

## **FAQs: A Review of 2015 – and What’s Ahead in 2016**

### **12/2/2015**

**Q: We received an election inspectors name on both party lists. I tried contacting the nominee with no response? How does our board approve him?**

A: Contact both parties with this information. If neither declines to remove the nominee, the Board appoints the nominee to fill a party position that they feel is best suitable. Contact the nominee and the parties with this information and be sure to document the proceedings.

**Q: Do you have to send the noncandidacy papers to everyone even if you have a caucus?**

A: No. Incumbents in municipalities that use a caucus do not have to file the GAB-169, Notification of Noncandidacy form.

**Q: I know that you recommend that only one Chief Inspector serve at a given election. Can you please clarify what to do if the Chief does not or cannot serve for the full Election Day? Thanks.**

A: Only one chief inspector works at a time. If your municipality has an ordinance allowing shifts, a chief inspector may be appointed for each shift.

**Q: How do representatives from the political parties get trained?**

A: The clerk is responsible for providing training opportunities for any election inspectors nominated by the political parties.

**Q: I'm a part-time clerk. Our municipality does not maintain office hours. Do I have to be available all day Wednesday, Thursday and Friday following an election to resolve provisional ballots issues or can I set specific hours like for in person absentee voting?**

A: You must be “available” to receive the provisional ballot information from a voter. Being “available” can also mean providing contact information so the voter can reach the clerk to arrange a time to come into the clerk’s office. . If the voter is limited as to times he or she can meet with the clerk, the clerk will need to accommodate the voter.

**Q: If my spouse is running for an office - can I work the polls?**

A: There is nothing in state election law that prohibits it, but we have issued guidance based on an opinion issued by the Wisconsin Attorney General that there may be an ethical violation if the candidate’s success or failure to win an election would affect the inspector financially, such as because the candidate is a spouse or immediate family member of the inspector:  
<http://www.gab.wi.gov/node/3551>.

**Q: What if I do not receive a list of poll workers from the party, but a person asks to be listed with a party affiliation, are they still appointed with party affiliation?**

A: No, an election inspector is not listed with a party affiliation unless his or her name appears on a list submitted by one of the two major political parties.

**Q: Is this "Proof of" chart on the website?**

A: It will be posted with the webcast and webinar materials.

**Q: Any consideration for early voting versus absentee voting in Wisconsin? This would help manage the workload associated with absentee voting, especially since it is becoming more and more popular.**

A: The Government Accountability Board approved the staff-recommended Early Voting Report on December 17, 2009. The recommendations in the report have not been adopted by the State Legislature: <http://www.gab.wi.gov/publications/reports/early-voting>.

**Q: Can the party tell us which position they want a person on the list to work at the election?**

A: No, but it must be an election inspector position not, for example, a greeter position.

**Q: We are in a large second home community. A real estate tax bill could be used for proof of residency. How does that work if they are not primary residence?**

A: Proof of residence is never absolute proof that a person lives at the address on the document. It merely shows a connection to a particular address. Residence is self-certified by the voter when they sign the voter registration form. Also, whether or not the address the voter provides is the voter's "primary" residence is not a requirement for a residence for voting purposes.

**Q: Can a voter use a non-expired voided license? Meaning voided by the DMV because they are waiting for a new license in the mail.**

A: A driver license with a hole punched through the expiration date has been replaced by another product (either DL or WI ID). A voter waiting for a new driver license will be issued a driver license receipt that can be used for 45 days after it is issued as proof of identification.

**Q: For electronic poll books - could we not have internet access at the polling site and then after polls close connect to internet at office.**

A: An internet connection would be needed to later upload data to the statewide voter registration system, but internet access would not be required at the polling place. In fact, the electronic poll book standards which the Board has adopted state that, to ensure network security, the electronic poll book must be capable of operating without Internet connectivity and must be configured to prohibit connections to or from any network, other than a dedicated network to a central server or other electronic poll books.

The complete standards for electronic poll books adopted by the Board may be viewed starting on page 12 of the October 20, 2015 Board open session meeting materials, at this link: [http://www.gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/event/74/10\\_20\\_15\\_complete\\_open\\_session\\_materials\\_pdf\\_63714.pdf](http://www.gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/event/74/10_20_15_complete_open_session_materials_pdf_63714.pdf)

**Q: Can husband & wife both work at the same time at the polls.**

A: Yes, there is nothing in state law that prohibits it.

**Q: If we add election inspectors to our list after it has been approved by our governing body, does the "amended" list have to be approved by the governing body?**

A: The clerk can appoint new election inspectors to fill vacancies. The appointments do not need to go to the Board.

**Q: If our town does not have an internet site but our County does, can we use that site for posting legal notices?**

A: No, it has to be an internet site operated by the municipality to qualify.

**Q: When is the last day we can enter information into SVRS?**

A: While we transfer data and technology infrastructure to the new WisVote system, there will be a short window when neither system will be fully operational. SVRS will switch to “Read-Only” for all SVRS users on December 30, 2015. This means you will still be able to see your jurisdiction’s data in SVRS, but will not be able to edit or add new information. No new information will be entered into SVRS after December 31, 2015. MyVote Wisconsin will also be in a “Read-Only” state during this transition period between December 30, 2015 and January 11, 2016. Voters will be able to search for themselves and look up their information, but cannot make any changes.

Please review WisVote Update #6: Preparation for the Transition to WisVote:  
<http://www.gab.wi.gov/node/3757>.

**Q: Assuming the clerk is allowed to register voters, he or she is still not allowed to be working at the polls on Election Day if they are on the ballot?**

A: That is correct.

**Q: Proof of Identification, can it be an out of state driver license?**

A: No, an out of state driver license is not an acceptable form of proof of identification. The list of acceptable proof of identification clearly states “State of WI Driver License.”

**Q: We only received emailed lists from the parties – do we need to receive a hard copy with signatures?**

A: An emailed list is considered “delivered” under state statute. You may choose to not honor the list because the email was not followed up with a hard copy per GAB 6.04, Wis. Adm. Code. However, this may result in a complaint filed with the G.A.B. The Board will have to determine if the rule outweighs the good faith effort.

**Q: I have a list from only one party - that list does not cover both parties does it?? We appoint a list of unaffiliated for the other party - right?**

A: There is not an “other party” if you did not receive a list from the other party. They are unaffiliated election inspectors.

**Q: If nominees do not respond to our questionnaire asking which elections and times (1/2 day or full day) they are available, do we have to use them.**

A: Document the contact with the nominees. Contact the respective parties to inform them of the situation. If they are 1<sup>st</sup> choice nominees, you will need to seek approval from the G.A.B. to not use them.

**Q: What is the bill language with the sticker, can or cannot a sticker be used to vote?**

A: 2015 Act 37 eliminated language that permitted the use of stickers for either ballot candidates or write-in candidates. Section 8.35 of the Statutes still permits the use of stickers for substitute candidates who are designated by a political party or the campaign committee of a qualified candidate who dies after being nominated.

**Q: Can we have more than one Chief Inspector assigned for an election day?**

A: You can only have one appointed chief inspector at any one time. However, you can have more than one shift if your municipality has an ordinance allowing shifts, and there can be different Cis for each shift

**Q: Will you still be referred to as GAB?**

A: The bill eliminates the Government Accountability Board and replaces it with an Elections Commission and an Ethics Commission.

**Q: Could you clarify "being available" during Wed, Thurs & Fri after the election for late arriving absentee and provisional. She said the clerk can just be available for a time before the 4:00 deadline (?), but does not have to be available other times on W-Th-F (?).**

A: You must be "available" to receive the provisional ballot information from a voter. Being "available" can also mean providing contact information so the voter can reach the clerk to arrange a time to come into the clerk's office. If the voter is limited as to times he or she can meet with the clerk, the clerk will need to accommodate the voter.

**Q: One of the party's did not contact the individuals on the list before submitting to us. Two of the people declined. If we do not hear back from some of them as to whether or not they want to be considered, do we have to appoint them anyway?**

A: Document the contact with the nominees. Contact the respective parties to inform them of the situation. If they are 1<sup>st</sup> choice nominees, you will need to seek approval from the G.A.B. to not use them.

**A: We received a list from the Democratic Party; however the Republican Party governor received more votes at the November 4, 2014 election. Do I have to use 1 more unaffiliated than Democrat?**

A: Yes. For example, if you have five election inspectors working at the polls, the Republican Party can submit names to fill three of the five positions and the Democratic Party can submit names to fill two of the five positions. If the Republican Party does not submit names, three of the five positions will be unaffiliated election inspectors and two will be filled by the names submitted by the Democratic Party.