

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

212 East Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Post Office Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984
Voice (608) 261-2028
Fax (608) 267-0500
E-mail: gab@wisconsin.gov
<http://gab.wi.gov>



JUDGE VICTOR MANIAN
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Michael Haas
Elections Division Administrator

DATE: March 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Votes for Uninstructed Delegates at Presidential Preference Primary

The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) has been asked to provide an explanation regarding votes for uninstructed delegates at the Presidential Preference Primary that election inspectors and staff conducting in-person absentee voting may relay to voters who ask about the effect of choosing the uninstructed delegate selection. While the exact consequences and procedures related to uninstructed delegates vary because they are determined by the respective political parties, it is possible to provide a basic explanation of the term uninstructed delegate. For the purpose of consistency, the G.A.B. advises that, if asked, an election inspector or staff conducting in-person absentee voting may provide the following explanation:

The purpose of the Presidential Preference Primary is to provide direction to the delegates representing Wisconsin for each of the two major political parties at the national convention of the respective parties. Uninstructed Delegation is a voter's way of directing the delegates to make their own decisions at the party's national convention instead of voting for a particular candidate, subject to any rules of the party's convention.

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.