

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

212 East Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Post Office Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984
Voice (608) 261-2028
Fax (608) 267-0500
E-mail: gab@wisconsin.gov
<http://gab.wi.gov>



JUDGE GERALD C. NICHOL
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

November 25, 2015

Dear Local Election Official:

The Government Accountability Board is seeking applicants to serve as Wisconsin's local election official representative to the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission's Standards Board. This correspondence provides background regarding the role of the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Standards Board, as well as instructions for any municipal or county clerk who may be interested in applying for the appointment.

Under federal law the EAC has several responsibilities related to assisting states and local governments with the administration of elections, including establishing technical standards for electronic voting systems, certifying voting systems following testing based on those standards, and developing forms, guidance and recommended best practices for conducting elections. The EAC is headed by four commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. More information regarding the EAC can be found at its website, <http://www.eac.gov>.

The Standards Board is an advisory body to the EAC charged with reviewing and providing input related to the guidelines under which the EAC certifies voting systems as well as its guidance and best practices recommendations. The 110-member Standards Board consists of a state election official and a local election official from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Standards Board typically holds one in-person meeting per year and also has several committees which conduct research or other business in the interim. Membership on the Standards Board is an unpaid position, but meeting travel and lodging expenses are paid by the EAC. More information regarding the Standards Board and its work can be found at http://www.eac.gov/about_the_eac/standards_board.aspx.

As the Elections Division Administrator of the G.A.B., I have been designated as Wisconsin's state election official representative. Currently, Franklin City Clerk Sandi Wesolowski serves as Wisconsin's local election official representative. Ms. Wesolowski was initially selected to serve in 2004 and is currently the Vice-Chair of the Standards Board. Her initial appointment was for an indefinite term and was made before the G.A.B. was formed in 2008. The G.A.B. determined that it would be useful to establish a definite term of four years for the appointment and for the term to begin at the start of the presidential election year.

Because the EAC lacked a sufficient number of confirmed commissioners from late 2011 to January 2015, the Standards Board was dormant for that period of time, and during this past year it has been reorganizing and re-engaging with its assigned tasks. The Standards Board last met on April 28-29, 2015, in Williamsburg, Virginia, and is tentatively scheduled to next meet on April 15, 2016.

In March, the Government Accountability Board approved a process recommended by Director and General Counsel Kevin Kennedy for selecting Wisconsin's local election official representative. Specifically, we have asked five organizations to participate in the process by designating an individual to serve on an Appointment Committee. The organizations are the Wisconsin County Clerks Association, the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, and the City of Milwaukee Election Commission. We have asked those organizations to distribute this solicitation for applications to their respective members. The Appointment Committee will then review the applications and choose Wisconsin's local election official representative to the Board. The representative will serve a four-year term on the Standards Board, along with the state official representative.

The Appointment Committee is comprised of the following individuals:

Wisconsin County Clerks Association	Karen Gibson, President
Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association	Diane Hermann-Brown, Past President
Wisconsin Towns Association	Betty Manson, WTA Board of Directors Member
League of Wisconsin Municipalities	Claire Silverman, Legal Counsel
City of Milwaukee Elections Commission	Theresa Gabriel, Deputy Director

If you are interested in serving as the local election official representative for the State of Wisconsin, please complete the attached application and return it to me. The Appointment Committee has established **noon on Monday, December 14, 2015** as the deadline for the receipt of applications from interested persons. The Committee will review the applications and intends to meet in early January to make the appointment.

Please note that the purpose of requesting party affiliation is that the state and local representative for each state must not belong to the same political party. Given that the state representative is nonpartisan, the appointment of the local election official will not be restricted by party affiliation. Interested applicants who do not identify themselves as being affiliated with a political party should indicate "NA" in the designated space.

Pursuant to a directive of the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.), I am responsible for coordinating the process for selecting a local election official to serve on the Standards Board. I will coordinate the work of the Appointment Committee but will not have a vote in the appointment process. If you have any questions regarding this process or the Standards Board, please feel free to contact me at michael.haas@wi.gov or at 608-266-0136, or contact your association representative on the Appointments Committee. Thank you for your attention to this information and your commitment to election administration in Wisconsin.

Government Accountability Board



Michael Haas
Elections Division Administrator

cc: Kevin J. Kennedy