

St. Joseph County Election Board Minutes
Friday, September 25, 2026
County Warehouse
142 S. Olive Street, South Bend

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes - no Minutes to approve

Resolution - Kim Riskovitch asked for permission to begin working with the Clerks and central workers due to the large volume of absentee ballot applications received. Approved

Vote Center Training Dates: Kim spoke to Elizabeth Benion from IUSB and arranged vote center training at Wicamp Hall. Training will occur on October 27, October 28, and October 29 from 4 pm to 6 pm. Election inspectors and judges will meet the weekend before the election, on October 31, between 1 pm and 3 pm.

Absentee Ballot Training Dates: Training will be held at the Law Building, 2nd floor, on September 30 from 10 am to noon. They will also meet on October 1 in the County-City Building Lobby from 10 am to noon. The last day to request an Absentee Ballot is October 22, 2026.

On Monday, October 5, voter technicians will receive training on the voting machines.

Public Test of Election Equipment: Nick and Chris reported no issues with the voting machines. Nine individuals went through the voting process. No issues

New Business:

New Prairie School Board candidate (at-large). David Siddow:

New Prairie School District is in LaPorte County and St. Joseph County. LaPorte has a larger section of the school district, so by law it handles candidate filings for that school district. St. Joseph County has a larger population, so it handles the ballots. Mr. Siddow did not complete the paperwork or submit the petition to be placed on the ballot. This was reported to St. Joseph County just a few days ago. Therefore, Kim Riskovitch is asking to have his name removed from the ballot. It is not known how Mr. Siddow was placed on the ballot without paperwork. Kim contacted the LaPorte Clerk but could not get an answer about how this happened.

Fifteen absentee ballots have already been sent out with Mr. Siddow's name on them. Three of these ballots were returned. The Clerk's office will send a letter explaining this issue to those who have already voted. In addition, Kim Riskovitch, Pat Schafer, and Jason Critchlow will try to visit those voters in person to make sure they understand what happened to their ballots.

A motion to strike David Siddow from the ballot was made. Passed.

A motion to approve Kim, Pat, and Jason traveling to the 15 voters who received the ballot with Mr. Siddow listed to explain the mistake passed.

In addition to redoing the Absentee Ballots, the voting machines for the election will also need to be redone. There are 694 machines. Downloading the new ballot will take four to five days to complete and

will cost extra. The Board discussed having LaPorte County cover the cost of redoing the voting machines.

Democratic Complaint Concerning Penn Township Candidates and Penn Township Fire Department:

Since the Board received the complaint a few days ago, this will be moved to the meeting on October 16 at 10 am. This will allow the Board to contact the individuals involved. Due process needs to be followed. Motion to move the complaint passed.

Old Business:

Parking for workers on election day. This is still being worked on. The parking lot on Jefferson Street could be an option. The Commissioners are also working on this.

Public Comment:

Amy Rolfes - Stated she always follows directions and the law in her capacity as Clerk.

Don Westerhausen - Informed the Board that calls to Voter Registration are unanswered. Send training dates to workers as soon as possible. In response to Amy's public comment, litigation is still being investigated due to the Board's alleged abuse of the Open Door Law.

Mike McManus - Stated that Democracy is on the ballot. Reminded the Board of the damage Jamie O'Brien and the Republicans did to Rita Glenn, as well as what happened with the five Democratic candidates taken off the 2026 ballot. What they did was disingenuous and wrong. Democracy is on the ballot, and Republicans need to stop trying to game the system. Elections should be fair.

Mr. Rolfes - In reference to the New Prairie School Board candidate, he asked what will happen if the people who already voted can't be located. He is concerned that the vote could come down to one vote.

Jackie Horvath - Stated that the Chair of the Democratic Party did not convene a caucus, so he did not have the authority to reappoint the four candidates taken off the ballot.

JoAnne Westerhausen - Stated that Democrats do not caucus as Republicans do. The Chair of the Democratic Party held a general meeting with the Precinct Chairs and Vice-Chairs and requested authority to place these candidates on the ballot. Authority was given.

Kim Riskovitch - Stated that the four candidates are now on the ballot and should not be an issue now. She would like everyone to work together.

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
JoAnne Westerhausen