

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All County and Municipal Clerks
WI Ballot Printers

FROM: Diane Lowe, Lead Elections Specialist
Government Accountability Board

DATE: May 27, 2014

SUBJECT: Important Information Regarding Partisan Primary Ballots in Hand-Count Ballot Municipalities

A consolidated paper ballot *may not* be used for the Partisan Primary.

Municipalities that do not use optical scan (OS) equipment **may not** use a consolidated ballot for the partisan primary. Municipalities that hand count ballots must use traditional paper ballots (a separate ballot for each party stapled together at the bottom). (See [GAB-201](#))

Evidence has shown that municipalities that have used consolidated ballots at partisan primaries experienced a significant “drop off” between the number of voters and the number of votes counted, due to crossover voting. In a hand-count situation, the voter places the ballot in a ballot box for counting. The voter is not able to be notified of a crossover vote as they would be if the ballot were placed in OS equipment. Although some voters will attempt to vote in more than one party when using traditional paper ballots, the trend is much less significant.

Sample Primary Ballots have been prepared and are available on the G.A.B. website (<http://gab.wi.gov>) under “Forms.” Ballot formats should be modified so that any office not up for this election is eliminated from the body of the ballot. **No independent candidates appear on the partisan primary ballot. Independent candidates will appear on the general election ballot in November.**

Paper ballot users will need the GAB-201 and GAB-201F (for overseas voters), reverse side of paper ballot (GAB-229) and instructional cover sheet (GAB-201i).

If you have questions, please contact the Help Desk at 608-261-2008 or gabhelpdesk@wi.gov.