

# State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

212 East Washington Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Post Office Box 7984  
Madison, WI 53707-7984  
Voice (608) 266-8005  
Fax (608) 267-0500  
E-mail: [gab@wisconsin.gov](mailto:gab@wisconsin.gov)  
<http://gab.wi.gov>



JUDGE GERALD C. NICHOL  
Chairperson

KEVIN J. KENNEDY  
Director and General Counsel

---

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 7, 2015

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

**FROM:** Michael Haas  
Elections Division Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Update Regarding G.A.B. Audit and Legislative Agenda

I would like to provide an update regarding the audit of the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) which was completed by the Legislative Audit Bureau, as well as the legislative agenda recently approved by the Board.

As you may recall the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) completed an audit of the Board's programs and functions in December 2014. The audit made several recommendations to improve agency operations related to a relatively small number of G.A.B. tasks and responsibilities. G.A.B. staff has promptly implemented almost all of the recommendations and is in the process of completing a couple of longer-term recommended steps. Several of the LAB's recommendations would require legislative action to implement.

Because the release of the audit generated interest among local election officials as well as legislators, we wanted to share an update as to our progress in implementing the audit recommendations, which we also presented to our Board at its meeting last week. Attached is a memorandum and table summarizing the current status of the audit recommendations. The G.A.B.'s full report to the Legislature's Joint Audit Committee may be found at <http://www.gab.wi.gov/publications/other/report-JLAC-LAB-audit>.

At its meeting, the Board also considered a series of staff recommendations for changes to Wisconsin's election statutes, which are also attached. Board staff proposed pursuing two major policy initiatives – implementing online voter registration and joining the multi-state Election Registration Information Center (ERIC), which would permit comparisons of Wisconsin's voter registration list with data from other states and sources to improve the accuracy and currency of the Statewide Voter Registration System. The Board reiterated its previous support for the implementation of online voter registration and encouraged the Legislature to consider the benefits of joining ERIC.

The Board also passed motions to endorse the numerous other legislative changes outlined in the staff's report. Some of the proposals involve minor policy changes and many others relate to technical changes. The staff recommendations attempt to focus on items which have been identified by the G.A.B. and local election officials in recent years, and which would improve the consistency of the Statutes and the administration of voter registration and elections.

We hope that you will have an opportunity to review the Board's proposed legislative agenda. We encourage you to provide any feedback regarding these suggestions or other proposed statutory changes to both our staff as well as to the Legislature. We will be working with the Legislature to attempt to enact legislation consistent with the Board's adopted agenda.

If you have any questions regarding these items, please feel free to contact me directly at [michael.haas@wi.gov](mailto:michael.haas@wi.gov) or 608-266-0136. Thank you.