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DATE: October 11, 2016

TO: Wisconsin County Clerks
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City of Milwaukee Elections Commission
Milwaukee County Elections Commission

FROM: Mike Haas, Administrator
Reid Magney PIO/Webmaster

SUBJECT: New Elections Commission Website

You are invited to visit the Wisconsin Elections Commission's new agency website <http://elections.wi.gov>. While it is technically new, our hope is that clerks and other regular visitors will find it very familiar.

Since the switch-over from the Government Accountability Board to the separate Elections and Ethics commissions on June 30, 2016, we continued to maintain the old G.A.B. website for elections and ethics, while at the same time establishing new websites at <http://elections.wi.gov> and <http://ethics.wi.gov>. This admittedly caused a bit of confusion, so we have made a change.

Over the weekend, a new Elections Commission website went up at <http://elections.wi.gov>, which is essentially the old GAB website, minus much of the Ethics Commission program information. Most of the internal URLs are the same.

What this means is that if you are used to visiting www.gab.wi.gov/clerks/recent-communications to read memos to clerks, you will find that page at a similar address: elections.wi.gov/clerks/recent-communications. Forms you used to find at www.gab.wi.gov/forms will be at elections.wi.gov/forms, etc.

We will be keeping the old GAB website through the week to smooth the transition, but over the weekend of October 15-16, the www.gab.wi.gov URL will go away, and will automatically redirect visitors to corresponding pages in the Elections Commission website.

So, if your website has a link to the voter registration form www.gab.wi.gov/forms/el-131-fillable, a user who clicks that link will automatically be forwarded to elections.wi.gov/forms/el-131-fillable. If you do follow a link to a page that has changed, you'll get message helping you get to the right place.

There are a few new pages you may want to explore. Instead of a list of the GAB judges, we have information about the new members of the Elections Commission. One other change we made was to create a menu heading for Candidates with information about how to get on the ballot. That information used to be buried under the menu for Elections. Materials for Commission meetings are located here: <http://elections.wi.gov/about/meetings>. Information about meetings of the previous G.A.B. can still be located here: <http://elections.wi.gov/gab>.

What about the Ethics Commission? Their staff has an agency information website at <http://ethics.wi.gov>. If you need campaign finance, ethics or lobbying information, there's a box on the front page of the Elections Commission website with links to them and their useful program websites.

We understand that this is not an opportune time to be changing a website a month before a major election. Our hope is that we have maintained enough continuity between the two websites that you should not notice much of a difference, and that the streamlined website will assist in locating election information more efficiently.

At this point, you do not need to revise your website or other publications to send users to elections.wi.gov because the system will automatically redirect them.

If you have questions, please contact the Elections Help Desk at elections@wi.gov or 608-261-2028.