

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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DATE: June 25, 2014

TO: Wisconsin Municipal Clerks
City of Milwaukee Election Commission

FROM: Michael Haas
Elections Division Administrator
Government Accountability Board

Meagan McCord Wolfe
Election Specialist- Voter Services

SUBJECT: Reminder of Absentee Ballot Deadlines for the August 12, 2014 Partisan Primary

This is a courtesy reminder from the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board about important absentee ballot deadlines for the August 12, 2014 Partisan Primary.

The deadlines for mailing absentee ballots for the August 12, 2014 Primary are as follows:

June 25, 2014- County clerks must distribute absentee ballots to all municipalities within their county. [Wis. Stat. s. 7.10\(3\)\(a\)](#).

June 26, 2014- Municipal clerks must send an absentee ballot to any voter who has an absentee ballot request on file for the August 12, 2014 Partisan Primary. This applies to all absentee ballot requests (regular voters, indefinitely confined voters, military voters, and permanent overseas voters) who have requested a ballot for the August 12, 2014 Partisan Primary.

[Wis. Stat. s. 7.15\(1\)\(cm\)](#) .

Example: If you received an absentee ballot request, for the August 12 Primary, between January 1, 2014 and June 25, 2014, you must mail (or email/fax for military and permanent overseas voters only) the ballot to the voter no later than June 26, 2014.

24 hours after you receive an absentee ballot request- Any absentee ballot request you receive, for the August 12 Primary, on or after June 26, 2014 must be mailed to the voter (or email/fax for military or permanent overseas voters) within 24 hours from the time you receive the request. [Wis. Stat. s. 7.15\(1\)\(cm\)](#).

In 2012, county and municipal clerks were required to submit extensive data to the G.A.B. as a result of a federal court consent decree aimed at ensuring compliance with federal laws pertaining to military and permanent overseas voters. Municipal clerks were required to track and report the number of absentee ballot requests received and the number of ballots transmitted and returned during specific periods of time.

While very few clerks transmitted ballots after the relevant deadlines, all clerks were subject to the reporting requirements under the federal court order, and G.A.B. staff spent over 2000 hours in collecting the data and providing it to the U.S. Department of Justice. This communication is intended to remind clerks of the deadlines related to absentee ballot delivery and to prevent the need for similar court action.

Thank you for your timely attention to these and all other election related deadlines. If you have questions, please call the G.A.B. Help Desk at 608-261-2028 or email GABHelpDesk@wi.gov.