

# State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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**DATE:** August 4, 2011

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

**FROM:** Nathaniel E Robinson  
Elections Division Administrator  
Government Accountability Board

**SUBJECT:** Photo ID Law Update #6  
Changes to Election Process, Effective Immediately

As we approach the August 9 and August 16 recall elections, local election officials should review the communication of July 14, 2011, "What We Learned from the Primaries," which is available on the Board's website: <http://gab.wi.gov/node/1956>, so as to avoid some of the mistakes made regarding the "soft implementation" of the Voter Photo ID Law.

Since that communication, other issues have come to the Board's attention that clerks should be aware of:

- If municipalities have combined polling places for the recall elections, clerks should get the word out to ensure that adequate public notice has been given to the voters. The Board has received reports of voters who traveled, sometimes on foot, to their normal polling place only to find it closed. Voters should not learn that their regular polling place has been moved when they arrive there on Election Day.
- There continues to be confusion among the public regarding unofficial absentee ballot applications being sent by third parties. Some of these applications contain incorrect addresses for municipal clerks, and others contain errors in election dates. The Board has already issued one news release regarding this problem (<http://gab.wi.gov/node/1994>) and staff has done numerous interviews with news media urging voters to contact municipal clerks directly for absentee ballots and information about elections. We know that this problem may place additional burdens on clerks who forward ballot applications to the proper location, and appreciate your efforts to serve voters from other municipalities whose applications you may receive.

Thank you for your attention to this important information. If you have questions, please contact the G.A.B. Help Desk: (608) 261-2028 or [gabhhelpdesk@wi.gov](mailto:gabhhelpdesk@wi.gov). Thank you.

cc: Kevin J. Kennedy  
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