

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

212 E. Washington Ave., Third Floor ▪ Madison, WI 53703 ▪ gab@wi.gov ▪ (608) 266-8005 ▪ Help Desk (608) 261-2028 ▪ <http://gab.wi.gov>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Reid Magney, 608-267-7887

State receives \$3.9 million in federal election funds

MADISON, WI – The Government Accountability Board has completed the process for the State of Wisconsin to receive \$3.9 million in federal election funds.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission recently notified Governor Jim Doyle's office of the award, which will be used to jump-start implementation of the G.A.B.'s 2009-2014 Election Administration Plan, which will provide a road map for new agency initiatives in coming years.

Additionally, Wisconsin is due to receive another \$1.2 million in federal election funds which are included in the FY2010 appropriations bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama in December 2009.

"We are pleased the federal government continues to honor the commitment it made when it passed the Help America Vote Act in 2002: to help states pay for major changes in the way elections are administered in this country," said Kevin J. Kennedy, director and general counsel of the G.A.B. "I am proud of the work my Elections Division staff has done under the leadership of Division Administrator Nat Robinson to secure these funds to continue Wisconsin's tradition of fair, transparent and accountable election administration."

"This federal funding will enable the Government Accountability Board to continue to support our local partners to maintain Wisconsin's tradition of efficient and effective election administration," said Nathaniel E. Robinson, elections division administrator. "It will also support implementation of our bold, visionary five-year plan, which includes initiatives such as early voting and online voter registration."

The funding is authorized under the HAVA, and is used to help the G.A.B. comply with the requirements of the federal law, the most significant of which is maintenance of the Statewide Voter Registration System. The G.A.B. has also used the funds to help Wisconsin's 1,851 municipalities provide accessible polling places and voting equipment for people with disabilities.

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The Government Accountability Board is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The board is made up of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members. Additional information about the mission of the Government Accountability Board is available by telephone at **1-608-266-8005**, by electronic mail at **gab@wi.gov**, or through the Internet at **<http://gab.wi.gov>**.