

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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**DATE:** November 12, 2010

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

**FROM:** Nathaniel E. Robinson  
Elections Division Administrator  
Government Accountability Board

**SUBJECT:** Change in date to send Write-in Absentee Ballots to Military Electors for Spring Primary

In response to inquiries from clerks regarding sending write-in ballots for the 2011 Spring Primary, the Government Accountability Board has determined that municipal clerks should wait to send military write-in ballots until January 5, 2011, when it is known which offices are up for election in the Spring Primary. Please refer to §7.15(1)(cs) Wis Stats.

The filing deadline for candidates who wish to appear on the Spring General Election Ballot is January 4, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. After this deadline passes, we will know how many candidates will appear on the Spring General Election Ballot and will be able to determine if a Spring Primary will be necessary on February 15, 2011. A statewide primary is likely, however this cannot be determined until after the filing deadline. If a statewide primary is not necessary municipal and county clerks must inform the G.A.B. if they are having a primary for county, municipal or school district offices.

If a Spring Primary is necessary, then, on January 5, 2011, all municipal clerks who will have a Spring Primary must prepare a write-in ballot with the contests up for election at the Spring Primary, and send it to all military electors. We recognize this is a change from past practice, in which municipal clerks sent write-in ballots to all military electors 90 days ahead of the Primary, before it was known if a primary would occur.

Reliers who have a Spring Primary must provide information to their providers regarding the military electors who were sent a ballot, the date the ballot was sent, and the date the ballot was returned so these ballots can be tracked in SVRS.

Providers whose reliers have a Spring Primary must inherit the election in SVRS on behalf of their reliers and track the military ballots using Absentee Lite. Checklist I will be sent out for the Spring Primary near the filing deadline for your reference. *The Spring Primary should only be inherited in SVRS for relier municipalities who are having a Spring Primary.*

Self Providers who have a Spring Primary must inherit the election in SVRS and track the military ballots that are sent. Checklist I will be sent out for the Spring Primary near the filing deadline for your reference. *Only municipalities that are having a Spring Primary should inherit the election in SVRS.*

Due to the timing, municipal clerks may be mailing state write-in ballots for the Spring Primary in close proximity to mailing the write-in ballots for the April Spring Election. State write-in ballots for the April Spring Election must be mailed 90 days before the election, by January 5, 2011. Thank you for your continued cooperation. We look forward to a successful 2011 Spring Primary and Election.