

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 26, 2010

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G.A.B. Enhances Online Complaints and Comments Website

MADISON, WI – The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board has launched an enhanced Complaints and Comments section on its website: <http://gab.wi.gov/complaints>.

“There has been a lot of talk in the months leading up to this election about the potential for voter fraud, voter intimidation and voter caging,” said Kevin Kennedy, director and general counsel of the G.A.B. “Wisconsin has established processes for investigating voting irregularities. If voters witness or encounter any problems at the polls, they now have an improved online resource to report them immediately. Timely reporting makes it more likely that incidents can be successfully investigated.”

In addition to complaints, the G.A.B. encourages voters to post comments on its website about their experiences at Wisconsin polling places. “Whether your voting experience was positive or negative, we want to hear about it,” said Kennedy. “We value your feedback.”

The Board has not seen documented evidence of any widespread, organized or systemic cases of voting by ineligible individuals, or of double voting in Wisconsin. The Board has heard reports from concerned citizens about past election crimes, but they are often second- and third-hand stories that are difficult to verify, said Nat Robinson, Elections Division administrator.

The enhanced Complaints and Comments section now includes online forms giving voters the opportunity to describe in detail any suspicious activity they witnessed in and around the polling place.

“We ask voters who file a complaint to give us as much specific information as they can, including the names of potential witnesses,” Robinson said. “Complaints can be anonymous, but by providing their names and contact information, voters make it easier for us to ask follow-up questions.”

Kennedy said the online forms will make it easier for the G.A.B. to refer complaints to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Board works closely with district attorneys, other local law enforcement, the Wisconsin Department of Justice’s Election Integrity Task Force and the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate all reports of potential election crimes.

Voters can also report problems by calling the Wisconsin Voter Hotline at 1-866-VOTE-WIS, or by contacting their local clerk, police department or district attorney’s office.

The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The G.A.B. is made up of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.