

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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DATE: September 19, 2012

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

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

SUBJECT: Importance of Inheriting Elections in a Timely Manner

I am writing remind our clerk partners about the importance of inheriting elections in a timely manner. For at least the following reasons, we encourage clerks to inherit elections as soon as possible after receiving notice that Milestone Three has been checked:

- Inheriting the election makes information about that election available to your respective electors and the public through the Voter Public Access. **Special Note:** Effective Monday, September 17, 2012, the VPA site has been merged with a new and more comprehensive and robust MyVote.WI.gov site.
- Voters cannot see their specific polling place information for an election on MyVote.WI.gov until the election is inherited. If the polling places for a given election are different from previous elections, voters need to know this information as soon as possible so they can plan accordingly.
- Inheriting the election and adopting a polling place plan can be done as soon as the G.A.B. and the County have inherited the election, well before candidates and contests are set-up. If clerks wait to perform this task, voters may look themselves up on the MyVote.WI.gov site or get a postcard from a candidate that lists the wrong polling place.
- Voters can also look up a sample ballot on the MyVote.WI.gov site. Once candidates and contests are finalized in SVRS, voters can see this information, but only if the election has been inherited and milestone #4 is checked, after a clerk has entered local contests and candidates. This information is important to educating voters so they are prepared regarding the candidates who will be on the ballot.
- Once the election is set up in SVRS, the reporting units for that election can be reviewed to make sure that they match how the ballots and equipment were programmed. The earlier this is done, the earlier any potential issues can be identified and subsequently resolved, which results in a smoother election night and an election result canvass process.

If you have questions, please contact the G.A.B. Help desk at (608) 261-2028, toll-free at (866) VOTEWIS (866-868-3947), or by email at GABHelpDesk@wi.gov. Thank you.

cc: Kevin J. Kennedy
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Ross D. Hein
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