

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
Chairperson

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Wednesday, May 20, 2011

TO: Wisconsin County Clerks
Wisconsin Municipal Clerks
In State Senate Districts 2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18, 22, 30, & 32

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

SUBJECT: State Write-In Absentee Ballot Information for Recall Elections

If certified by the Government Accountability Board, Recall Elections for certain State Senate districts will be scheduled for July 12, 2011 and many clerks have been inquiring about the transmission of the state write-in absentee ballot (SWAB). Pursuant to §7.14(1)(cs), Wis. Stats., the SWAB must be transmitted “no later than the 90th day before the election, or as soon as possible after the offices to be contested at the election are known, whichever is later.”

The SWAB cannot yet be sent for the potential July 12, 2011 Recall Election(s) because no election can be officially scheduled until after the Board meets and certifies the recall petitions. In addition, contests for the July 12, 2011 Recall Election(s) will not be known until after nomination papers are submitted and candidates certified, on June 14, 2011. The number of candidates will determine if the Recall Election on July 12, 2011 is a primary or a general election, and thus whether there is one general contest or one contest for each party. The determination of contests for the July 12, 2011 Recall Election will be too close to the election for clerks to send a SWAB.

However, if the July 12, 2011 Recall Election is a primary, then clerks must send a SWAB for the Recall General Election to be held August 9, 2011. Once candidates are certified by the G.A.B., it will be determined if July 12, 2011 is the Recall Primary or Recall General Election. The G.A.B. will keep clerks apprised of recall candidate and election information. There is enough time before the August 9, 2011 Recall General Election for clerks to send a SWAB to military electors.

If you do not send a SWAB and are only sending an official ballot, we encourage you to consider faxing or emailing the official absentee ballot to military electors, or arranging for expedited shipping, to ensure that military electors have enough time to receive and return their ballots.

Do Not Need to Send State Write-In Absentee Ballot

- July 12, 2011 Recall General Election
- July 12, 2011 Recall Primary Election

Must Send Write-In Absentee Ballot

- August 9, 2011 Recall General Election (the SWAB must be sent as soon as you know that a Primary Recall Election will be held in your district)

REMINDER: All military electors State Write-In Ballots (and official ballots) must be tracked in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS). Those who do not use SVRS (Reliers) must inform their Provider of the military elector's name and the date the ballot was sent.

Please contact the GAB Help Desk at 608-261-2028 if you have any questions.