

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 2015

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

FROM: Michael Haas, Elections Division Administrator
David Buerger, Elections Specialist

SUBJECT: 2015 Recount Manual Revision

Wisconsin Statute § 9.01(10) requires the Government Accountability Board to prescribe standard forms and procedures for conducting recounts. This requirement is met through the publication of a recount manual which sets forth standard forms and procedures for conducting recounts.

In 2011, the recount of the Wisconsin Supreme Court contest prompted Board staff to develop a more detailed set of procedures for conducting the recount (Recount Plan) that was intended to supplement the Recount Manual. The Recount Plan was updated in 2014 for use in legislative recounts during the 2014 Partisan Primary.

Together the Recount Manual and Plan have been used effectively by boards of canvassers in more than 100 recounts of state and local contests. Candidates also rely on the Recount Manual for guidance in requesting a recount and the Recount Manual also helps to inform them on what to expect during the recount.

This year Board staff has integrated the Recount Manual and the Recount Plan back into a single document and also updated the manual to reflect the changes made by 2015 Wisconsin Act 36 (fees for recounts) and 2013 Wisconsin Act 176 (method of recounting votes). This revised manual was approved by the Board at its December 15, 2015 meeting and should be used for any future recounts.

If you have any questions regarding this revised manual, please contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at gabhhelpdesk@wi.gov or (608) 261-2028. Thank you.