

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND  
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Director and General Counsel

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All County Clerks and the Milwaukee County Election Commission  
All Municipal Clerks and the Milwaukee City Election Commission

**FROM:** Diane Lowe, Elections Specialist  
Government Accountability Board

**DATE:** July 15, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Registered Write-in Candidates for the August 12, 2014 Partisan Primary/  
Tallying Write-in Votes

### Registered Write-in Candidates

A list of registered write-in candidates for federal and state offices for the August 12, 2014 Partisan Primary has been posted to the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) website as an attachment under Elections/Fall 2014 General Election. <http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/2014/fall> The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) will continue to monitor and track the registrations of federal and state office write-in candidates, and the list will be updated as new registrations come in. There is no deadline to register as a write-in candidate, so the list could be updated up to the day of the primary. G.A.B. staff will enter names of state and federal write-in candidates in the Canvass Reporting System.

#### *County Clerks:*

- Please provide this memo and the latest list of registered write-in candidates to your municipal clerks who may not have internet access.
- If you have registered county office write-in candidates, please provide the list to your municipal clerks.
- Please remind all of your municipal clerks to provide their poll workers with the most up-to-date lists.
- County Clerks will enter votes cast for registered federal and state write-in candidates into the Canvass Reporting System.

#### *Municipal Clerks:*

- Provide your inspectors with the names of registered write-in candidates and their respective offices.
- Instruct your inspectors to tally **all** votes for registered write-in candidates.
- Instruct your inspectors to tally votes for nonregistered write-in candidates according to the criteria set out in the table above.
- Instruct your inspectors to keep the list of registered write-in candidates covered. It is not for public display at the polling place. Inspectors may answer questions regarding write-in candidates if directly asked. Inspectors may not volunteer write in candidate information.

**Tallying Write-in Votes**

As always, votes for *registered* write-in candidates must *always* be tallied. However, 2013 Act 178 restricts the circumstances when votes for unregistered write-in candidates may be tallied. Act 178 provides:

<b>Circumstance</b>	<b>Tallying</b>
One or more candidates listed on the ballot for an office in a given party:	Tally votes only for registered write-in candidates. <i>Votes for un-registered write-in candidates are disregarded.</i>
One or more candidates on the ballot for an office in a given party, but one or more candidates are deceased:	Tally <b>all</b> write-in votes.
No candidates on the ballot for an office in a given party:	Tally <b>all</b> write-in votes.

Inspectors should review the document, *Counting Votes at the Partisan Primary*. <http://gab.wi.gov/node/2761>. This is an excellent guide for determining when a write-in vote should be counted. Once it is determined that the write-in vote may be counted, the circumstances set out in the table above must be considered before tallying the vote. Please see “Counting Votes-and New Legislation” and “Counting Votes Examples located at the same link.

If you have questions, please contact me at 608-266-3276 or [diane.lowe@wi.gov](mailto:diane.lowe@wi.gov).