

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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



JUDGE GERALD C. NICHOL
Chairperson

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 19, 2015

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

FROM: Michael Haas
Elections Division Administrator

SUBJECT: G.A.B. Staff Update

I am very pleased to announce that we have added three new SVRS Specialists to our staff at the Government Accountability Board. These positions had been vacant since the departure of Lila Walsh and the transfers of Brian Bell and Kyle Kundert to the Ethics Division. With these hires we are back to a full team of SVRS Specialists and a full team of Election Administration Specialists, which has not been the case for a long time. Following is a brief introduction to the new members of our staff:

Mai Choua Thao graduated from UW-Madison with a B.A. in political science in 2011 and earned a master's degree at the LaFollette School of Public Affairs at UW-Madison in 2014. Since August 2014, she has worked at the Department of Public Instruction, managing a statewide help desk for over 400 school districts for the state's new teacher evaluation system. She provided customer support and technical assistance to educators and administrators regarding teacher licensing and evaluation. While at the LaFollette School, Mai Choua worked on the team which completed a cost-benefit analysis regarding the Four Year Maintenance process for the G.A.B.

Peter James earned a dual B.A. in history and political science at UW-Madison in 2011. While at the UW, Peter worked for IT Desktop Support at the UW's School of Nursing, where he supported and maintained a variety of programs and operating systems, created and maintained computer images as well as project documentation, and co-led the implementation of software which improved service request response times for department users. Since June 2011, Peter has been the co-owner of two small businesses in Michigan, overseeing operations, finances, and employee recruitment and training.

Robert Mate earned a B.A. in political science and English in 2005, and a master's in international affairs in 2009, both from Marquette University. While at Marquette he was a research assistant, conducting research on voting behavior, election outcomes, and the impact of election laws and policies at the federal and state levels. Robert worked as a project manager at Epic Systems for two years, managing the implementation of new policies,

software and workflows at several large healthcare organizations. Since June 2013 he has worked as a business systems analyst at University of Chicago Medicine, providing technical assistance and on-call support to end users for complex software applications.

Mai Choua and Peter started with us last week and we promptly sent them to our three-day SVRS training event in Oshkosh. Robert will begin his employment next Monday, March 23. As you know, it takes some time to become familiar with all of the intricacies of SVRS, but I am confident that all three of our new colleagues will continue the excellent level of support and assistance which local election officials have come to expect from our staff.