

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01

**ORDINANCE TO REPEAL SECTION 19-5
OF THE VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE
PERTAINING TO BOARD OF ABSENTEE BALLOT CANVASSERS
COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS CENTRAL COUNT FOR ALL ELECTIONS
IN THE VILLAGE OF ELM GROVE.**

WHEREAS, Section 19-5 of Boards, Commission and Committees was first adopted to provide for the canvassing of absentee ballots by the municipal board of absentee ballot canvassers designated under Wis Stat Sec. 7.53(2m); and

WHEREAS, the Village of Elm Grove and municipalities across the State of Wisconsin have seen a significant decline of voters going to the polls on Election Day as absentee voting has become increasingly popular; and

WHEREAS, returning the processing of absentee ballots to the polls on Election Day will allow the absentee ballots to be processed using the DS200 tabulation machine which has modern capabilities; and

WHEREAS, results reporting at the end of the night will truly be 100% reporting as it will include totals from both absentee and polling locations which eliminates voter and candidate confusion; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to write the voter number on the ballot will be eliminated and will further eliminate the argument that some individuals have raised that the central count process violates the constitution; and

WHEREAS, additional reporting requirements for absentee ballots processed by Central Count will be eliminated.

NOW THEREFORE, the Village Board of the Village of Elm Grove do hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION I

Section 19-5 of the Municipal Code providing for the canvassing of absentee ballots for all elections in the Village of Elm Grove by the Municipal Board of Absentee Ballot Canvassers is repealed in its entirety.

SECTION II

The processing of absentee ballots will be returned to the polling locations to be processed by election officials commencing with the April 2nd 2024 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Election and will continue thereafter.

SECTION III

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances contravening the terms and conditions of this Ordinance are hereby to that extent repealed.

SECTION IV


The sections of this Ordinance shall be considered severable. If any section shall be considered by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the other portions of the Ordinance.

SECTION V

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as approved by law, and the Village Clerk shall so amend the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Elm Grove, and shall indicate the date and number of this amending ordinance therein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Village Board this 27th day of February 2024

APPROVED:


James Koleski, Village President

ATTEST:


Katie Panella, Village Clerk

