

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

DATE: January 25, 2011

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

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

SUBJECT: Update on the 2010-2011 Four-Year Voter Record Maintenance

Many of you have inquired about the status of the statutorily required Four-Year Voter Record Maintenance for the 2010 General Election. I am pleased to inform you that G.A.B. will once again conduct the 2010 process with some modifications compared to what we did for 2008-2009 Four-Year Voter Record Maintenance.

February 2, 2011 is the statutory deadline to send voters the Notice of Suspension of Registration. As was the case in 2008, many municipalities still have yet to complete entering and/or reconciling voter registration information and voter history in SVRS. As such, we will not begin the 2010 maintenance initiative until the reconciliation for the November 2, 2010 voter participation data is complete. You will soon be receiving additional information.

Background: Wisconsin Statutes §6.50 (1) and (2) mandate that municipal clerks must periodically conduct a purge of electors who have not voted within the past 4 years.

We recognize that many municipalities relied on the assumption that G.A.B. would perform the Four-Year Voter Record Maintenance for the 2010 General Election following the same protocol used in 2008, and therefore did not budget for printing, mailing and processing the Notices of Suspension of Registration. We will again assume responsibility for conducting the 2010 Four-Year Voter Record Maintenance.

Unlike 2008, the return address on the 2010 mailing will not be the G.A.B. office but instead will be the office of the respective municipal clerk. Municipalities will receive and process the returned Four-Year Voter Record Maintenance mailings and Applications for Continuation of Registration.

Special Note: Please note that the 2010 General Election will be the last election where we will conduct the Four-Year Voter Record Maintenance. For General Elections going forward, we will continue to manage and support clerks in identifying voters who qualify for the four-year voter record maintenance, but clerks will be responsible for sending the Notices of Suspension of Registration and making updates made to voter records in their municipality. We encourage you to plan ahead and plan accordingly.

We wish to thank our SVRS partners for your cooperation in this statewide initiative. Clerks with questions may contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at (608) 261-2028, or at GABHelpDesk@wi.gov. Thank you.

cc: Kevin J. Kennedy
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