

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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KEVIN J. KENNEDY
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DATE: February 15, 2013

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

FROM: Michael Haas
Elections Division Administrator

Brian Bell
Elections Data Manager

SUBJECT: Update: Extended Deadline for Reporting Election Cost Data

Many clerks have expressed concern about the timeframe for reporting election cost data through WEDCS and on the GAB-190 form. The primary concern is that most municipalities do not have all of their bills from an election within 30 days. County clerks have also expressed that it is difficult to bill municipalities for elections costs for similar reasons. As noted on SVRS Checklist III, in response to this growing concern, the G.A.B. is extending the deadline for reporting the cost section of the GAB-190 for the 2013 Spring Primary and the 2013 Spring Election to 60 days after the 2013 Spring Election (no later than June 1, 2013). The statistics section must still be submitted within 30 days from each election, as required by State Statutes. The following list provides a summary of the updated statistics and cost reporting timeline:

- **March 21, 2013** – all statistics for each reporting unit must be entered into WEDCS for the 2013 February 19th Spring Primary.
- **May 2, 2013** – all statistics for each reporting unit must be entered into WEDCS for the 2013 April 2nd Spring Election.
- **June 1, 2013** – all election cost data for each municipality and county must be entered into WEDCS for both the 2013 Spring Primary and 2013 Spring Election.

We hope that these updated timelines are responsive to your concerns about reporting this valuable information. Beyond the 2013 Spring Election, future cost reports will be due within 60 days of the election. Additional recommendations from the Clerk Concerns Task Force meeting held on January 29, 2013 will be presented to the Board at next meeting scheduled for March 20, 2013.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all municipal and county clerks, their staffs, and all election workers for their hard work over the last year, including the completion of the GAB-190 data in WEDCS, and all of the information entered into SVRS, during the numerous elections. This information is used to complete multiple federal reporting requirements on behalf of all municipalities and counties.

The most prominent of these reports is the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS). By collecting the information in SVRS and from the 15 statistics questions on the GAB-190, the G.A.B. is able to complete 418 questions on the EAVS for each of the 3,541 reporting units in Wisconsin from the 2012 Presidential and General Election. The EAVS is the primary data source used by the Pew Center of the States in their Election Performance Index that ranked Wisconsin first in the nation.

Again, thank you for all of your hard work. If you have any additional questions regarding these updated reporting timelines, please contact Brian Bell, Elections Data Manager, at (608) 261-2011, or by email at Brian.Bell@wi.gov. Thank you.

cc: Kevin J. Kennedy
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