St., West Allis, WI 53214.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 23, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 20, 2026

Electronically signed by

Whitney H. DeVoe

Deputy Registrar in Probate

Atty. Daniel N. Van Siet
SBN: 1061882
13500 W. Capitol Drive STE 201, Brookfield, WI 53005
262-888-7878

4181438/7-23-30/8-6

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001097

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Don Weimer

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 11/02/1951 and date of death 02/16/2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 6757 N. Santa Monica, Fox Point, Wisconsin 53217.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 26, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 20, 2026

Electronically signed by

Robert B. Rondini

Probate Registrar

Rollie R. Hanson
SBN: 1011293
1433 N. Water Street #400,
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-321-9733

4181449/7-23-30/8-6

Amended

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 25PR848

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BRYAN E. DOMIN Deceased

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 3/4/1940 and date of death 12/11/2024, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 7220 Ballpark Drive, Apt 123, Franklin, WI 53132.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 26, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. Ninth Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 23, 2026

Electronically signed by

Whitney H. DeVoe

Deputy Registrar in Probate

Matthew R. Harding
SBN: 1075148
Walden, Neitzke & Taylor, S.C.
707 W. Moreland Blvd., Ste. 9
Waukesha, WI 53188
(262)547-5517

4183203/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001113

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Michael David Braun

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 01/14/1958 and date of death 07/07/2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 3509 N. Downer Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 26, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. Ninth St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 23, 2026

Electronically signed by

Whitney H. DeVoe

Deputy Registrar in Probate

Paul A. Maranan
SBN: 1003212
4111 S. Howell Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-483-4400

4183240/7-30/8-6-13

Order Setting Time to Hear

Petition for Administration and

Deadline for Filing Claims

(Formal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001024

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLES WILSON

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:

The decedent, with date of birth 07/22/1922 and date of death 06/25/2026 was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1414 North Prospect Avenue, Room 413, Milwaukee, WI 53202

THE COURT ORDERS:

1. The Petition be heard at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room Via Zoom meeting ID 914 7887 9491, passcode 790392, before Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner Jennifer O. Hemmer, on 09/23/2026 at 3:00 p.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is

11/9/2026.

3. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.

5. Publication of this notice is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown.

The names or addresses of the following interested persons (if any) are not known or reasonably ascertainable: unknown heirs at law

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 414-278-4444 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: July 27, 2026

Electronically signed by

Jennifer O. Hemmer

Court Commissioner

Attorney James A. Wall
SBN: 1017927
1931 West Blue Mound Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 774-5777

4183372/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001129

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RORY ORGILL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 7/4/1961 and date of death 7/3/2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 3400 North Pierce St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53217.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is November 2, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 27, 2026

Electronically signed by

Robert B. Rondini

Probate Registrar

Ashley E. Lillesand-Leonhard
SBN: 1063235
20955 Crossroads Circle
Waukesha, WI 53186
414.409.7306

4183376/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001109

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Sharon Jean Drake Deceased: 5/16/2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth January 3, 1943 and date of death May 16, 2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 3750 West College Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53221.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 26, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 949 North 9th Street, (Probate Division) Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 23, 2026

Electronically signed by

Robert B. Rondini

Probate Registrar

Konstantakis Law Office, LLC
SBN: 1033720
5217 S. 51st Street
Greenfield, WI 53220
(414) 427-6181

4183379/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026 PR 000874

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Norma Fernhout Deceased

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 09/30/1937 and date of death 01/27/2021, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 7951 W. National Ave. #121 Milwaukee WI 53214.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 26, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 8th St. Milwaukee WI 53233, Wisconsin, Room 207.

John T. Bannen
SBN: 1016955
Quarles & Brady LLP
411 E. Wisconsin Ave. Suite 2400
Milwaukee WI 53202
414-791-0914

4183441/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001120

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Anita Lemke Deceased: 03/18/2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 05/31/1949 and date of death March 18, 2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1151 North 45th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 27, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 24, 2026

Electronically signed by

Whitney H. DeVoe

Deputy Registrar in Probate

Konstantakis Law Office, LLC
SBN: 1135643
5217 S. 51st St.
Greenfield, WI 53220
(414) 427-6181

4183450/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors

(Informal Administration)

Case No. 26PR407

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, WAUKESHA COUNTY, IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Michael Wayne Kobow Deceased: 06/02/2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth January 31, 1960 and date of death June 2, 2026, was domiciled in Waukesha County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 141 Wolf Run Rd, Apt. 5, Muskego, WI 53150.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 11/04/2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Waukesha County Courthouse, 515 W. Moreland Blvd. Waukesha, Wisconsin, Room C-153.

DATE SIGNED: July 27, 2026

Electronically signed by

Paul R. Nowakowski

Probate Registrar

Konstantakis Law Office, LLC
SBN: 1135643
5217 S. 51st St.
Greenfield, WI 53220
(414) 427-6181

4183425/7-30/8-6-13

Other

Government

Elections

CIUDAD DE MILWAUKEE
ESTADO DE WISCONSIN
Aviso Público

Prueba Pública de Equipo de

Votación

Elección Primaria Partidista

11 de agosto del 2026

POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTI-

FICA que, de conformidad con el

Estatuto del Estado de Wisconsin

5.84 (1), se llevarán a cabo

pruebas públicas del equipo de

votación electrónica para deter-

minar que el equipo contará cor-

rectamente los votos emitidos el

11 de agosto del 2026 para todos

los cargos y en todas las medidas.

Todas las pruebas están abiertas al

público.

Lugar y fecha de la prueba

pública

Centro de Operaciones Electorales

de la Ciudad de Milwaukee

1901 S. Kinross Avenue,

Milwaukee, WI 53204

sábado 1 de agosto del 2026

8:00 a.m.

La prueba se llevará a cabo procesando un grupo de papeletas previamente auditadas de manera que se registre un número predeterminado de votos válidos para cada candidato y en cada referend-

dum (cuando corresponda). La prueba incluirá, para cada cargo, una o más papeletas que tengan

votos superiores al número permitido por la ley, a fin de comprobar la capacidad del equipo de tabulación

automática para rechazar dichos votos. Se debe realizar un conteo

sin errores antes de que el secretario pueda aprobar el equipo para su uso en la elección.

Paulina Gutiérrez

Comisión Electoral de la Ciudad de

Milwaukee

Directora Ejecutiva

4183334/7-30

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Public Notice

Public Test of Voting Equipment

Partisan Primary Election

August 11, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 5.84(1), public tests of the electronic voting equipment will be held to ascertain that the equipment will

STATE OF WISCONSIN
BEFORE THE WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

JUSTIN GAVERY,

Complainant,

v.

Case No. EL 26-58

MARICHA HARRIS and
PAULINA GUTIÉRREZ,

Respondents.

DECLARATION OF MARICHA HARRIS

I, Maricha Harris, declare the following pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 887.015:

1. I am the Deputy Director of the City of Milwaukee Election Commission. (“MEC”). I serve as an election official pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.02(4e), working closely with MEC Executive Director Paulina Gutiérrez. I served as Deputy Director at all times relevant to this action. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this declaration.

2. On August 11, 2026, I staffed the City of Milwaukee’s Central Count location at 1901 South Kinnickinnic Avenue along with Executive Director Gutiérrez, working with five Chief Inspectors in total, a three-person board of absentee ballot canvassers that I led, and 132 central count workers.

3. I led one of the two teams that conducted the Central Count download process on tabulator machines on August 11, 2026. That team consisted of me, a poll worker representing the Republican party, and a Board of Commissioners member representing the Democratic party.

4. I had received in-person training with Executive Director Gutiérrez and I successfully completed the download procedure during two previous elections.

5. Written instructions for the download procedure were available to my team and the second team that performed the download.

6. On August 11, 2026, Executive Director Gutiérrez asked that I lead the Central Count download process.

7. As the Deputy Director, I have attended the Wisconsin Election Commission's sponsored training program for Municipal Clerks, and I am in compliance with the required hours of training as defined by the Wisconsin statutes and Administrative Code. Prior to August 11, 2026, I participated in in-person training with Executive Director Gutiérrez and had successfully completed the download procedure during two previous elections.

8. On Thursday, July 23, 2026, I contacted the Public Notices email of The Daily Reporter and requested that public notice related to the August 11, 2026 partisan primary election public testing of electronic voting equipment be published on July 30, 2026. Attached as Exhibit A is a copy of the published notice of Public Test of Voting Equipment by The Daily Reporter on July 30, 2026.

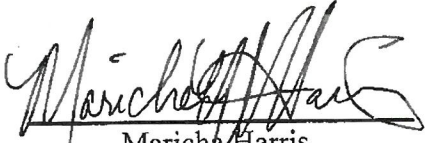
9. Upon information and belief, the notice of public test was also posted on MEC's web page under "Election Notices." That specific election folder was removed after the election to avoid confusion when the next election's notices are added.

10. Upon information and belief, notice of the convening of the August 11, 2026 Board of Absentee Ballot Canvassers was included on MEC's website in the "Election Notices" folder at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. The specific election folder was removed after the election to avoid confusion when the next election's notices are added.

11. I declare under the penalty of false swearing that I personally read the referenced Response and verify that it is true and correct based on my personal knowledge.

**I declare under the penalty of false swearing under the law of Wisconsin
that the foregoing is true and correct.**

Signed on the 30th day of September, 2026, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.


Mariche Harris

LAW OFFICE, LLC
SBN: 1000535
7115 W. Forest Home Avenue
Greenfield, WI 53220
(414)327-2323

4181420/7-23-30/8-B

**Notice Setting Time to Hear
Application and Deadline for
Filing Claims**
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 26-PR-846
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF JOELLEN M. SCHEI Deceased
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.
2. The decedent, with date of birth 10/24/1944 and date of death 4/12/2023 was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 4138 N. Newhall Street, Shorewood, WI 53211.

3. The application will be heard at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room Via Zoom - Meeting ID 817 0108 8479 Password 511397, before Whitney H. DeVoe, Deputy, Probate Registrar, on September 1, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The application may be granted if there is no objection.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 23, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

6. This publication is notice to any persons whose names or address are unknown.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 414-278-4444 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

DATE SIGNED: July 20, 2026

Electronically signed by
Whitney H. DeVoe
Deputy Registrar in Probate

Derek T. Daron
SBN: 1069058
500 W. Silver Spring Drive, Suite K-300
Glendale, WI 53217
(414) 409-7122

4181432/7-23-30/8-B

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR000070
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF Dennis Joseph March Date of
Death: 11-29-2025

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 04-08-1955 and date of death 11-29-2025, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 1441 S. 68th St., West Allis, WI 53214.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 23, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 20, 2026

Electronically signed by
Whitney H. DeVoe
Deputy Registrar in Probate

Atty. Daniel N. Van Sleit
SBN: 1061882
13500 W. Capitol Drive STE 201,
Brookfield, WI 53005
282-888-7878

4181438/7-23-30/8-B

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001097
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF Don Weimer

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 11/02/1951 and date of death 02/16/2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 8757 N. Santa Monica, Fox Point, Wisconsin 53217.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 26, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.
DATE SIGNED: July 20, 2026

Electronically signed by
Robert B. Rondini
Probate Registrar

Rolfie R. Hanson
SBN: 1011283
1433 N. Water Street #400,
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-321-9733

4181449/7-23-30/8-B

**Amended
Notice to Creditors**
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 25PR848
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF BRYAN E. DOMIN Deceased
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 3/4/1940 and date of death 12/11/2024, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 7220 Ballpark Drive, Apt 123, Franklin, WI 53132.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 26, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 North Ninth Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 23, 2026

Electronically signed by
Whitney H. DeVoe

Deputy Registrar in Probate

Matthew R. Harding
SBN: 1075148
Walden, Neitzke & Taylor, S.C.
707 W. Moreland Blvd., Ste. 9
Waukeasha, WI 53188
(262)547-5517

4183203/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001113
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF Michael David Braun

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 01/14/1959 and date of death 07/07/2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 3509 N. Downer Ave., Shorewood, WI 53211.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 26, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. Ninth St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 23, 2026

Electronically signed by
Whitney H. DeVoe

Deputy Registrar in Probate

Paul A. Maranan
SBN: 1003212
4111 S. Howell Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-483-4400

4183240/7-30/8-6-13

**Order Setting Time to Hear
Petition for Administration and
Deadline for Filing Claims**
(Formal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001024
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF CHARLES WILSON

A Petition for Formal Administration was filed.

THE COURT FINDS:
The decedent, with date of birth 07/22/1922 and date of death 06/25/2026 was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1414 North Prospect Avenue, Room 413, Milwaukee, WI 53202

THE COURT ORDERS:

1. The Petition be heard at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room Via Zoom meeting ID 914 787 9491, passcode 780392, before Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner Jennifer O. Hemmer, on 09/23/2026 at 3:00 p.m.

You do not need to appear unless you object. The petition may be granted if there is no objection.

2. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is

11/9/2026.

3. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St., Milw., Wisconsin, Room 207.

4. Heirship will be determined at the hearing on petition for final judgment.

5. Publication of this notice is notice to any persons whose names or addresses are unknown. The names or addresses of the following interested persons (if any) are not known or reasonably ascertainable: unknown heirs at law

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 414-278-4444 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

BY THE COURT:

DATE SIGNED: July 27, 2026

Electronically signed by
Jennifer O. Hemmer

Circuit Court Commissioner

Attorney James A. Walt
SBN: 1017297
11931 West Blue Mound Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414) 774-5777

4183372/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001129
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF RORY ORGILL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 7/4/1961 and date of death 7/3/2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 3400 North Pierce St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is November 2, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 27, 2026

Electronically signed by
Robert B. Rondini

Probate Registrar

Ashley E. Lilesand-Leonhard
SBN: 1063235
20985 Crossroads Circle
Waukeasha, WI 53188
414.409.7308

4183378/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001109
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF Sharon Jean Drake Deceased:

5/18/2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth January 3, 1943 and date of death May 16, 2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 3750 West College Avenue, Greenfield, WI 53221.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 26, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 949 North 9th Street, (Probate Division) Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 23, 2026

Electronically signed by
Robert B. Rondini

Probate Registrar

Konstantakis Law Office, LLC
SBN: 1033720
5217 S. 51st Street
Greenfield, WI 53220
(414) 427-6181

4183379/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026 PR 000874
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF Norma Fernhout Deceased

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 09/30/1937 and date of death 01/27/2021, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of WI, with a mailing address of 7951 W. National Ave. #121 Milwaukee WI 53214.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 28, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St. Milwaukee WI 53233, Wisconsin, Room 207.

John T. Bannen
SBN: 1016958
Quarles & Brady LLP
411 E. Wisconsin Ave. Suite 2400
Milwaukee WI 53202
414-791-0914

4183441/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 2026PR001120
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, MILWAUKEE COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF Anita Lemke Deceased:

03/18/2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth 05/31/1943 and date of death March 18, 2026, was domiciled in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 1151 North 45th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is October 27, 2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Milwaukee County Courthouse, 901 N. 9th St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Room 207.

DATE SIGNED: July 24, 2026

Electronically signed by
Whitney H. DeVoe

Deputy Registrar in Probate

Konstantakis Law Office, LLC
SBN: 1135643
5217 S. 51st St
Greenfield, WI 53220
(414) 427-6181

4183450/7-30/8-6-13

Notice to Creditors
(Informal Administration)

Case No. 26PR407
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT
COURT, WAUKESHA COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF Michael Wayne Kobow
Deceased: 06/02/2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

1. An application for informal administration was filed.

2. The decedent, with date of birth January 31, 1960 and date of death June 2, 2026, was domiciled in Waukesha County, State of Wisconsin, with a mailing address of 141 Wolf Run Rd, Apt. 5, Muskego, WI 53150.

3. All interested persons waived notice.

4. The deadline for filing a claim against the decedent's estate is 11/04/2026.

5. A claim may be filed at the Waukesha County Courthouse, 515 W. Moreland Blvd. Waukesha, Wisconsin, Room C-153.

DATE SIGNED: July 27, 2026

Electronically signed by
Paul B. Nowakowski

Probate Registrar

Konstantakis Law Office, LLC
SBN: 1135643
5217 S. 51st St
Greenfield, WI 53220
(414) 427-6181

4183425/7-30/8-6-13

Government

Elections

CIUDAD DE MILWAUKEE

ESTADO DE WISCONSIN

Aviso Público

Prueba Pública de Equipo de

Votación

Elección Primaria Partidista

11 de agosto del 2026

POR LA PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que, de conformidad con el Estatuto del Estado de Wisconsin 5.84 (1), se llevarán a cabo pruebas públicas del equipo de votación electrónica para determinar que el equipo contará correctamente los votos emitidos el 11 de agosto del 2026 para todos los cargos y en todas las medidas. Todas las pruebas están abiertas al público.

Lugar y fecha de la prueba pública

Centro de Operaciones Electorales de la Ciudad de Milwaukee
1901 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204

sábado 1 de agosto del 2026
8:00 a.m.

La prueba se llevará a cabo procesando un grupo de papeletas previamente auditadas de manera que se registra un número predeterminado de votos válidos para cada candidato y en cada referéndum (cuando corresponda). La prueba incluirá, para cada cargo, una o más papeletas que tengan votos superiores al número permitido por la ley, a fin de comprobar la capacidad del equipo de tabulación automática para rechazar dichos votos. Se debe realizar un conteo sin errores antes de que el secretario pueda aprobar el equipo para su uso en la elección.

Paulina Gutiérrez
Comisión Electoral de la Ciudad de Milwaukee
Directora Ejecutiva
4183334/7-30

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Public Notice

Public Test of Voting Equipment

Partisan Primary Election

August 11, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 5.84(1), public tests of the electronic voting equipment will be held to ascertain that the equipment will correctly count the August 11, 2026 votes cast for all offices and on all measures. All tests are open to the public.

Location and Date of Public Test

City of Milwaukee Election
Operation Center
1901 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Saturday, August 1, 2026
8:00am

The test shall be conducted by processing a pre-audited group of ballots so marked as to record a predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on each referendum (when applicable). The test shall include for each office one or more ballots which have votes in excess of the number allowed by law in order to test the ability of the automatic tabulating equipment to reject such votes. An errorless count must be made before the clerk can approve the equipment for use in the election.

Paulina Gutierrez
City of Milwaukee Election
Commission
Executive Director
4183337/7-30

Other

Public Notice

Milwaukee County hereby provides notice that it intends to apply for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Milwaukee Urbanized Area Funds through the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) for the following transportation projects to serve seniors and individuals with disabilities in Milwaukee County.

Applications are being submitted for the following projects: 1. Continued funding for Mobility Management activities; including: One-on-one Travel Training, Group Travel Training ("Freedom on Wheels" program), Specialized Small Group Training, Transit Related Technology Training, Community Outreach, and Bus Operator Training. 2. Funding for operational costs of the WisGo account-based fare collection system on paratransit vehicles. 3. Funding for a paratransit software eligibility module.

Individuals or agencies wishing to comment or receive additional information about these applications should contact:

Kirsten Mahwinney
Milwaukee County Department of Transportation

10320 W. Watertown Plank Road, Second Floor, Wauwatosa, WI 53226
(414)-257-8522
Kirsten.Mahwinney@milwaukee-countywi.gov

Formal comments or requests for additional information must be received in writing or email within 14 days of this publication.

4183248/7-30

For Sub
Inform
Call 800

EXHIBIT

A



Wisconsin Elections Commission

201 West Washington Avenue | Second Floor | P.O. Box 7984 | Madison, WI 53707-7984
(608) 266-8005 | elections@wi.gov | elections.wi.gov

May 7, 2026

Robert Kopplin
4540 W Leon Terrace
Milwaukee, WI 53216

Paulina Gutierrez
200 E. Wells St. Room 501
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Sent via email to: bobkopplin@gmail.com, pgutie@milwaukee.gov, voterinfo@milwaukee.gov, and jschet@milwaukee.gov

Re: EL 25-64, Robert Kopplin v. Paulina Gutierrez

Dear Mr. Kopplin and Executive Director Gutierrez,

Introduction

This letter is in response to the complaint submitted by Robert Kopplin (the Complainant) to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (Commission), which was filed on April 21, 2025, alleging that the City of Milwaukee Elections Commission (MEC) Executive Director Paulina Gutierrez (the Respondent) did not allow election observers to readily observe all public aspects of the voting process. The Complainant alleges violations of Wis. Stat. §§ 7.41(2), 7.52(1)(a), and 6.88(3) at Operations Center, the board of absentee ballot canvassers meeting located at 1091 South Kinnickinnic Avenue in Milwaukee, during the April 1, 2025, Spring Election.

The Commission has reviewed the Complaint, Response, and Reply. The Commission provides the following analysis and decision. In short, the Commission finds that the Complainant did not show probable cause that the Respondent's actions constituted an abuse of discretion or violation of Wis. Stat. §§ 7.41(2), 7.52(1)(a), and 6.88(3).

Commission Authority and Role in Resolving Complaints Filed Under Wis. Stat. § 5.06

Under Wis. Stats. §§ 5.05(1)(e) and 5.06(6), the Commission is provided with the inherent, general, and specific authority to consider the submissions of the parties to a complaint and to issue findings. The Commission may summarily issue a decision and provide that decision to the affected parties. This letter serves as the Commission's final decision regarding the issues raised in this complaint.

The Commission's role in resolving verified complaints filed under Wis. Stat. § 5.06, which challenge the decisions or actions of local election officials, is to determine whether a local official acted contrary to applicable election laws or abused their discretion in administering applicable election laws.

Complaints "shall set forth such facts as are within the knowledge of the Complainant to show probable cause to believe that a violation of law or abuse of discretion has occurred or will occur." Wis. Stat. § 5.06(1). Probable

Wisconsin Elections Commissioners

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

Administrator
Meagan Wolfe

cause is defined in Wis. Admin. Code § EL 20.02(4) to mean “the facts and reasonable inferences that together are sufficient to justify a reasonable, prudent person, acting with caution, to believe that the matter asserted is probably true.”

Complaint Allegations

The Complainant alleges he served as election observer for the 2025 Spring Election and observed practices by the Milwaukee Election Commission’s board of absentee ballot canvassers that were not in compliance with Wisconsin’s election laws.

The Complainant alleges that he observed the entrance of the “ballot collection room” where absentee ballots collected from drop boxes as well as walk-in absentee ballots were located. Nearby were two rooms with “Authorized Personnel Only” signs affixed to them and windows that were either obstructed by objects or blocked out with paint. The Complainant noticed that one of the restricted office rooms was connected to the garage and he questions why the restricted rooms had access to the garage.

The Complainant alleges that the windows to the “Secure Ballot Room” were obstructed, one with spray paint and the other with stacks of mail bins, making it difficult for election observers to watch the “scanning of ballot envelopes or the handling of ballots.” He alleges that in previous elections, observers had been able to see into windows that are now obstructed.

The Complainant questions what is happening in the restricted rooms saying: “[w]hat is happening in these rooms that no observers are allowed to see into? What are Milwaukee election officials bringing into the office from the garage that they don’t want observers to see.”

The Complainant also provided photographs of the “Authorized Personnel Only” signs and the “Secure Ballot Room.”

Response

The Respondent filed a written response with the Commission on May 23, 2025. The Respondent argues that the Complainant’s allegation “lacks merit” and she denies any violation of Wisconsin law.

The Response admits that there were several areas at the board of absentee ballot canvassers location where the public and election observers are not allowed access to certain areas to prevent disrupting MEC’s operations. The respondent argues that the restrictions are lawful, and that the Complainant has “incorrectly” asserted that the restrictions violate Wis. Stat. § 7.41(2). The Respondents argues that observers are only allowed access to “for the purpose of observing the voting process, not to areas dedicated for ministerial tasks or to areas that are unrelated to the voting process.” She identifies “[t]o the best of her ability” the areas described in the complaint and in the photos as:

Exhibit 1 – this area is private office space and additional loading bay access; Exhibit 2 – this is a picture of the area outside of the Secure Ballot Room; Exhibit 3 – this is a picture of the front room vestibule to the Operations Center, which served as the absentee ballot collection area; Exhibit 4 – this is the same room as pictures in Exhibit 3; Exhibit 5 – this area is private office space.

She argues that neither Wis. Stat. § 7.41 or § 7.52, which concerns an absentee ballot board of canvassers meeting and grants observers the same level of access, require “public access to areas that

are dedicated to ministerial tasks or to areas that are unrelated to the voting process.” Rather, she states that election observers only have access to observe the voting process. She alleges that observer access to the loading bay, private office rooms, and the Secure Ballot Room was not required and that public access to “such areas would be unreasonable, disruptive, and unsafe.” The Respondent does admit that observers previously had been able to see into several windows that were blocked off during the 2025 Spring Election, but argues that such access in the past went beyond what was required by law.

Reply

The Complainant filed a reply, stating that along with a violation of Wis. Stat. § 7.41(2), the Respondent also violated Wis. Stat. §§ 7.52(1)(a) and 6.88(3). He argues that observers have the right to observe “the chain of custody of absentee ballots at any and all stages of storing, transporting or any handling.” The Complainant argues that election observers should have access to the full voting process, including ministerial tasks. The restriction of access to certain voting processes “puts at high risk the election results being manipulated.”

He also alleges that the tasks conducted in the restricted areas include “evaluating the legal sufficiency of each ballot and controlling their chain of custody prior to tabulation.” The Complainant takes issue with the Respondent’s claim that allowing access to these areas would be “unreasonable, disruptive, and unsafe” and argues that observers have the right to see the processing of ballots, that any observer who did disrupt the proceedings could be removed, and that there is no explanation provided as to why such observation would be unsafe.

Discussion¹

The Complainant alleges that the Respondent violated Wis. Stat. § 7.41(2), and added §§ 7.52(1)(a) and 6.88(3) in the reply, by not allowing election observers to observe all public aspects of the voting process, arguing that observers have the right to observe the full chain of custody of absentee ballots including “storing, transporting or any handling.”

Under Wis. Stat. §§ 7.41 and 7.52(1)(a), election officials must establish designated observation areas for election observers “to observe all public aspects of the voting process.” Wis. Stat. § 7.41(2). The observation areas shall be positioned “to permit any election observer to readily observe all public aspect of the voting process” and allows observation from between three and eight feet from the tables at which voters may register to vote or at which they state their names and addresses. *Id.*

Wisconsin statute § 6.88(3) concerns the processing of absentee ballots in a polling place. Because this complaint does not concern a polling place, this citation does not appear relevant, and the absentee ballots would have been processed following the very similar procedures under Wis. Stat. § 7.52.

The Complainant argues that the Respondent cannot restrict access to areas where absentee ballots are handled and processed. At an absentee ballot board of canvassers meeting, voters do not register to vote, but under Wis. Stat. § 7.52(3)(a), the names of absentee voters are required to be read by the canvassers so that observers can hear. Therefore, observers must be able to observe the proceedings from three to eight feet away from this activity.

¹ The Commission’s observer rule, Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter EL 4, was not yet in effect when this complaint was filed, and therefore the Commission does not apply those standards to this decision. However, the Commission notes that its decision would not have changed under the new rules, but it would have also considered Wis. Admin. Code §§ EL 4.03(1)(b), 4.04(3), 4.05(2)(a), and 4.05(3).

Beyond that, observers have the right to observe “all public aspects of the voting process.” Wis. Stat. § 7.41(2). The Commission finds that regarding an absentee ballot board of canvassers meeting, this means that observers must have an ability to see and hear all activities specified in Wis. Stat. § 7.52, though they are not guaranteed the right to observe three and eight feet away from activities that are not the reading of names on the absentee ballot envelopes.

The question for the Commission is thus whether the Complainant has shown probable cause that he was denied access to observe activities prescribed by Wis. Stat. § 7.52. As an initial matter, there does not appear to be an allegation that he was not allowed to observe the reading of absentee voter names from three to eight feet away, and thus the Commission does not find any violation of that requirement.

The Complainant alleges that he was denied access to two office rooms and one larger “Secure Ballot Room.” From his description and photos, it appears that he was able to observe the area in which voters came to the location to drop off their absentee ballots and where ballots collected from drop boxes were delivered, and the complaint appears to concern the scanning and handling of ballots that were returned to the clerk prior to election day.

Regarding the two offices, the Commission does not find probable cause of a violation or an abuse of discretion. The Complainant does not clearly allege that these areas were being used for absentee ballot processing in any capacity and merely alleges that election officials appeared to have access to these areas that also had access to areas where absentee ballots were handled. Without a clear allegation that activity that is observable under Wis. Stat. § 7.52 took place in these locations, the Commission cannot find a violation.

The Complainant alleges that absentee ballots were scanned and handled in the Secure Ballot Room, and, in the reply only, alleges that ballots were “evaluated for legal sufficiency” in this room. The Respondent counters that neither Wis. Stat. § 7.41 nor 7.52 requires access to areas that are unrelated to voting or that are “dedicated to ministerial tasks” and asserts that observers had access to the absentee voting process. The minimal descriptions provided in the three filings do not give the Commission a clear idea of the function of the Secure Ballot Room. However, the responsibility is always on a Complainant to make a clear allegation supported by evidence, and in this case, it is not clear that observers were denied access to any specific procedure under Wis. Stat. § 7.52, which includes all aspects of opening and counting absentee ballots.

From the filings, it appears that the Respondent has placed two distinct processes within the same building, namely the processing and sorting of returned absentee ballots to the Executive Director or her authorized representatives in the Secure Ballot Room, and then the activities of the board of absentee ballot canvassers. The Commission does not agree that ministerial tasks of the board of absentee ballot canvassers can be restricted, and all tasks defined under Wis. Stat. § 7.52 are subject to the general rule of public observation of the voting process, though not subject to the specific distance requirement. However, the initial return of absentee ballots to the Executive Director and the processing and sorting of those ballots, which are tasks falling under Wis. Stat. §§ 6.86(5) and (6), 6.87(4)(b)1., (6), and (9), and 6.88(1) and (2), are not required to be observable.² From the allegations in the complaint and the statements in the response, it appears that these Executive Director processes were being carried out in the Secure Ballot Room, and thus those activities were not observable because they did not involve the processes under Wis. Stat. § 7.52.

² Under Wis. Admin. Code § EL 4.05(2)(a), ballots returned to a clerk’s office or alternate site are observable when returned by the USPS during the scheduled hours of in-person absentee voting. In this case, though involving an absentee ballot canvass board rather than an in-person absentee voting site, it appears that the complainant was allowed to observe the in-person return of absentee ballots by voters and from drop box collection.

Robert Kopplin v. Paulina Gutierrez (EL 25-64)
May 7, 2026

Under Wis. Stat. § 7.41, the clerk's initial processing of absentee ballots is not observable. This role includes accepting, processing, recording, and determining if a certificate envelope is deficient or requires correction. Despite this, as the Respondent acknowledged, there is nothing preventing additional access regarding these specific tasks.

As observation is not required, the Commission does not issue an order regarding this allegation and leaves the decision to the Respondent regarding whether any portion of absentee ballot sorting and processing may be observed when it is conducted immediately adjacent to activities that are observable.

Commission's Findings

Based upon the above review and analysis, the Commission does not find probable cause to believe that an abuse of discretion or violation of law occurred under Wis. Stat. §§ 7.41(2), 6.88(3), and 7.52(1)(a).

Right to Appeal – Circuit Court

This letter constitutes the Commission's resolution of these complaints. Wis. Stat. § 5.06(2). Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 5.06(8), any aggrieved party may appeal this decision to circuit court no later than 30 days after the issuance of this decision.

If any of the parties should have questions about this letter or the Commission's decision, please feel free to contact the Commission at 608-266-8005 or elections@wi.gov.

Sincerely,

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION