

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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DATE: December 14, 2016

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

FROM: Mark Thomsen, Commission Chair
Ann Jacobs, Commission Vice-Chair
Beverly Gill, Commission Secretary
Julie Glancey, Commissioner
Steve King, Commissioner
Don Millis, Commissioner

SUBJECT: Thank You!

As members of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, we wish to thank all of the local election officials who made the 2016 General Election a terrific success. We especially appreciate your hard work in completing the recount of the Presidential election in such an efficient and accurate manner and a day early.

As we approached Election Day, there was increased media attention to election systems and procedures, especially related to security issues. In addition, this was the largest election in which the photo ID requirement was in place as well as the revamped WisVote and MyVote systems. With those challenges, along with the transition of the state elections agency, we know that your staffs and election inspectors had new and unique issues to address at this election. We have great confidence in election officials at the local level, and we were pleased to see that confidence was warranted.

We also realize that the recount of the Presidential vote was an unexpected task which came at a busy time for municipal and county clerks. The recount petition was received during Thanksgiving weekend and many clerks returned to their offices the following Monday to learn that a statewide recount would start three days later. We know that you needed to find sufficient workers and organize quickly for the recount. Those preparations paid off with all counties completing the county process within 10 days and entering the results by December 12. Your diligence and attention to detail allowed the Commission to certify the recount results one day earlier than we had planned and in advance of the federal safe harbor deadline.

We hope you share our pride in your accomplishments in conducting both the General Election and the Presidential recount. We very much appreciate our strong partnership with all of you and encourage you to continue to provide us with your valuable feedback. We know that the 2017 spring elections are already upon us, but we hope you are able to find a bit of relaxation in the meantime. Thank you again.