

# NOTICE OF OPEN AND CLOSED MEETING

## Wisconsin Ethics Commission

101 E Wilson Street, St. Croix Room  
Madison, Wisconsin

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

### Open Session Agenda

- A. Call to Order
- B. Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice – Administrator
- C. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings
  - 1. Open Session Minutes for Meeting on December 12, 2023 Page 3
  - 2. Open Session Minutes for Meeting on February 12, 2024 Page 5
  - 3. Open Session Minutes for Meeting on February 20, 2024 Page 7
  - 4. Open Session Minutes for Meeting on March 22, 2024 Page 9
  - 5. Open Session Minutes for Meeting on April 10, 2024 Page 11
- D. Personal Appearances
- E. Introduction of New Commissioner Verbal
- F. Election of Chair and Vice Chair to serve beginning July1, 2024 Verbal
- G. Staff Report Page 13
- H. Closed Session
  - 1. Requests for Advice
  - 2. Complaints, Investigations, and Audits
  - 3. Legal Advice Regarding Potential Litigation
  - 4. Personnel Matters
- I. Return to Open Session
- J. Referral of Probable Cause Findings to Contiguous District Attorneys
- K. Adjourn

### Future Ethics Commission Meetings Scheduled:

- Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 9:00AM
- Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 9:00 AM
- Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 9:00 AM

*The Ethics Commission will convene in open session but may move to closed session under WIS. STAT. § 19.85(1), (c), (g), (h), or WIS. STAT. § 19.851. This notice is to inform the public that the Commission intends to convene in open session but may move to closed session. The Commission intends to return to open session after completing the closed session agenda.*

WIS. STAT. §§ 19.50 & 19.55(3) No employee of the Commission may disclose information related to an investigation or prosecution under ch. 11, subchapter III of ch. 13, or ch. 19.

WIS. STAT. § 19.85(1) Any meeting of a governmental body, upon motion duly made and carried, may be convened in closed session under one or more of the exemptions provided in this section. The motion shall be carried by a majority vote in such manner that the vote of each member is ascertained and recorded in the minutes. No motion to convene in closed session may be adopted unless the chief presiding officer announces to those present at the meeting at which such motion is made, the nature of the business to be considered at such closed session, and the specific exemption or exemptions under this subsection by which such closed session is claimed to be authorized. Such an announcement shall become part of the record of the meeting. No business may be taken up at any closed session except that which relates to matters contained in the chief presiding officer's announcement of the closed session. A closed session may be held for any of the following purposes:

(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

(h) Consideration of requests for confidential written advice from the elections commission under s. 5.05 (6a) or the ethics commission under s. 19.46 (2), or from any county or municipal ethics board under s. 19.59 (5).

WIS. STAT. § 19.851(2) The commission shall hold each meeting of the commission for the purpose of deliberating concerning an investigation of any violation of the law under the jurisdiction of the commission in closed session under this section.

WIS. STAT § 19.851(3) The commission shall convene in closed session for any of the following purposes:

(a) To consider whether there is a reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe that a violation of the law occurred or is occurring based on a complaint and, if received, a response to that complaint.

(b) To receive reports concerning audit findings and consider whether there is a reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe that a violation of the law occurred or is occurring.



# Wisconsin Ethics Commission

Campaign Finance | Lobbying | Ethics  
101 East Wilson Street | Suite 127 | P.O. Box 7125 | Madison, WI 53707-7125  
(608) 266-8123 | [ethics@wi.gov](mailto:ethics@wi.gov) | <https://ethics.wi.gov>

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## Wisconsin Ethics Commission

101 East Wilson Street, St. Croix Room  
Madison, Wisconsin  
December 12, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

### Open Session Minutes

Present: Pat Strachota, Maryann Sumi (Virtual/ Teams), Andrew D. Weininger, Carousel Bayrd, Gerald Ptacek and Timothy Van Akkeren.

Staff Present: Daniel Carlton, Colette Greve, David Buerger, Sathya Sivaji, Richard Bohringer, Chloe Ruppel, Coleman Maberry and Thomas Jackson.

#### **A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Pat Strachota called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

#### **B. Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice – Administrator**

Administrator Daniel Carlton notified the Commission an appropriate meeting notice had been provided to the public and news media.

#### **C. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings**

##### **1. Open Session Minutes for Meeting on October 26, 2023**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes. Moved by Commissioner Van Akkeren, seconded by Commissioner Weininger. 6-0 Motion carried unanimously.

##### **2. Open Session Minutes for Meeting on November 03, 2023**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes. Moved by Commissioner Weininger, seconded by Vice Chair Sumi. 6-0 Motion carried unanimously.

#### **D. Personal Appearances**

There were no personal appearances.

## **E. Lobbying Audit Update and Guidance – Unauthorized Lobbying**

Ethics Specialist Cole Maberry presented the memo on page 9 of the meeting materials.

**MOTION:** To instruct staff to conduct an audit for unauthorized lobbying in the first and second period of the 2023 session on an educational basis. Moved by Commissioner Weininger, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. 6-0 Motion carried unanimously.

## **F. Ethics Commission Staff Report**

Administrator Daniel Carlton presented the Staff Report on page 13 of the meeting materials.

No action taken.

## **G. Consideration of Future Agenda Items**

Update on the legislation, bills and CFIS project.

## **H. Closed Session**

- 1. Requests for Advice**
- 2. Complaints and Investigations**
- 3. Legal Advice regarding potential litigation.**

**MOTION:** To go into closed session to discuss requests for advice, complaints, investigations, and legal advice regarding potential litigation. Moved by Commissioner Van Akkeren seconded by Commissioner Weininger.

6-0 Motion carried unanimously.

December 12, 2023, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

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Sathya Sivaji, Office Management Specialist

May 14, 2024

December 12, 2023, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes certified by:

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MaryAnn Sumi, Vice Chair

May 14, 2024



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## Wisconsin Ethics Commission

101 East Wilson Street, St. Croix Room  
Madison, Wisconsin  
February 12, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

### Open Session Minutes

**Present:** Pat Strachota, Maryann Sumi (Virtual/ Teams), Andrew D. Weininger, Carousel Bayrd and Timothy Van Akkeren (Virtual/ Teams).

**Staff Present:** Daniel Carlton, Colette Greve, David Buerger, Sathya Sivaji, Chloe Ruppel, Coleman Maberry and Thomas Jackson.

#### **A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Pat Strachota called the meeting to order at 1:41 p.m. A quorum was present.

#### **B. Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice – Administrator**

Administrator Daniel Carlton notified the Commission an appropriate meeting notice had been provided to the public and news media.

#### **C. Legislative Update**

Administrator Daniel Carlton updated the Commission on an amendment related to disposal of residual conduit funds filed on the bill containing the Commission's legislative recommendations.

**MOTION:** To support the amendment made to the bill. Moved by Vice Chair Sumi, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. 5-0 Motion carried unanimously.

#### **D. Closed Session**

1. Requests for Advice
2. Complaints and Investigations
3. Legal Advice Regarding Pending Litigation/Potential Litigation
4. Personnel Matters
5. Adjourn

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*Wisconsin Ethics Commissioners*

Carousel Bayrd | Maryann Sumi | Pat Strachota | Timothy Van Akkeren | Gerald Ptacek | Andrew Weininger

*Administrator*

Daniel A. Carlton, Jr.

**MOTION:** To go into closed session to discuss requests for advice, complaints, investigations, legal advice regarding pending/potential litigation, and personnel matters. Moved by Commissioner Weininger seconded by Commissioner Bayrd. 5-0 Motion carried unanimously.

February 12, 2024, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

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Sathya Sivaji, Office Management Specialist

May 14, 2024

February 12, 2024, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes certified by:

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MaryAnn Sumi, Vice Chair

May, 2024



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## Wisconsin Ethics Commission

101 East Wilson Street, St. Croix Room  
Madison, Wisconsin  
February 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

### Open Session Minutes

Present: Pat Strachota, Gerald Ptacek, Carousel Bayrd, Maryann Sumi, Timothy Van Akkeren, and Andrew D. Weininger.

Staff Present: Daniel Carlton, David Buerger, Colette Greve, Sathya Sivaji.

#### **A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Pat Strachota called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

#### **B. Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice – Administrator**

Administrator Daniel Carlton notified the Commission an appropriate meeting notice had been provided to the public and news media.

#### **C. Consideration of Future Agenda Items**

None.

#### **D. Closed Session**

- 1. Investigations**
- 2. Litigation**

**MOTION:** To go into closed session to discuss investigations and litigation. Moved by Commissioner Van Akkeren seconded by Commissioner Weininger. 6-0 Motion carried unanimously.

#### **E. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting. Moved by Commissioner Bayrd, seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. 6-0 Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

February 20, 2024, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

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Sathya Sivaji, Office Management Specialist

May 14, 2024

February 20, 2024, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes certified by:

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MaryAnn Sumi, Vice Chair

May 14, 2024





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## Wisconsin Ethics Commission

101 East Wilson Street, St. Croix Room  
Madison, Wisconsin  
March 22, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

### Open Session Minutes

Present: Pat Strachota (Teams/Virtual), Gerald Ptacek (Teams/Virtual), Carousel Bayrd (Teams/Virtual), Maryann Sumi, Timothy Van Akkeren (Teams/Virtual) and Andrew D. Weininger (Teams/Virtual).

Staff Present: Daniel Carlton, David Buerger, Sathya Sivaji.

#### **A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Pat Strachota called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

#### **B. Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice – Administrator**

Administrator Daniel Carlton notified the Commission an appropriate meeting notice had been provided to the public and news media.

#### **C. Closed Session**

- 1. Complaints and Investigations.**
- 2. Legal Advice concerning pending litigation/potential litigation.**

**MOTION:** To go into closed session to discuss complaints and investigations and legal advice concerning pending litigation/potential litigation. Moved by Commissioner Van Akkeren seconded by Vice Chair Sumi. 6-0 Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Strachota turned the gavel over to Vice Chair Sumi for the agenda item D.

Vice Chair Sumi took up Agenda Item D.

#### **D. Referral of Probable Cause Findings to Contiguous District Attorneys**

Staff Counsel Buerger gave a brief introduction.

**Lots drawn for:**

**1. Probable Cause Findings Previously Referred to Chippewa County  
Contiguous Counties- Barron, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Rusk, and Taylor Counties.**

Vice Chair Sumi confirmed and drew the lot.

**Taylor County was drawn from the lot.**

**2. Probable Cause Findings Previously Referred to Florence County  
Contiguous Counties- Forest and Marinette Counties.**

Vice Chair Sumi confirmed and drew the lot.

**Forest County was drawn from the lot.**

**3. Probable Cause Findings Previously Referred to Langlade County  
Contiguous Counties- Forest, Lincoln, Marathon, Menominee & Shawano Counties,  
Oconto, and Oneida Counties.**

Vice Chair Sumi confirmed and drew the lot.

**Menominee & Shawano Counties were drawn from the lot.**

Vice Chair Sumi passed the Gavel back to the Chair Strachota for the next agenda to Adjourn.

**E. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting. Moved by Commissioner Van Akkeren, seconded by Commissioner Weininger. 6-0 Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

March 22, 2024, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

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Sathya Sivaji, Office Management Specialist

May 14, 2024

March 22, 2024, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes certified by:

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MaryAnn Sumi, Vice Chair

May 14, 2024



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## Wisconsin Ethics Commission

101 East Wilson Street, St. Croix Room  
Madison, Wisconsin  
April 10, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

### Open Session Minutes

Present: Pat Strachota (Teams/Virtual), Gerald Ptacek (Teams/Virtual), Maryann Sumi and Timothy Van Akkeren (Teams/Virtual).

Staff Present: Daniel Carlton, David Buerger, Sathya Sivaji.

#### **A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Pat Strachota called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

#### **B. Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice – Administrator**

Administrator Daniel Carlton notified the Commission an appropriate meeting notice had been provided to the public and news media.

#### **C. Closed Session**

##### **1. Complaints and Investigations.**

**MOTION:** To go into closed session to discuss complaints and investigations. Moved by Commissioner Ptacek seconded by Commissioner Van Akkeren. 4-0 Motion carried unanimously.

*Chair Strachota turned the gavel over to Vice Chair Sumi for the agenda item D.*

**Vice Chair Sumi took up Agenda Item D.**

#### **D. Referral of Probable Cause Findings to Contiguous District Attorneys**

Staff Counsel Buerger gave a brief introduction.

**Lots drawn for:**

- 1. Probable Cause Findings Previously Referred to Racine County  
Contiguous Counties- Kenosha, Waukesha, Walworth, and Milwaukee Counties.**

Vice Chair Sumi confirmed and drew the lot.

**Waukesha County was drawn from the lot.**

**2. Probable Cause Findings Previously Referred to St. Croix County  
Contiguous Counties- Baron, Dunn, Pierce, and Polk Counties.**

Vice Chair Sumi confirmed and drew the lot.

**Polk County was drawn from the lot.**

*Vice Chair Sumi passed the Gavel back to the Chair Strachota for the next agenda to Adjourn.*

**E. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting. Moved by Commissioner Van Akkeren, seconded by Commissioner Ptacek. 4-0 Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 P.M.

April 10, 2024, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

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Sathya Sivaji, Office Management Specialist

May 14, 2024

April 10, 2024, Wisconsin Ethics Commission meeting minutes certified by:

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MaryAnn Sumi, Vice Chair

May 14, 2024



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**DATE:** For the Commission Meeting on May 14, 2024

**TO:** Members, Wisconsin Ethics Commission

**FROM:** Ethics Commission Staff

**SUBJECT:** Ethics Commission Staff Report

## Commission Administration

### Trainings

Since the last staff report, Commission staff jointly presented at the Wisconsin County Clerks Association meeting in Madison on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Approximately half of Wisconsin's county clerks attended. Commission staff plan to present again at WCCA's summer conference on June 24, 2024. The summer conference will be held in Hayward, and it is expected that many of the clerks that did not attend the meeting in Madison will be present in Hayward.

Additionally, Administrator Carlton presented ethics training to staff of the Wisconsin Legislature on April 25-26, 2024.

Staff Counsel Buerger is scheduled to present a training at the UW-Green Bay Clerks and Treasurers Institute on July 15, 2024. The Clerks and Treasurers Institute is commonly attended by hundreds of clerks from across the state and is part of a 3-year program focusing on the duties and responsibilities of serving as a clerk/treasurer in Wisconsin.

## Campaign Finance

There were 86 candidates required to file a Pre-Election Spring 2024 report. There were 3 filed late and 2 candidates that failed to file the report. Settlements have been issued.

The next required report for all committees and conduits is the July Continuing 2024 report. This report will cover all activity through June 30, 2024, and is due by July 15, 2024. Staff have been testing the new website and continuing to conduct audits on contribution limits, cash balances, missing information.

## Lobbying

### 2023-2024 Legislative Session

Registration for the current session is available on the Commission's lobbying website. As of May 1, 2024, there are 732 lobbyists licensed, 888 principals registered, and 2,010 lobbyist authorizations.

## **Code of Ethics and Financial Disclosure**

### Statements of Economic Interests (SEIs)

2,202 officials were required to file an annual SEI by April 30, 2024. All but 90 filed on time. As of May 1, 2024, 72 SEIs remained outstanding. The SEIs for candidates at the fall election will be due by 4:30 p.m. on June 6, 2024. As of May 1, 2024, 125 non-incumbent candidates have registered for the fall election and been pulled into the SEI system.

### State of Wisconsin Investment Board Quarterly Reports

The 2024 first quarter reports covering January to March were due on April 30, 2024. All but two of the 59 filers filed on time. The second quarter reports covering April to June will be due on July 31, 2024.