

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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Important Reminders for a Successful May 8, 2012 Recall Primary

1. **Crossing Party Lines.** Because each recall primary is a separate election event, voters may cross parties in the recall primary, but they may still only vote once per office (some exceptions for write-in votes please see attached communication). For example, in the Governor's primary, you may only vote for one person, either a Republican or a Democratic candidate. Voting equipment is required to notify voters if they vote for both a Republican and Democratic Governor candidate. If the voter chooses to vote for both a Republican and Democratic Governor candidate and does not correct the error, or if the voter voted absentee, no vote for the office of Governor will count. All other offices on the ballot will still count, assuming there are no other disqualifying events regarding those votes. There are only Democratic primaries for Lt. Governor and State Senator.
2. **Write-Ins (Please see the attached communication entitled "Counting Votes at the May 8, 2012 Recall Primary").**
3. **Registered Write-in Candidate.** There is a registered Republican write-in candidate for the office of Governor. His name is Patrick J. O'Brien. Election inspectors are required to tally ALL write-in votes, and should be notified of this registered write-in candidate. County clerks will enter the votes for this candidate in a separate column in the CRS. Election inspectors may only inform voters of the registered write-in candidate if asked. Election inspectors shall not provide written notice of the registered write-in candidate at the polling place.
4. **Do Not Post at the Polling Place the GAB-112: Effect of Crossover Voting for the May 8th Recall Primary.** Because each recall primary is a separate election event, voters may cross parties in the recall primary.
5. **Photo ID Not Required for May 8, 2012 Special Primary Election.** The law is currently enjoined (on hold) as two lower court decisions stopping voter photo ID are being appealed. Given the normal amount of time appeals take, it is highly unlikely both injunctions would be overturned before the primary or the recall election on June 5. Although voters are not required to provide photo identification, voters must state their name and address and sign one copy of the Poll List, unless unable to do so due to a physical disability.
6. **Act 227- Changes to the Absentee Voting Process.** As a general rule, voters will not be able to vote on Election Day in the polling place if they already returned an absentee ballot to the clerk or placed an absentee ballot in the mail. This law makes significant changes to the election administration processes

on Election Day for election inspectors. Please note there are a few exceptions to this law. For additional information on this new law, please see the following link: <http://gab.wi.gov/node/2335>

7. **Senate Districts- Split Municipalities.** The G.A.B. has identified 17 municipalities that are partially inside and partially outside of one or more Recall Senate Districts. In these municipalities, some voters will be able to vote in the State Senate recall elections, while others will only be eligible for the Governor and Lieutenant Governor elections. If voters are unsure whether they should be voting in or out of the Recall Senate Districts, please refer to the address span reports and voter listing reports provided to these municipal clerks.
8. **Late-Arriving Absentee and Provisional Ballots.** 2011 Act 75 provides that absentee ballots may be counted if postmarked no later than Election Day and received no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Friday following the election. Additionally, 2011 Act 23 provides that voters who cast provisional ballots may provide whatever documentation is required no later than 4:00 p.m. on the Friday after the election in order for their provisional ballot to be counted.

2011 Act 115 assigns the responsibility of processing and counting late-arriving absentee ballots and eligible provisional ballots to the Municipal Clerks, or Executive Directors, and the Municipal Board of Canvassers. For additional information on these processes, please see the following link: <http://gab.wi.gov/publications/manuals/late-arriving-absentee-provisional-ballots>

9. **Public Test of Voting Equipment and Retention Time Period for Memory Devices.** Make sure all your voting systems, including the accessible voting equipment, are programmed, tested and in working order **before** Election Day. Municipal clerks are required to test electronic voting equipment no earlier than ten days before an election. Municipal Clerks are required to provide a public notice 48 hours before the test. Memory devices must be retained and may not be cleared until at least 14 days after the primary election. For additional information on the retention requirements, please see the following communication: <http://gab.wi.gov/node/1126>
10. **Pre-registered voters are not required to provide proof of residence.** Voters appearing on the poll list should not be asked to provide proof of residence. Exception: the notation “POR required” appears next to the Voter’s name, indicating a first time Wisconsin voter who registered by mail and has not yet provided proof of residence.
11. **Electioneering and Observers at the polling place.** Voters should not wear campaign paraphernalia such as campaign/candidate buttons, shirts, hats, etc. inside the polling place. Those who wear campaign paraphernalia may be asked to cover it up or leave. For information on the conduct of election observers, please see the following link: <http://gab.wi.gov/clerks/education-training/election-observers>. For information on collecting petitions at the polling place on Election Day, please see the following communication: <http://gab.wi.gov/node/1689>
12. **Posting the Number of Provisional Ballots and Outstanding Absentee Ballots on the Internet.** Municipal clerks are required to provide public notice at least 24 hours before the election indicating where this information will be posted. Additionally, clerks must enter information into the Provisional Tracking System for any voter that was issued a provisional ballot on Election Day. If no provisional ballots were issued, clerks must also indicate that they had no provisional ballots in the Provisional

Tracking System. For information on utilizing the Provisional Tracking System, please see the following communication: <http://gab.wi.gov/node/2311>

13. **G.A.B. Extended Hours for May 8, 2012.** For information on the extended hours schedule, please see the following link: <http://gab.wi.gov/node/2336>
14. **Tracking Military electors in SVRS.** Municipal clerks are required to track absentee ballots that were issued to Military electors for all elections. Reliers must provide military voter information to Providers for entry into SVRS. Note: Permanent Overseas should not receive a ballot for the special recall elections as they are only eligible to vote for federal offices. Please see the following communication for information on tracking military electors: http://gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/publication/69/absentee_lite_2010_new_20703.pdf
15. **Post-Election Activities - Recording GAB-190 Participation.** Post-election tasks are statutorily required to be completed within 30 days of the election. This includes completing your GAB-190, recording voter participation in SVRS and recording any Election Day registrations in SVRS. For information on these tasks, please refer to the Post-Election Activities section of your SVRS Application Training Manual, available: http://gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/publication/69/013_post_election_activities_may_2011_pdf_21247.pdf

Please contact the G.A.B. HelpDesk at gabhhelpdesk@wi.gov or (608) 261-2028 if you have any questions. Thank you.