

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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DATE: October 9, 2015

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

FROM: Michael Haas, Elections Division Administrator

SUBJECT: Legislative Public Hearing Regarding G.A.B., Campaign Finance and Online Voter Registration – Tuesday, October 13, 2015

We expect that a legislative hearing will be scheduled for next **Tuesday, October 13, 2015** regarding the proposed G.A.B. restructuring bill and the comprehensive campaign finance bill. A hearing has not yet been posted by the Legislature but we have been informed of the anticipated date and that it is expected to be the sole joint hearing on the bills. We will post the notice with this communication when it becomes available, and wanted to alert local election officials due to the short timeline to prepare any correspondence or testimony.

Another major election law bill is being introduced which we also expect to be added to the public hearing agenda for Tuesday. That bill is attached and while we are completing our analysis of it, according to the summary of the bill, it would accomplish the following:

1. Implement online voter registration for registrations submitted at least 20 days before an election when the elector has a current and valid driver's license or state identification card.
2. Eliminate the authority to appoint and use special registration deputies.
3. Require that Wisconsin join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a consortium of states which share voter data to improve the maintenance of the voter registration system and which send mailings to individuals who may be eligible to vote but are not registered voters.
4. Permit municipalities to appoint election registration officials to register voters at polling places on Election Day.
5. Require the G.A.B. to establish a test to administer to individuals who receive training to become election officials. We believe this may be intended to apply only to chief election inspectors and would not be a scored examination which affects their appointment.
6. Require the G.A.B. to facilitate the creation and maintenance of electronic poll lists.

7. Permits the G.A.B. to certify voting equipment regardless of whether it has been approved by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.
8. Permits election inspectors to override tabulators so that overvoted ballots may be counted except for the overvoted office, rather than create a duplicate ballot.
9. Permits residents of residential care facilities to use a contract or intake document prepared by the facility as acceptable proof of residence.
10. Requires all absentee ballots to be received by 8 p.m. on Election Day rather than by the following Friday.
11. Permits counting an absentee ballot only if the witness certificate contains the address of the witness.

As always, we encourage and appreciate your input regarding this bill as well as the other bills scheduled for public hearing on Tuesday. If you have questions, please contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at (608) 261-2028, or gabhlpdes@wi.gov. Thank you.