

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-O-07
An Ordinance Creating Board of Absentee Canvassers section
1.12.030

A. Purpose and Background

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish the Board of Absentee Canvassers for the City of Whitewater per state statutes governing elections. This ordinance serves these purposes:

1. **Delegation of Authority:** The ordinance delegates the authority to canvass absentee ballots to the designated Board of Absentee Canvassers, which consists of the City Clerk or a qualified elector designated by the City Clerk and two other qualified electors appointed by the City Clerk.
2. **Compliance with State Law:** The ordinance operates pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes § 7.52 and § 7.53, which ensure compliance with state laws governing the canvassing of absentee ballots and the conduct of elections.
3. **Establishment of Procedures:** The ordinance provides procedures for the canvassing of absentee ballots in lieu of canvassing at polling places, specifying requirements for meeting notice, absentee ballot reporting, and other administrative matters related to absentee voting.
4. **Transparency and Accountability:** By mandating the City Clerk to provide notice of Board meetings and to post absentee ballot statements, the ordinance robustly promotes transparency and accountability in the absentee ballot canvassing process, ensuring that the public has full access to information regarding the handling of absentee ballots.
5. **Effective Date and Enforcement:** The ordinance establishes the effective date of its provisions and authorizes the City Council to enforce its requirements, ensuring that the provisions are implemented in a timely and effective manner.

B. Composition of the Board

(1) The Board of Absentee Canvassers shall be composed of the City Clerk or a qualified elector of the city designated by the City Clerk, and two other qualified electors of the city appointed by the City Clerk for a term of two years commencing **on January 1** of each odd-numbered year. The City Clerk may appoint additional inspectors under § 7.30

(2) (a), Wis. Stats., to assist the Board of Absentee Canvassers in the absentee ballots canvassing process under this section.

C. Powers and Duties

(1) The Board of Absentee Canvassers shall operate according to the provisions of Wis. Stats. § 7.52 and § 7.53, as applicable.

(2) In lieu of canvassing absentee ballots at polling places, the City Council hereby provides for the canvassing of absentee ballots by the Board of Absentee Canvassers, which shall canvass all absentee ballots at all elections held in the city pursuant to procedures established by the state division governing elections.

(3) The City Clerk shall give at least 48 hours' notice of any meeting of the Board of Absentee Canvassers under this section.

(4) Not later than the closing hour of the polls, the City Clerk shall post at the City Clerk's office and on the city's website a statement of the number of absentee ballots that the City Clerk has mailed or transmitted to electors and that have been returned by the closing hour on Election Day. The Clerk shall also make such statement available to any person requesting the same.

D. Effective Date and Implementation

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

Ordinance introduced by Councilmember _____, who moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilmember _____.

AYES:

NOES:

John Weidl, City Manager

ABSENT:

Heather Boehm, City Clerk

ADOPTED: