

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
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Director and General Counsel

DATE: June 10, 2011

TO: Clerks in Senate Districts: Clerks in Senate Districts:
 #2 (Cowles), #12 (Holperin),
 #8 (Darling), #22 (Wirch) and
 #10 (Harsdorf), #30 (Hansen)
 #14 (Olsen), Clerks in Assembly District #48
 #18 (Hopper) and
 #32 (Kapanke)

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

SUBJECT: Status of Special and Recall Elections in SVRS

This memo contains SVRS user information but also information for non SVRS users. Please read the full memo.

Scheduled Recall and Special Election Dates:

- As of June 10, 2011, the Government Accountability Board has certified recall petitions for Senators Holperin, Hansen, and Wirch. These elections are scheduled for July 19, 2011.
- Recall petitions for Cowles, Darling, Harsdorf, Olsen, Hopper and Kapanke have already been certified and scheduled for July 12, 2011.
- In addition, there will be a special election on August 9, 2011 for Assembly District #48, to fill the seat formerly held by State Representative Joe Parisi, who was elected Dane County Executive in the April 5, 2011 Spring Election.

NOTE: All Recall Election dates and information are subject to change due to potential court action. Please check the G.A.B. website regularly for updates.

Elections are set up in SVRS and may now be inherited. If your municipality is using the usual polling place location and reporting unit plans, you may inherit the election now. **If there are any changes to your normal polling places or reporting units, you must contact G.A.B. staff to help you set up a special Polling Place Assignment Plan (PPAP) or Reporting Unit Plan (RUP) in SVRS.** Each Senate District has been set up in SVRS as an individual election. You must select the election that corresponds with the district(s) in your municipality. If your municipality or county has more than one senate district with a recall election, you must inherit more than one election in SVRS.

All Clerks in the Senate and Assembly Districts listed above: Please contact the G.A.B. if any of the following apply to you:

- 1) **You are changing the normal polling place location for any wards.** For example, usually you have three polling locations, but for the recall or special election, you plan to have everyone vote in the one location.
- 2) **You are changing how you report your results to the county canvassing board.** For example, normally you print wards 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6 in three separate poll books, and you report the votes casts for each of these three separate groups. For the recall or special, you plan to have one large poll list, and report the votes cast as one set of numbers. You should contact the G.A.B. if you are changing how you report your numbers, even if your polling location remains the same.
- 3) **Only part of your municipality is in the recall or special election district.** A Polling Place Assignment Plan and a Reporting Unit Plan will have to be created in SVRS that only includes wards in the district up for election.

The G.A.B. will inform you whether an additional election is necessary after the candidate filing deadline. If more than one candidate for a party files for the election, the July election will become a primary, with a general election held in August. For example, if a primary is held on July 12, the general election will be held on August 9, 2011. If a primary is held on July 19, the general election will be held on August 16, 2011. The filing deadline for the July 12 elections is 5:00 pm on June 14, 2011. The filing deadline for the July 19 elections is 5:00 pm on June 21, 2011.

Contact Military Electors. The time frame of the Recall Elections is short. Military electors, especially those overseas, may have a more difficult time receiving, marking, and returning their absentee ballots in time. We therefore, strongly encourage municipal clerks to contact their permanent military absentee electors via email or fax and inquire if they would like to have their absentee ballot emailed or faxed to them. Clerks may contact the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683) or vote@fvap.gov to request the email address of a military elector. Note that an emailed or faxed ballot must contain the initials of the municipal clerk or deputy before being scanned or faxed.

State write-in ballots do not need to be sent for the July 2011 Recall Elections but once it is known that the July Recall Elections are primaries, a state write-in ballot must be sent to all military electors for the August Recall Elections. For those in Assembly District #48, a state write-in ballot should be sent for the August 9th General Election.

All military electors' absentee ballots must be tracked in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) by the municipal clerk or his/her SVRS Provider.

Remember that the new Photo ID law requires some new procedures for the 2011 July and August elections. We will be reformatting the poll book so voters can sign as the new law requires beginning with the 2011 elections. Residency requirements have changed from 10 days before the election to 28 consecutive days which will also go into effect for the 2011 elections. Corroborating witnesses will no longer be accepted as proof of residence. A number of absentee deadlines have also changed. Please watch for further updates from the G.A.B. concerning these changes.

If you have questions or comments, please our Help Desk at (608) 261-2028, or via email at GABHelpDesk@wi.gov. Thank you.