

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
Chairperson

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 17, 2014

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

FROM: Michael Haas
Elections Division Administrator

SUBJECT: Election Wrap Up and New Staff

Now that the G.A.B. has been notified that no state or federal candidates will file a recount petitions, we look forward to certifying official canvass results at the state level and completing other post-election tasks. On behalf of our Board, Director Kennedy, and our entire staff, I want to thank all Wisconsin local election officials, including your staff and election inspectors, for all of your hard work and long hours leading up, during, and after Election Day.

We understand the effort that is required to keep up with changes in the election laws and to ensure that correct procedures are implemented consistently. There was a significant and unique challenge related to this election due to the court decisions regarding the Voter Photo ID Law, especially in administering absentee ballots and minimizing voter confusion. You served the voters well and can be proud of your efforts.

I also want to acknowledge the excellent work of our staff in conducting training, updating forms and other resources, and providing support and technical assistance regarding a wide variety of election administration, SVRS, and canvass issues. I am proud of the teamwork and effort involved, both within our agency and in partnership with local election officials.

Finally, as you may be aware, we have had a number of changes in the Elections Division staff over the past year. I would like to introduce you to three new Elections Specialists who are beginning with us this week, and also note other recent staff changes, so that you have a better sense of the structure of our team as we head into the next election cycle.

We are back to a full team of Elections Administration Specialists with the addition of Marianne Griffin, Matthew Kitzman, and Jennifer Webb. They will be filling the positions left vacant due to the retirement of Steve Pickett last year, and the departure of Sherri Ann Charleston and Jason Fischer earlier this year.

Marianne Griffin earned her undergraduate degree at Lawrence University and her Masters of Public Affairs at the UW's LaFollette School. She has worked with several campus organizations and has been employed most recently by the Wisconsin Alumni Association. Marianne will handle general elections administration duties.

Matthew Kitzman is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He earned his law degree at Thomas M. Cooley Law School and his LLM at George Washington University Law School. Matthew is a licensed attorney in the States of Wisconsin and New York. He will act as the lead specialist handling matters related to voting equipment.

Jennifer Webb comes to the G.A.B. after working at the Department of Justice in its program to process applications for concealed carry permits. Jennifer earned her undergraduate degree at UW-Madison and her Masters of Public Administration at UW-Milwaukee. She also has experience working at the local level in the Milwaukee County Clerk's Office and for the City of West Allis. Jennifer will handle general elections administration duties and assist with voting equipment initiatives.

These individuals will join Diane Lowe and David Buerger on our Elections Administration team. I appreciate the extra duties and responsibilities which Diane and David, along with Allison Coakley and Meagan McCord-Wolfe, have handled during the extended period when we have been short-staffed in this area. Meagan continues to handle voter outreach initiatives as well as serving as our lead staff regarding matters involving military and overseas voters. Richard Rydecki will continue to manage our polling place accessibility programs.

We will also be seeking to fill two SVRS Specialist positions following the departure of two valuable staff members. Lila Walsh left the G.A.B. after the General Election to pursue an opportunity with the Madison Public Library. Finally, Kyle Kundert has transferred to a position with the G.A.B.'s Ethics and Accountability Division, although we will continue to rely on him to assist with some SVRS duties in the short term. Lila and Kyle made significant contributions to our SVRS initiatives, and exemplified the level of professionalism and customer service we strive to provide.

We hope to complete the recruitment process by early next year for those two positions, as well as the Data Manager position previously held by Brian Bell. Brian continues to assist with those duties after also transferring to the Ethics and Accountability Division earlier this year.

Jodi Kitts continues in the position of SVRS Specialist, and Juanita Borton, Michael Nelson, and Christopher Doffing make up our team of SVRS Trainers. Sarah Whitt and Ann Oberle lead our SVRS development and maintenance efforts, and Zach Robinson focuses on SVRS mapping data and issues. Elections Supervisor Ross Hein manages our SVRS and IT projects, and our Help Desk and Customer Support team consists of Steve Rossman, John Hoeth, Tiffany Schwoerer, Michael Kukula, and Tony Bridges.

I hope this provides an updated picture of our staff and their roles, and who you may be working with in our office. Attached is a current staff directory reflecting recent staff changes. If you have any further questions regarding the above information, please contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at (608) 261-2028, or gabhelpdesk@wi.gov.