

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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DATE: March 3, 2016

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

FROM: Michael Haas, Elections Division Administrator
David Buerger, Elections Specialist

SUBJECT: 2015 Act 209 – Responding to an Absentee Ballot Request
2015 Act 229 – Training Terms and Terms of Appointment for Board of Canvass
Members

On Tuesday, the Governor signed two election-related bills (see attached) that went into effect today:

2015 Wisconsin Act 209 – changes the time requirement for responding to an absentee ballot request from one day to one business day. “Business day” is defined as any day Monday to Friday, not including legal holidays under [Wis. Stat. § 995.20](#). This means that municipal clerks are no longer required to check for absentee ballot requests on the weekends, but should continue to check at least every other business day regardless of their regular office hours. Please also note that Good Friday is not a state-recognized holiday, and this year that date falls on March 25, which is during the absentee voting period for the Spring Election. The business day rule in Act 209 does not exclude March 25, 2016.

2015 Wisconsin Act 229 – requires election officials to attend at least one training session every two years during the period beginning January 1 of each even-numbered year and ending December 31 of each odd-numbered year. All election officials are now on the same training cycle (even year to odd year). All current clerks whose training terms would otherwise expire on December 31, 2016 have had their training terms extended to December 31, 2017.

This Act also changes the term of appointment for all board of canvass members to end on December 31 of the odd-numbered year. Any currently appointed board of canvass members whose terms would otherwise expire on December 31, 2016 have had their terms extended to December 31, 2017.

If you have any questions with respect to this memorandum, please contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at (608) 261-2028 or gabhelpdesk@wi.gov.