

Timeline of Events Leading up to April 7, 2020 Election

March 10, 2020

Bought disinfecting spray and wipes for all 46 wards and the Clerk's Office.

March 19, 2020

Early In-Person Absentee voting is moved to Transit center.

March 20, 2020

2 wards already do not have a polling location, and UWGB has notified the City that its facilities may not be available as well. Numerous other locations are identified as non-compliant with ADA standards, or may not be able to accommodate the public and the poll workers, if social distancing is implemented due to size of the building.

WEC – Urgent – Federal Court Decision Orders Continuation of Online Registration Through March 30, 2020 – COVID-19

March 21, 2020

Governor Evers urges Wisconsinites to stay home.

Only 54 poll workers who have indicated they are willing to work. Of those, only 11 are chief inspectors.

Online registration reinstated by Judge Connelly. Not yet up and running.

March 22, 2020

Per Mayor Genrich: Evers has mobilized the National Guard. They could help process.

Per Clerk Teske: When working in the WisVote system (you have to be certified to work in it) it takes about 18 clicks to get the absentee labels to print. This doesn't include slapping the labels and stuffing the ballots (this part could be done by the National Guard). I would have to check with the WEC to see if there would be an easier way to produce the labels. Right now we have processed approximately 5,000 absentee ballots with about 2,000 more to go.

Clerk's Office recognizes that additional poll workers are needed, however, new Chief inspectors would require even more training than new poll workers, yet the clerk's office is stretched too thinly to be able to accommodate the extra training needed.

March 23, 2020

HR Director Joe Faulds asks other department heads to commit staff to helping the Clerk's Office.

March 24, 2020

Governor Evers issues Safer at Home order.

Emailed WEC because voter sent email stating: I went online today to order an absentee ballot, only to find out that both my husband and I were no longer registered to vote in Wisconsin. I checked our status 3 months ago, and we were both registered. I want to know how we were

removed, as we have not moved residences in 20 years, and have voted in most of the elections. I do not have access to a printer, and so re-registering in order to vote in the upcoming primaries would not be an option absentee. This is outrageous. Email to WEC: Can someone please answer this question for Kristin? Please copy me in because I have multiple emails like this. When I go into WisVote I can see they are active voters. This is really causing a lot more work for clerks. People are trying to do what they are told to do to alleviate more work on the clerks. WEC response: Thank you for contacting us. Unfortunately, when I searched for this voter, using MyVote, I see that she is registered. Do you have any other examples? Or did you fix it? I did have more of this and sent them to the WEC but did not receive an answer.

Mayor sent email to alders stating: In spite of the obvious and increasingly serious health and logistical challenges, Clerk Teske and her staff have been moving forward with the understanding the April 7 election will take place as scheduled. In the course of that work, however, it has become apparent how incompatible an in-person election is with the guidance we are receiving from federal, state, and local health officials and how difficult carrying out a traditional election will be given the totally insufficient poll worker staffing and constantly changing directives. That being the case, our law department will soon be filing an action in federal court asking for the court to move the entirety of the election to the mail, with the ballots due at the beginning of June. This date was selected because it matches what other states are doing, and it allows sufficient time for mailed ballots to be sent out to all voters, received back, and counted.

Ald. Wery email – about lawsuit.

March 25, 2020

Per Clerk Teske:

As of today I have 77 poll workers who will work, 145 who will not work, and 44 who have not responded. As of 12:30 p.m. we have 5,537 absentee requests generated and 4,083 that need to be processed. Botanical Gardens will not let us have the polling location there. I have not called any other places. So now I have three wards without a home.

Overtime was approved for Clerk staff.

WEC memo: A Federal District Court ordered that the WEC re-activate online voter registration through March 30 for the April 7 election. Accordingly, as of 7:00 am today, online voter registration (OVR) has been reactivated in MyVote. In addition to OVR, the addressing service that supports the site has been updated to provide improved performance. WEC staff are currently monitoring the site for issues. We will provide an all clear if no significant issues are identified. If we see major issues, we will undo the changes and notify you that OVR will not yet be opened to the public. We expect to see a surge of traffic to the site when OVR is made public. Just as you are dealing with an unprecedented amount of absentee ballot requests, so are MyVote and WisVote. While we have rigorously tested MyVote's abilities in high traffic scenarios over the past month, periods of peak demand will still challenge the system. As a result, voters and WisVote users may experience some slowness during periods of high volume.

March 26, 2020

City begins compiling list of volunteers (only 4 have volunteered at this point).

Mayor's office calling polling locations to see which ones can be used.

Ald. Wery email arguing about being a poll worker. I told him we don't have time to train anyone.

Celestine sent email stating several people have said they received their ballot.

March 27, 2020

Gov. Evers called on Legislature to pass a bill to send absentee ballots all registered voters, and extend the time to count them.

Ald. Wery email concerning older residents who either don't have computers or can't figure it out. Then what do they do? Mail it.

March 28, 2020

Per Clerk Teske:

We are still 4,000 behind in the queue. I don't think we can get them all processed in time. They also have the option of going to Transit – 901 University Ave. from 10-2 next week.

Clerk Teske emails Mayor about preparing for Election Day asking where we are going to have the polls. Stating she needs to know because this is the week Election Techs come in to start preparing the equipment.

City and School District work on draft agreement to use high school gymnasiums for polling locations.

Clerk Teske emailed the WEC notifying them that she called 2 weeks ago asking for faster ways to process absentee ballot requests, and notifying them she didn't believe they would be able to process all of the requests in time. Meagan responded that they had recently created a new report that may prove helpful, but Jodi Kitts stated she was told to hold off on sharing because it may not have been working correctly. No reply.

Clerk Teske sends email to Mayor with sample of the cough/sneeze protection. Mayor states: This is good. I would think park shop employees could make something like this. Let's figure out which polling locations are the largest, in terms of square footage. Identify a couple on both sides of town that are still available to us and get Parks to make as many shields as we think we need.

Mayor states he likes the idea of using the high school gyms. He likes the idea of the open wide, large spaces that are directly accessible to the outdoors.

March 29, 2020

Clerk Teske e-mails the WEC asking for assistance with getting city workers access to the WEC security system, checking in ballots, and regarding the public test. No reply.

Clerk Teske thought we would be setting up individual wards in the gyms. Mayor feels that would be too many people and to staff like a typical polling location. He realizes the staffing levels might not meet demand at certain times, but we would be following social distancing guidelines as much as possible.

March 30, 2020

City identifies temporary deputy clerk to conduct City Council Meeting so as not to pull Clerk or Deputy Clerk away from absentee ballots.

WEC issues Election Day Checklist for COVID-19 Procedures. Additional poll workers pull out of the election.

The City of Green Bay has sent over 8,000 ballots out with 5,500 in the queue with more coming in.

City Parks Shop begins work on cough guards for polling locations.

Clerk Teske calls Brown County to ask for the USBs to be programmed to what is at each gym. Brown County called and said they can't be programmed with the wards we want because it will mess up all of the paper ballots and the election as a whole. I can get four USBs that have the whole City on them so that is the route I will go once I get the go ahead. I can make the request through next Monday. By not being able to cut down on wards means the tapes on the DS200 machines will run for a very long time on Election Night.

Clerk Teske emails the WEC for guidance because we won't be able to get all of the absentee ballots out and wants to know should we be sending out a press release. WEC said it wouldn't hurt to warn them and let them decide.

Ald. Wery sends information from the League of Municipalities concerning the election.

March 31, 2020

City considers options for ensuring new volunteers are compensated appropriately in the short time frame for processing.

City reaches out to County for input on potential Election Day set-ups at polling locations. No assistance provided and instead instructed to contact the State. City explores alternatives for obtaining guidance, but is on its own to determine best set up for public health purposes.

County Clerk finally offers to send one (1) person to assist the City Clerk's Office who is able to work in the WEC system.

Ald. Wery sends another email concerning being a poll worker to the City Attorney.

April 1, 2020

Per Clerk Teske:

We sent out 9426 and have 7300 to process with many requests still coming in. We are not going to be able to process all of the requests. We are working days, when we get home, and weekends. I pride the Clerk's Office in responding to all residents but right now we can't. When someone emails to say where are my ballots I requested them a week ago I look in the system to make sure

they are in the queue or mailed. If not then I respond to them to try and figure out what happened. Phone calls are being answered by other city staff. We reply to the ones they can't answer. All of our other work is either put on hold or is being done by other staff. Anyone who works in the WisVote system has to be certified and is given a username, password, and a blue "key" to access the system. The WisVote system isn't designed for larger municipalities. I have worked on elections for 15 years – 8 as clerk and have been told this repeatedly by the WEC. Just to process one set of labels for a person takes approximately 18 clicks (depending on the type of request). We have to print each request, then enter info to print the label, then have the labels slapped and the ballots stuffed. The last two steps we are having other City staff help with.

Ald. Wery sends emailing questioning if we are using the high school gyms. At this time I do not have the answer.

April 2, 2020

Ald. Wery emails stating he talked to an alderman in Sheboygan and they recruited high school seniors and college kids home from school. They are going to be ok for staffing all polling locations. I talked to the Ashwaubenon Clerk and the school board would not let them recruit the high school kids.

Chief of Staff sends out two press releases

Federal Court Order Affects Spring Election – Absentee Ballot Request and Receipt Deadlines Extended; Witness Signature Requirement Modified

Clerk Teske send WEC email the poll books didn't generate correctly.

April 3, 2020

City considers alternative methods for delivering absentee ballots besides mail to ensure they are timely received. No viable options are identified which will comply with the social distancing mandate.

County Clerk's Office offers assistance but declines to process absentee ballot requests due to not having a label printer. City offers dymo label printer to the County Clerk for use for this purpose.

Governor identifies concerns with condensed polling locations in Milwaukee and Green Bay, however, no assistance is offered.

Clerk Teske calls WEC to see because there is a reply email concerning the poll books. Meagan Wolfe did email back saying she is sending to the WisVote team.

Ald. Wery email reminding us to check all of the drop boxes at City Hall at 5 p.m.

WEC memo concerning Election Day Supplies – COVID-19

April 5, 2020

Clerk's Office is working over the weekend to fill the remaining 4000 absentee ballot requests.

Per Clerk Teske:

As of April 5, there have been approximately 17,000 absentee ballot requests and we have sent out approximately 13,000 to voters.

3:59pm – City is notified by Rep. Steffens that the National Guard will be mobilized to help with the elections and in what capacity. The City did use on National Guard person who showed up at City Hall the morning of the election.

April 6, 2020

No changes in election preparation even though the Governor issued an order suspending in person voting.

6:27pm – City learns that absentee ballots will not be accepted through the extended deadline. Absentee ballot requests are no longer being processed.

7:00pm – City notifies the public that absentee ballots will not be accepted after the deadline unless postmarked on 4/7/2020. Clerk's Office stops processing labels.

Ald. Wery email at 8:24 p.m. (stating he will not be able to start at the polls until 2:30 p.m. (assigned for 6:45 p.m.) Offers different worker to take his place. (Laws in place as to who can work) I didn't see this until Tuesday, morning.

April 7, 2020

WEC confirms that absentee ballot requests can only be honored in the manner originally requested, i.e., ballots cannot be e-mailed if a physical ballot was requested.

Clerk Teske emails WEC for guidance on a National Guard member who got deployed and isn't home to receive her ballot. The voter would like to know what she needs to do. The WEC responded they cannot help.

County Clerk, Sandy Juno sends out press release concerning curbside voting but did not consult with clerks as to the process thus confusing people.