1		NOTICE OF CLAIM
2 3 4 5 6 7	То:	Attorney General Josh Kaul Office of the Attorney General 114 East State Capitol Madison, WI 53702-7857
8	Re:	Second Claim of Peter Peckarsky - Announced Candidate for U.S. Senate
0		Circumstances of Claim
12	1.	The purpose of this Notice of Claim submitted pursuant to Wis. Stat., §893.82 is
13	to ch	allenge the failure of the Wisconsin Elections Commission ("WEC") to conduct
14	itself	and Wisconsin elections in compliance with Wis. Stat. $\S 5.905$ and 5.91 in
15	conn	ection with the certification of Electronic Voting Systems ("EVS") for use in
16	Wisc	onsin elections.
17	2.	The State officials responsible for general oversight of the Wisconsin elections
18	proc	ess are the members of the Wisconsin Elections Commission ("WEC"):
19 20 21 22 23 24 25		Chair Ann S. Jacobs Vice-Chair Mark L. Thomsen Secretary Marge Bostlemann Commissioner Julie M. Glancey Commissioner Dean Knudson Commissioner Robert F. Spindell, Jr.
26		Wis. Stat. §5.02(4m) defines the term "Electronic Voting System." Wis.Stat.
27	§5.02	2(4m) states in full that: "Electronic voting system" means a system in which votes
28	are r	recorded on ballots, and the votes are subsequently counted and tabulated by
29	auto	matic tabulating equipment. The term also includes a voting machine on which
30	votes	s are recorded and tabulated by electronic means.
31	4	. Wis. Stat. §5.905(1) provides that: "In this section, "software component"
32	inclu	des vote-counting source code, table structures, modules, program narratives
33	and	other human-readable computer instructions used to count votes with an
34	elect	ronic voting system."

5. Wis. Stat. §5.91 provides that no Electronic Voting System may be used in Wisconsin unless it is certified by the WEC. Wis. Stat. §5.91 lists eighteen (18) requirements which an EVS and its components must fulfill and bars WEC from certifying any EVS or any of its components from being certified by WEC for use in Wisconsin unless each of the eighteen (18) requirements are met. Wis. Stat. §5.91(13) will be referred to in numbered paragraph 7 below.

- 6. The first paragraph of Wis. Stat. §5.91 states that: "No ballot, voting device, automatic tabulating equipment, or related equipment and materials to be used in an electronic voting system may be utilized in this state unless it is certified by the commission. The commission may revoke its certification of any ballot, device, equipment, or materials at any time for cause. The commission may certify any such voting device, automatic tabulating equipment, or related equipment or materials regardless of whether any such item is approved by the federal election assistance commission, but the commission may not certify any ballot, device, equipment, or material to be used in an electronic voting system unless it fulfills the following requirements:"
- 7. Wis.Stat. §5.91(13) provides one of the eighteen (18) requirements referred to in Wis.Stat. §5.91 and sets forth the requirement that: "(13) The automatic tabulating equipment authorized for use in connection with the system includes a mechanism which makes the operator aware of whether the equipment is malfunctioning in such a way that an inaccurate tabulation of the votes could be obtained."
- 8. Wis. Stat. §5.905(2) requires that each vendor of an EVS certified under Wis.Stat. §5.91 place in escrow with the commission itself certain software components which the Commission determines necessary to enable review and verification of the accuracy of the automatic tabulating equipment ("ATE") used to record and tally the votes cast with the system.
- 9. Wis.Stat. §5.905(2) provides that: "The commission shall determine which software components of an electronic voting system it considers to be necessary to enable review and verification of the accuracy of the automatic tabulating equipment

used to record and tally the votes cast with the system. The commission shall require each vendor of an electronic voting system that is approved under s. 5.91to place those software components in escrow with the commission within 90 days of the date of approval of the system and within 10 days of the date of any subsequent change in the components. The commission shall secure and maintain those software components in strict confidence except as authorized in this section. Unless authorized under this section, the commission shall withhold access to those software components from any person who requests access under s. 19.35(1)."

- 10. Wis. Stat. §5.905(3) provides that: "The commission shall promulgate rules to ensure the security, review and verification of software components used with each electronic voting system approved by the commission. The verification procedure shall include a determination that the software components correspond to the instructions actually used by the system to count votes."
- 11. Wis. Stat. §5.905(4) provides that: "If a valid petition for a recount is filed under s. 9.01 in an election at which an electronic voting system was used to record and tally the votes cast, each party to the recount may designate one or more persons who are authorized to receive access to the software components that were used to record and tally the votes in the election. The commission shall grant access to the software components to each designated person if, before receiving access, the person enters into a written agreement with the commission that obligates the person to exercise the highest degree of reasonable care to maintain the confidentiality of all proprietary information to which the person is provided access, unless otherwise permitted in a contract entered into under sub. (5)."
- 12. A significant "software component" (as defined in Wis.Stat. §5.905(1)) in an EVS is the set of ballot definition files (BDF) that determine how the votes (the marks a voter places on a ballot) will be counted in the EVS for each candidate. The ballot definition files are produced after the contents of the ballot are determined which happens after the results are certified for the primary election in which the candidates for the general election are nominated. Accomplishing the review and verification of

- the accuracy of the ATE in an EVS before an election is impossible without complete access to the BDF for each EVS in each ward.
- 13. On Dec. 9, 2021, The Columbus Free Press published the attached article with an accompany spreadsheet (all of which are Attachment 1). The title of the article is: "Does The Wisconsin Elections Commission Fully Comply With Wisconsin Law About Software In Electronic Voting Systems?" The spreadsheet in Attachment 1 is a public record requested by the newspaper and provided by WEC in accord with the Wisconsin public records law, Wis.Stat. §19.35.
- 14. According to the attached article, Commission spokesperson Reid Magney wrote via e-mail to the newspaper on Feb. 23, 2021 in response to an Oct. 12, 2020, public records request. Mr. Magney's Feb. 23, 2021 e-mail is a public record. According to the article, the full text of Mr. Magney's Feb. 23, 2021 e-mail is as follows:

Thank you for your reminder email. I must apologize, as I initially misread your request and thought it was more complicated than it is. I had to take out some of the parenthetical terms in your request to understand exactly what you were requesting. Here's what I believe you are requesting. 1. All records showing (by manufacturer and by system) the date the software components were first placed in escrow with the WEC. 2. All records showing (by manufacturer and by system) that as of October 12, 2020, the software components were in escrow with the WEC. I think you may have misunderstood how escrow works. Voting equipment manufacturers do not place software in escrow with the WEC. WEC never receives voting system software from the manufacturers. They place software in escrow directly with the WEC's escrow company. If it becomes necessary, WEC is able to access the software from the escrow company. We are now working on getting the information you requested from the escrow company, and we will fulfill your request as soon as possible.

- 15. According to the article, the spreadsheet was sent to the newspaper by e-mail from a WEC Staff Attorney on Nov. 18, 2021. As per Mr. Magney's Feb. 23, 2021 e-mail, the spreadsheet does list the date certain software was deposited in escrow with WEC's escrow company. Mr. Magney's e-mail makes it clear that voting system software is not deposited in escrow with WEC as required by statute.
- 16. The spreadsheet shows no deposit of software anywhere after January 17, 2020. In short, the spreadsheet shows the BDF for all 2020 elections for the ES&S, Dominion,

- and Sequoia EVS were not deposited in escrow with WEC or its escrow company. The
 spreadsheet shows the BDF for the 2020 elections held in April 2020 or later using an
 EVS from the Clear Ballot Group were not deposited in escrow with WEC or its escrow
 company.
 - 17. Further, the dates on the spreadsheet indicate the BDF were not deposited in escrow with WEC or its escrow company for any EVS for the elections in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2016, or 2018.
 - 18. On information and belief, the automatic tabulating equipment ("ATE") authorized for use in Wisconsin in connection with the various EVS certified for use in Wisconsin do not include a mechanism which makes the operator aware of whether the equipment is malfunctioning in a way that an inaccurate tabulation of the votes could be obtained. By way of non-limiting example, the ATE authorized for use in Wisconsin in connection with the various EVS certified for use in Wisconsin do not include a mechanism which makes the operator aware of whether the ballot definition files are tabulating the votes inaccurately for a given candidate or referendum so long as the total votes (including undervotes) for a given race or referendum do not exceed the number of ballots being tabulated.
 - 19. Thus, the ATE authorized for use in Wisconsin in connection with the various EVS certified for use in Wisconsin do not fulfill the requirements of Wis.Stat. §5.91(13). Accordingly, the commission did not have the authority to certify such equipment for use in Wisconsin. In certifying such equipment, the commission exceeded its authority and acted in a manner not in accord with Wisconsin law. Pursuant to Wis.Stat. §5.91, the Commission should immediately revoke its certification of the equipment for cause to the extent there is no mechanism in the ATE which makes the operator aware of whether one or more ballot definition files are malfunctioning in such a way that an inaccurate tabulation of the votes could be obtained.
 - 20. The Commission has also not fulfilled its duties under Wis.Stat. §5.905(2) in various ways.

21. First, Wis. Stat. §5.905(2) requires that the WEC require each vendor of an EVS certified under Wis.Stat. §5.91 to place designated software components in escrow with the Commission within 90 days of the date of approval of the system. As shown in Attachment 1, the commission spokesperson confirmed in writing that the Commission never placed any software in escrow with the commission.

- 22. Second, Wis. Stat. §5.905(2) requires that the WEC require each vendor of an EVS certified under Wis. Stat. 5.91 to place any changes to the designated software components in escrow with the Commission within 10 days of the date of any change in the designated components. As shown in Attachment 1, the Commission spokesperson confirmed in writing that the commission never placed any software in escrow with the commission.
- 23. Third, Wis.Stat. sec. 5.905(2) requires the WEC to "determine which software components of an electronic voting system it considers to be necessary to enable review and verification of the accuracy of the automatic tabulating equipment used to record and tally the votes cast with the system." Without the BDF, the software listed on the spreadsheet in Attachment 1 is insufficient to enable review and verification of the accuracy of the automatic tabulating equipment ("ATE") used to record and tally votes cast with each system. Thus, even though the WEC may have made a determination, that determination is insufficient to achieve the intent of the statutes (Wis. Stat. §5.905(2) and Wis. Stat. §5.91(13)) which is to verify the accuracy of the vote count determined by the ATE in the EVS.
- 24. The Commission has not fulfilled its duties under Wis. Stat. §5.905(3).
 - 25. Wis.Stat. §5.905(3) requires a verification procedure (to verify the software components used with each EVS approved by the WEC) which includes a determination that the software components correspond to the instructions actually used by the system to count votes. The BDF contain some or all of the instructions actually used by the system to count votes. As discussed above, the BDF were not placed in escrow with WEC or its alleged escrow company for various elections in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2016, 2018, and 2020. Without access to the BDF, the WEC could not

make a determination that any software components corresponded to the instructions actually used by the system to count votes.

- 26. The Commission has not in the past met its obligations under Wis.Stat. §5.905(4) and is apparently not prepared to do so in 2022.
- 27. The Wisconsin election statutes and Wis. Stat. §5.905(4) require that in the event of a recount the Commission provide immediate access to the software components used to record and tally the votes to each party to a recount and its designees who agree in writing to exercise the highest degree of reasonable care to maintain the confidentiality of all proprietary information to which they are provided access. The software components used to record and tally the votes include the BDF which have not been placed in escrow with the Commission or its alleged escrow company for most elections in the recent past.
- 28. Any recount of the August 9, 2022 primary must be resolved in time to determine who will be on the November 8, 2022 ballot. According to the article in Attachment 1, after the November 2016 election there was a three-year delay in even determining the procedure to grant the statutorily required access to the software components to recount participants. A similar delay in the August 2022 recount would mean the State of Wisconsin might have to function without up to five (5) elected statewide officials, a U.S. Senator elected for the term starting in January 2023, up to eight (8) elected members of the U.S. House of Representatives for more than a full two year term, ninety-nine (99) elected members of the Wisconsin Assembly for more than a full two year term, and up to seventeen (17) elected members of the Wisconsin Senate for over 3 years out of a 4 year term. The WEC should be prepared to meet its statutory obligation to provide immediate access to the software components including the BDF files for every ward in the state to the recount parties and their designees.

Relief Sought

29. The Wisconsin Elections Commission should require: (a) that all software components for all EVS certified to be used in Wisconsin will be placed in escrow with

the WEC on or before Dec. 30, 2021, (b) that all ballot definition files for each ward for the elections held on August 11, 2020 and November 3, 2020 will be placed in escrow with the WEC on or before Dec. 30, 2021 and maintained securely in escrow until October 31, 2023, and (c) all changes to any software components for any EVS certified to be used in Wisconsin be placed in escrow with the WEC within 10 days

after the date of the change.

- 30. The Wisconsin Elections Commission should require for future elections that: four (4) copies of each ballot definition file ("BDF") for each EVS in each ward will be placed in escrow with WEC on non-volatile memory (e.g., a thumb drive with no battery or internal power source) delivered to WEC ten (10) days after the ballot contents are determined. The chief inspector of each ward at which an EVS is used will appear in Madison at WEC at a public session one day after the BDF are delivered. The chief inspector will select one of the four identical thumb drives and install that BDF on the EVS in the inspector's ward. The other three BDF from the ward will remain in escrow with the WEC in its securely and continuously (24/7) guarded offices for 22 months after the day of the general election and will be made immediately available to parties to a recount in accord with Wis.Stat. §5.905(4).
- 31. Claimant intends to file a legal action seeking a declaratory judgment that the above-mentioned failures violate Wis. Stat. §5.905 and §5.91.
- 32. Claimant also intends to seek both a preliminary injunction and a permanent injunction requiring the Wisconsin Elections Commission to ensure that in the event EVS are used in future Wisconsin elections, ballot definition files and all other software components are properly escrowed with the commission and immediately made available in case of a recount as required pursuant to Wis. Stat. §5.905 and any other applicable statutes.
- 33. In the alternative, claimant will seek a preliminary and permanent injunction barring the use of EVS and ATE in Wisconsin elections.

1	
2	
3	Date: December 20, 2021
4 5 6 7	Claimant Peter Peckarsky
8	State of Wisconsin)
9) ss.
10 11	Milwaukee County)
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	Subscribed and sworn to before me on 12/20/2021 Notary Public, Milwaukee, Wisconsin My commission expires: Permanual Public Pleo



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Does The Wisconsin Elections Commission Fully Comply With Wisconsin Law About Software In Electronic Voting Systems?

by Marji L. Berkowitz

DECEMBER 9, 2021



Wisconsin Presidential Election Results 2020, Image courtesy of <u>AdamG2016</u>

It appears possible that since November 2006, no Wisconsin statewide election has been conducted in full compliance with Wisconsin law according to public records sent to the *Columbus Free Press* by the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Most of the election administration authorities in Wisconsin use an electronic voting system ("EVS") to count the ballots.

Since 2006, any EVS used to count votes in Wisconsin had to be certified for use by the Wisconsin Elections Commission or its predecessors. Within 90 days after approval of a given EVS, the EVS manufacturer must place certain software components in escrow with the commission. Within 10 days after any change in the software components, the changed software components must be placed in escrow with the commission.

There are two main types of software in an EVS.

First, there is the software in the EVS when the software is first installed and upgrades to such software.

Second, there are ballot definition files (BDF) which determine how the votes (the marks a voter places on a ballot) will be counted for each candidate. The ballot definition files are produced

Attachment 1

after the contents of the ballot are determined which happens (for a general election) after the results are certified for the primary election in which the candidates for the general election are nominated.

According to the public records (a Feb. 23, 2021 e-mail and a Nov. 18, 2021 e-mail with an attached spreadsheet) sent by the commission in response to a public records request from the Columbus Free Press, the commission has never placed either the software first installed in the machines or the ballot definition files in escrow with the commission.

In case of a recount, the commission is required by law to give immediate access to the software components to the candidates who are parties to the recount and their designees as soon as they agree in writing to maintain the confidentiality of any proprietary information in the software components to which they are given access.

In 2016, presidential candidate Jill Stein was a party to a Wisconsin recount. In 2020, after several years of litigation, a court decided the final details of the procedure by which Dr. Stein's designees could have access to the software components from the EVS used in the November 2016 election. By the time the court decided the issue, another party to the recount had been President of the United States of America for more than three years.

It remains to be seen what the commission would do about meeting its statutory obligation to provide access to the software components to parties to any recount in 2022 or later years.

The statute which requires that the software be in escrow with the commission is Wis. Stat. section 5.905(2).

Wis.Stat. section 5.905(2) provides in pertinent part that: "The commission shall determine which software components of an electronic voting system it considers to be necessary to enable review and verification of the accuracy of the automatic tabulating equipment used to record and tally votes cast with the system. The commission shall require each vendor of an electronic voting system that is approved under s. 5.91to place those software components in escrow with the commission within 90 days of the date of approval of the system and within 10 days of the date of any subsequent change in the components."

The statute which requires the commission to grant candidates involved in a recount access to the software components is Wis. Stat. Section 5.905(4).

Wis. Stat. section 5.905(4) provides in pertinent part that: "If a valid petition for a recount is filed under s. 9.01 in an election at which an electronic voting system was used to record and tally the votes cast, each party to the recount may designate one or more persons who are authorized to receive access to the software components that were used to record and tally the votes in the election. The commission shall grant access to the software components to each designated person if, before receiving access, the person enters into a written agreement with the commission that obligates the person to exercise the highest degree of reasonable care to maintain the confidentiality of all proprietary information to which the person is provided access, unless otherwise permitted in a contract entered into under sub. (5)."

On Oct. 12, 2020, the *Columbus Free Press* filed a public records request with the commission. The request sought I) the public records showing the date software components were first placed in escrow with the commission for each EVS and 2) the public records showing the software components were in escrow with the commission on Oct. 12, 2020.

In the Oct. 12, 2020 public records request, the term "software component" was defined as it is defined in Wis. Stat. section 5.905(1) which provides in full that: "In this section, "software component" includes vote-counting source code, table structures, modules, program narratives and other human-readable computer instructions used to count votes with an electronic voting system."

In the Oct. 12, 2020 public records request, the definition of the term "electronic voting system" followed the statutory definition in Wis. Stat. section 5.02(4m).

The Oct. 12, 2020 public records request stated that: "This request only seeks public records related to electronic voting systems and software components of such systems approved for use by the Wisconsin Elections Commission (the Wisconsin Elections Commission may be referred to in this document as "WEC") in the November 3, 2020 elections."

The Oct. 12, 2020 public records request sought verbatim:

- "1. All records showing (by manufacturer and by system) the date the software components (used to record and tally votes cast in any electronic voting system used to record and tally votes cast which system was approved for use in Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) for the Nov. 3, 2020 election) were first placed in escrow with the WEC. (This request does not seek records of software components placed in escrow with Escrow Tech International, Inc. or any private company or entity other than the WEC.)
- 2. All records showing (by manufacturer and by system) that as of October 12, 2020, the software components (used to record and tally votes cast in any electronic voting system used to record and tally votes cast which system was approved for use by the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) for the Nov. 3, 2020 election) were in escrow with the WEC. (This request does not seek records of software components placed in escrow with Escrow Tech International, Inc. or any private company or any entity other than the WEC.)"

On Feb. 23, 2021, commission spokesperson Reid Magney wrote to the *Columbus Free Press* via email (a public record) in response to the Oct. 12, 2020 public records request and confirmed the commission never had the software components in escrow with the commission. Commission spokesperson Magney wrote on Feb. 23, 2021 in full as follows (underlining in original):

"Thank you for your reminder email. I must apologize, as I initially misread your request and thought it was more complicated than it is."

"I had to take out some of the parenthetical terms in your request to understand exactly what you were requesting. Here's what I believe you are requesting:"

- "1. All records showing (by manufacturer and by system) the date the software components were first placed in escrow with the WEC."
- "2. All records showing (by manufacturer and by system) that as of October 12, 2020, the software components were in escrow with the WEC."

"I think you may have misunderstood how escrow works. Voting equipment manufacturers do not place software in escrow with the WEC. WEC never receives voting system software from the manufacturers. They place software in escrow directly with the WEC's escrow company. If it becomes necessary, WEC is able to access the software from the escrow company."

"We are now working on getting the information you requested from the escrow company, and we will fulfill your request as soon as possible."

On Nov. 18, 2021, WEC Staff Attorney Brandon Hunzicker wrote to the *Columbus Free Press* via email which said in part that:

"This e-mail is in response to your public records request of October 12, 2020. Attached is an Excel spreadsheet that fulfills your request."

"A copy of the Excel spreadsheet sent on November 18, 2021 is in the Associated Files section following the article."

The information shown in the Excel spreadsheet and the February 23, 2021 e-mail indicate that the commission has never had the software components or the ballot definition files in escrow with the commission (as opposed to a private escrow company).

In addition to the software components which exist when an EVS is certified, a ballot definition file is needed for each election to tell the EVS how to count, for example, the marks placed on a paper ballot to designate the voter's votes.

The ballot definition files are coded after the number of candidates to appear on the ballot is determined after any necessary primary.

The public record sent by the WEC on November 18, 2021 and the February 23, 2021 e-mail also indicate that the commission did not have the ballot definition files for the November general election in escrow with the commission or a private escrow company in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2016, 2018, or 2020.

For 2008, 2010, 2012, 2016, and 2018, there are no entries for Date of Escrow Deposit listed in the spreadsheet sent on Nov. 18, 2021 which indicates no software components were deposited

with the commission or a private escrow company for the first time in any of these years.

In 2020, the only Date of Escrow Deposit listed in the spreadsheet was January 17, 2020 which was well before the ballot definition files could be coded after the primary held in August to determine the complete list of candidates for the November general election.

Assistance with this article was provided by Peter Peckarsky who is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for a U.S. Senate seat representing Wisconsin and who assisted the 2020 recount effort of Dr. Jill Stein.

Associated Files:

Nov. 18 spreadsheet.pdf

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	January 17 2020	November 6 2006 September 29 2015 September 17 2014 August 16 2017 September 17 2017 August 16 2017 August 6 2019 October 14 2019 October 14 2019	September 16 2015	t) November 3 2006
System Version used Nov 2020	ClearVote 2.0	Unity 3.0.1.0 Unity 3.4.1.0 EVS 5.2.0.0 EVS 5.2.2.0 EVS 5.3.0.0 EVS 5.3.2.0 EVS 5.3.4.0 EVS 5.3.4.1 EVS 6.0.4.0 EVS 6.0.5.0	Democracy Suite 4.14	APXK2.10/HPX K1.42 (Insight) 5.024 (Edge)
Vendor	Clear Ballot Group	ES&S	Dominion	Sequoia (DVS owned)