

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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DATE: February 29, 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: Status of Absentee Ballots Sent to Military and Overseas Voters
Follow-up on a U. S. Department of Justice Request
Response Requested by Thursday, March 8, 2012

The U. S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) is closely monitoring every state's compliance with the Federal MOVE Act's 45-day transit provision for distributing Absentee Ballots Sent to Military and Overseas Voters during the presidential primary season. The head of the USDOJ Litigation Department, Assistant U. S. Attorney General Abel Gomez, asked us to provide a report on the status of absentee ballots sent to Military and Overseas Voters for the Wisconsin April 3, 2012 Spring General Election and Presidential Preference Vote.

Assistant U. S. Attorney General Gomez requested a quick response and as such, we are asking for your reply by the close of business on Thursday, March 8, 2012. Ensuring and enabling our Military and Overseas Voters to participate in the electoral process is our shared commitment.

You may recall that our Legislature passed and Governor Walker signed into law, Wisconsin Act 45 this past fall. This state legislation mirrors the Federal MOVE Act 45-day transit provision for distributing Absentee Ballots Sent to Military and Overseas Voters. In fact, Wisconsin Act 45 requires a 47-day transit rule.

So that we may respond to the USDOJ and our Legislature, we request that you answer the following questions by the close of business on Thursday, March 8, 2012. Note that the 45-day time period commenced on Saturday, February 18, 2012.

1. On Saturday, February 18, 2012, how many requests for absentee ballots had you received (had on hand) from Military Voters? Overseas Voters? (Please do not combine your response; keep them separate).
2. On which date did you distribute absentee ballots to Military Voters? Overseas Voters? (Please do not combine your response; keep them separate).
3. How many absentee ballots did you distribute on the date that you indicated above, to Military Voters? Overseas Voters? (Please do not combine your response; keep them separate).

4. On Saturday, February 18, 2012, if you had requests on-hand for absentee ballots that you received from Military Voters and from Overseas Voters but did not distribute them, please tell us why?
5. On Saturday, February 18, 2012, if you had requests on-hand for absentee ballots that you received from Military Voters and from Overseas Voters but did not distribute them on that date, what date did you distribute them?
6. What are the challenges that pose a hardship that prevent you from complying with the Federal 45-day or the State's 47-day requirement for absentee ballots to be distributed to Military and Overseas Voters whenever there is an election where a Federal Office is on the ballot. (A federal election is defined as the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

How to Respond:

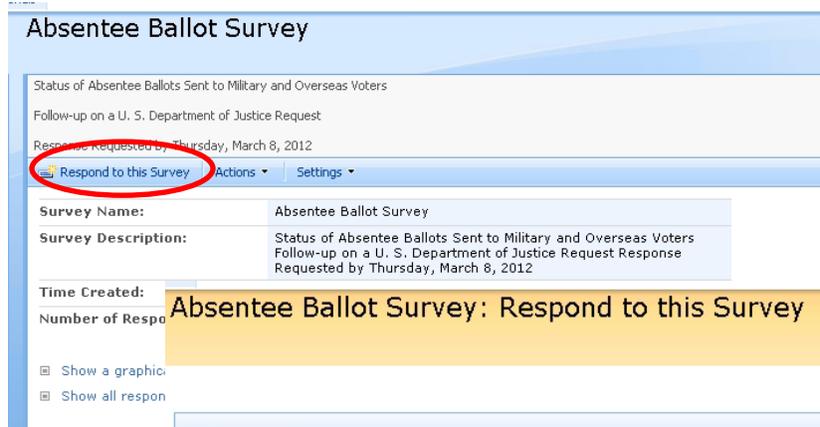
Please respond by on **Thursday, March 8, 2012**, whether or not you had requests for absentee ballots from Military and Overseas Voters for the April 3, 2012 Spring General Election and Presidential Preference Vote.

If you **did not** have requests for absentee ballots from Military and Overseas Voters for the April 3, 2012 Spring General Election and Presidential Preference Vote, just write “zero” (0), or “None” in the spaces provided in the portal below.

In order to facilitate the collection of absentee survey responses, for your convenience, we have created a web portal to allow you to enter the data. Please follow the below simple steps:

1. Enter the following url into any web browser - <http://wisapps.wi.gov/sites/GAB/Incident/Lists/Absentee%20Ballot%20Survey/overview.aspx>

2. Once the webpage has opened, click on the “Respond to this Survey” link in the middle of the screen.



3. Once the form has opened, select your county, municipality, and enter your contact information.

County Name *

Municipality *

First Name *

Last Name *

Phone Number

E-Mail Address

4. Please respond to each of the survey questions.

On Saturday, February 18, 2012, how many requests for absentee ballots had you received (had on hand) from Military Voters? *

On Saturday, February 18, 2012, how many requests for absentee ballots had you received (had on hand) from Overseas Voters? *

On which date did you distribute absentee ballots to Military Voters?

On which date did you distribute absentee ballots to Overseas Voters?

How many absentee ballots did you distribute on the date that you indicated above, to Military Voters? *

How many absentee ballots did you distribute on the date that you indicated above, to Overseas Voters? *

On Saturday, February 18, 2012, if you had requests on-hand for absentee ballots that you received from Military Voters and from Overseas Voters but did not distribute them, please tell us why?

On Saturday, February 18, 2012, if you had requests on-hand for absentee ballots that you received from Military Voters and from Overseas Voters but did not distribute them on that date, what date did you distribute them?

What are the challenges that pose a hardship that prevent you from complying with the Federal 45-day or the State's 47-day requirement for absentee ballots to be distributed to Military and Overseas Voters whenever there is an election where a Federal Office is on the ballot. (A federal election is defined as the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

5. Once you have entered the information press the "Finish" button at the top or bottom of the screen.



Thank you!