

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
Chair

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Legislative Changes

2011 Wisconsin Act 75

Redistricting

- Municipalities whose municipal ward boundaries do not coincide with legislative redistricting boundaries must amend their redistricting ordinance or resolution by April 10th.

Election Calendar

- Moves September Partisan Primary from 2nd Tuesday in September to the 2nd Tuesday in August.
- Moves nomination paper filing to April 15th through June 1st.
- Deadline for municipal resolution to combine or change polling places is 30 days before any election.
- The county clerk shall distribute the ballots to municipal clerks no later than 48 days before each partisan primary and general election.
- Municipal clerks must send absentee ballots no later than the 47th day before the partisan primary and general elections.
- Referenda must be filed with the appropriate official or agency no later than 70 days prior to the election.
- Candidates for special elections involving national offices must be certified by the Board and transmitted to the county clerks at least 62 days before the election.

Military and Overseas Electors

- Requires that military and overseas electors are able to ascertain whether the absentee ballot has been received by the municipal clerk.
 - MOVE Act required this for federal elections
 - All military and overseas electors must be tracked in SVRS for all elections in order to meet this requirement.
- Removes the State Write-In Absentee Ballot requirement

- If a military or overseas elector requests an absentee ballot be sent electronically, the clerk is required to comply.
 - MOVE Act already required this for federal elections.
- A request from a military elector is valid for all elections in the same calendar year in which the request is received.
 - Removes permanent status for military electors.
 - Military electors must apply every year or by election to receive an absentee ballot
- Removes the 2 and 3 consecutive general election requirements for keeping military electors on the absentee ballot list when they do not return absentee ballots.
- A military elector is no longer removed from the absentee list for failure to return absentee ballots.
- Clerks no longer have to send a 30 day notice to military electors who will be removed from the absentee elector list for failure to return absentee ballots.
 - Since a military elector cannot be removed from the absentee list for failure to return ballots there is no need for notice.
 - During the one year duration of a military absentee request, a municipal clerk may remove a military elector from their absentee list if:
 - The clerk is reliably informed that the military elector no longer resides in the municipality.
 - The clerk is reliably informed that the military elector is no longer a military elector
- Military electors may submit the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) for any election.
- The completed Declaration/Affirmation that accompanies the FWAB may serve as an absentee application.

Absentee Electors

- Absentee ballots that are postmarked by Election Day and received by a municipal clerk by 4 p.m. on the Friday after any election must be counted, if all other absentee ballot requirements are met.
 - Eliminates 7 and 10 day extended absentee ballot deadline requirements for military electors after September and November elections
 - This provision applies to all absentee electors for all elections.

- Before the close of polls the municipal clerk must post at his or her office and on the Internet at a site announced, the number of outstanding absentee ballots.
- Clerks must include uniform instructions to absentee electors provided by the G.A.B.
- Absentee ballot requests made by email or fax do not need an original signature
- **Starting with the Spring April 3, 2012 Election:** Clerks can only email or fax absentee ballots to military and overseas electors
 - Clerks can not email or fax ballots to any other electors
 - Clerks must send absentee ballots electronically to voters that made such request for the February 21, 2012 election.
- The certificate envelope that is provided to the absentee elector must be labeled “Cast by an absentee elector under s. 7.515, Wis. Stats., and may be eligible to be counted after election day.”

Notices

- The Board must send the Type A notice to each county clerk on the 2nd Tuesday in April preceding the partisan primary.
- On the last Tuesday in April preceding a partisan primary, the county clerk shall send notice to municipal clerks and publish the Type A notice.
- The Board must send the Type B notice for the partisan primary to each county clerk on June 10th.
- The Board must send the Type B notice for the general election to each county clerk no later than the 4th Tuesday in August.
- The Type E notice must be published on the 4th Tuesday preceding the partisan primary