

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

Government Accountability Board's Presentation to the Wisconsin County Clerks Association

Inn on the Park Hotel
University Room
Madison, WI

Tuesday, March 1, 2011
1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION

1:15 p.m. – 1:25 p.m.

Katie Mueller, Moderating
MOVE Act Elections Specialist
Government Accountability Board

Overview of Elections Division's Presentation
Introduction of Elections Division Staff

Greetings / Introductory Remarks

Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Government Accountability Board

1:25 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.

Legislative Initiatives
Kevin J. Kennedy

- Photo Identification
- Same Day Registration
- Corroborating Witness

1:55 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

MOVE update
Katie Mueller

- Changing the date of the Spring Primary / Partisan Primary /
Presidential Preference
- Legislative Changes

2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

SVRS Canvass Reporting System Update.

Ann Oberle

SVRS Testing Lead

Government Accountability Board

- Uploading of election results to county website

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

SVRS Facilitated Mail-In / Online Voter Registration

Sarah Whitt

SVRS Functional Lead

Government Accountability Board

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

WEDCS matching SVRS

Katie Mueller

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Census and Redistricting Update

Herb Thompson

Director, Bureau of Business Application Services

Department of Administration

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wrap-Up

Nathaniel E. Robinson

Elections Division Administrator

Government Accountability Board

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**Presentation to Wisconsin County Clerks Association
Tuesday, March 1, 2011
Inn on the Park, Madison, Wisconsin
Kevin J. Kennedy, Director and General Counsel**

Government Accountability Board 2011-12 Legislative Priorities

1. Provide effective input to the Legislature regarding Photo ID proposals, including role of corroborators.
 - a. Status of Senate Bill 6 and Substitute Amendment
 - b. Status of Assembly Bill 7

Additional analysis, information, and recommendations can be found at

<http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id>

2. Reschedule dates of the Partisan Primary and Presidential Preference Elections to accommodate 45-day requirement of MOVE Act.
3. Implement other statutory changes to comply with MOVE Act.
4. Support online voter registration.
5. Clarify statutory authority to share voter participation data with other states to assist in detection and prosecution of voter fraud cases.
6. Advocate for additional technical changes to statutes to improve elections administration.

Other Election-Related Bills Pending in Legislature

1. Senate Bill 17 and Assembly Bill 28, related to expanding campaign finance reporting requirements of non-resident political committees.

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
Chairperson

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 25, 2011

TO: Government Accountability Board Members
Government Accountability Board Staff
Local Election Officials

FROM: Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel

SUBJECT: Senate Action Regarding Photo ID Legislation

This memorandum summarizes the status of Voter Photo Identification legislation which was acted upon by the State Senate yesterday, and the Senate's consideration of issues raised by G.A.B. staff and local election officials.

Senate Bill 6 was introduced on January 14, 2011 and a day-long public hearing was held by the Senate Committee on Transportation and Elections on January 26th. Based on input from G.A.B. staff and county and municipal clerks, I presented testimony to the Committee suggesting a number of changes to the bill. A copy the testimony is posted on our website. In response to comments from the public, clerks, and the G.A.B., Senate Substitute Amendment 1 was offered this past Tuesday, February 22nd, and recommended for passage by the Committee the same day.

Upon reviewing the Substitute Amendment, the G.A.B. provided additional input to the Senate, highlighting several technical and administrative issues. A copy of the G.A.B. memorandum can be found on our website at:

[http://gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/publication/65/memo to senate ssa 1 to sb 6 2 24 11 pdf 97002.pdf](http://gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/publication/65/memo%20to%20senate%20ssa%201%20to%20sb%206%2024%2011.pdf).

Yesterday, February 24th, the State Senate approved the Substitute Amendment, incorporating changes included in another amendment. Some, but not all, of the recommendations made by the G.A.B. have been included in the Substitute Amendment. While I believe further changes to the bill are warranted, the input of G.A.B. staff and local election officials to date have definitely improved the legislation, and we will continue to work with the Legislature throughout the process. Several of the major changes to the bill resulting from our input are described below.

As approved by the Committee, beginning with the February 2012 Spring Primary, voters will be required to present an acceptable photo ID prior to being issued a ballot. The acceptable forms of ID include a Wisconsin driver license, a Wisconsin DoT-issued identification card, a military identification card, a Wisconsin tribal identification card, a U.S. passport or a DoT-issued temporary receipt for the driver license or ID card. The ID must not have expired or if expired, it

is only acceptable if it expired since the last general election. The Committee accepted some recommendations by the G.A.B. and others to expand the types of acceptable ID, but did not include other government-issued ID or student ID as we suggested. At any election following passage and before February 2012, poll workers will be required to ask voters to show an acceptable photo ID. However, electors may vote without showing ID, and poll workers must give those voters a written handout prepared by the G.A.B. explaining the photo ID requirements that will be in effect in the future. This "soft implementation" is intended to familiarize both election officials and the voters with the photo ID requirement, without imposing a consequence for failure to present an ID.

The amended legislation requires voters at the polling place to sign a poll list after showing the required ID and before receiving a ballot. This provision may be waived for persons with disabilities. In the original draft of the Substitute Amendment, this requirement was effective for the first election after publication in 2011, and also applied to in-person absentee voters. The G.A.B. recommended that the signature requirement be delayed until 2012 and that it not apply to in-person absentee voters, and the Senate agreed. The Committee also accepted our recommendation to remove the requirement that clerks make a copy of a photo ID presented by an in-person absentee voter.

The amended legislation also changes the 10-day residency requirement for voting to 28 consecutive days, but this provision would not be effective for any election prior to the 2012 Spring Primary. The Substitute Amendment originally made this change effective immediately upon publication, but postponed the effective date after the G.A.B. explained that it would not be possible to implement it prior to the April 2011 election.

If the bill is enacted, beginning with the 2012 Spring Primary, if a voter is unable to provide acceptable ID, or if the name on the voter's ID does not conform to the name on the poll list, or if the picture on the ID does not reasonably resemble the voter, the voter may cast a provisional ballot. The voter will have until 4 p.m. on the Friday following the election to provide the required ID or clear up the issue in order to have the provisional ballot counted. The Committee accepted the G.A.B.'s recommendation to extend the deadline for correcting a provisional ballot, but the legislation does not address the impact of this extension on the canvassing process. The Committee also incorporated our recommendations to use the term "conform" in comparing the voter's name, to recognize common variations of a name, and to specify the "reasonably resemble" standard for the photo, so that poll workers are not required to inspect facial features, hair color, etc.

The provisions in the original bill remain which require mail-in absentee voters to provide an ID, or a witnessed statement in certain cases of indefinitely confined voters or voters in nursing homes or other regulated facilities. In response to a suggestion initially made by clerks, the bill was amended to require mail-in absentee voters to include a copy of the photo ID with the ballot application rather than with the returned ballot.

The Senate is not scheduled to be in next week, but given the anticipated release of the Governor's budget that could change. The legislation must still pass the Senate and the Assembly and be signed by the Governor before it is published and becomes law.

The bill is at the final stage before passage in the Senate. It cannot be amended without unanimous consent of the body. At least one more Senator needs to be present (19 Republican Senators and no Democratic Senators were present) for the bill to receive final passage because it contains a fiscal element – fees for certain DoT issued IDs. We have also been advised that no fiscal appropriation is expected to be included in the bill itself, and that any appropriation would be considered as part of the budget process.

The G.A.B. will need to provide local election officials with guidance on some of the unresolved issues identified in our staff memo. The Elections Division will be planning implementation strategies for the 2011 April election and special elections if necessary, as well as the 2012 elections.

I want to thank G.A.B. staff and local officials who have assisted in evaluating the proposed legislation and making valuable recommendations for improvement. We will continue to need your assistance in advocating for additional improvements and informing legislators about the practical implications of specific provisions, and therefore we continue to welcome your input. Comments can be provided through the public comment link on our website. If you have any questions please feel free to also contact Staff Counsel Mike Haas at 608-266-0136 or michael.haas@wi.gov, or contact me at 608-266-8005 or Kevin.Kennedy@wi.gov.

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Ad-hoc Committee on Moving the Fall Primary and Updating Current Military and Overseas Absentee Ballot Statutes

Committee Members: DeeAnn Cook (Barron County Clerk), Lisa Freiberg (Fond du Lac County Clerk), Brenda Jaszewski (Washington County Clerk), Kathy Nickolaus (Waukesha County Clerk), Sue Moll (Columbia County Clerk), Sara Ludtke (Town of Middleton Deputy Clerk), Jeri McGinley (Village of Park Ridge Clerk), Nancy Zastrow (City of Milton Clerk)

Meeting Date: Monday, February 7, 2011

Meeting Summary

Election Dates

- Created Election Task Timeframe (included in packet)
- Recommended Partisan Primary be held at the end of July – either 3rd or 4th Tuesday
- Recommended Spring Election be held the first Tuesday in March
 - Moves Wisconsin up in the Presidential Preference
- Recommended Spring Primary be held on the same date as the November General Election
 - Even if there is no November General Election, have the Spring Election held in November
 - Eliminates one election every two years
 - Creates a Partisan and Non Partisan Election

Suggested Military Statutory Changes

- Eliminating the State Write-In Absentee Ballot
 - Out of Country vs Domestic
- Eliminate extended period after September and November Elections – 7 days after September and 10 days after November
- Uniform deadline for Military electors to request a ballot
 - Close of business on the Monday before all Elections
 - If extended time period is not eliminated the deadline for Military Electors may still be Election Day

- Make the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) Affirmation/Declaration act as an absentee application.
 - Currently in order for a FWAB to be counted, the elector must include an absentee application or already have an absentee application on file
- Include temporarily overseas in those able to use the FWAB
 - Currently required in Federal law but not State law
- Away vs At-home Military; no difference
- Remove Date of Birth requirement on the absentee certification for military electors
- Creating uniform guidelines for removing military absentee electors from a clerk's absentee list
 - 2 consecutive General Election cycles (4 -5 years)
- Removing witness signature for overseas electors

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Draft Report on Election Events

Important Election Events

Rescheduling the Partisan Primary affects a variety of other election events in addition to the election date, which impact candidates and election officials. Wisconsin's current election calendar does not allow for the timeframe required by the MOVE Act. The dates of the Primary and General Election determine much of the election calendar, as a number of tasks must be completed by specific dates measured before and after each election.

As the G.A.B. began the process of researching changes in the current election cycle, it consulted county and municipal clerks who are directly involved in election administration.. Since municipal clerks conduct elections at the local level and county clerks provide materials, including ballots, the adjustments to the election cycle will significantly alter the way those offices operate. A representative group of county and municipal clerks met with G.A.B. staff in early January to discuss the time needed to complete tasks and the best way to comply with the MOVE Act from their perspectives.

The following is a list of selected election tasks, the timeframe for these tasks under current law, and the timeframe recommended by the G.A.B. and local election officials. In order to illustrate how the election dates affect other deadlines, the list of events starts at the General Election and proceeds back in time.

➤General Election◀

1. Counties deliver ballots to municipal clerks for General Election.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *30 days before General Election*

Recommended time period: *47 days before General Election*

The MOVE Act requires that ballots be delivered to military and overseas electors 45 days before each election, for those electors with a ballot request on file. The 45th day before any General Election is a Saturday; moving the ballot requirement to 47 days prior to Election Day accounts for the weekend and also allows one extra day for those part-time clerks who do not have office hours on Fridays. The Department of Justice has made it clear that any state that does not meet the 45-day ballot requirement in 2012 may be subject to a lawsuit.

2. Counties complete ballot preparation for General Election.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *31 days before General Election*

Recommended time period: *48 days before General Election*

Currently counties prepare ballots and then have one day to distribute them. Following this same model, counties need to have the ballots prepared 48 days before the election so that they can be distributed to municipal clerks by the 47th day before the General Election.

3. G.A.B. certifies Partisan Primary results and candidates for General Election ballot.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *Approximately 35 days before General Election and 14 days after the Partisan Primary*

Recommended time period: *69 days before the General Election and 31 days after the Partisan Primary*

The certification of the Primary Election is an important event in the election cycle. It is the link between the Primary Election and the General Election, and is tied to both election dates. Once election results are certified county clerks use the certification as a blueprint for their ballot creation. The G.A.B. draws lots for ballot order of candidates for state offices, and the official candidate names are certified. County clerks then need time to work with their ballot printers, election machine programmers and local election officials to begin creating ballots. Certifying the election results 69 days before the General Election will allow clerks the time they need to ensure that absentee ballots are prepared and delivered in time to meet the 45-day ballot requirement of the MOVE Act.

The current election certification timeframe does not allow for the finalization of recounts before the GAB is to certify election results. This has created hardships for county clerks in the past as they were not able produce some ballots by the 31-day deadline established by current Statutes. This causes several problems for the county clerks and municipal clerks. The county clerks have to wait on the programming of machines and the vendors often cannot make any guarantees on completing the required machine programming in the short timeframe given. The physical printing of those ballots involved in recounts must be delayed. The order to the printer must be updated and excluding those ballots from the original print order increases costs. Counties cannot print all ballots in bulk but a separate order must be made for those recount ballots.

Electronic voting equipment vendors and ballot printer vendors also struggle with the tight deadlines between elections. Haste increases the risk of mistakes in printing ballots and programming equipment, causing additional expense and delays.

Some states have changed their Primary Election dates but did not adequately accommodate recounts and ballot preparation in their election calendars. When a recount occurred that held up ballot preparation, these states needed to request a MOVE Act waiver because they could not meet the 45-day ballot requirement. The G.A.B. recommends increasing the amount of time allowed between the certification date and the date that absentee ballots are made available so that it accommodates the possibility of recount elections and relieves time pressure on county and local election officials.

Creating a three week time period for county clerks to prepare ballots and election equipment will help ensure that ballots are prepared and delivered to municipal clerks in time to meet the 45-day ballot preparation requirement of the MOVE Act. It eliminates the concern of having to apply for a MOVE waiver, or the threat of another lawsuit when recounts. It also gives county and municipal clerks the time they need to work with vendors, save money by being able to print ballots in bulk, and makes it easier to ensure that military and overseas electors receive absentee ballots by the 45-day deadline.

4. Due date for filing referendum questions with filing officer for General Election.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *42 days before General Election*

Recommended time period: 69 days before the General Election

Referendum questions are currently due to the appropriate filing officer 42 days before the election to qualify for the General Election ballot. The current timeframe is insufficient under the MOVE Act, as ballots must be printed and delivered at least 45 days before the election. Referendum questions must be filed before or at the same time as candidates are certified for the General Election. County clerks cannot create ballots or program election equipment until all the contests and referenda are known.

➤Primary Election◀

1. Primary recounts are concluded.

Timeframe under current election cycle: 29 days after Primary

Recommended time period: 29 days after Primary

The G.A.B. recommends retaining the current timeframe for completing recounts. The certification of candidates is currently done while recounts are still being completed. To ensure that the 45-day ballot deadline is met, the Board recommends that the certification of candidates is postponed until after the recount period is completed.

As noted above, if a recount is still being conducted after candidates are certified, printing ballots and programming equipment is delayed. A MOVE Act waiver would be required if the recount period has not ended before the candidates are certified. Creating a timeframe that permits recounts to be concluded before candidates are certified will help eliminate the possibility of requiring a Waiver or risking another lawsuit involving federal oversight of Wisconsin's election procedures. It will allow county and municipal clerks the time they need to work with vendors, save money by being able to print all ballots at once, and improve their ability to ensure that ballots are available by the 45-day deadline.

2. Primary recount window closes for state offices.

Timeframe under current election cycle: 16 days after Primary

Recommended time period: 16 days after Primary

The timeframe to request a recount is 3 days after the G.A.B. certifies the canvass results. The canvass for state offices must be certified 13 days after the election. This timeframe does not need to be adjusted. However, the recount period should be completed before candidates are certified.

3. Counties submit Primary Election canvass to G.A.B.

Timeframe under current election cycle: 13 days after Primary

Recommended time period: 13 days after Primary

The timeframe for the completion of the canvass does not need to be adjusted. However, County Boards of Canvassers are required to meet the Thursday after the primary election at 9:00 a.m. County clerks prefer to move this meeting to the Monday after the election. The county clerk is often not ready to meet with the Board of Canvassers on Thursday, requiring that the Board meet at that time, and then adjourn until a later date, resulting in duplicate meeting payments.

4. Counties deliver ballots to municipal clerks for Primary Election.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *30 days before Primary*

Recommended time period: *47 Primary*

The MOVE Act requires that ballots be sent to military and overseas electors 45 days before the Partisan Primary. The 45th day before the September Primary is a Saturday; moving the ballot requirement to 47 days accounts for the weekend and allows one extra day for those part-time clerks who do not hold regular office hours on Fridays.

5. Counties complete ballot preparation for Primary Election.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *31 days before Primary*

Recommended time period: *48 days before Primary*

Currently counties prepare ballots and then have one day to distribute them. Continuing this timeframe, the G.A.B. recommends that counties complete ballot preparation 48 days before the September Primary so they can be distributed to municipal clerks by the 47th day before Election Day.

6. Due date for filing referendum questions with filing officer for Primary Election.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *42 days before Primary*

Recommended time period: *69 days before the Primary*

Referendum questions are currently due to the appropriate filing officer 42 days before the election to qualify for the Partisan Primary ballot. The current timeframe is insufficient under the MOVE Act, as ballots must be printed and delivered at least 45 days before the election. Referendum questions must be filed before or at the same time as candidates are certified for the Partisan Primary ballot. County clerks can not create ballots or program election equipment until all the contests and referenda are known.

7. GAB certifies candidates for Partisan Primary ballot.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *Approximately 56 days before Primary*

Recommended time period: *69 days before the Primary*

County clerks have made it clear that the current timeframe for preparing ballots and election equipment is too tight for them. County clerks believe that expanding the window between candidate certification and ballot completion to three weeks will allow a realistic period to ensure that ballots will be prepared to meet the requirements of the MOVE Act. The Partisan Primary ballot is a complicated ballot to assemble, essentially consisting of four elections on one ballot. Ballot printers and election equipment programmers struggle with completing this ballot under the current timeframe. It takes a lot of time and proofing for county clerks and their staffs before the Partisan Primary to ensure a correct ballot and proper equipment programming. County clerks and their staffs must work with multiple ballots and ballot styles for municipalities in their counties and, in some cases, multiple types of election equipment. They are often working with a variety of vendors which

takes additional time and attention to detail. The current short timeframe for completion of ballots has created challenges in the past with vendors, resulting in additional costs for counties and difficulties in preparing ballots on time for military and overseas electors.

8. Deadline for filing nomination papers.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *Approximately 63 days before Primary*

Recommended time period: *84 days before the Primary*

The MOVE Act requirement of having ballots prepared 45 days before the Primary Election, and the time required to prepare ballots as described above, shifts the nomination paper timeframe back. The G.A.B. recommends establishing the nomination paper deadline as 84 days prior to the Primary Election.

9. Candidates begin circulating nomination papers for General Election.

Timeframe under current election cycle: *100 – 106 days before the Primary*

Recommended Timeframe: *121 days before the Primary*

The MOVE Act requirement of having ballots prepared 45 days before the Primary Election, and the time required to prepare ballots, requires circulating nomination papers earlier in the election calendar. The G.A.B.'s recommendation to begin circulating nomination papers 121 days before the Primary, and requiring filing of nomination papers 84 days prior to the Primary, would result in a circulation period of 37 days. This timeframe compares to the current circulation period of 38-44 days.

NOTICE: THIS CALENDAR IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Ad-Hoc Clerk Committee's Recommended Election Calendar

SP Date	SE Date	PP Date	GE Date	Real Date	Event
-76				Thursday, December 01, 2011	SE Nomination paper circulation begins
-42				Tuesday, January 03, 2012	SE Nomination papers due
-38				Wednesday, January 11, 2012	GAB certifies candidates for SP ballot
-38				Saturday, January 14, 2012	SP Referenda due
-22				Monday, January 30, 2012	County has SP ballots prepared
-21				Tuesday, January 31, 2012	SP Ballots delivered to muni clerks
	-46			Friday, February 17, 2012	Special Presidential Preference Ballot Sent Out
0				Tuesday, February 21, 2012	Spring Primary
8				Wednesday, February 29, 2012	County SP canvass due to GAB
11				Saturday, March 03, 2012	SP Recount window closes for state office
14				Tuesday, March 06, 2012	GAB certifies SE candidates
14				Tuesday, March 06, 2012	SE Referenda due to clerk
	-22			Monday, March 12, 2012	County has SE ballots prepared
	-21			Tuesday, March 13, 2012	SE ballots delivered to muni clerks
24				Friday, March 16, 2012	SP Recount must be concluded
		-121		Sunday, March 18, 2012	GE Nomination paper circulation begins
	0			Tuesday, April 03, 2012	Spring Election/Pres. Preference
		-84		Tuesday, April 24, 2012	GE Nomination papers due
	30			Thursday, May 03, 2012	SE Post election tasks completed
		-69		Wednesday, May 09, 2012	GAB certifies candidates for PP ballot
		-69		Wednesday, May 09, 2012	PP Referenda due to clerk
		-48		Wednesday, May 30, 2012	County has PP ballots prepared
		-47		Thursday, May 31, 2012	PP Ballots delivered to muni clerks
			-117	Thursday, July 12, 2012	SE Nomination paper circulation begins
		0		Tuesday, July 17, 2012	Partisan Primary
		13		Monday, July 30, 2012	County PP canvass due to GAB
		16		Thursday, August 02, 2012	PP Recount window closes for state office
		29		Wednesday, August 15, 2012	PP recount must concluded
		30		Thursday, August 16, 2012	PP Post election tasks completed
			-79	Sunday, August 19, 2012	SE Nomination papers due
		31	-69	Wednesday, August 29, 2012	GAB GE and SP candidates certified
		31	-69	Wednesday, August 29, 2012	GE and SP Referenda due to clerk
			-69	Wednesday, August 29, 2012	GAB certifies candidates for SP ballot
		45	-48	Wednesday, September 19, 2012	County has GE ballots prepared
			-47	Thursday, September 20, 2012	GE Ballots delivered to muni clerks
		0		Tuesday, November 06, 2012	General Election/Spring Primary
		13		Monday, November 19, 2012	County GE/SP canvass due to GAB
		16		Thursday, November 22, 2012	GE/SP Recount window closes for state office
		29		Wednesday, December 05, 2012	GE/SP recount must concluded
		30		Thursday, December 06, 2012	GE/SP Post election tasks completed
	-69		31	Friday, December 07, 2012	GAB GE and SP candidates certified
	-47			Thursday, January 17, 2013	County has SE ballots prepared
	-46			Friday, January 18, 2013	SE ballots delivered to muni clerks
	0			Tuesday, March 05, 2013	Spring Election
	30			Thursday, April 04, 2013	SE Post election tasks completed
			-117	Thursday, July 11, 2013	SE Nomination paper circulation begins
			-79	Sunday, August 18, 2013	SE Nomination papers due
			-69	Wednesday, August 28, 2013	GAB certifies candidates for SP ballot
		0		Tuesday, November 05, 2013	Spring Primary
13				Monday, November 18, 2013	County SP canvass due to GAB
16				Thursday, November 21, 2013	SP Recount window closes for state office
29				Wednesday, December 04, 2013	SP recount must concluded
30				Thursday, December 05, 2013	SP Post election tasks completed
31	-69			Friday, December 06, 2013	GAB SP candidates certified
	-47			Thursday, January 16, 2014	County has SE ballots prepared

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Ad-Hoc Clerk Committee's Recommended Election Calendar

SP Date	SE Date	PP Date	GE Date	Real Date	Event
	-46			Friday, January 17, 2014	SE ballots delivered to muni clerks
	0			Tuesday, March 04, 2014	Spring Election
		-121		Sunday, March 16, 2014	GE Nomination paper circulation begins
		-84		Tuesday, April 22, 2014	GE Nomination papers due
		-69		Wednesday, May 07, 2014	GAB certifies candidates for PP ballot
		-69		Wednesday, May 07, 2014	PP Referenda due to clerk
		-48		Wednesday, May 28, 2014	County has PP ballots prepared
		-47		Thursday, May 29, 2014	PP Ballots delivered to muni clerks
			-117	Thursday, July 10, 2014	SE Nomination paper circulation begins
		0		Tuesday, July 15, 2014	Partisan Primary
		13		Monday, July 28, 2014	County PP canvass due to GAB
		16		Thursday, July 31, 2014	PP Recount window closes for state office
		29		Wednesday, August 13, 2014	PP recount must concluded
		30		Thursday, August 14, 2014	PP Post election tasks completed
			-79	Sunday, August 17, 2014	SE Nomination papers due
		31	-69	Wednesday, August 27, 2014	GAB GE and SP candidates certified
		31	-69	Wednesday, August 27, 2014	GE and SP Referenda due to clerk
			-69	Wednesday, August 27, 2014	GAB certifies candidates for SP ballot
		45	-48	Wednesday, September 17, 2014	County has GE ballots prepared
			-47	Thursday, September 18, 2014	GE Ballots delivered to muni clerks
			0	Tuesday, November 04, 2014	General Election/Spring Primary
			13	Monday, November 17, 2014	County GE/SP canvass due to GAB
			16	Thursday, November 20, 2014	GE/SP Recount window closes for state office
			29	Wednesday, December 03, 2014	GE/SP recount must concluded
			30	Thursday, December 04, 2014	GE/SP Post election tasks completed
	-69		31	Wednesday, December 24, 2014	GAB GE and SP candidates certified
	-47			Thursday, January 15, 2015	County has SE ballots prepared
	-46			Friday, January 16, 2015	SE ballots delivered to muni clerks
	0			Tuesday, March 03, 2015	Spring Election

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Director and General Counsel

SVRS Facilitated Mail-In Voter Registration Talking Points for the WCCA

G.A.B. is implementing a new way for voters to register by mail. Voters fill out a form on the internet, which creates a GAB-131 voter registration form that they can print, sign, and mail in.

Highlights of this new system

- The Voter Public Access website will have a new link called "Register to Vote"
- The new website asks the voters to fill in their voter registration information using a "wizard"
- The website generates a PDF of a neatly typed GAB-131 for the voter to print, sign, and mail in
- The instructions give the name and address of the appropriate municipal clerk to mail the form to
- The forms are treated by clerks as mail-in voter registration forms
- All the data entered on the website is stored in SVRS as a "pending" voter application
- Once the clerk receives the voter application, they simply look it up (using an ID number printed on the form) and process the pending application. The form does NOT need to be typed in
- Relier municipalities will forward the forms to their Providers to process as they do at present with all other forms
- The website can be used by any voter that has a Wisconsin driver license or ID card
- The website is available during mail-in voter registration periods (up to 20 days before the next election)
- The system will be available in early May (immediately after the mail-in registration "black-out" periods for the April election and the May special election). Watch the Recent Clerk Communications page on the G.A.B. website for updates

Benefits

Automating certain SVRS functions for use by the voter is an effective tool in mitigating several problems that currently exist in interpreting and translating voter registration documents. Some of the most glaring and reoccurring challenges include:

- Handwritten Voter Registration Forms, particularly forms submitted by third party voter registration groups, are frequently missing required information, which forces clerks to follow-up with voters to get complete data before they can register the voters. The new enhanced voter registration form hosted on SVRS is programmed to require all information, and provide a "hard stop" if voters skip required fields. Additionally, this initiative will likely decrease reliance on third party voter registration groups resulting in a significant reduction in fraudulent voter registration forms. Currently local election officials spend hours weeding out improperly prepared voter registration forms.
- Handwriting can be difficult to read. Having voters type-in their own information increases the accuracy and quality of the data being entered into the voter registration system.
- During election periods, many local clerks need to hire temporary workers to data enter the large volume of voter registration forms that come in at the last minute before the close of voter registration. Allowing individual voters to "do their own data entry" directly saves clerk time, resources and money.
- Election Day Registration (EDR) is still perceived by many voters as the most convenient way to register or update their registration information. For example, over the past 30+ years, the percentage of electors registering and voting on Election Day in Presidential Elections has remained consistent around the 15% level. Similar results are experienced for Gubernatorial Elections. In the 2008 Presidential and General Election, 15% of Voters Registered on Election Day (459,459 out of 2,997,089 Total Voters).

These high numbers of voters registering on Election Day creates long lines at the polling place, as well as large volumes of work for clerks after the election. The new SVRS-based enhanced form that can be filled out in the comfort of one's home adds a convenience level that is likely to help offset the number of Election Day Registrants.

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SVRS and WEDCS – Database Matching

Why do we need both databases?

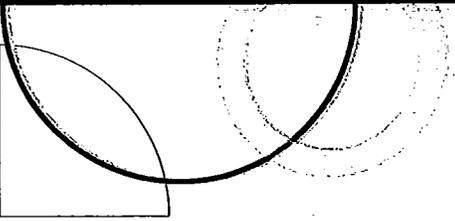
- Using both SVRS and WEDCS offers the ability to audit both systems
 - SVRS is more complicated than WEDCS
 - Absentee tracking is not always used correctly
 - Not all municipal clerks use SVRS
 - WEDCS usage is simpler than SVRS
 - Errors tend to be data entry errors
 - All municipal clerks complete the GAB-190 prior to entry into WEDCS
- Not all information obtained on WEDCS can be obtained in SVRS and vice-versa.
 - Poll worker information
 - Absentees for relier municipalities
 - Tracking of accessible voting equipment
 - Information for the two databases are collected differently

Why does the data in both databases have to match?

- When WEDCS and SVRS do not match that indicates that there is missing information
 - Machine is programmed incorrectly
 - Voters not scanned
 - EDR's not entered/processed
 - Entire poll books that were not scanned
 - Some municipalities are not recording participation in SVRS
 - Ensures accurate data
 - Data is reported to Federal Government
 - Data is give to the public
 - Data is used to justify statutory changes or administrative changes
- Data in WEDCS is from Election Day and needs to represent what happened on the election night
 - Helps identify some major election themes
 - Election fraud
 - Voter confidence
 - Reconstructing election day
 - Transparency
- Identifies election worker training needs
- Municipal clerk non-compliance with required statutory issues

Resources

- SVRS Checklist #3 provides instructions on reconciling.
- Post Election section of the SVRS Application Training Manual
- Post Election Checklist in the Election Day Manual
- Pollworker Checklist: 12 Tips for Avoiding Discrepancies in Voter Numbers

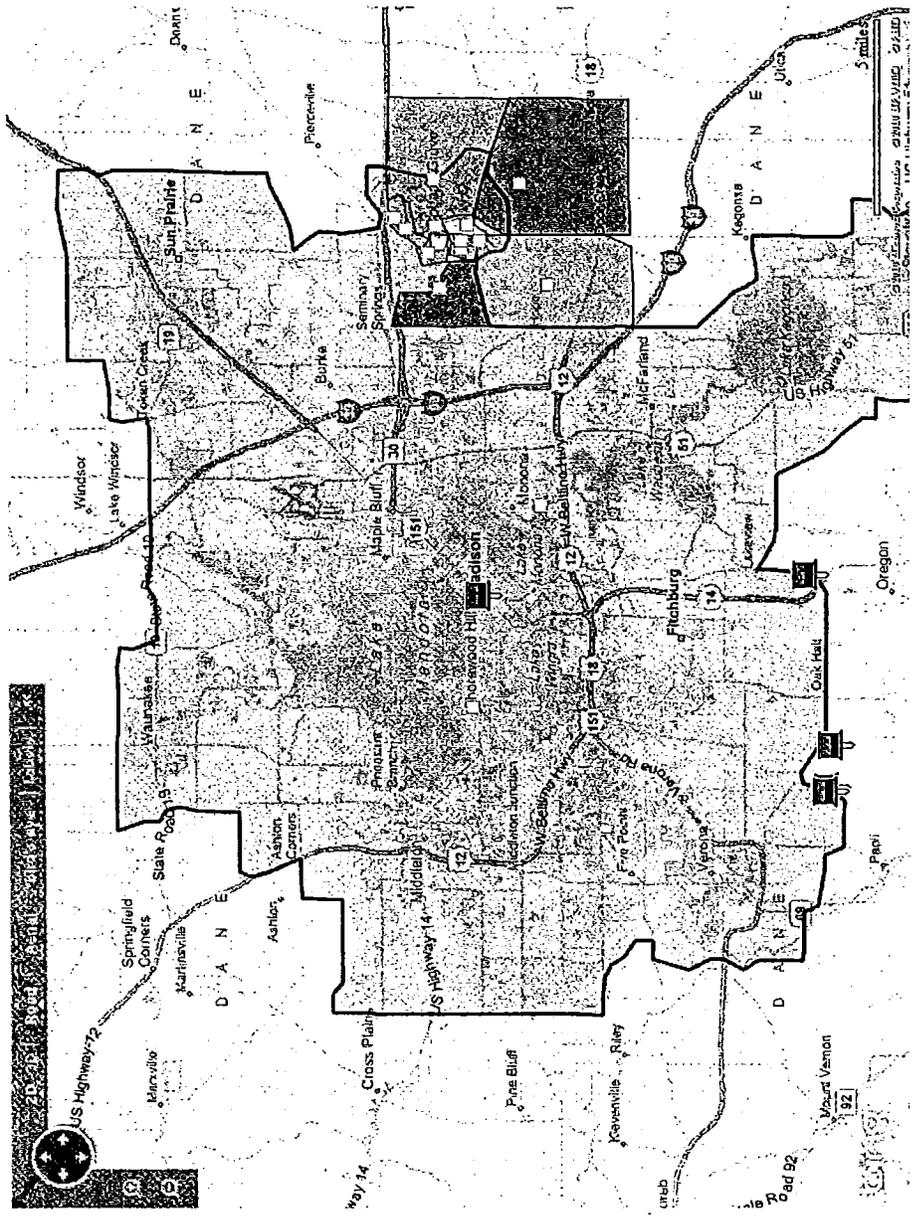


Redistricting Initiative

- Modernizing SVRS to use Graphical Information System (GIS) Technology.
 - Map Based: i.e.: Like your Garmin or Google Maps,....
- Converting From Address Ranges to “Map Based” District Management.
- Voters Addresses Converted to Map Locations.
- New Districts Will Be Implemented As Maps.
- Creating New Web Based District Management System.

G.A.B. Redistricting - Proof of Concept

Address: Districts Address RTA
Mouse Location: Lat: 43.173135 Lng: -89.286575



Government Accountability Board
Elections Division

Division's 2011 Work Plan

(A dynamic list of election administration tasks to be addressed in 2011)

- Ballot Design Review
- Review of Polling Place Attire
- Training
- The 2010 Census
 - ✓ Preparing for Redistricting
 - ✓ Preparing to Address the Minority Language Requirement
- Preparations to Implement the Photo ID Requirements