

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
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Director and General Counsel

DATE: April 4, 2012

TO: Wisconsin Municipal Clerks
City of Milwaukee Election Commission
Wisconsin County Clerks
Milwaukee County Election Commission

FROM: Nathaniel E. Robinson
Elections Division Administrator
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

SUBJECT: REMINDER: Requirement for Municipal Clerks to be Available to Receive Provisional Ballot Documents and late-arriving absentee ballots on Wednesday, April 4 through 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 6, 2012 (Good Friday).

2011 Act 23, *which was enacted by the Wisconsin State Legislature*, requires clerks to be available to accept proof of residence (first time WI voters who registered by mail) and driver license numbers (election day voters who could not provide the DL number) from provisional voters so that their ballot may be counted, and to receive mailed late-arriving absentee ballots postmarked by Election Day beginning Wednesday, April 4 thru 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 6, 2012. Friday April 6 is Good Friday. The Act does not make an exception for Good Friday; the 4:00 p.m. deadline must be enforced on Good Friday.

Provisional Voters: Since the Legislature and Governor have provided electors the opportunity to correct these errors no later than 4 p.m. on the Friday after the election, clerks and executive directors must be available to receive such documentation between Wednesday, April 4 and 4 p.m. on Friday, April 6, 2012 (Good Friday). ***The Statute enacted by the Legislature requires that all clerks or executive directors normally having regular office hours on Friday's must remain open until 4 p.m. on Good Friday, April 6, 2012.***

All clerks or executive directors, who do not normally have business hours on Fridays, must be available to receive late-arriving absentee ballots and documents relating to provisional ballots until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 6, 2012. If office hours on Friday, April 6, 2012 will be held at a location other than the clerk or executive director's normal office of business, then information on how to reach the clerk or executive director must be provided to all voters with outstanding provisional ballots.

Late-Arriving Absentee Ballots: Even if the post office does not deliver to your location after a particular time of day, you must be certain that no mail has arrived at the post office after the last delivery to your house or office that could contain absentee ballots. If you do not make certain of this by checking with the Post Office at 4 p.m. on Friday, you run the risk of disenfranchising a voter.

Please take this into consideration when planning staffing for the remainder of the week. Thank you.

cc: Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Government Accountability Board