

Current Ordinance:

§ 41-1. - Election officials.

Election officials shall be appointed as prescribed by Wis. Stats. § 7.30.

(Ord. of 4-12-2004)

- § 41-2. - Hours for voting.

The polls on each election day shall remain open for voting from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

(Ord. of 4-12-2004)

- § 41-3. - Alternates.

The village clerk may appoint alternate election inspectors, as needed, to work at elections held in the village. This includes wards one through eight.

(Ord. of 4-12-2004)

Proposed new ordinance draft.

Chapter 41

The Village Board of Kronenwetter do ordain as follows:

It is determined that a free and open representative form of government can only be valid if the representatives of the People are chosen in fair and honest elections. To that end, this Chapter has been adopted into the Kronenwetter Village Code of Ordinances and construed liberally to favor honesty, transparency, and the elimination of public doubt in the election process.

41.01 Definitions

Party imbalance - Inspectors affiliated with one of the 2 recognized political parties receiving the largest numbers of votes for president, or for governor in non-presidential general election years, in the municipality or polling place, as the case may be.

Inspectors shall to the extent possible, appointed or assigned in an equal number of each, except that the party whose candidate received the largest number of votes in the municipality or polling place is entitled to one more inspector than the party whose candidate received the next largest number of votes in the municipality.

Election Worker - Those individuals appointed by the Village Board to perform duties needed to carry out elections. They are also referred to interchangeably as election inspectors.

41.1 Election Worker Nomination and Approval

1. Election Workers

A. The Village Clerk has determined that a maximum of 35 election workers are needed to conduct efficient elections. Additionally, 3 standby alternates are needed to serve in accordance with §7.315 (1) (b) (2) as alternates in the event of vacancies.

This number includes an allowance for splitting some positions into two shifts and must in all cases maintain party imbalance, and are subject to §7.33 (2).

The number of election workers may be raised or lowered by Village Board resolution.

The requirements of §7.33 (2) may be waived for the upcoming term, by Village Board resolution.

B. Acquiring Nominees

(1) No later than July 1st in all odd numbered years, the Village Clerk shall begin posting notices to the public of the opportunity to serve as election workers in the upcoming two year term.

(2) An application shall be provided to those interested, which will require Name, address, phone, email, and political party affiliation or designation as unaffiliated. Additional information such as motivation and/or previous election experience, etc. may be requested, but not required.

(3) Notice shall be included on the application, that those with a party affiliation will be referred to the respective parties for nomination, and if nominated, will be among the first choices for the positions available. Unaffiliated applicants will be considered after all party-nominated persons have been selected.

(4) Notice will also include that of the obligation for approved election workers to be available for all election events during the two year term.

(5) The Village Clerk shall forward applications with a party affiliation to their respective parties as soon as practicable.

(6) No unaffiliated applications received after November 30 will be considered for the initial nomination process, but may be held for later consideration by the Village Board if any need for replacements was to arise later in the term.

(7) No later than July 1st in all odd numbered years, the Village Clerk shall determine the party imbalance number of nominees required from both the Republican and Democrat parties according to §8.17 and to notify each party as a reminder of their obligation according to §7.30 (4) (b) to provide lists of election worker nominees to the Village by November 30.

Approved application form , and public notice attached.

C. Appointment

(1) Party lists meeting the qualifications directed in § 7.30 (4) (b) and received by the Clerk by November 30th shall immediately be forwarded to the Village President, along with all individual applications of unaffiliated status.

(2) In compliance with §7.30 and no later than the last regular Village Board meeting of an odd numbered year, the Village President shall appoint all election workers and alternates, while maintaining the correct imbalance of political party affiliation, subject to the approval of the Village Board.

(a) For the purposes of this chapter, §7.30, and §5.02 (4e) the Village Board shall be considered to be "election officials" charged with the duty of properly appointing all election workers in compliance with party imbalance requirements.

(b) The Village President may appoint unaffiliated applicants only in the absence of a sufficient number of party-affiliated nominees to fill the positions.

D. Qualifications

The qualifications of applicants and nominees, along with the procedure, shall comply with §7.30 (2) (a).

The following requirements shall apply:

(a) All election workers and chief inspectors shall be qualified electors of the Village of Kronenwetter, or of Marathon County if there are insufficient numbers of applicants from the Village.

(b) All election workers must be nominated by the two major political parties, or through individual application by the Village Board.

(c) All nominees and applicants must agree to be available for election service for a two year term.

- (d) All election workers must be approved by the Village Board.
- (e) All election workers must be capable of performing the job duties as enumerated in §7.37 (1-13), be able to read, write, and have a good comprehension of the English language.
- (f) All election workers must attend required training.
- (g) No election worker may be a candidate in the election in which they serve as an election worker.
- (h) Student election worker applicants must be separately qualified under the requirements of §7.30 (2) (am).
- (i) Greeters may be assigned without regard to party affiliation.

E. Tabulators

(1) Tabulators of absentee ballots shall be assigned by the Village Clerk from among the approved election workers, if the Village Board has by resolution provided authorization to do so not less than 30 days prior to the election.

(2) Alternately, the Village Board may approve tabulators other than current election workers, subject to statutory party imbalance.

In any case there shall be no less than three tabulators, each party-affiliated and assigned with the party imbalance directed in §7.52 (1) (b)

F. Split Shifts

The Village Clerk may schedule Election day split shifts for any positions, as necessary, while maintaining the statutory party imbalance at each polling place and to the extent possible for each assigned task.

2. Chief Election Inspectors

(a) In accordance with §7.30 (6) (b) the Village Clerk shall appoint 2 chief election inspectors from among the approved election workers. One chief inspector is required to be on duty at each polling place. Others trained for the position may be on duty as backup in the event that a vacancy occurs, subject to party imbalance.

(b) All Chief Inspectors shall attend training and be certified by the WEC according to §7.31 before serving in that position at any election.

3. Special Voting Deputies

In the event that special voting deputies are needed, the Village President shall appoint and the Village Board will approve, two qualified election workers for this purpose, one from each the Republican and Democrat parties, who shall only perform these duties while working together.

Appointment and duties shall be performed in accordance with Wisconsin §6.875.

4. Training

All approved election workers shall

- (a) submit an Oath of Office according to §7.30 (5),
- (b) attend training in accordance with §7.30 (6), and
- (c) serve for a period of 2 years.

5. Removal

The Village Clerk may not remove any election worker except as determined under the following conditions:

- (a) The worker is incapable of reliably performing the required duties.
- (b) The worker is not adequately proficient in reading, writing, or comprehending the English

language.

- (c) The worker refuses to attend required training.
- (d) Improper conduct in the performance of their duties, as defined in §7.37
- (e) For any other reason that WEC approves as good cause prior to removal.

6. Filling Vacancies

The Village Clerk shall have the authority to fill any vacancy in election worker positions by appointment from the approved alternate/reserve worker list.

The Village Clerk may, as needed, ask the Democrat or Republican parties to nominate more workers due to, or in anticipation of possible open positions.

Under no circumstances will it be construed that the Village Clerk has authority to hire anyone other than those approved by the Village Board to hold positions as election workers in the Village of Kronenwetter.

§ 41-2. - Hours for Voting.

The polls on each election day shall remain open for voting from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

(Ord. of 4-12-2004)

§ 41-3. - Alternates. Deleted

The village clerk may appoint alternate election inspectors, as needed, to work at elections held in the village. This includes wards one through eight.

(Ord. of 4-12-2004)

§ 41-4 Automatic Vote Tabulating Equipment Testing and Use

The proper use and security of voting equipment is integral to ensuring accuracy and maintaining voter confidence in the electoral process. Voting equipment accuracy and security has long been an issue of extreme importance for both election officials and voters. Elector confidence in the equipment used to count votes is an aspect of elections administration which continues to grow in significance. Careful execution and documentation of the procedures detailed in this section will alleviate many concerns, ensuring that the voting equipment used in our municipality is reliable and accurate.

1. Testing The ballot counting machines shall be tested in accordance with Wisconsin §5.84 no more than 10 days prior to the election day on which the equipment is to be utilized.

2. Open to the Public This testing shall be open to the public, allowing for effective public viewing and relevant questions. These testing events shall for all purposes be considered public events, with photography and video recording by the public allowed as a matter of right. As with any public meeting, disruptive behavior will not be allowed.

3. Public Notice The Village Clerk shall, no less than 72 hours prior to the testing, post a public notice of the date, time, and place of testing. Publication shall be as a class 1 notice under ch. 985 in one or more newspapers published of general circulation within the municipality, as well as on the Village website home page, Village bulletin boards, and on social media sites where the Village normally posts other notices.

4. Testing Procedure

(a) The test shall be conducted by processing a pre-audited group of ballots so marked as to record a predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on each referendum. Members of the observing public shall be informed of what those totals are expected to be, before the count, and shall be allowed to view the counts on the print-out.

(b) Upon a successful tabulation of the test ballots that matches the pre-audited totals, any member or members

of the observing public may randomly select a total of 3-5 ballots to be removed from the test group, and the remaining ballots shall be tabulated. The new total must reflect the original total, minus the amounts that are on the withheld ballots.

(c) The test shall include for each office one or more ballots which have votes in excess of the number allowed by law and, for a partisan primary election, one or more ballots which have votes cast for candidates of more than one recognized political party, in order to test the ability of the automatic tabulating equipment to reject such votes.

(d) A sample ballot shall be tri-folded the way it would be mailed, with the folded creases inspected to ensure they do not run through any voter mark.

(e) If any errors are detected, the municipal clerk shall ascertain the cause and correct the error. The clerk shall make an errorless count before the automatic tabulating equipment is approved by the clerk for use in the election.

5. Election Day Procedure - Before beginning the ballot count at each polling place or at the central counting location, the election officials shall witness a test of the automatic tabulating equipment by engaging the printing mechanism and securing a printed result showing a zero count for every candidate and referendum. After the completion of the count, the ballots and programs used shall be sealed and retained under the custody of the municipal clerk in a secure location.