Subject: WEC Response to "WI-WEC-21-1451"

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 10:47:23 AM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Hunzicker, Brandon L - ELECTIONS

To: AO Records

Attachments: LAB Correspondence 1.pdf, LAB Correspondence.pdf, Non-WEC Records.pdf, RE_ LAB- Scope

Memorandum.pdf, The Bureau Announces the Release of Report 21-19, Elections

Administration.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Ms. Colombo,

Attached are responsive records in fulfillment of the public record request received by the Wisconsin Elections Commission on 10/15/2021, titled WI-WEC-21-1451. The PDF titled "Non-WEC Records" contains records that were searched for and produced by Commissioner Spindell from accounts other than his state account and are being provided by staff exactly as received. The other four PDFs were searched for and produced by WEC staff from Commissioner Spindell's state account.

To the extent that this response denies any part of your public records request, the WEC's determination is subject to review in an action for mandamus under Wis. Stat. § 19.37(1), or by application to a district attorney or the Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Brandon Hunzicker Staff Attorney Wisconsin Elections Commission 201 West Washington Avenue P.O. Box 7984 Madison, WI 53707-7984 Electionspio@wisconsin.gov



From: Costello, Allyssa G - LAB

To: Bob Spindell - Elections; Spindell, Robert - ELECTIONS

Subject: LAB Correspondence

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 5:14:20 PM

Mr. Spindell:

As you are aware, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee has directed the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau to evaluate elections administration in Wisconsin. A copy of the scope memorandum approved by the Committee is available on our website here:

https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LAB/media/3188/020821 jac scope elections-administration.pdf

In your role as a member of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and on behalf of State Auditor Joe Chrisman, I am emailing to invite you to provide us with your perspective.

Please contact me at (608) 266-2818 to schedule a time for a telephone call with the State Auditor and Dean Swenson, Deputy State Auditor.

Thank you.

Allyssa Costello
Office Administrator

Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau 22 East Mifflin Street Madison, Wisconsin 53703

(608) 266-2818



From: Costello, Allyssa G - LAB

To: <u>Bob Spindell - Elections; Spindell, Robert - ELECTIONS</u>

Subject: LAB Correspondence

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 5:14:20 PM

Mr. Spindell:

As you are aware, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee has directed the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau to evaluate elections administration in Wisconsin. A copy of the scope memorandum approved by the Committee is available on our website here:

https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LAB/media/3188/020821 jac scope elections-administration.pdf

In your role as a member of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and on behalf of State Auditor Joe Chrisman, I am emailing to invite you to provide us with your perspective.

Please contact me at (608) 266-2818 to schedule a time for a telephone call with the State Auditor and Dean Swenson, Deputy State Auditor.

Thank you.

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau 22 East Mifflin Street Madison, Wisconsin 53703 (608) 266-2818



From: LABInfo

To: Bob Spindell - Elections; Spindell, Robert - ELECTIONS

Subject: LAB Correspondence

 Date:
 Wednesday, May 5, 2021 5:13:17 PM

 Attachments:
 050521 WI Elections Commissioners Letter.pdf

Good afternoon,

Attached please correspondence from State Auditor Joe Chrisman.

Thank you,

Office Administrator

Allyssa Costello

Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau 22 East Mifflin Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

(608) 266-2818



From: LABInfo

To: <u>Bob Spindell - Elections; Spindell, Robert - ELECTIONS</u>

Subject: LAB Correspondence

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 5:13:17 PM

Attachments: 050521 WI Elections Commissioners Letter.pdf

Good afternoon,

Attached please correspondence from State Auditor Joe Chrisman.

Thank you,

Office Administrator

Allyssa Costello

Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau 22 East Mifflin Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

(608) 266-2818





STATE OF WISCONSIN

Legislative Audit Bureau

Joe Chrisman State Auditor

22 East Mifflin Street, Suite 500 Madison, Wisconsin 53703 Main: (608) 266-2818 Hotline: 1-877-FRAUD-17 www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab AskLAB@legis.wisconsin.gov

May 5, 2021

Commissioners of the Wisconsin Elections Commission 212 East Washington Avenue, Third Floor Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Commissioners:

Recently, Ms. Meagan Wolfe suggested that I write to you regarding the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau's (LAB's) ongoing audit of elections administration.

First, on April 13, 2021, I emailed you a copy of a February 8, 2021 memorandum that describes the scope of this audit effort, and I invited you to contact LAB to schedule an opportunity to share any perspective you have about the subject matter. Such an invitation was also extended to other stakeholder groups, including the county and municipal clerks associations, and is typical in our work. As of today, four commissioners have contacted us in response to our invitation, and two commissioners have not responded to our invitation. If you have responded, thank you for doing so. If you have not yet responded, I again invite you to provide your perspective on matters related to the audit scope, which may include your insights about resources, contacts, or processes that you believe are important for us to consider as we conduct our audit work.

Second, on April 14, 2021, I received a letter from the chairperson that asked me to identify the statutory basis for the confidentiality of LAB's audit process. As I indicated in my response on April 21, 2021, s. 13.94, Wis. Stats., states:

"The bureau shall be strictly nonpartisan and shall at all times observe the confidential nature of any audit currently being performed."

As external auditors, we will gather information, including from the staff of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and use it to perform our analyses independently. I anticipate our audit work will be ongoing for several months.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Joe Chrisman State Auditor

cc: Meagan Wolfe, Administrator Wisconsin Elections Commission



From: Costello, Allyssa G. Allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum Date: Jun 2, 2021 at 12:39:05 PM

To: Robert F. Spindell rspindell@gottesman-company.com

Mr. Spindell,

Thank you for getting back to me. I have scheduled a phone call for you and the State Auditor for 10:00am on Friday, June 4. If you could please call our main line at 10:00am, we will transfer you to the State Auditor. Our main line is 608-266-2818. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator
Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau
22 East Mifflin Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 266-2818

Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline 1-877-FRAUD-17

From: Robert F. Spindell rspindell@gottesman-company.com

Sent: Saturday, May 29, 2021 11:33 AM

To: Costello, Allyssa G. <<u>Allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov</u>> **Cc:** Lathrop, Darlene <<u>dlathrop@gottesman-company.com</u>>

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Yes, that would be great.

Are you calling me or would you wish me to call.

Best number is <u>414-276-6331</u>.

Bob

Robert F. Spindell, Jr. MCBC, CBI Commissioner Wisconsin Election Commission



Direct: 414 276 6331

RSpindell@Gottesman-Company.com

----Original Message----

From: "Costello, Allyssa G." [Allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov]

Date: 05/27/2021 17:34

To: "Robert F. Spindell" < rspindell@gottesman-company.com>

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Good afternoon,

Would you be available on Friday, June 4 at 10:00am for a conversation with the State Auditor?

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator
Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau
22 East Mifflin Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 266-2818

Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline 1-877-FRAUD-17

From: Robert F. Spindell rspindell@gottesman-company.com

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:27 PM

To: Costello, Allyssa G. < <u>Allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov</u>> **Cc:** Lathrop, Darlene < <u>dlathrop@gottesman-company.com</u>>

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Alyssa:



Unfortunately, I will be out of town this Thursday.

I would like to set up a time next Thursday - available all day or Friday morning, June 3 or 4th.

This will be after what will be a very long - all day - WEC Meeting on Wednesday.

With the preparation I am doing for that meeting and the meeting itself, I will be better able to address the issues.

Bob

Bob Spindell Commissioner Wisconsin Election Commission Direct: 414-276-6331

RSpindell@gottesman-company.com

----Original Message----

From: "Costello, Allyssa G." [Allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov]

Date: 05/25/2021 12:42

To: "Robert F. Spindell" < rspindell@gottesman-company.com>

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Good afternoon Mr. Spindell,

Would you be available on Thursday, May 27, at 9:00am for a phone call with the State Auditor and Deputy State Auditor? The State Auditor also has 3:00pm on Thursday, May 27 available as well.

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau



22 East Mifflin Street Madison, Wisconsin 53703 (608) 266-2818

Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline 1-877-FRAUD-17

From: Robert F. Spindell rspindell@gottesman-company.com

Sent: Saturday, May 22, 2021 12:54 AM

To: Spindell, Robert - ELECTIONS < robert.spindell@wisconsin.gov >; Costello, Allyssa G.

<a href="mailto:Mailto:Mailto:Mailto:Mailto:allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov

Cc: Lathrop, Darlene < dlathrop@gottesman-company.com>

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Alyssa:

I was thinking about the audit all week and forgot to call you this morning. My assistant was not here today to remind me.

I would like to reschedule. Please let me know some times that may work for you.

Again, I apologize for missing the call.

Bob

Bob Spindell Commissioner Wisconsin Election Commission

Direct: 414 276 6331

RSpindell@Gottesman-Company.com

----Original Message----



Bob Spindell Commissioner Wisconsin Election Commission

Direct: 414 276 6331

RSpindell@Gottesman-Company.com

----Original Message----

From: "Costello, Allyssa G." [Allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov]

Date: 05/21/2021 16:41

To: "rspindell@gottesman-company.com" <rspindell@gottesman-company.com>, "Spindell,

Robert - ELECTIONS" < robert.spindell@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Good afternoon Mr. Spindell,

I am reaching out to see if you are still interested in meeting with the State Auditor and Deputy State Auditor in regards to providing them with your perspective as a member of the Wisconsin Election Commission of the proposed audit of elections administration. Please let me know if you would like to reschedule the meeting that was scheduled for 10:00am today, Friday, May 21.

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator
Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau
22 East Mifflin Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 266-2818

Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline 1-877-FRAUD-17

From: Costello, Allyssa G.

Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 1:40 PM

To: 'rspindell@gottesman-company.com' <rspindell@gottesman-company.com>; Spindell,

Robert - ELECTIONS < robert.spindell@wisconsin.gov>



Subject: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Good afternoon,

Below is the link to the scope memorandum approved by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LAB/media/3188/020821_jac_scope_elections-administration.pdf

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator
Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau
22 East Mifflin Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 266-2818



From: LAB Info LABInfo@legis.wisconsin.gov

Subject: LAB Correspondence

Date: May 5, 2021 at 5:14:45 PM

To: rspindell@gottesman-company.com, Spindell, Robert - ELECTIONS

robert.spindell@wisconsm.gov

Good afternoon,

Attached please correspondence from State Auditor Joe Chrisman.

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator
Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau
22 East Mifflin Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 266-2818

Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline 1-877-FRAUD-17



STATE OF WISCONSIN -

Legislative Audit Bureau

Joe Chrisman State Auditor

22 Cast Miffin Street, Suite 500 Madison, Wisconsin 53703 Main: (608) 266-2010 Hotline: 1-877-FRAUD-17 www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab Askl.Alkelogis.wisconsin.gov

May 5, 2021

Commissioners of the Wisconsin Elections Commission 212 East Washington Avenue, Third Floor Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Commissioners:

Recently, Ms. Meagan Wolfe suggested that I write to you regarding the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau's (LAB's) ongoing audit of elections administration.

First, on April 13, 2021, I emailed you a copy of a February 8, 2021 memorandum that describes the scope of this audit effort, and I invited you to contact LAB to schedule an opportunity to share any perspective you have about the subject matter. Such an invitation was also extended to other stakeholder groups, including the county and municipal clerks associations, and is typical in our work. As of today, four commissioners have contacted us in response to our invitation, and two commissioners have not responded to our invitation. If you have responded, thank you for doing so. If you have not yet responded, I again invite you to provide your perspective on matters related to the audit scope, which may include your insights about resources, contacts, or processes that you believe are important for us to consider as we conduct our audit work.



Second, on April 14, 2021, I received a letter from the chairperson that asked me to identify the statutory basis for the confidentiality of LAB's audit process. As I indicated in my response on April 21, 2021, s. 13.94, Wis, Stats., states:

"The bureau shall be strictly nonpartisan and shall at all times observe the confidential nature of any audit currently being performed."

As external auditors, we will gather information, including from the staff of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and use it to perform our analyses independently. I anticipate our audit work will be ongoing for several months.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Toe Chrisman State Auditor

cc: Meagan Wolfe, Administrator Wisconsin Elections Commission



From: Costello, Allyssa G. Allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov

Subject: LAB Correspondence

Date: Apr 13, 2021 at 5:15:22 PM

To: rspindell@gottesman-company.com, Spindell, Robert - ELECTIONS

robert.spindell@wisconsin.gov

Mr. Spindell:

As you are aware, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee has directed the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau to evaluate elections administration in Wisconsin. A copy of the scope memorandum approved by the Committee is available on our website here:

https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LAB/media/3188/020821_jac_scope_elections-administration.pdf

In your role as a member of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, and on behalf of State Auditor Joe Chrisman, I am emailing to invite you to provide us with your perspective.

Please contact me at (608) 266-2818 to schedule a time for a telephone call with the State Auditor and Dean Swenson, Deputy State Auditor.

Thank you.

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau 22 East Mifflin Street Madison, Wisconsin 53703 (608) 266-2818



From: Robert F. Spindell

To: Spindell, Robert - ELECTIONS; Costello, Allyssa G - LAB

Cc: Lathrop, Darlene

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2021 12:54:12 AM

Alyssa:

I was thinking about the audit all week and forgot to call you this morning. My assistant was not here today to remind me.

I would like to reschedule. Please let me know some times that may work for you.

Again, I apologize for missing the call.

Bob

Bob Spindell Commissioner Wisconsin Election Commission Direct: 414 276 6331 RSpindell@Gottesman-Company.com

----Original Message----

From: "Costello, Allyssa G." [Allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov]

Date: 05/21/2021 16:41

To: "rspindell@gottesman-company.com" <rspindell@gottesman-company.com>, "Spindell,

Robert - ELECTIONS" <robert.spindell@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Good afternoon Mr. Spindell,

I am reaching out to see if you are still interested in meeting with the State Auditor and Deputy State Auditor in regards to providing them with your perspective as a member of the Wisconsin Election Commission of the proposed audit of elections administration. Please let me know if you would like to reschedule the meeting that was scheduled for 10:00am today, Friday, May 21.

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello



Office Administrator

Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau

22 East Mifflin Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

(608) 266-2818

Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline 1-877-FRAUD-17

From: Costello, Allyssa G.

Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 1:40 PM

To: 'rspindell@gottesman-company.com' <rspindell@gottesman-company.com>; Spindell,

Robert - ELECTIONS <robert.spindell@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Good afternoon,

Below is the link to the scope memorandum approved by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LAB/media/3188/020821_jac_scope_elections-administration.pdf

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator

Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau

22 East Mifflin Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703



(608) 266-2818



From: Robert F. Spindell

To: Spindell, Robert - ELECTIONS, Costello, Allyssa G - LAB

Cc: <u>Lathrop, Darlene</u>

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2021 12:54:12 AM

Alyssa:

I was thinking about the audit all week and forgot to call you this morning. My assistant was not here today to remind me.

I would like to reschedule. Please let me know some times that may work for you.

Again, I apologize for missing the call.

Bob

Bob Spindell Commissioner Wisconsin Election Commission Direct: 414 276 6331 RSpindell@Gottesman-Company.com

----Original Message----

From: "Costello, Allyssa G." [Allyssa.Costello@legis.wisconsin.gov]

Date: 05/21/2021 16:41

To: "rspindell@gottesman-company.com" <rspindell@gottesman-company.com>, "Spindell,

Robert - ELECTIONS" <robert.spindell@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: RE: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Good afternoon Mr. Spindell,

I am reaching out to see if you are still interested in meeting with the State Auditor and Deputy State Auditor in regards to providing them with your perspective as a member of the Wisconsin Election Commission of the proposed audit of elections administration. Please let me know if you would like to reschedule the meeting that was scheduled for 10:00am today, Friday, May 21.

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello



Office Administrator

Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau

22 East Mifflin Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703

(608) 266-2818

Fraud, Waste, and Mismanagement Hotline 1-877-FRAUD-17

From: Costello, Allyssa G.

Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 1:40 PM

To: 'rspindell@gottesman-company.com' <rspindell@gottesman-company.com>; Spindell,

Robert - ELECTIONS <robert.spindell@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: LAB- Scope Memorandum

Good afternoon,

Below is the link to the scope memorandum approved by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

https://legis.wisconsin.gov/LAB/media/3188/020821_jac_scope_elections-administration.pdf

Thank you,

Allyssa Costello

Office Administrator

Wisconsin Legislative Audit Bureau

22 East Mifflin Street

Madison, Wisconsin 53703



(608) 266-2818



From: LABInfo

Subject: The Bureau Announces the Release of Report 21-19, Elections Administration **Pate:** Friday, October 22, 2021 10:13:10 AM



LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAUREPORT RELEASE

The Bureau announces the release of *Elections Administration* (report 21-19).

As directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, we evaluated elections administration issues, including:

- efforts by the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) to comply with election laws, including by working with clerks to ensure voter registration records include only eligible voters, and by providing training and guidance to clerks;
- efforts by clerks to comply with election laws, including by administering elections, processing absentee ballots, and performing recount responsibilities, as well as the observations and concerns of clerks regarding elections administration;
- the use of electronic voting equipment, including the methodology and results of WEC's most-recent statutorily required post-election audit and the actions taken as a result of this audit; and
- General Election-related complaints filed with WEC and clerks, as well as how these complaints were addressed.

Because our audit was not approved until three months after the November 2020 General Election, we did not directly observe Election Day practices. Therefore, to complete this audit we relied on available evidence we were able to access. We contacted WEC's staff, surveyed all 1,835 municipal clerks and 72 county clerks in April 2021, contacted 179 clerks to obtain additional information about elections administration issues, analyzed voter registration data, physically reviewed 14,710 certificates that accompanied absentee ballots returned to clerks in 29 municipalities throughout the state, reviewed the results of 175 statutorily required tests of electronic voting



equipment that clerks in 25 municipalities completed before the November 2020 General Election, and reviewed all 45 sworn, written complaints pertaining to the General Election that were filed with WEC as of late-May 2021.

We make 30 recommendations to WEC's staff for various improvements and include 18 issues for legislative consideration.

www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab AskLAB@legis.wisconsin.gov (608) 266-2818 • Hotline: 1-877-FRAUD-17



From: LABInfo

Subject: The Bureau Announces the Release of Report 21-19, Elections Administration

Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 10:13:10 AM



LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAUREPORT RELEASE

The Bureau announces the release of *Elections Administration* (report 21-19).

As directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, we evaluated elections administration issues, including:

- efforts by the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) to comply with election laws, including by working with clerks to ensure voter registration records include only eligible voters, and by providing training and guidance to clerks;
- efforts by clerks to comply with election laws, including by administering elections, processing absentee ballots, and performing recount responsibilities, as well as the observations and concerns of clerks regarding elections administration;
- the use of electronic voting equipment, including the methodology and results of WEC's most-recent statutorily required post-election audit and the actions taken as a result of this audit; and
- General Election-related complaints filed with WEC and clerks, as well as how these complaints were addressed.

Because our audit was not approved until three months after the November 2020 General Election, we did not directly observe Election Day practices. Therefore, to complete this audit we relied on available evidence we were able to access. We contacted WEC's staff, surveyed all 1,835 municipal clerks and 72 county clerks in April 2021, contacted 179 clerks to obtain additional information about elections administration issues, analyzed voter registration data, physically reviewed 14,710 certificates that accompanied absentee ballots returned to clerks in 29 municipalities throughout the state, reviewed the results of 175 statutorily required tests of electronic voting



equipment that clerks in 25 municipalities completed before the November 2020 General Election, and reviewed all 45 sworn, written complaints pertaining to the General Election that were filed with WEC as of late-May 2021.

We make 30 recommendations to WEC's staff for various improvements and include 18 issues for legislative consideration.

www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab AskLAB@legis.wisconsin.gov (608) 266-2818 • Hotline: 1-877-FRAUD-17

