What's New & Election Refresher

WMCA Districts 1&2 Meeting

3/20/2026

Agenda

- Intro to WEC
- What's new!
  - SVD initials
  - Absentee return
  - Protected Voters
  - Observers
- Spring Election Stuff
  - Polling places
  - Staffing
  - POR v. POI
  - Boards of Canvass

About WEC

Who we are

- Governed by 6 commissioners
- State Agency of ~35 staff
- Resource for local election officials, candidates, and voters

What we do

- Provide training and resources
- Certify election results
- Oversee voting equipment testing and audits
- Ensure compliance w/ election law
- Create and approve forms

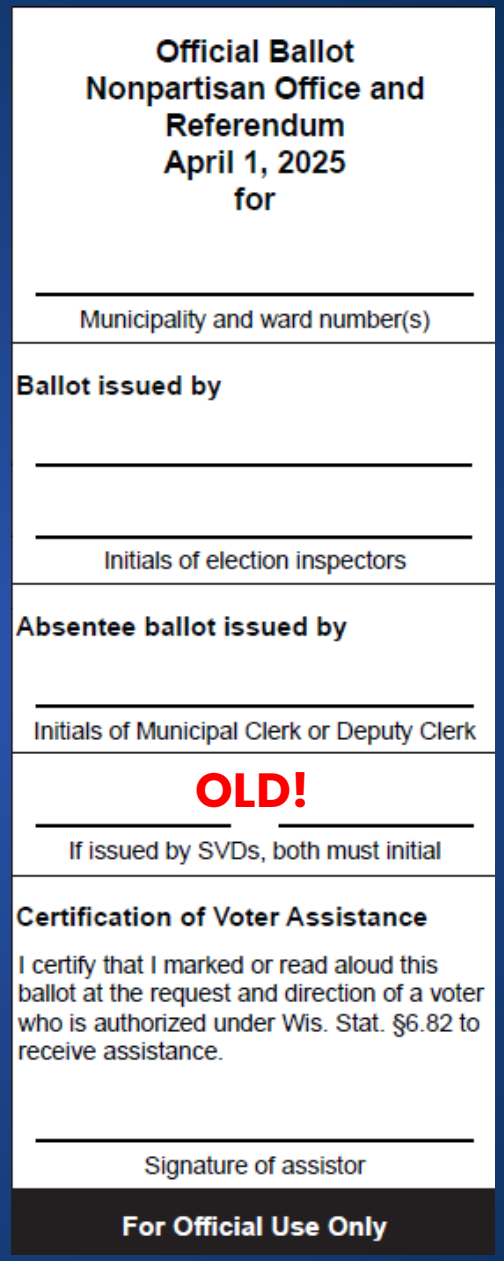
Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

- March 24 –IPAV may begin
- March 28 – Voting equipment testing may being
- April 2 – Deadline for most absentee ballot requests
- April 3, 12pm – Deadline to register as a write-in candidate
- April 3, 5pm – Deadline to register in the clerk's office and for indefinitely confined, calendar-year, and military absentee ballot requests
- April 5 – Last possible day for IPAV
- April 7 - Spring Election

What's New

SVDs & Ballots

- Only the municipal clerk or deputy clerk are required to initial ballots issued to the SVDs
- Wisconsin Statutes do not assign ballot-initialing responsibilities to SVDs



Official Ballot
Nonpartisan Office and Referendum
April 1, 2025
for

Municipality and ward number(s)

Ballot issued by

Initials of election inspectors

Absentee ballot issued by

Initials of Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk

OLD!

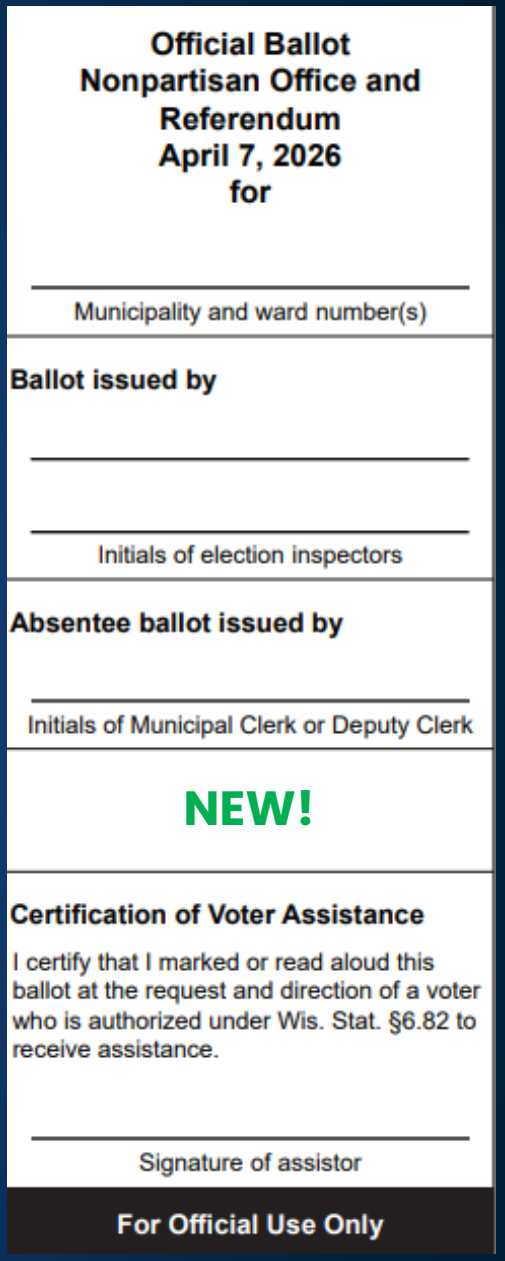
If issued by SVDs, both must initial

Certification of Voter Assistance

I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.

Signature of assistor

For Official Use Only



Official Ballot
Nonpartisan Office and Referendum
April 7, 2026
for

Municipality and ward number(s)

Ballot issued by

Initials of election inspectors

Absentee ballot issued by

Initials of Municipal Clerk or Deputy Clerk

NEW!

Certification of Voter Assistance

I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.

Signature of assistor

For Official Use Only

Military Must RGSTR

New notation on poll book indicates:

- Voter is a military voter
- Has only ever voted absentee
- Did not provide POR at time of voter record creation
- Must register because all in-person voters on Election Day must be fully registered

Judicial Privacy Act

(1) Data Privacy Protection

- Protects voter record and publicly available information
- Current and former judges (includes family members)
- Application form from Office of State Courts
- Can apply with the WEC but also with clerks directly

(2) Certification of Residence

- For judicial candidates and judicial officers who sign and circulate nonpartisan nomination papers
- Exempt from providing address on nomination paper or DOC
- Chapter EL 19 – New Rule for Process – Apply with WEC

Must request each type of protection separately

Protected voters at the polls

This only applies to those who have (1) Data Privacy Protection.
This does not apply to (2) Certification of Residence.

At Polls

- Protected judicial officers will be printed in a separate section of the pollbook that is not open to inspection or observation
- Still needs to state name and address to sign the poll book
- Cannot EDR at the polls

Absentee

- Can no longer request absentee ballots on MyVote
- Municipal clerks to be informed that observers & the public should not be permitted to inspect the certificate envelope
  - Name read aloud but not address

Confidential Voters

- Present their confidential voter card OR state their name and confidential ID number when checking in
- Do not show photo ID to get ballot
- Poll book shows name and confidential voter ID number
- Absentee label contains confidential voter ID

Both

- Separate section of the poll book
- Observers can't see their info
- Poll worker states name or confidential ID number of absentee voter
- May only register to vote in the clerk's office; cannot EDR at the polls

Protected Voters

- Must state name and address when checking in
- Must show photo ID to get ballot
- Poll book shows name and address
- Absentee label contains name and address

Ch. EL 4: Observers, What's New

- Force of Law
- Clarifies observer areas
- Emphasis on accessibility
- Details warnings and removals
- Voting in a private room is private
- Media regulations
- Enforceable in 5.06 complaints

EL 4.04 Conduct of Observers

Observers Must:

- Move between different observer areas
- Ask questions
- Challenge voters for cause
- Assist a voter if requested
- Text and email

Observers May:

- Move between different observer areas
- Ask questions
- Challenge voters for cause
- Assist a voter if requested
- Text and email

Observers May Not:

Electioneer | Distribute election-related material | Disrupt Voters or Election Officials
Make audio or visual communications | Initiate a conversation with a voter

EL 4.05 Location Specific Requirements

Photo and video:

- Allowed at board of absentee ballot canvasser meeting, recount, and central count
- Prohibited at polling places and IPAV locations, and SVD facilities

- At Polls, observation begins with zeroing of machines and ends with final voter leaving (or 8 p.m.).
- Other locations are observable when open for voting processes
- SVD observers must comply with facility requirements and cannot enter a voter's private room or open a closed door

EL 4.06 Post-observation Practices

After voting activity concludes, candidates may be present and photo, video, and audio recordings are allowed

EL 4.07 Communications Media

- Must identify themselves
- May use video and still cameras *outside* the voting area
- Officials may uniformly limit video and camera use
- To be in the voting area, media must follow observer rules

Other New Admin Rules

EL §6.05: Uniform Instructions

Requires all clerks to use the WEC's approved Uniform Instructions without any edits or additions

Exception for additional logistical details on a separate sheet of paper

Chs. EL 11 & 12: Training

Requires tracking of MCT Core for new clerks (must complete before 1st election)

Details requirements for poll workers

Law Change: Wis. Stat. §8.35(1m)

A candidate who files with WEC (other than DA), may have their name removed from the ballot

- Meets the deadline
- Files a sworn statement
- Pays a fee

A person who files nomination papers with the commission for an office other than district attorney to be filled at the general election does not qualify under sub. (1) to appear on the ballot at the partisan primary or general election, and the person's name shall not appear on the ballot, if, **no later than the 7th business day before the June 10** preceding the partisan primary **or no later than the 7th business day before the 4th Tuesday in August** preceding the general election, the person does all of the following:

1. Files with the commission the **sworn statement and identity verification** required under par. (b).
2. **Pays a fee of $2,500** to the commission if the person is a candidate for **governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general, U.S. senator**, or, with respect to the general election, **president and vice president of the United States**.
3. **Pays a fee of $500** to the commission if the person is a candidate for **U.S. representative in Congress**.
4. **Pays a fee of $250** to the commission if the person is a candidate for **state senate or representative to the assembly**.

Spring Election 2026

Polling Places

- Accessibility
  - Layout
  - Supplies
- Poll Worker Comfort & Privacy
- Activities
  - Check-in
  - Registration
  - Absentee Processing
  - Voting
  - Observers
  - Voting equipment
- Materials Checklist

Staffing Polling Places

Chief Inspector Requirements

- Completed Baseline CIT before first election
- 6 hours total training in a 2-year cycle
- Resident of municipality
- Only one per polling place, per shift

Election Inspector Requirements

- Completed training required by municipal clerk before first election
- Has had training within two years of election day
- Resident of county

The clerk may appoint to fill a vacancy. The clerk or deputy may serve without regard to residence only to fill a vacancy.

Staffing Polling Places

- No candidate on the ballot may work the polls. That includes municipal clerks.

- The Ethics Code for Local Public Officials prohibits an election inspector from working any election where they may financially benefit from the results. *This includes having a spouse or immediate family member on the ballot.*

Staffing Polling Places

- Always have an odd number
- Some roles do not count towards the odd number:
  - Election Registration Officials (may ONLY do registration)
  - Greeters
  - Tabulators
- Statute requires 7 per polling place and allows for a municipality to decrease to 5 (Wis. Stat. §7.30(1)(a)).
- May offer multiple/split shifts

Party Imbalance

- Only applies if you received a list of poll workers from one or both of the two major political parties.
- The party that received the highest number of votes for their presidential candidate for the reporting units at the polling place, gets one more election official than the other.
- The allocated numbers do not change even if only one party submitted a list.
- Do NOT ask poll workers their affiliation. If they weren't on a party list, they are unaffiliated.

Party Imbalance Exercise 1

How many spots does each party get?

How do you fill the remaining spots?

- Full day shift with 5 poll workers
- Democrat won the last presidential at that polling place
- Republican list has 5 people, no Democrat list was received

Party Imbalance Exercise 2

How many spots does each party get?

How do you fill the remaining spots?

- Split shift with 5 poll workers
- Republican won the last presidential at that polling place
- Republican list has 5 people; Democrat list has 1

Party Imbalance Exercise 3

How many spots does each party get?

How do you fill the remaining spots?

- Full shift with 7 poll workers at polling place A and 5 at B
- Republican won the last presidential at polling place A & Democrat won at B
- Republican list has 6 people; Democrat list has 8

Polling Place A: Republican won

Polling Place B: Democrat won

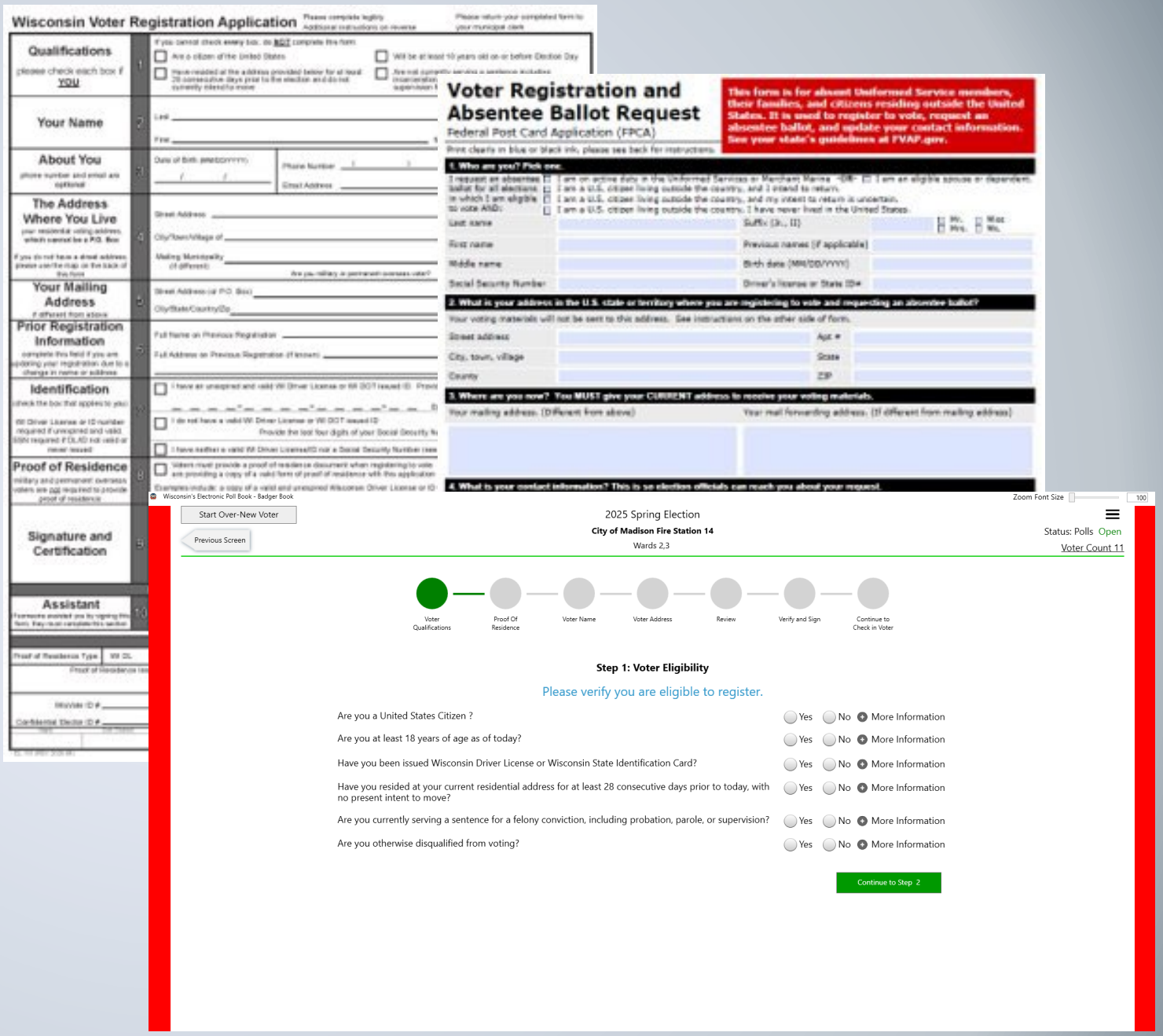
Dismissing for Cause

- Wis. Stat. §7.25(5)
  - “Any person who does not understand the machines [voting equipment] shall not be paid nor be allowed to serve”.
- Wis. Stat. §7.30(6)(c)
  - “If any election official appointed under this section **lacks the qualifications** set forth in this section, **fails to attend training** sessions required unless excused therefrom, **neglects his or her official duties** or **commits official misconduct**, the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners shall summarily remove the official from office”.
- Clerks may appoint to fill vacancies.

POR & POI Refresher

Voter Registration Forms

- EL-131
- Federal Post Card Application (FPCA)
- Badger Books (only on Election Day)



Voter Qualifications

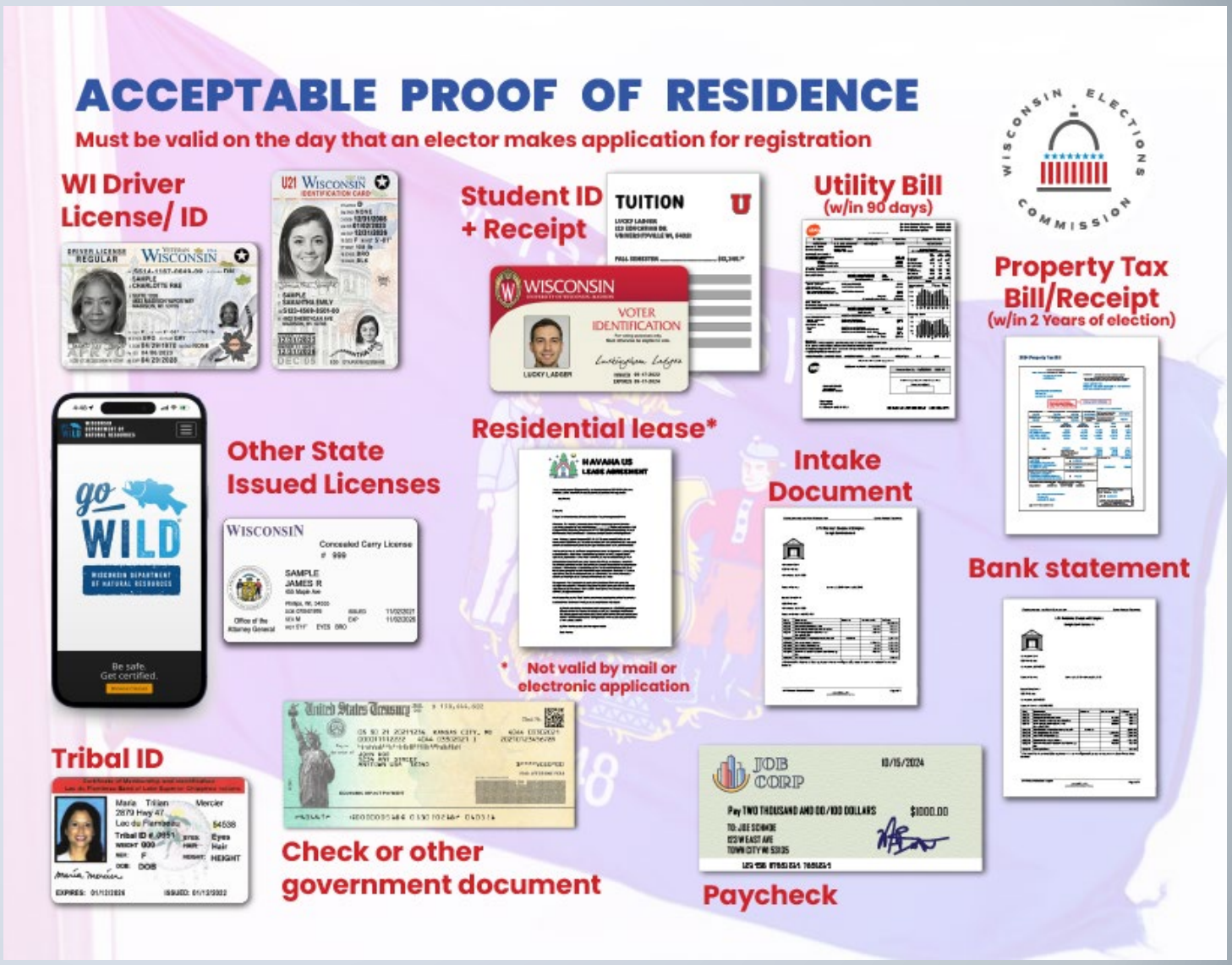
- WEC has no statutory authority to get citizenship information about voters from any other agency
- All voters must provide acceptable photo ID and the issuing agencies have their own processes and requirements

- 18 years or older
- Resided at their current address in the jurisdiction for at least 28 consecutive days
- U.S. Citizen
- Not otherwise disqualified (serving any part of a felony, adjudicated incompetent, etc.)

Proof of Residence

- A voter's proof of residence must be one of the documents specified by statute

- If a municipality uses Badger Books, the only proof of residence documents to choose from are the ones allowed by statute



Proof of Residence vs. Photo ID

- Proof of Residence is used in voter registration.
- POR is used to prove the voter lives where they say they live.

- Photo ID is checked when a voter is requesting a ballot (voter is already registered).
- POI is used to prove the voter is who they say they are.

If a voter is already registered (on the poll book), they have already proved where they live. Do NOT check address on photo ID, if they are not using it as POR to register!

Proof of Residence vs. Photo ID

Proof of Residence (POR) vs. Proof of Identification (POI)

Document	Issuer	Proof of Residence Requirements (Registration)	Proof of ID Requirements[1] (Issuing a ballot)
State of WI Driver License or Instructional Permit	State Government	Cannot be used as POR if hole punched May be revoked or suspended Cannot be expired	May be used if hole punched and date visible May be revoked or suspended Must
State of WI ID Card	State Government	Cannot be used as POR if hole punched Cannot be expired	May b and d Must
WI DOT Driver License Receipt	State Government	Cannot be expired Valid for 45 days	Cann Valid
WI DOT ID Card Receipt	State Government	Cannot be expired Valid for 45 days	Cann Valid
Identification Card Petition	State Government	Cannot be expired Valid for 60 days	Cann Valid
government			
U.S. Passport booklet or card	Federal Government	Cannot be used as POR	Must
Military ID card issued by a U.S. Uniformed Service	Federal Government	Cannot be used as POR	Must
Military ID card issued to a veteran by a U.S. Uniformed Service.	Federal Government	Cannot be used as POR	May b indic
Photo ID issued by the federal Dept. of Veterans Affairs	Federal Government	Cannot be used as POR	Must expir the la
Certificate of Naturalization	Federal Government	Cannot be used as POR	Cannot be expired issued not earlier than 2 years before election
Wisconsin University, College or Technical College ID	Educational Institutions	Photo and name required on ID Address not required on ID but a fee payment receipt with address and dated within the last 9 months is presented **OR** The clerk may verify the ID against the certified housing list showing the address	Photo, date of issuance, student signature and expiration date no later than two years after issuance required. If expired, it can still be used if a separate document proving current enrollment is provided.
recognized WI tribe			
ID Card issued by employer not a business card	Employer	Valid on date of registration[2] Photo required	Cannot be used for POI
Paycheck or stub	Employer	None	Cannot be used for POI
Bank or Credit Union Statement	Financial Institution	Any bank or CU account statement, regardless of the type of account.	Cannot be used for POI
Credit Card Statement	Financial Institution	Any credit card statement, including retail	Cannot be used for POI
Residential Lease	Landlord	Effective on date of registration[2] Cannot be used as POR when registering by mail.	Cannot be used for POI
Utility bill Gas, Electric, Phone, Mobile, cable TV, Satellite, Internet, Garbage	Utilities	For period that starts no earlier than 90 days before registration	Cannot be used for POI
Care facility contract or intake document	Care Facility	Must indicate voter resides at facility Is not required to indicate room number	NA

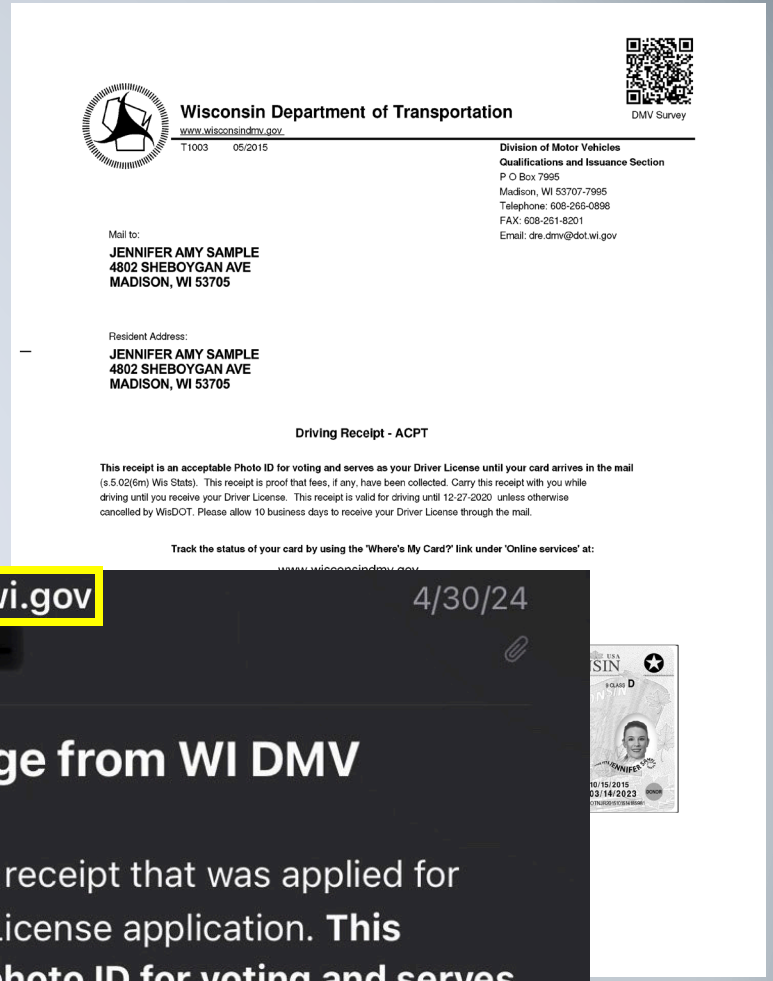
elections.wi.gov/resources/voter-guides/proof-residence-por-vs-proof-identification-poi

Photo ID

- Does the name conform, taking into account possible nicknames?
- Does the photo reasonably resemble the voter?
- Is the ID unexpired, or does it otherwise meet the expiration requirements?

Digital Receipts from DMV

- DMV is issuing receipts via email for license/ID renewals
- Verify the receipt has the DMV logo and image of the license on it
- Verify the email address the receipt was sent from
- Should be less than 10 days old or physical ID would have arrived and should be presented



Wisconsin Department of Transportation
www.wisconsindmv.gov
T1003 05/2015

DMV Survey

Division of Motor Vehicles
Qualifications and Issuance Section
P O Box 7995
Madison, WI 53707-7995
Telephone: 608-266-0898
FAX: 608-261-8201
Email: dre.dmv@dot.wi.gov

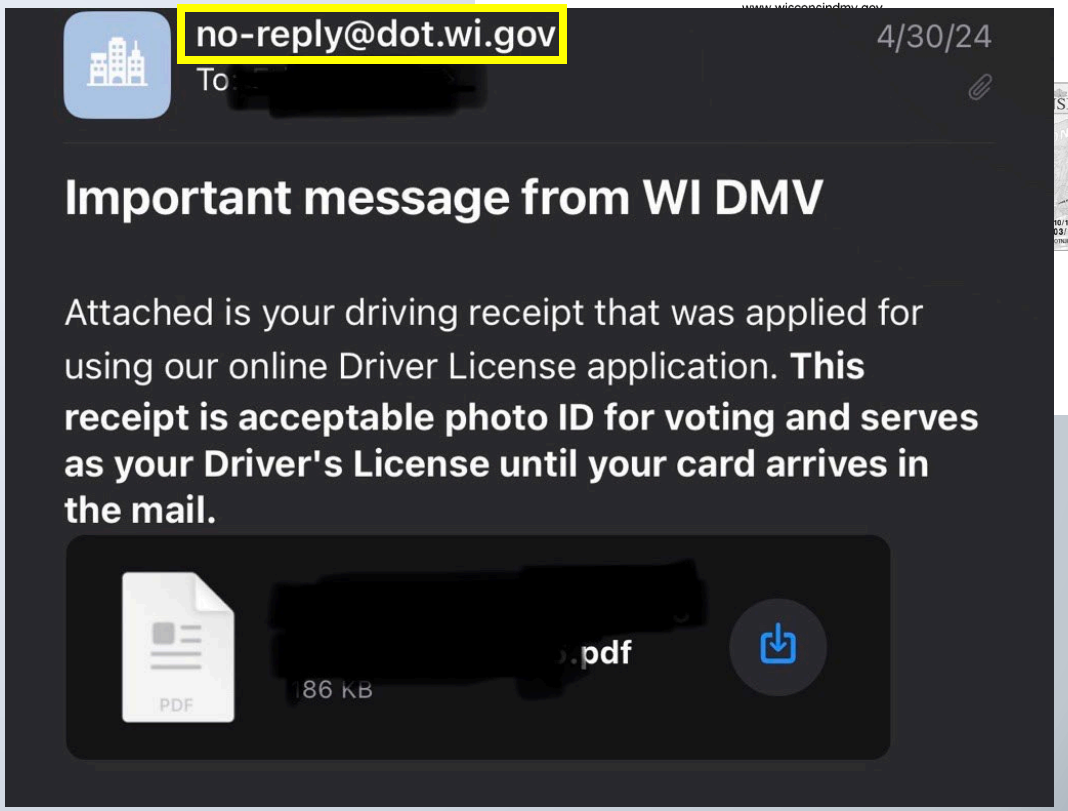
Mail to:
JENNIFER AMY SAMPLE
4802 SHEBOYGAN AVE
MADISON, WI 53705

Resident Address:
JENNIFER AMY SAMPLE
4802 SHEBOYGAN AVE
MADISON, WI 53705

Driving Receipt - ACPT

This receipt is an acceptable Photo ID for voting and serves as your Driver License until your card arrives in the mail (s.5.02(6m) Wis Stats). This receipt is proof that fees, if any, have been collected. Carry this receipt with you while driving until you receive your Driver License. This receipt is valid for driving until 12-27-2020 unless otherwise cancelled by WisDOT. Please allow 10 business days to receive your Driver License through the mail.

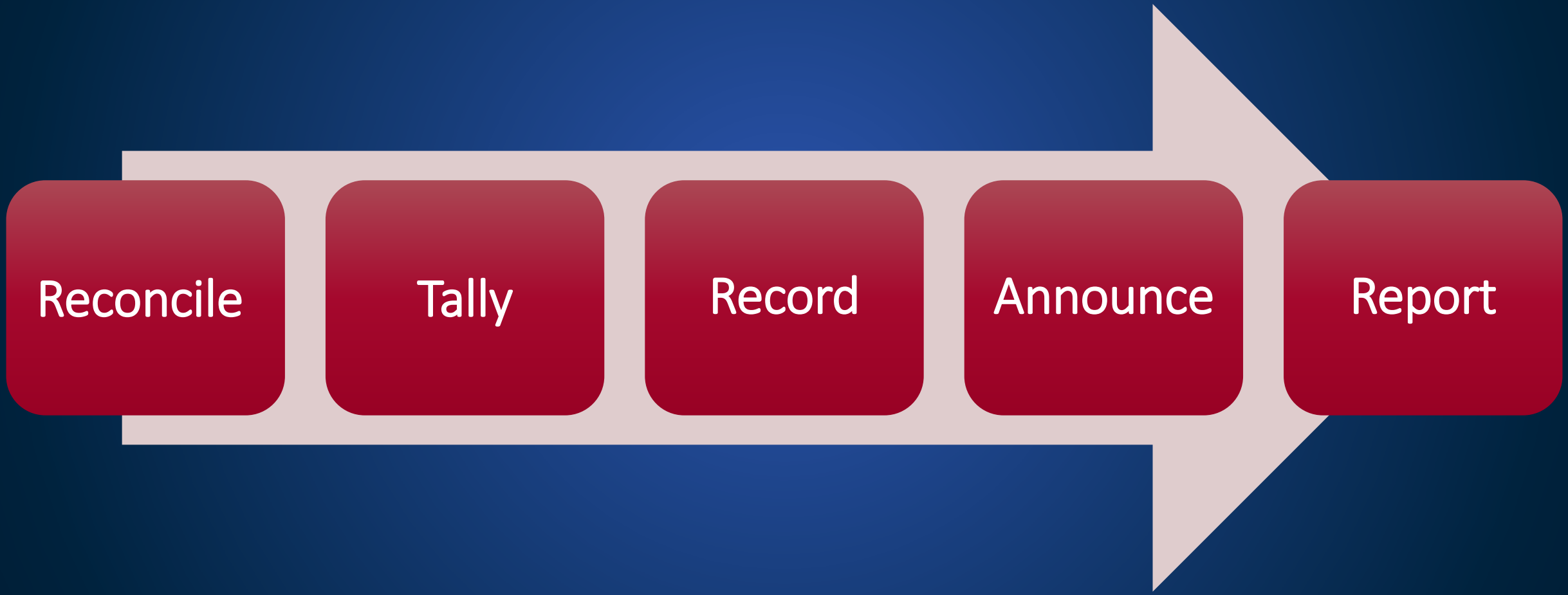
Track the status of your card by using the 'Where's My Card?' link under 'Online services' at:



Boards of Canvass

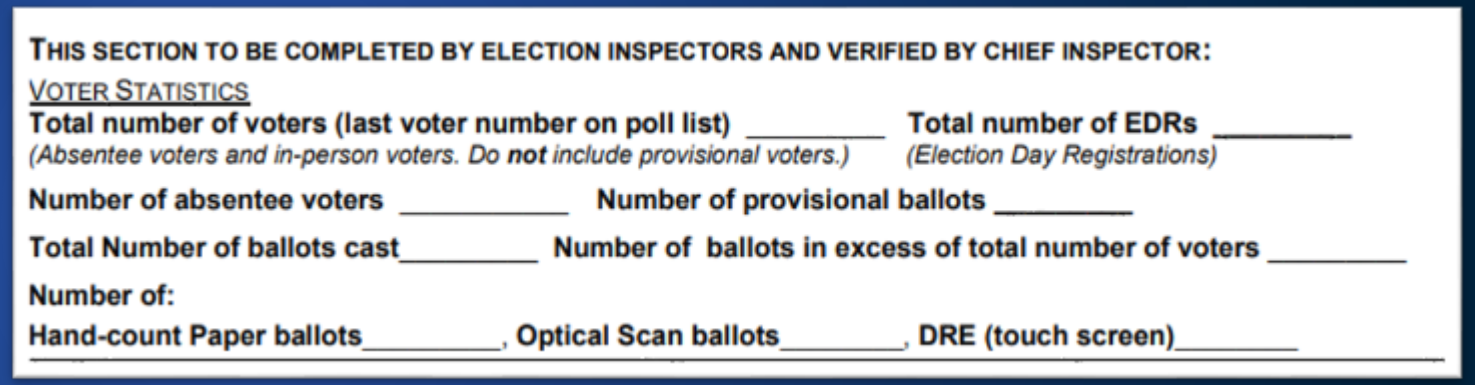
	Local BOC	Municipal BOC	County BOC
When?	Immediately after polls close until all ballots are canvassed	1 polling place = LBOC >1 polling place = no later than 9am after election (after 4pm Friday, if provisional ballots)	No later than 9am Tuesday after election
Every election?	Yes.	Yes, for any municipal contests and to certify local results to county, school district, etc.	If there are federal, state or county offices and/or referenda.
Notice	Type D Notice	Public Meeting Notice (24-hour)	Public Meeting Notice (24-hour)
Who?	All Election Inspectors	1 polling place = EIs >1 polling place = Clerk + 2 electors	County clerk + 2 qualified electors

Local Board of Canvass (LBOC)



EL-104 (Inspector Statement) Voter Statistics

- The Voter Statistics section is a record of what actually happened on Election Day.
- It is NOT a record of what should have happened or a place to make corrections to mistakes.
- Use the Incident Log to explain discrepancies and errors.



THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ELECTION INSPECTORS AND VERIFIED BY CHIEF INSPECTOR:

VOTER STATISTICS

Total number of voters (last voter number on poll list) _____ Total number of EDRs _____

*(Absentee voters and in-person voters. Do **not** include provisional voters.)* *(Election Day Registrations)*

Number of absentee voters _____ Number of provisional ballots _____

Total Number of ballots cast_____ Number of ballots in excess of total number of voters _____

Number of:

Hand-count Paper ballots_____, Optical Scan ballots_____, DRE (touch screen)_____

If you use e-pollbooks, this information is available in a report there.

Four Principles for Determining Eligibility of Write-In Votes

1. **If the number of ballot candidates for a given office is equal to or greater than the number seats to be filled**

   Only votes for registered write-in candidates are eligible for counting.

2. **If there are fewer ballot candidates for a given office than the number of seats up for election**

   All write-in votes are eligible for counting.

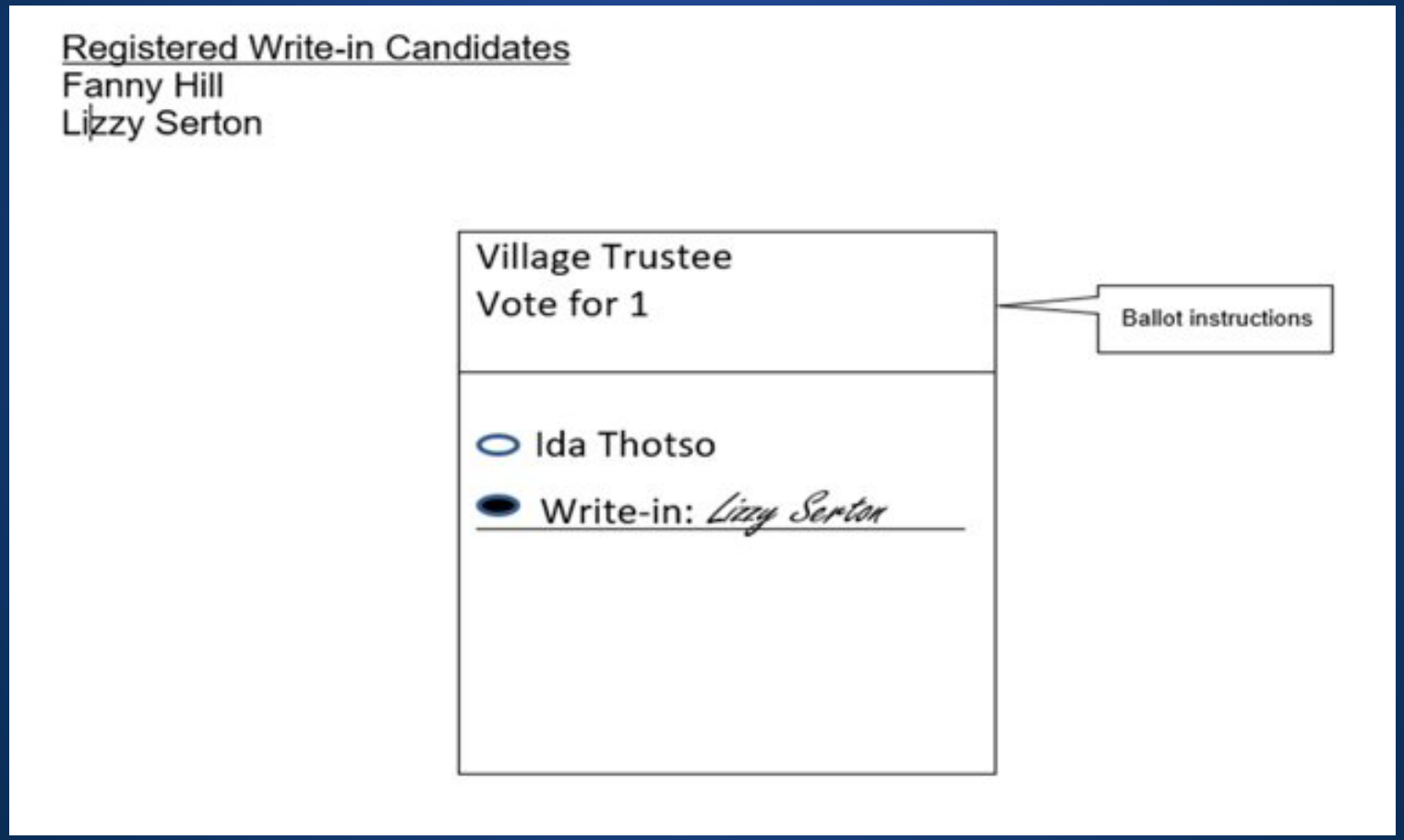
3. **If there are any ballot candidates for a given office and one or more candidates has passed away**

   All write-in votes are eligible for counting.

4. **If there are enough write-in votes to fill the number of seats up for election (regardless of the eligibility of the write-in votes)**

   Votes for ballot candidates may not be considered

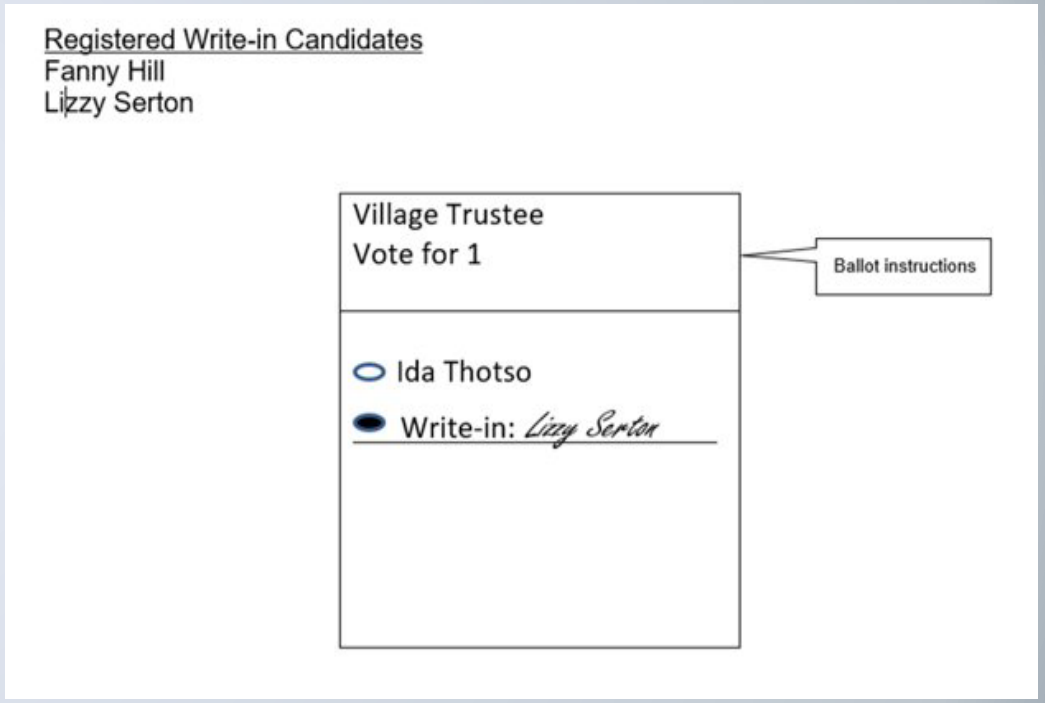
Counting Write-In Votes
Example 1



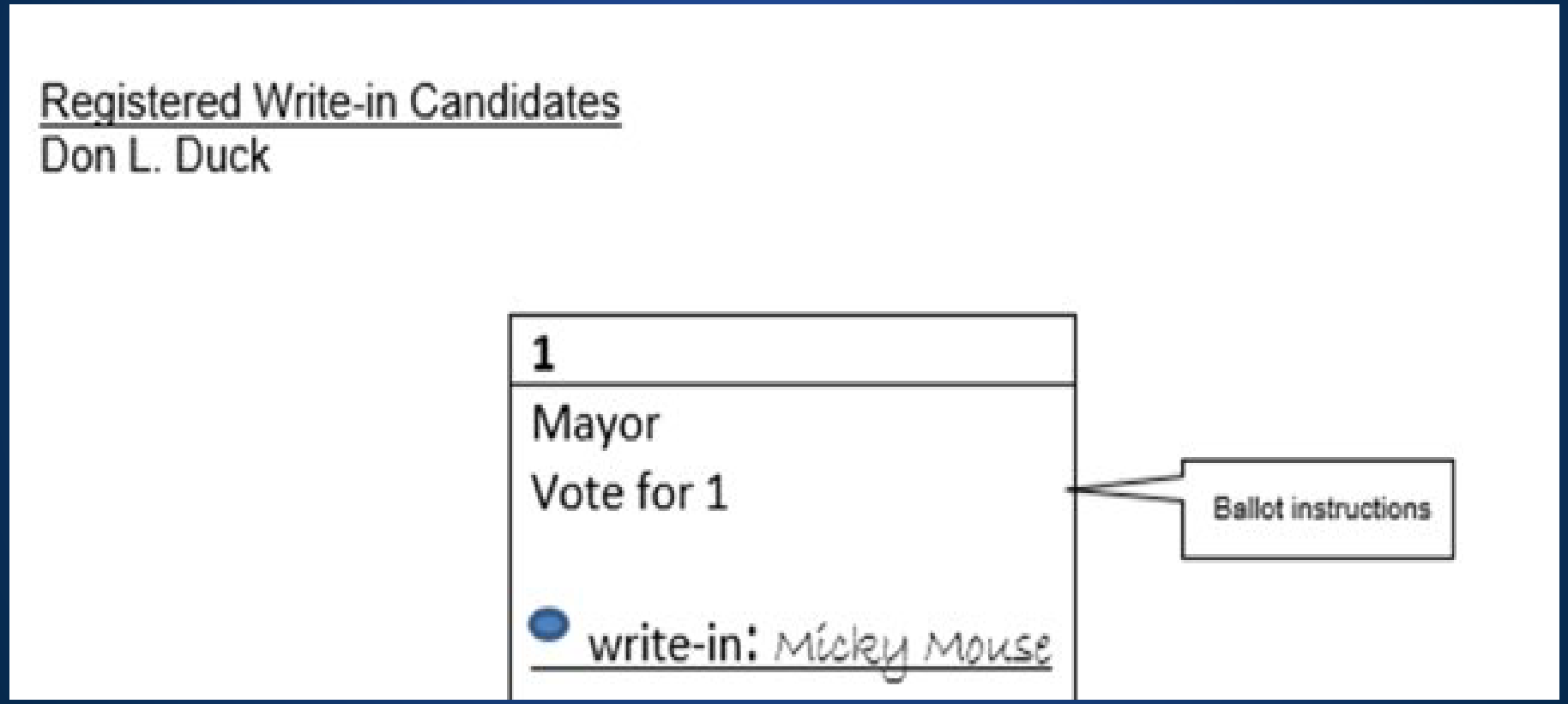
Counting Write-In Votes: Example 1

Final Result

- There is 1 vote marked. The write-in vote for Lizzy Serton is counted for this office.
- The voting equipment recorded a vote for Lizzy because the oval was filled in.



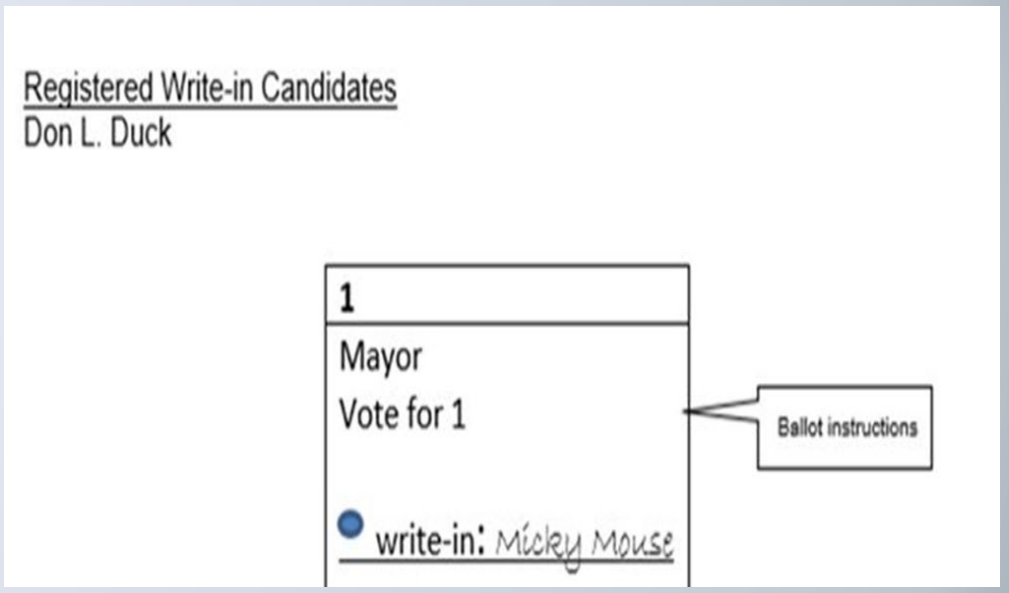
Counting Write-In Votes
Example 2



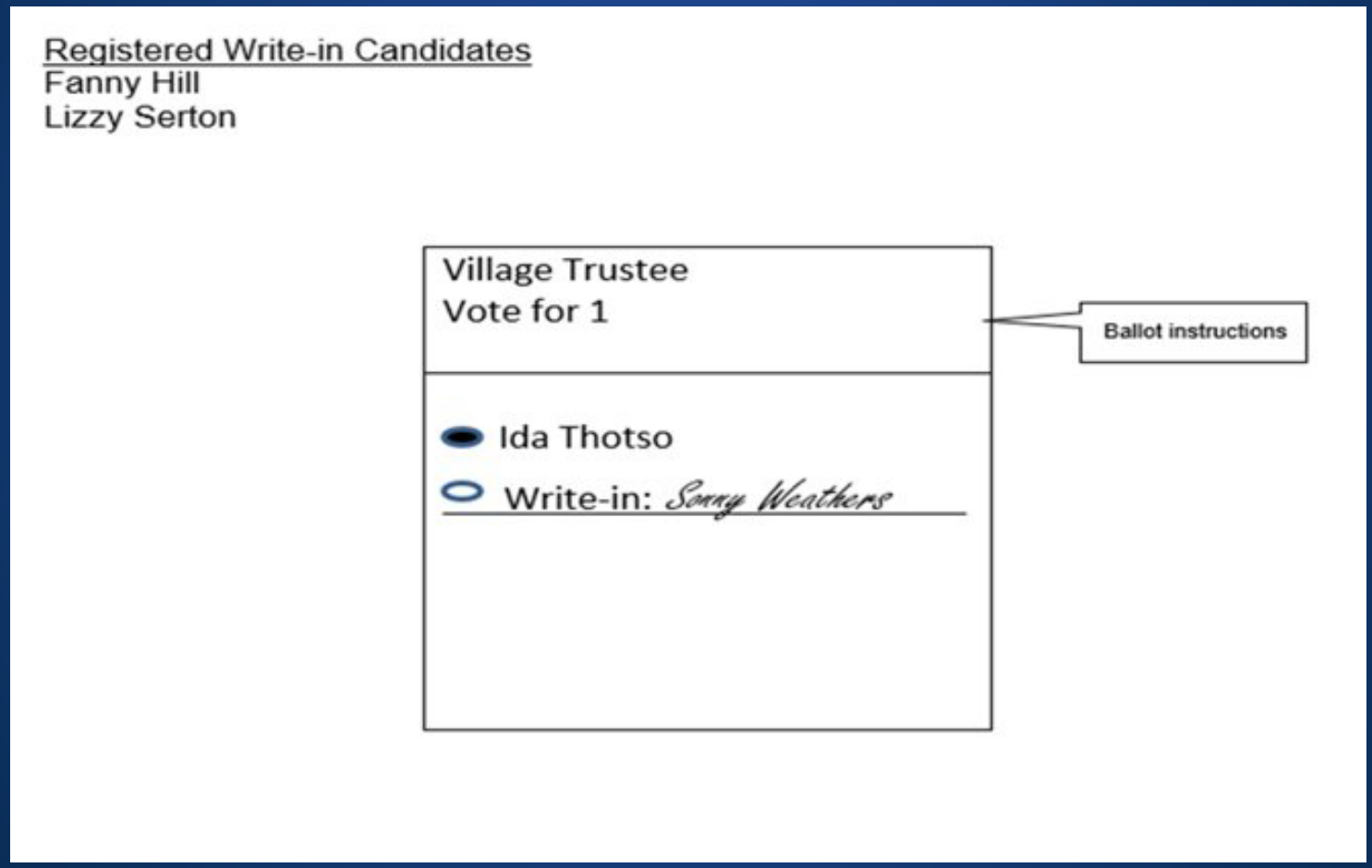
Counting Write-In Votes: Example 2

Final Result

- There is 1 vote marked. The write-in vote for Micky Mouse is counted for this office.
- The voting equipment recorded a write-in because the oval was filled in.



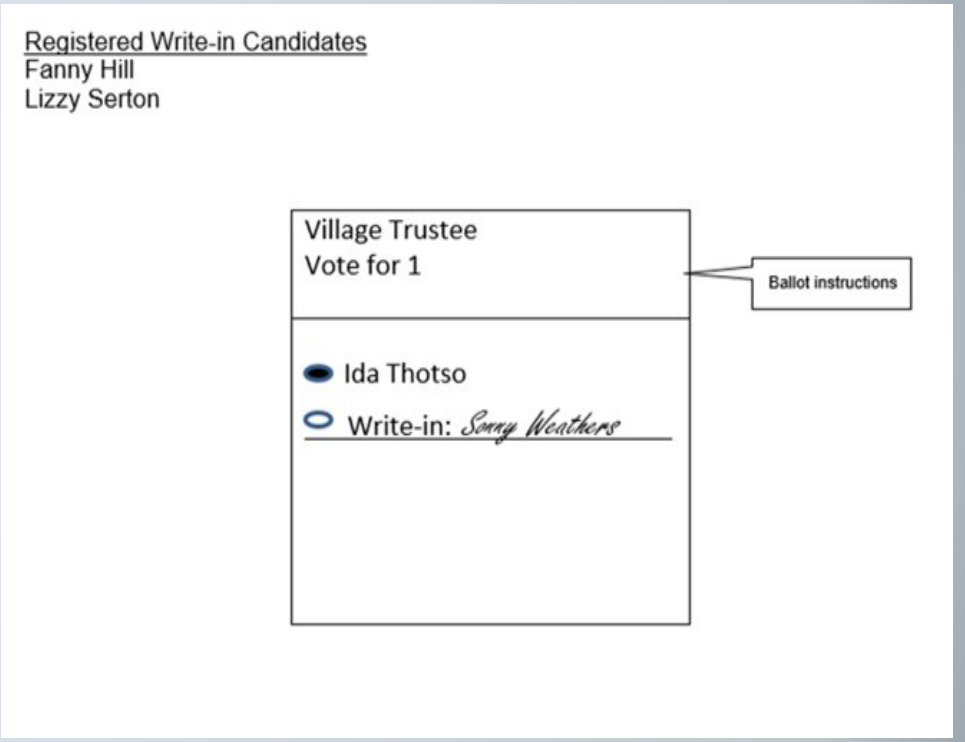
Counting Write-In Votes
Example 3



Counting Write-In Votes: Example 3

Final Result

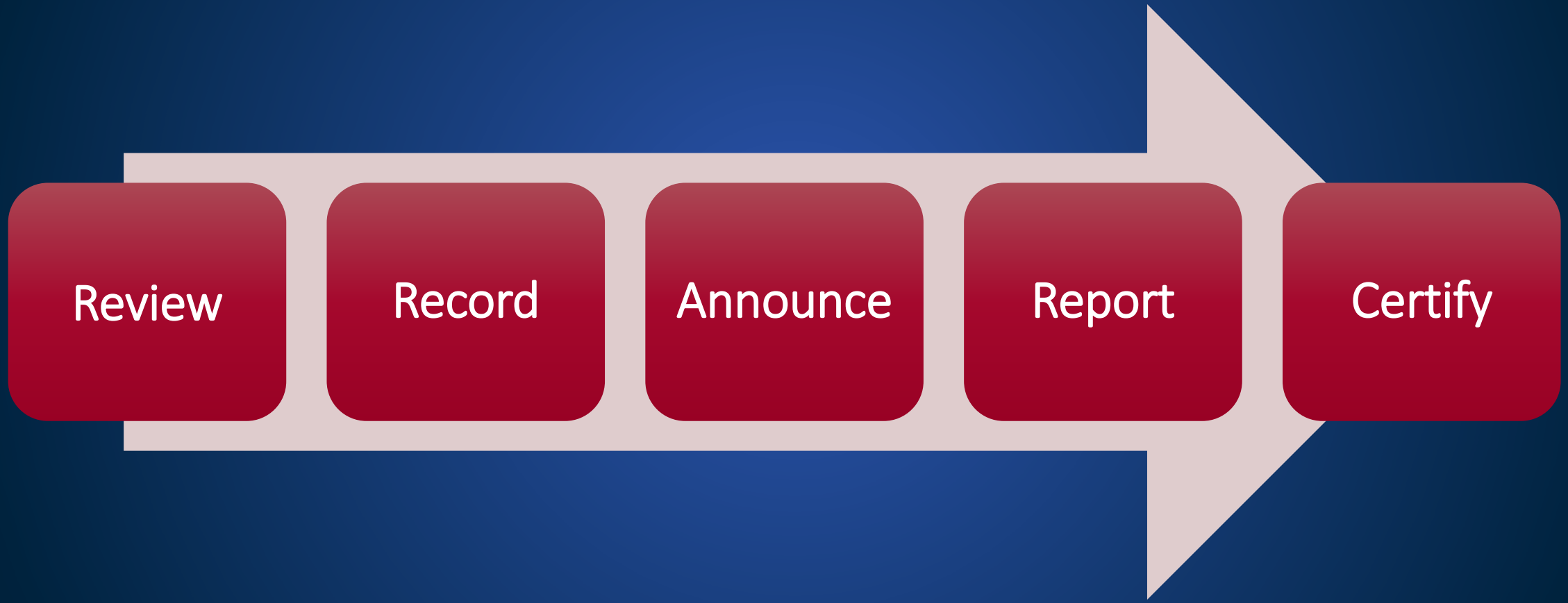
- There are two votes marked. The write-in vote for Sonny Weathers is not counted for this office and the vote for Ida Thotso is not counted
- Voting equipment has recorded a vote for Ida but has not recorded a vote for Sonny
- Adjust the tape to subtract a vote from Ida Thotso, and record the reason on the Inspector's Statement (EL-104)



Counting Write-In Votes Reminders

- Inspectors must review the ballots when to look for write-in votes
- The oval/arrow is not the only indicator for voter intent.
- Counting Votes Manual: https://elections.wi.gov/resources/manuals/counting-votes-manuals

All Other Boards of Canvass



Documentation & Resources

Required Documentation

- Tally sheet (EL-105 or 106)
- Minutes of the meeting
- Board of Canvassers Statement (EL-106)

Canvass Resources

- MBOC and CBOC suggested procedures
- Checklist of election materials

Forms and resources are all available at elections.wi.gov

Certifying Winners

Certificates of Election

- If there is a tie, the Board of Canvass responsible for certifying the results of the contest must break it.
- Certificates of election are given out after the deadline to request a recount has passed.

Oaths of Office

- Oaths of Office are filed by the winners with the filing officer after being notified in writing of winning the election
  - Towns - within 5 days
  - Villages - within 5 days
  - Cities - within 10 days

Questions?

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Thank You!

Website: elections.wi.gov

Email: elections@wi.gov

Phone: 608-266-8005