

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Michael Haas, Elections Division Administrator
Diane Lowe, Lead Elections Specialist

DATE: June 9, 2016

SUBJECT: Revision of Voter Registration Application and Definition of “Current and Valid Driver License”

The Government Accountability Board is publishing a revised version of the Voter Registration Application. The revised document is attached and is also posted under “Forms” on the G.A.B.’s website at <http://www.gab.wi.gov/forms>. Current stock of the previous version of the Application may still be used, but local election officials should note that the revised form now requires the applicant’s driver license number even if their driving privileges have been revoked or suspended. This memorandum outlines the reason for that change as well as other minor changes to the Application.

Wis. Stat. § 6.33(1) requires that the voter registration application shall be designed to obtain the number of a “current and valid” driver license or identification card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles, if the individual has been issued one. This information is necessary to complete the HAVA Check in which the individual’s license or State ID number as well as name and date of birth are compared to data contained in the DMV database.

Since the implementation of the Help America Vote Act in Wisconsin, a “current and valid” driver license has been interpreted as one that is not cancelled or expired, as well as one that is not revoked or suspended. During the course of the G.A.B.’s ongoing work with DMV to develop the online voter registration system which will be implemented early next year, the definition of a “current and valid” driver license has been revisited. That term is also used in the Statutes to determine eligibility to use the online registration system and therefore a consistent definition is preferable.

DMV staff has advised the G.A.B. that, when driving privileges are revoked or suspended, the individual’s driver license is still considered valid as a form of identification. The driver license essentially becomes a State ID card, and the individual will be permitted to use the online voter registration system. In order to use a consistent definition of a current and valid license, the Voter Registration Application is being revised. The new version indicates that the applicant

with a driver license must provide the license number unless the license is expired or cancelled. The license number must be provided if the license is revoked or suspended. In that way, the status of the individual's driving privileges will not affect either the requirement to provide the license number or the individual's ability to use the online voter registration system when it is implemented.

This change is reflected in several locations on the Voter Registration Application, including in Box 2 of the form, the first bullet point in the Proof of Residence instructions on the second page, and in Box 2 of the Instructions. Other changes to the form include the following:

1. A map of the State of Wisconsin has replaced the G.A.B. logo at the top of the form, and the application has been renumbered as EL-131 instead of GAB-131. With the transition to the Elections Commission effective June 30, 2016, all forms will eventually be renamed with the "EL" prefix instead of "GAB."
2. An exclamation signpost has been added to the Proof of Residence reminder at the top of the form, in an attempt to place greater emphasis on that requirement and reduce the number of Applications which are submitted without a Proof of Residence document.
3. The Proof of Residence data boxes next to the elector's signature have been slightly modified.
4. In the Proof of Residence Instructions on the second page, a bullet point has been added to indicate that a contract or intake document from a residential care facility may be used to satisfy the Proof of Residence requirement. This is a new option that was enacted in the last legislative session.

As stated above, current inventories of the Voter Registration Application may continue to be used. The instructions for that form request the driver license number in the event the license was revoked or suspended, but also required the last four digits of the individual's Social Security number. If using the previous version, the data for the Social Security number is no longer required under that scenario. The applicant must still provide the last four digits of their Social Security number if they do not have a driver license or State ID card.

A fillable version of the form will be posted shortly as well as versions in the Spanish and Hmong languages.

If you have questions with respect to this memorandum, please contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or gabhhelpdesk@wi.gov.