

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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G.A.B. Statement on MOVE Act Waiver Denial

MADISON, WI – The Government Accountability Board is committed to ensuring all military and overseas voters are able to fully participate in Wisconsin elections. We are disappointed that the U.S. Department of Defense did not recognize Wisconsin’s record of exemplary service to military and overseas voters. Wisconsin election officials use all means currently available under state law for expediting transmission of ballots to military and overseas voters and for ensuring those ballots will be counted.

As permitted by the MOVE Act, the G.A.B. applied for a one-time waiver and explained how the use of technology and the extension of the deadline for counting ballots from military voters would give Wisconsin residents serving in the military and living overseas adequate time to vote by absentee ballot.

In its decision, the DoD did recognize that the passage of the MOVE Act on October 28, 2009 and Wisconsin’s scheduled September 14, 2010 primary has created an undue hardship on the state, which prevents compliance with the 45-day transit requirement.

The Government Accountability Board continues to take all steps allowed by current state law to ensure Wisconsin’s military and overseas voters have time enough to vote. These steps have been nationally recognized as the best in the country. We will immediately begin discussions with the U.S. Department of Justice about what further steps Wisconsin can take.

More information about Wisconsin’s compliance with the MOVE Act is available on the Board’s website: <http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/voters/military-overseas>.

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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.