

Dane County Clerk Office

SCOTT MCDONELL
DANE COUNTY CLERK



What does the Clerk do?

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- ▶ Marriage Licenses- 3500 a year.
 - ▶ Now virtual appointments statewide.
- ▶ Dog licenses, timber cutting
- ▶ Minutes and Agendas
- ▶ Chief Election official

Crazy 4 years

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Election Officials are now targets

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A REUTERS SPECIAL REPORT

Pro-Trump news site targets election workers, inspiring wave of menace

of the site's articles himself, along with his twin brother and a half-dozen or so contributors.

The Gateway Pundit, which started as a tiny opinion blog, saw readership surge to nearly 50 million views a month as it amplified Donald Trump's false stolen-election claims. Reuters documented the impact: 25 election workers targeted by more than 100 violent threats or hostile messages citing the Pundit.

The bogus report from the far-right website Gateway Pundit drew attention to a set of initials – MLW – inscribed on what it claimed were “fake” ballots. Then a reader posted a comment on the story correctly identifying MLW: Maribeth L. Witzel-Behl, the Madison city clerk, whose duties include administering elections.

Other commenters soon called for Witzel-Behl's execution. She found one post especially unnerving. It recommended a specific bullet for killing her – a 7.62 millimeter round for an AK-47 assault rifle. Witzel-Behl was stunned by the threats and the angry calls that poured into her office. Contrary to the story's insinuation that the initials meant the ballots were fake, in reality she and her staff wrote her initials on all absentee ballots, before they were given to voters, as a matter of policy.

Protect Election Officials

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- ▶ New penalties for threatening election officials.
- ▶ Plexiglass, panic buttons, cameras.
- ▶ Work with Law Enforcement on protecting clerks.

**WISCONSIN
LAW ENFORCEMENT
QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE**

This pocket reference guide contains key penal provisions found within Chapters 5-12 and 940-944 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

- Using or threatening to use force, violence, or duress to influence, interfere with, or impede voting is a felony.
- Engaging in disorderly behavior at or near a polling place or interrupting or disturbing voting or canvassing proceedings is unlawful.
- Attempting to influence official action of any public officer through threat of injury, accusation of crime, or battery is a felony.

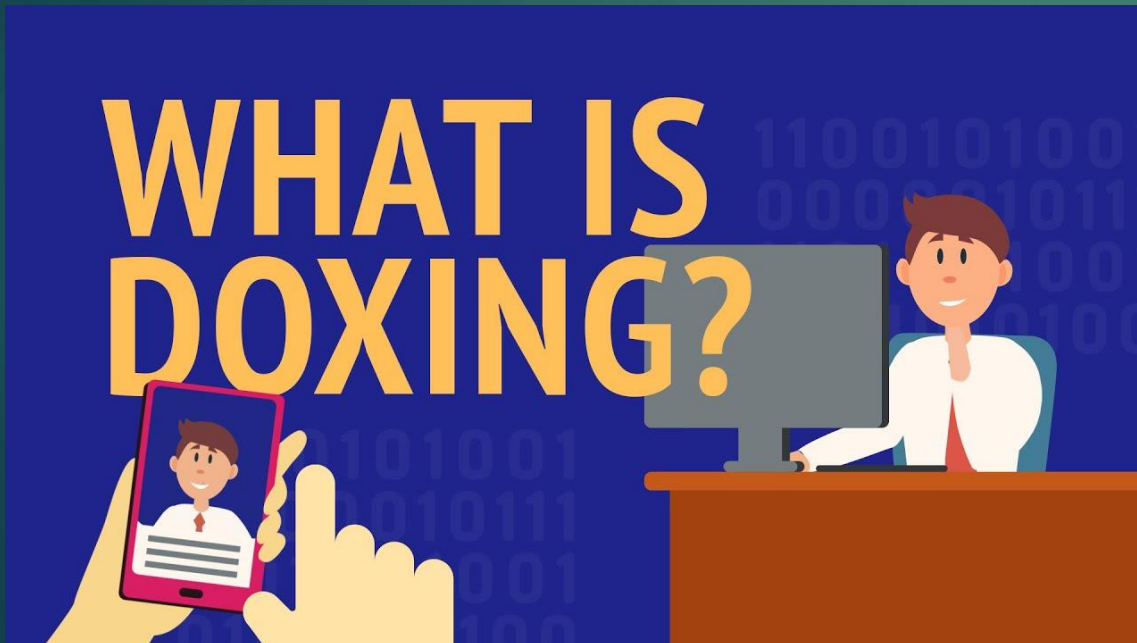
VOTING HOURS
Election Day: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
2024 ELECTION DATES
Spring Primary: February 20
Presidential Preference Primary and Spring Election: April 2
Partisan Primary: August 13
General Election: November 5
For upcoming election dates: elections.wi.gov/elections

REPORT SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR TO
WI Elections Commission:
elections@wi.gov | (866) VOTE-WIS
elections.wi.gov/elections/election-security-integrity/election-complaints-concerns
For more information: myvote.wi.gov



Increased Training

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Proper Facilities: Purchase of Ale Asylum for new Election Center

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“Election Asylum”

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Lean into Research- what is Effective against disinformation

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The screenshot shows the homepage of the Election Science, Reform, & Administration Conference website. The header features a logo of a ballot box with a document icon, followed by the conference name. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, 2024 Conference (with a dropdown arrow), Past Conferences (with a dropdown arrow), a Search bar, and a Contact button. The main content area has a dark purple background. On the left, there is a vertical image of several 'I VOTED' stickers with an American flag design. To the right of the image, the text reads: 'Advancing our knowledge of elections'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'This annual conference brings together political scientists, election professionals, and other experts in election administration to develop rigorous empirical approaches to the study of how law and administrative procedures affect the quality of elections in the United States.' At the bottom right, there is a white button labeled 'Learn More'.

 **Election Science, Reform, & Administration Conference**

[Home](#) [About](#) [2024 Conference ▾](#) [Past Conferences ▾](#) [Contact](#)



Advancing our knowledge of elections

This annual conference brings together political scientists, election professionals, and other experts in election administration to develop rigorous empirical approaches to the study of how law and administrative procedures affect the quality of elections in the United States.

[Learn More](#)

Creative Outreach

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Chad Vader voter ID video wins best municipal public service announcement

ABIGAIL BECKER | The Capital Times | abecker@madison.com | [@abecker_4](https://twitter.com/abecker_4)
May 8, 2016



This Chad Vader video explaining Wisconsin's voter ID law is in the running for best municipal public service announcement through the group Engaging Local Government Leaders.

SCREEN SHOT

[Voting equipment Chad Vader](#)

[Voter ID Chad Vader](#)

[Vote Absentee Chad Vader](#)

Chad Vader confronts the Force that is Voter ID

ROB THOMAS | The Capital Times | rthomas@madison.com | [@robt77](https://twitter.com/robt77)
Oct 3, 2014



Dane County Clerk Scott uses Chad Vader (voiced by Matt Sloan of Madison's Blame Society Productions) in a 2014 video to explain the county's new ballot and laser-scanning voting system.

SCREEN SHOT

Budget request

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- Operating Budget
 - goes up and down based on even year 4 election cycle and odd year 2 election cycle. Operating budget consistent with odd 2 election cycle.
 - Budget will decline by \$262,000
- Capital Budget
 - Architectural design for new building currently underway

Community outreach

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- ▶ Outreach to wedding planners and venues- Online and Spanish language
- ▶ Advertising in Spanish language publications – Marriage
- ▶ Public service announcements- voting absentee and election security

Language access

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- ▶ Clerk office serves wide range of languages, although mostly English and Spanish.
- ▶ We now take marriage license applications from citizens statewide- we have seen an increase in Spanish language requests
- ▶ We have used language services via the phone that county provides before.