

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Michael Haas
Elections Division Administrator

Diane Lowe
Lead Elections Specialist

DATE: March 31, 2015

SUBJECT: Counting Votes in Contests that Include Write-in Votes
Making Adjustments to the Results Tape
Remaking Ballots

On February 3, 2015 a Clerk Communication, *Counting Write-in Votes in "Vote for More than One" Situations*, was posted to the G.A.B. website. <http://gab.wi.gov/node/3548>. If you have not read the document, we encourage you to do so and to share the information with your election inspectors.

To address questions that continue to arise despite the February 3 communication, G.A.B. staff has attempted to better articulate the process of determining the eligibility of write-in votes and determining when votes for ballot candidates may be counted along with votes for write-in candidates. The instructional document, *Write-in Votes-Results Tape Adjustment-Remaking Ballots*, that accompanies this communication, approaches this process a little differently than the February 3 communication by explaining the process in three steps.

As suggested by the title, the attached guidance also incorporates two other subjects that have historically prompted many questions – when it is necessary to adjust the results tape and how and when to remake a ballot. Both topics are explained and examples are provided. The guidance combines principles governing the processing of overvotes, write-in votes, remaking ballots and tabulating votes. As with many election tasks, these topics are interrelated and must be considered together.

We hope this information and the numerous examples will help you and your election inspectors better understand and perform these important processes. If you have any questions, please contact the G.A.B. HelpDesk at (608) 261-2028, or GABHelpdesk@wi.gov.