

**CITY OF WEST ALLIS
ORDINANCE O-2020-0039**

**ORDINANCE TO CREATE THE BOARD OF ABSENTEE BALLOT CANVASSERS
AND ESTABLISH RULES FOR COUNTING ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

AMENDING SECTION 2.08 AND CREATING SECTION 2.23

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused many voters to avoid large crowds and enclosed spaces that are common at polling places; and

WHEREAS, voters have the option to vote absentee by submitting a ballot to the city clerk in accordance with state law; and

WHEREAS, voters have chosen to utilize absentee ballots at a greater rate than ever in order to avoid the health risks associated with voting in-person at a polling place, causing a surge in the number of absentee ballots to count; and

WHEREAS, counting a high number of absentee ballots at each polling place while also serving in-person voters is inefficient and causes delays in customer service for in-person voters; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. 7.52 authorizes cities to establish a citizen board charged with counting absentee ballots in an efficient manner from a public location separate from any polling places; and

WHEREAS, prior to enacting this ordinance, the city clerk notified the elections commission in writing of the proposed enactment and consulted with the elections commission concerning administration of Wis. Stat. 7.52;

NOW THEREFORE, the common council of the City of West Allis do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: **AMENDMENT** “2.08 Elections And Officials” of the City Of West Allis Municipal Code is hereby *amended* as follows:

A M E N D M E N T

2.08 Elections And Officials

1. The city clerk may select alternate officials in a number sufficient to maintain adequate staffing of polling places on election day.
2. The city clerk may select 2 or more sets of election officials to work at different times on election day and may establish different working hours for different officials assigned to

the same polling place.

3. The city clerk may appoint 3, 5, or 7 inspectors to each polling place and may appoint an additional inspector to serve as a greeter. The city clerk may appoint additional inspectors in compliance with Wis. Stat. 7.30.
4. In lieu of canvassing absentee ballots at polling places, the board of absentee ballot canvassers shall, at each election held in the city and in compliance with Wis. Stat. 7.52, canvass all absentee ballots received by the city clerk by 8 p.m. on election day.

SECTION 2: **ADOPTION** “2.23 Board Of Absentee Ballot Canvassers” of the City Of West Allis Municipal Code is hereby *added* as follows:

A D O P T I O N

2.23 Board Of Absentee Ballot Canvassers(*Added*)

1. Creation. There is established a board of absentee ballot canvassers pursuant to Wis. Stat. 7.53(2m)(a).
2. Composition. Members of the board of absentee ballot canvassers shall be appointed pursuant to Wis. Stat. 7.53(2m)(b).
3. Duties. The board of absentee ballot canvassers shall perform all duties assigned by law.

SECTION 3: **EFFECTIVE DATE** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on and after the required approval and publication according to law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY OF WEST ALLIS COUNCIL

_____.

	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Ald. Angelito Tenorio	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Vince Vitale	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Tracy Stefanski	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Marty Weigel	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Suzzette Grisham	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Danna Kuehn	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Thomas Lajsic	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Dan Roadt	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Rosalie Reinke	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ald. Kevin Haass	_____	_____	_____	_____

Attest

Presiding Officer

Rebecca Grill, City Clerk, City Of
West Allis

Dan Devine, Mayor City Of West
Allis