

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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## **Top 10 2011 Election Administration Major Accomplishments**

(Election Administration at the beginning of 2011 is very different than at the end of 2011)

1. **Statewide Recount (Supreme Court Justice Race):** The recount instilled confidence with the voters. Out of 1.5 million votes cast, the variance between the original count and the recount was only a 1,233 vote difference.
2. **Voter Photo Identification (ID) Law:** Wisconsin Act 23, the Voter Photo ID Bill became law on June 9, 2011. Wisconsin Act 23, the Voter Photo ID Law is the most pervasive and sweeping changes in the state's election administration in Wisconsin's history. From making presentations to the Legislature starting in January 2011 until the bill became law on June 9, 2011. Government Accountability Board (G.A.B) staff have been implementing a strategy including educational materials and tools for administering the Voter Photo ID Law.
3. **Education/Training/Technical Assistance Provided to Local Election Officials:** Between August and the end of October 2011, over 1,000 clerks across the state were educated on all aspects of the Voter Photo ID Law.
4. **Voter Photo ID Statewide Public Media Education/Informational Campaign:** An advertising agency was procured to assist in crafting and branding of a Voter Photo ID Statewide Public Media Education/Informational Campaign that will launch in the print, voice, visual and electronic media on January 2, 2012. The theme of this Campaign, "Bring it to the Ballot!" [Bringit.wisconsin.gov](http://Bringit.wisconsin.gov) | 1-866-VOTE.WIS (1-866-868-3947).
5. **Voter Photo ID Speaker's Bureau:** The Speaker's Bureau was created to launch a robust public outreach program initiative for Wisconsin electors who may have challenges obtaining a statutory ID. Since September 2011, over 50 presentations and 1,500 participants attend Photo ID outreach seminars. These 1,500 participants provide informational and advocacy services to their respective constituents, so the word about the Photo ID law, its requirements and how electors may comply, is reaching and will continue to reach thousands of voters.
6. **The Federal 2010 Decennial Census Results and Wisconsin Acts 39, 43 and 44:** These actions govern redistricting. Staff continue to work closely with clerks and their respective IT staff to make sure that every voter is properly placed in the appropriate ward so there are no unpleasant surprises on Election Day. Necessary upgrades and refinements in SVRS to allow the migration from the address range model to GIS Geocoding represent the single biggest change to SVRS since it was created.

7. Wisconsin Act 75: This Act was developed, passed and signed into law in order to comply with the 2009 Federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, by moving the September Partisan Primary to the second Tuesday in August.
8. AccessElections! Wisconsin Accessibility Compliance Program: During the 2011 Election Cycle, G.A.B. experienced its most extensive onsite accessibility compliance initiative in the history of the agency as reflected in the following data.
  - 1,850 Municipalities (cities, towns and villages) / Municipal Clerks
  - 2,658 Number of Polling Places were open on April 5, 2011 Election Day
  - 396 Conducted Onsite Accessibility Compliance Audits
  - 41 Counties visited
  - 275 Municipalities visited
  - 14.9% Of the total number of state's polling places were audited.
9. 2011 Recalls / Preparing for 2012 Recall Elections: The State experience nine recall elections in 2011; the most in Wisconsin's or the country's history. In addition to overseeing four 2012 regular scheduled statewide elections including the November General and Presidential Election, G.A.B. and Local Election Officials are poised to administer/conduct possibly two additional statewide elections for the Office of Governor and Lt. Governor, and possibly four recalls for the Office of State Senate.
 

G.A.B. in conjunction with Local Election Officials partners, are preparing to administer and manage the most widespread recall initiatives in the history of both the state and the nation. In 2012, over 1.5 million signatures and over 300,000 pieces of paper are expected to be reviewed and analyzed.
10. Greater Use of Technology: 2011 was a year for utilizing technology to a far greater extent than in previous years. G.A.B. expect to continue and even expand upon these alternatives to in-person meetings in 2012 in order to continue to improve efficiencies and effectiveness, and to provide even greater quality and timely service to our customers and partners at a measurably reduced cost. Some noteworthy examples of the use of technology include:
  - Major improvements to the canvas reporting system's (CRS). The CRS is now more intuitive and more user-friendly thus, increasing the efficiency of both G.A.B. staff and clerk partners.
  - 2011 is the first year the G.A.B. Election Administration Calendar has been able to be integrated and interfaced with the Microsoft Outlook Calendar.
  - Teleconferencing, webcasts/webinars, YouTube videos, G.A.B. website, etc., were used more frequently to reach a larger/wider audience for gaining input from, and to educate Local Election Officials on such program initiatives such as Voter Photo ID and Redistricting.