

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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DATE: February 16, 2012

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

FROM: Nathaniel E. Robinson
Election Division Administrator
Government Accountability Board

SUBJECT: Redistricting Update #9: Election Day Redistricting Questions

As clerks complete the final preparations for next week's February Primary, it is important to plan ahead for the manner in which clerks and election workers will handle potential or perceived confusion at the polling place regarding the new districts.

As was discussed in Redistricting Update #8, municipal and county clerks and the G.A.B. need to be prepared for potential or perceived confusion at the polling place on Election Day regarding the districts in which voters now live and by which polling place they are served. Many voters may appear at the wrong polling place. Other voters may come to the correct polling place, but may not appear on the poll book because their voter record in SVRS does not yet reflect the correct districts. We understand that no matter how hard municipal and county clerks and the G.A.B. work, there will still be possible questions that arise at the polls.

With that in mind, we strongly recommend that clerks take action to provide their polling places and election inspectors with information they need to assist voters who are unsure of where to vote. The G.A.B. suggests that clerks provide their election workers with the following tools:

1. Have a **Voter Listing Report** printed out for your whole municipality, available at every polling place in your municipality. Having a list of all voters in the municipality with their correct district combo will help election workers refer voters to the correct polling place. The Voter Listing report can be sorted by street name to make it easier for election workers to determine which addresses are included in which district combo. It can also be filtered for unique addresses, which can make the report smaller for large municipalities. Please contact the G.A.B. Help Desk if you would like assistance in running a municipality-wide voter listing report for your polling places or if you need help with sorting and filtering. It is recommended that you wait to print your voter listing report until you have finished all redistricting work you plan to do prior to the Primary to ensure that you provide the most accurate and up-to-date information for your polling places.
2. Each polling place should have printed **Maps** displaying the new wards (and school districts, if available). Voters may be able to find themselves on the map and be able to determine in which ward they reside. If you have Internet access available at your polling place, many counties may also provide free on-line interactive maps from their planning office that may also be useful to help determine which municipality or school district a given address is placed.

3. If the polling place has access to the Internet, you can have a computer set up to look up voters in G.A.B's **Voter Public Access Website**, <https://vpa.wi.gov/>. VPA is updated nightly with data from SVRS, and may be more current than a printed voter listing report. It may also be more convenient for a large municipality, if there are concerns about the size of a municipality-wide voter listing report. VPA is also useful for voters who are not currently registered in your municipality, as you can also search by address to see in which ward a specific address is placed.
4. If poll workers are unable to determine if a voter is at the correct polling place, or if the voter disagrees with the poll worker, we recommend that **Municipal Clerks provide a Hotline number** for election workers to call which is specifically for district related questions. The municipal clerk's office may be able to more accurately determine a voter's correct districts based on the resources available at the clerk's office. The clerk's office may also be able to reassure voters who legitimately need to be redirected to a different polling place.
5. It is also recommended that **County Clerks provide a Hotline number** for municipal clerks to call with questions, particularly for Relier clerks who do not have access to SVRS.
6. Municipal and County Clerks can contact the **G.A.B. Help Desk** with questions related to districts. G.A.B. will have redistricting staff available to help municipal and county clerks determine the correct district assignments for voters.

I would like to take a moment to again thank our hard working municipal and county clerk partners. The citizens of Wisconsin are well served by your conscientious and diligent efforts. If you have questions regarding the G.A.B. Redistricting Initiative, please continue to report issues on our Incident website, <http://wisapps.wi.gov/sites/GAB/Incident/default.aspx> or contact the Help Desk at gabhelpdesk@wi.gov or 608-261-2028. Thank you.

cc: Kevin J. Kennedy
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