



REPORT TO CLIPP

ITEM NAME:	Election Ballot Distribution
MEETING DATE:	October 6, 2025
PRESENTING COMMITTEE:	
COMMITTEE CONTACT:	Ken Charneski, Patty Tikalsky
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Poyer
PREPARED BY:	Jennifer Poyer, Patty Tikalsky

ISSUE: Multiple election complaints were filed with the Wisconsin Election Commission regarding Kronenwetter's local elections. The CLIPP Committee is reviewing the complaints and providing solutions to prevent future complaints.

OBJECTIVES:

ISSUE BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

The final complaint being addressed was made by Mosinee School District Superintendent Greg Doverspike on October 24, 2024. See the full complaint here (<https://elections.wi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/01%20-%20Complaint%20-%20Greg%20Doverspike%20v.%20Bobbi%20Jo%20Birk-LaBarge%20et%20al%20-%20EL%2024-110.pdf>) and attached. The issues in the complaint are listed below:

"I am the superintendent of the Mosinee School District and we have a referendum on the Nov. 5th ballot. We have two instances thus far where municipalities in our school district have failed to include our referendum question to early voting and absentee voters. The two municipalities are the Town of Reid and the Village of Kronenwetter.

In the case of the Town of Reid the clerk failed to follow the directions of the County Clerk and did not put our referendum ballot in the absentee ballot materials. In the case of the Village of Kronenwetter the clerk handed out DC Everest School District ballots to all residents despite the fact that around 1/3 of the residents of the village are in the Mosinee School District."

Doverspike was correct, residents in the Mosinee School District were given the wrong ballots.

Kronenwetter is currently split into 11 wards. A voting ward is a geographical division of a city, village, or town used for administrative and electoral purposes. It is the most fundamental voting district and determines which local and state representatives appear on your ballot. In most cases, each ward has one ballot style. In the case of Ward 11, there are two school districts (DC Everest and Mosinee) within the ward, so if there are school district races or referendums, there are TWO ballot styles for an election.

This is the situation that occurred during last year's early in-person voting for the General Election. Ward 11 had two ballot styles due to the two school districts, so which style each voter needed had to be determined by an election inspector. Due to a lack of communication and signage, not all election inspectors understood the situation and failed to make the distinction between the two ballots. This resulted in voters receiving the wrong ballot. Once the problem was identified, the voters who could have possibly received the wrong ballot were contacted either by phone, email or a certified letter. They were given the chance to open their ballot envelope

and determine whether they had the correct ballot or not. If they did not receive the correct ballot, they were given the chance to vote a correct ballot. Their incorrect ballot was destroyed.

Also, each election inspector working the ballot tables and early voting were educated on the two ballot styles for Ward 11. The ballots were very visibly identified with signage. Also, TWO election inspectors were required to sign the and check the ballots before they were handed to the voters.

Going forward we need to be cognizant and vigilant in making sure voters receive the correct ballot, especially in Ward 11. This can be done with education and preparation.

Also, we could possibly look into splitting Ward 11 into two wards based on the school district.

PROPOSAL:

ADVANTAGES:

DISADVANTAGES:

ITEMIZE ALL ANTICIPATED COSTS (Direct or Indirect, Start-Up/One-Time, Capital, Ongoing & Annual, Debt Service, etc.)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: No action recommended.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

TIMING REQUIREMENTS/CONSTRAINTS:

FUNDING SOURCE(s) – Must include Account Number/Description/Budgeted Amt CFY/% Used CFY/\$

Remaining CFY

Account Number:

Description:

Budgeted Amount:

Spent to Date:

Percentage Used:

Remaining:

ATTACHMENTS (describe briefly): Greg Doverspike Wisconsin Election Commission Complaint, Kronenwetter Ward Map