



**OUTAGAMIE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**OUTAGAMIE COUNTY CLERK DETAILS BALLOT MISPRINT**  
*All Votes Will be Counted – No Action Required of Voters*

APPLETON – Outagamie County Clerk Lori O'Bright detailed a technical ballot misprint which will likely delay counting of some absentee ballots on Election Night. The misprint – a scratch no wider than a fingernail on a timing mark at the edge of the ballot – does not impact the contests, candidates, or referenda on the ballots.

“Our testing protocols caught the misprint in time for our print vendor to replace all ballots that will be used for early, in-person voting beginning tomorrow, October 20th”, said O'Bright. “Voters who received an absentee ballot with the misprint need not take any action – their votes will be counted.”

Rod Stoffel, President of local printer JP Graphics, explained the technical nature of the issue.

“A small tear in the printer blanket resulted in inadequate compression of that area on the ballot, preventing a clean printing image of the timing mark”, he said. “When notified of the issue, we worked closely with the County Clerk’s office and the municipalities to provide replacement ballots without the misprint.”

Outagamie County Deputy Corporation Counsel Kyle Sargent laid out how voters are protected in a situation such as this.

“There is a sound legal option under Wisconsin law to ensure that the ballots are all counted”, Sargent stated. “This statutory process has safeguards to ensure accuracy including number verification, and witness observation of the process.”

The County has sent a letter to the Wisconsin Elections Commission detailing the matter, clarifying proper procedure and requesting additional time to count absentee ballots due to the issue.

O'Bright expressed confidence in the integrity of the election, pointing out that the system worked as intended.

“This is a perfect example of why we have testing procedures in place. We identified the problem, quickly corrected it and will be working closely with the WI Elections Commission through Election Day to ensure all of the impacted ballots will be counted.”

Attachments

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