

# Government Accountability Board

## State of Wisconsin

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## Voter Turnout Estimated at 10 percent

MADISON, WI – The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board is predicting that 10 percent of eligible voters will cast ballots for the Tuesday, February 16 Spring Primary. That’s approximately 444,000 of Wisconsin’s 2015 voting-age population of 4,449,170, according to Census estimates.

“We project turnout will be similar to the 2011 Supreme Court primary, which was 9.6 percent,” said Kevin Kennedy, director and general counsel of the G.A.B. “In addition to that history, when predicting turnout we look at other factors. It is a presidential election year and we are seeing voters are more engaged as evidenced by the recent Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primaries, as well as the two presidential debates held in Wisconsin.”

On Tuesday, all voters statewide will have the opportunity to vote in a three-way primary for Wisconsin Supreme Court. Other races on the ballot include primaries for circuit court judge in Iowa, Kewaunee, Portage and Walworth counties, as well as for mayor of Milwaukee and other local officials.

Wisconsin’s Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary is April 5.

Kennedy also reminded voters to bring their photo IDs when they go to the polls. Tuesday will be the first statewide election since the voter photo ID law was reinstated. For more information on which IDs are acceptable and how to get a free ID for voting, go to <http://bringit.wi.gov> or call 1-866-VOTE-WIS (868-3947).

Statistics on past voter turnout and current voter registration are available at <http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/statistics>. The state’s turnout calculations are based on the voting age population, not on registered voters. Some municipal clerks calculate turnout based on the number registered voters, which can lead to significant differences in the percentages.

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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.