



July 13, 2026

**The Hon. Eric Genrich**

Green Bay Mayor  
100 N. Jefferson Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301

**Green Bay Common Council**

Jennifer Grant, 1  
Jim Hutchison, 2  
Bill Morgan, 3  
Jon Shelton, 4

Doug Orlowski, 5  
Joey Prestley, 6  
Alyssa Proffitt, 7  
Jim Ridderbush, 8

Ben DeBaker, 9  
Ben Delie, 10  
Melinda Eck, 11  
Kathy Hinkfuss, 12

100 N. Jefferson Street, Room 203  
Green Bay, WI 54301

**RE: Green Bay Clerk Celestine Jeffreys' next Wisconsin Elections Commission complaint**

Dear Mayor Genrich and Green Bay Alderpersons:

It may be time for you to give serious consideration to removing Clerk Celestine Jeffreys from her position.

Green Bay City Clerk Celestine Jeffreys is, yet again, violating Wisconsin election law and requirements of the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC).<sup>1</sup> Presumably this is not acceptable?

Over the years, it seems Clerk Jeffreys relies on WEC violations for on-the-job training. Madison cannot fix this, but you can. Surely you want the situation to remedy?

The Public Interest Legal Foundation is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, public-interest election law firm operating throughout the nation. We also brought the first successful WEC complaint against Clerk Jeffreys after she failed to comply with Wisconsin election law.<sup>2</sup>

Throughout 2023-2024, the Foundation and city residents noticed a pattern of Green Bay's incomplete post-election audits as mandated by Wisconsin law.<sup>3</sup> As you may know, audits of all

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<sup>1</sup> *Green Bay Press Gazette*; Green Bay clerk likely violated law in April ballot issue, report says (July 1, 2026), <https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/politics/elections/2026/07/01/green-bay-clerk-may-have-violated-law-with-duplicate-ballots-in-april/90647393007/>

<sup>2</sup> *In RE Hogan* WEC Complaint (April 8, 2024), <https://publicinterestlegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/01-Complaint-Hogan-et-al.-v.-Jeffreys-EL-24-35.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Wis. Stat. Ann. § 6.56(3)

new Election Day-registrants (EDRs) are mandatory. WEC sends postcards to new registrants to test the validity of the residential addresses given in the polls. If a mailing is undeliverable, it is returned to the local jurisdiction to complete the audit. Local officials are required to report to WEC the card count and then determine why deliveries failed. If they can't identify a benign explanation, they "shall" inactivate the registrant from the voter roll and alert their district attorney's office to each instance.<sup>4</sup>

For years, Clerk Jeffreys ignored Wisconsin's mandatory procedures.

The Foundation interviewed Jeffreys in her office after months of open records request correspondence went nowhere.<sup>5</sup> During the interview, Jeffreys said it was WEC's responsibility to perform audits, not hers.<sup>6</sup> After the WEC complaint was filed, the story drastically changed: "Clerk Jeffreys was unaware that she was required to do each of these things, but plans to do so going forward, and is in the process of drafting written procedures for doing so."<sup>7</sup>

Clerk Jeffreys didn't know the law, *Strike One*.<sup>8</sup>

After the April 2026 Spring Election, WEC determined that Jeffreys again violated<sup>9</sup> Wisconsin law<sup>10</sup> when 152 Green Bay voters received **second absentee ballots** after submitting their original ones for counting. Jeffreys blamed a snowstorm, a computer glitch, and reassured the State that no fraud actually occurred. WEC ordered that she "conform her conduct to the law and put procedures in place" to avoid such actions in the future.<sup>11</sup>

Clerk Jeffreys said nothing bad happened, *Strike Two*.

Green Bay's elections cannot afford *Strike Three*.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid Note 3. SEE ALSO: WEC Updated EDR Postcard Guidance (February 9, 2023), <https://elections.wi.gov/memo/updated-election-day-registration-edr-postcard-guidance>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid Note 2, Exhibits 1-5, Churchwell Affidavit.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid at Churchwell Affidavit.

<sup>7</sup> *In RE Hogan* – Response of Respondent Celestine Jeffreys, <https://publicinterestlegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2024-04-29-Clerk-Jeffreys-Response-Hogan-v-Jeffreys.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> *Green Bay Press Gazette*; Election complaint against Green Bay city clerk resolved by WEC (November 8, 2024), <https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/11/08/election-commission-orders-green-bay-clerk-to-properly-conduct-audit/76126978007>

<sup>9</sup> Wis. Stat. § 5.06 Complaint Filed with the Wisconsin Elections Commission: *Theresa Snipes v. Celestine Jeffreys*, EL 26-12

<sup>10</sup> Wis. Stat. §§ 6.86(1)(ar) and 7.15.

<sup>11</sup> *Green Bay Press Gazette*; Green Bay clerk likely violated the law in April ballot issue (July 1, 2026), <https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/politics/elections/2026/07/01/green-bay-clerk-may-have-violated-law-with-duplicate-ballots-in-april/90647393007/>

It's understandable that Mayor Genrich is in a tight political spot. After serving as his chief of staff, Jeffreys was named Clerk without election administration experience.<sup>12</sup> The good news: you have options. Clerk Jeffreys still serves at your pleasure, Mayor Genrich.<sup>13</sup>

The Common Council has its own power here. Wisconsin law and Green Bay ordinance require cause for removal of an appointed principal municipal officer.<sup>14</sup> Two sustained WEC complaints are cause. Three complaints would be learned helplessness. Are *your* future re-election efforts worth the risk?

Given our experience and direct insights with the WEC complaint process, the Foundation stands ready to aid your offices with any investigative or other deliberations regarding Clerk Jeffreys' job performance. We will happily travel to Green Bay to provide our files on her failures. Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,



Logan Churchwell  
Research Director  
Public Interest Legal Foundation

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<sup>12</sup> *Green Bay Press Gazette*; Mayor appoints chief of staff... (January 13, 2021), <https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/2021/01/13/green-bay-mayor-eric-genrich-appoints-celestine-jeffreys-city-clerk/6641714002/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&gca-uir=true&gca-epti=z11xx90e1174xxv11xx90d--xx--b--xx--&gca-ft=94&gca-ds=sophi>

<sup>13</sup> Wis. Stat. § 17.12(1)(c)2.a.

<sup>14</sup> Wis. Stat. § 17.12(1)(d) and Green Bay General Ordinance No. 34-24.