2009-2011 Biennial Report of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

Performance Report

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State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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Chairperson

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Director and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 15, 2011

TO: The Honorable Scott Walker, Governor
Chief Clerk Wisconsin State Senate
Chief Clerk Wisconsin State Assembly

FROM: Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

SUBJECT: **2009-2011 Biennial Report of the Government Accountability Board**

Per s. 15.01 (1)(d), the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board presents its 2009-2011 Biennial Report which provides a summary of the performance and operations of our agency from July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2011. It also offers an overview of G.A.B.'s goals and objectives based on the provisions of the 2009-2011 budget and response to 2011 Wisconsin Act 23.

The report underscores the critical roles and responsibilities assigned to G.A.B. – administering and enforcing the state's election, campaign and ethics laws. Working in concert with the Administration, Legislature, our local election partners, and other state agencies, we will continue Wisconsin's tradition of clean and open government.

Government Accountability Board Overview

Agency Description

The Board is comprised of six members, each of whom must have formerly been elected to and served as a judge of a court of record in Wisconsin. Members are appointed to six-year terms by the Governor from nominations submitted by the Government Accountability Candidate Committee consisting of four current Court of Appeals judges, one from each appellate district, selected randomly by the Supreme Court Chief Justice. Members are required to be nonpartisan. The new agency is unique to the United States.

The Director and General Counsel serves as the agency head and the chief election officer of the state. Board staff also is required by law to be nonpartisan. The agency is organized into two divisions: Elections, and Ethics and Accountability along with the Office of the Director and General Counsel. The Board is responsible for the administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics, and lobbying laws.

Mission

The mission of the Board is to enhance representative democracy by ensuring the integrity of the electoral process and further Wisconsin's tradition of clean and open government through its administration and enforcement of Wisconsin's elections and ethics codes, campaign finance and lobbying laws, and dissemination of information to the public.

History

The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) was established in January 2007 by 2007 Wisconsin Act 1. Act 1 also merged the staffs of the former State Elections Board and State Ethics Board – with the exception of their executive directors – to form a new agency.

The Director of the Wisconsin Legislative Counsel was charged with managing the process of constituting and organizing the new Board and helping Board members navigate the selection process for the Legal Counsel, the head of the new agency.

On March 1, 2007, Wisconsin Supreme Court Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson chose by lot the four members of the Government Accountability Board Candidate Committee, one judge from each of Wisconsin's four Appeals Court districts. (One Candidate Committee member was later replaced that month due to impending retirement.) The Candidate Committee was charged by 2007 Wisconsin Act 1 to select at least eight qualified former judges who could then be reviewed by the Governor for appointment to the Board.

On May 21, 2007, the Committee selected 12 candidates and sent their names to Governor Jim Doyle for review. On June 6, 2007, the Governor appointed six of those candidates as G.A.B. members, and submitted three appointments to the State Senate and three to the State Assembly. (Subsequent appointments to the Board must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.). By July 10, 2007, the Wisconsin State Legislature had confirmed the six members of the new Board. The initial terms of the original six members were determined by lot.

The Honorable Michael Brennan, Marshfield, for a term expiring	May 1, 2014
The Honorable Thomas Cane, Wausau, for a term expiring	May 1, 2013
The Honorable David Deininger, Monroe, for term expiring	May 1, 2009 Resigned April 8, 2008
The Honorable William Eich, Madison, for a term expiring	May 1, 2010
The Honorable James Mohr, Eagle River for a term expiring	May 1, 2011 Resigned April 5, 2008
The Honorable Gerald Nichol, Madison, for term expiring	May 1, 2012

The G.A.B. members met for the first time on August 23, 2007, and received a review of state elections and ethics law from the Directors of the State Elections Board and State Ethics Board. Legislative Counsel staff also reviewed for the new Board members 2007 Wisconsin Act 1; five surrounding states' experiences with administrative/regulatory bodies in the areas of lobbying, ethics and elections; and Wisconsin open meetings and records law.

After a nationwide search, the Board hired Kevin J. Kennedy, executive director of the Wisconsin State Elections Board as G.A.B. Legal Counsel on November 5, 2007. The Board decided to assign a working title of Director and General Counsel to the position.

On December 10, 2007, two more new positions were filled when Kennedy recommended to the Board the hiring of Jonathan Becker as Ethics and Accountability Division Administrator and Nathaniel E. Robinson as Elections Division Administrator. Pursuant to the enabling legislation, the Board's initiation date as a new agency was the 31st day after the Board gave final approval to the hiring of these positions.

On January 10, 2008, the Government Accountability Board staff was officially merged and began work as a new agency. That date also began the 365-day period defined in 2007 Wisconsin Act 1 as the review period for formal opinions, administrative rules, guidance and internal operating procedures during which the Board could reaffirm them or allow them to expire.

On April 8, 2008, the Attorney General issued a formal opinion concluding that two of the initial Board members were ineligible to serve because their judicial terms for which they had been elected had not expired, although they had retired during those terms. OAG-4-08. Judges Deininger and Mohr resigned from the Board and their seats were subsequently filled by Judge Victor Manian and Judge Gordon Myse, respectively.

Board Operations

Board members may not hold another state or local public office (except as reserve judge), engage in partisan political activities, become a candidate for state or local elected office, make political contributions, or be a lobbyist or employed by a person who employs a lobbyist. They also have limitations on political activities and certain types of contributions both during and 12 months prior to a member's term.

The six members of the G.A.B serve six-year, staggered terms, and there is a four-vote minimum needed to pass any motion of the Board. By statute, the Board chair is chosen by lot on an annual basis. The Board vice chair and secretary also are chosen by lot.

Board Chair	**Year**
Thomas Cane	August 2007-January, 2008; April 2008-January 2009
David Deininger	January 2008 -April 2008
Michael Brennan	January 2009 – January 2010
William Eich	January 2010-May2010
Judge Gordon Myse	June 2010-January, 2010
Thomas Barland	January 2011- January 2012
David Deininger	January 2012 to present

G.A.B. Director and General Counsel Kevin Kennedy serves as the chief elections officer of Wisconsin, as designated by the Board.

Board Action Summary 2009-2011

August 10, 2009

Highlights:

- Adopted Wisconsin's 2009-2014 Election Administration Plan and directed distribution to the Joint Committee on Finance
- Adopted Guideline 245 regarding public service announcements
- Approved promulgation of amendments to GAB 1, Campaign Finance
- Approved Statement of Scope GAB 4, Election Observers
- Approved promulgation of GAB 13 – Training of Election Officials
- Adopted 2010 Board meeting schedule

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2009/august

October 5, 2009

Highlights:

- Accepted an interim report on Early Voting
- Directed staff to develop guidelines for identification and reporting requirements for electronic communications and use of electronic technology for political purposes
- Directed staff to reexamine proposed language and recommend changes to ensure absentee ballot security in Chapter GAB 5
- Received a report from staff on improvements to the Campaign Finance Information System

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2009/october

November 9, 2009

Highlights:

- Deferred action on certification of ES&S voting equipment
- Approved changes to ensure absentee ballot security in Chapter 5
- Received a report from staff on improvements to the Campaign Finance Information System

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2009/november

December 17, 2009
Highlights:

- Approved certification of ES&S electronic voting equipment
- Authorized staff to promulgate rule changes in Chapters GAB 1, 6, and 9
- Received a report from staff on improvements to the Campaign Finance Information System
- Adopted the final staff report and recommendations on early voting as its own

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2009/december

January 14, 2010
Highlights:

- Selected new Board Officers
- Delegated specific statutory authority to Director and General Counsel
- Conducted legislative panel on early voting report
- Approved an amended Ballot Access Report

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2010/january

March 23, 2010
Highlights:

- Accepted UW evaluation of Wisconsin Election Data Collection System
- Actions in response to U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United
- Approved changes to GAB 1.28 (Issue Ad Regulation)
- Approved promulgation of GAB 1.90 (MCFL Corporations)

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2010/march

May 10, 2010
Highlights:

- Adopted staff recommendation against voluntary voter ID
- Adopted forfeiture schedule for illegal corporate contributions
- Approved administrative rule defining scope of regulated activity, GAB 1.28 (Issue Ad Regulation) and proposed GAB 1.91 – Disclosure of Independent Political Expenditures
-

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2010/may

July 21, 2010
Highlights:

- Selected Judge Nichol as Board Secretary to fill vacancy
- Approved staff recommendations to grant and deny ballot access to candidates for the fall election
- Received University of Wisconsin report on Election Inspectors' Statements
- Approved staff report on ballot access issues
- Adopted Campaign Finance Guidelines
- Approved staff recommendation to request extension of Emergency Rule ch. GAB §1.91 and approved a public hearing notice
- Approved scope statement to create GAB Chapter 26 relating to administration of Contract Sunshine
- Approved staff recommendations on administration of the Impartial Justice Act

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2010/july

August 9, 2010, and August 30, 2010
Highlights:

- Held a public hearing on Administrative Rule GAB 1.91
- Approved guidelines regarding lobbyists and campaign solicitation and fundraising
- Approved Statement of Scope for GAB 3 and GAB 12
- Approved Permanent Rule GAB 1.91
- Approved notice of proposed order adopting rule creating ch. GAB 26
- Approved initiatives for automating voter registration process
- Approved upgrades to AutoMARK voting equipment
- Approved 2011 G.A.B. meeting schedule

Full meeting materials:
8/9/2010 Meeting: *http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2010/august-special*
8/30/2010 Meeting: *http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2010/august*

September 13, 2010
Highlights:

- Approved guideline regarding Independent Disbursement Organizations
- Approved emergency and permanent rule regarding election observers
- Approved 2011-2013 Biennial Budget request

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2010/september

October 11, 2010
Highlights:

- Reviewed WECF grant denials
- Adopted the G.A.B. Canvass Reporting System Protocol
- Approved statement of scope for GAB Chapter 4 Election Observer Rule

- Approved proposal for 10% budget reduction

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2010/october

January 13, 2011
Highlights:

- Selected new Board Officers
- Delegated specific statutory authority to Director and General Counsel
- Approved Democracy Trust Fund
- Approved Ballot Access Report

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2011/january

March 22, 2011
Highlights:

- Approved guiding principles for Legislature in moving partisan primary date
- Approved recall timetable and guidelines
- Approved Promulgation and Amendment of ch. GAB §1.28(3)(b)

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2011/march

May 17, 2011
Highlights:

- Directed staff to continue review of request for Voting Equipment Data
- Received staff report on Statewide Recount
- Received staff report on Recall Petitions

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2011/may

May 23, 2011 – Special Meeting
Highlights:

- Certified results of the 2011 election for Supreme Court Justice
- Reviewed recall petition against Senator Kapanke
- Reviewed recall petition against Senator Hopper
- Reviewed recall petition against Senator Olsen

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/node/1841

May 31, 2011 – Special Meeting
Highlights:

- Reviewed recall petition against Senator Harsdorf
- Reviewed recall petition against Senator Cowles

- Reviewed recall petition against Senator Darling

Full meeting materials: http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2011/may-31-special

June 8, 2011, and June 27, 2011 – Special Meeting
Highlights:

- Reviewed recall petition against Senator Hansen
- Reviewed recall petition against Senator Holperin
- Reviewed recall petition against Senator Wirch
- Nygren Ballot Access Challenge

Full meeting materials:
June 8, 2011 : *http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2011/june-8-special*

June 27, 2011: *http://gab.wi.gov/about/meetings/2011/june-27-special*

Performance and Operation: Program Goals and Objectives

Goal: *Ensure open, fair an d transparent elections, by cultivating public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process.*

- Provide educational, training and informational resources to elections officials, the Wisconsin electorate, and the general public.

Goal: *Foster ethical conduct of go vernmental officials, lobbyists, and lobbying organizations.*

- Conducted training for newly elected legislators and for legislative staff on application of lobbying laws and standards of conduct for state officials
- Presented ethics training at the 2009, 2010, and 2011 Judicial College (all of the state's judges complete this training at least once every six years)
- Presented ethics training for cabinet secretaries and their key appointees

Goal: *Give timely advice on questions about the application of the ethics code and lobbying law.*

- Continued to meet or improve the timelines of responses to oral and written requests for advice and to ensure that the Board's opinions are reasonable and consistent.

Goal: *Identify for the public the businesses, organizations, and individuals attempting to influence governmental decisions, the issues in which they have an interest, and other pertinent information.*

- Enhanced dissemination of information about interests in proposed legislation and rules.
- Maintained a subscription service for providing customized lobbying information.
- Permitted lobbyists and lobbying organizations to complete their semi-annual statement of lobbying activities and expenditures online.
- Proceeded with developing an improved online reporting application for lobbying registration, interest submission, and expenditure reporting

Goal: *Provide information about governmental officials' financial interests to confirm for the public the absence of conflicting interests or to identify conflicts meriting attention.*

- Maintained a searchable, on-line index to the personal financial interests of Wisconsin's governmental officials.
- Facilitated state public officials' completion of their Statements of Economic Interests by providing them with forms already containing information they previously filed.

Goal: *Investigate possible violations o f the ethics code, campaign finance, and lobbying law and seek appropriate remedies or exoneration as circumstances warrant.*

- Completed 19 investigations of alleged misconduct by public officials.
- Completed campaign finance audits of late reporting, excessive contributions, prohibited corporate contributions, and prohibited lobbyist contributions
- Completed 55 investigations of alleged campaign finance violations outside of the regularly performed audit categories
- Responded to thousands of phone calls and emails related to questions of conduct.

Goal: *Provide the public with information about standards of conduct for governmental officials and lobbyists, lobbying efforts, campaign finance activities, and the G.A.B. activities.*

- Maintained "News and Notices" page on our website and issued press releases regarding the ethics code and lobbying law.
- Released a new Campaign Finance Information System (CFIS) for improved record keeping of candidates, committees and contributors, as well as campaign spending, donations and transfers.
- Presented material at several conferences to educate the community on campaign finance requirements.
- Attended regional and national conferences to learn best practices for the administration and enforcement of the ethics code, campaign finance and lobbying law.
- Hosted the Heartland Conference in 2009 for ethics, campaign finance, and lobbying officials from Midwestern states.

Goal: *Attempt to assure that statutes, rules, and proposed legislation are consistent with the furtherance of Wisconsin's tradition of clean and open government.*

- Reviewed the ethics code, campaign finance, and lobbying law to determine how the statutes should be modified to further the purposes of Wisconsin's Ethics Code, Campaign Finance law and Lobbying law.
- Identified and commented upon the effect that proposed statutes or rules would have on the Board's mission.

Goal: *Maintain a competent, enthusiastic Board and staff, sharing a common vision and goals.*

- Held weekly Division staff meetings to prepare to address coming events and issues.
- Encouraged and facilitated an active and engaged Board.
- Encouraged staff members' collegiality, initiative, and participation in the realization of the Board's mission and goals.

Goal: *Effectively use personnel, financial, and technological resources to enable the Board to excel at fulfilling its mission and goals.*

- Implemented ways to improve security and storage of the Board's documents.
- Provided staff with training.
- Tailored individuals' responsibilities to their abilities and the Board's needs.
- Continued to provide physical space and location that supports a productive work environment and is readily accessible to officials and lobbyists.
- Continued to identify new technologies that will, in a cost-effective manner, support the Board's goals.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES 2009 AND 2010 GOALS AND ACTUALS

Performance Measure	Goal 2009	Actual 2009	Goal 2010	Actual 2010
Monitor the number of contacts the public makes.	5,000 contacts	624,221 contacts[1]	8,000 contacts	278,168 contacts[2]
Monitor public satisfaction through media coverage (news articles and editorial pages).	100 articles	Surveys conducted[3]	200 articles	Surveys conducted[3]
Consult with local elections partners to determine voter satisfaction with Wisconsin's electoral processes.	4 consultations	12 consultations[4]	4 consultations	12 consultations[3, 5]
Maintain data and records on the number of educational outreach activities, training and technical assistance provided to local elections partners and the general public.	75 activities	1916 activities[6]	100 activities	1817 activities[7]
Number of contacts relating to requests for campaign finance information by Web site hits to campaign finance section.	25,000 contacts	41,026 contacts	40,000 contacts	39,125 contacts

Customer satisfaction.	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms	Comments from lobbyists and lobbying organizations have been uniformly positive	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms	Comments from lobbyists and lobbying organizations have been uniformly positive
Customer usage.	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high	Web site hits continue to demonstrate high usage (3,381,624 hits to site)	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high	Web site hits continue to demonstrate high usage (3,785,534 hits to site)
Impact.	The number and depth of publicity, analysis and commentary on information related to lobbying and financial interests of state officials will remain high	Interest remains high	The number and depth of publicity, analysis and commentary on information related to lobbying and financial interests of state officials will remain high	Interest remains high

Note: Based on fiscal year.

[1]The number includes a 4-year voter record maintenance mailing, returned post cards, as well as regular contact to and from the public.

[2]The number includes the mailings to voters as part of the Retroactive HAVA Check process, responses from voters, returned letters, as well as regular contact to and from the public.

[3]The Government Accountability Board Surveys of Clerk's Assessment of Customer Service Provided. In early 2010, G.A.B. staff conducted an on-line survey on when the G.A.B. should extend operation hours before, during and after elections. Of the G.A.B's 1,923 clerk customers and local official partners, 185 did not have E-mail accounts at that time (currently 175 clerks do not have E-mail accounts). Of the 1,738 who inherited the survey on-line, 790 (45.5%) responded.

The G.A.B conducted yet another on-line survey regarding its communication protocol, and clerks' satisfaction with G.A.B. services during the February 16, 2010, Spring Primary and April 6, 2010, Spring Election. The G.A.B. also solicited suggestions on how they could improve services to clerks as they approached the 2010 Fall Election Cycle. The 175 clerks who do not have E-mail accounts were sent paper copies of the survey. The deadline for returning the survey was Monday, August 23, 2010, and 717 surveys (37%) were returned. The results are being analyzed, and a preliminary review indicates the responses are favorable.

[4]The University of Wisconsin-Madison's Political Science Department's Study (*Wisconsin Voter Experience in the November 2008 General Election)*, April 2009.

Respondents in Wisconsin and in other states were polled immediately following the November 4, 2008, General and Presidential Election and were asked about their means of voting, problems they faced and other evaluation of their experience. Compared to voters in other Midwest states and the rest of the nation, no matter what form in which Wisconsin's electors cast their votes: in person on Election Day, in person before Election Day or the casting of their ballot by mail, their voting experience and level of satisfaction was "the most satisfied."

According to the University of Wisconsin-Madison study, compared to other states, Wisconsin residents were:

- Able to vote quickly and without incident.
- More satisfied, experienced fewer problems and expressed more confidence that their votes were counted fairly.
- More likely to cast their ballots early in person and much less likely to vote absentee by mail.
- More likely to register at the polls.
- Quite confident that their ballots were counted as they intended.
- Extremely satisfied with their voting experience.

Additionally,

- Very few Wisconsin voters encountered problems with their registration.
- Voting in Wisconsin took less time than in other states; three-quarters of Wisconsin voters who cast their ballots at the polls took less than ten minutes to vote.

[5]The University of Wisconsin-Madison's Political Science Department's Study of the Agency's New Election Data Collection and Voter Participation Management System.

As part of a 2009 independent study of the G.A.B's election data collection system supported with a competitively-awarded grant made to the G.A.B. by the U. S. Election Assistance Commission to improve election data collection and voter participation statistics, the University of Wisconsin, Department of Political Science professors surveyed Wisconsin's 1,923 county and municipal clerks on a variety of topics and 1,388 surveys were completed, a response rate of 72%. The results were presented to the G.A.B. in 2010. Respondents gave the agency high marks for services provided.

[6]7,050 local election officials received classroom training.

[7]6,150 local election officials received classroom training.

2011, 2012 AND 2013 GOALS

Performance Measure	Goal 2011	Goal 2012	Goal 2013
Monitor the number of contacts the public makes.	100,000 contacts	130,000 contacts	100,000 contacts
Monitor public satisfaction through media coverage (news articles and editorial pages).[1]	6 articles	12 articles	6 articles
Consult with local elections partners to determine voter satisfaction with Wisconsin's electoral processes.	2 consultations	3 consultations	2 consultations
Maintain data and records on the number of educational outreach activities, training and technical assistance provided to local elections partners and the general public.	210 activities[2]	220 activities[3]	210 activities[2]
Number of contacts relating to requests for campaign finance information by Web site hits to campaign finance section.	70,000 contacts	50,000 contacts	55,000 contacts
Customer satisfaction.	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms	Oral and written communications indicate lobbying organizations and officials will be satisfied with reporting mechanisms
Customer usage.	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high	Web site usage among legislators, executive branch and citizens will remain high

Note: Based on fiscal year.

[1]Mailing to electors for the voter records maintenance. Contact expected with about 400,000 voters.

[2]7,000 local election officials projected to receive training and technical support.

[3]7,500 local election officials projected to receive training and technical support.

Elections Division Report

2009-2011 Accomplishments and Policy Initiatives

1. 2009-2014 Election Administration Plan

A major portion of staff members' time was devoted to developing the Wisconsin 2009-2014 Election Administration Draft Plan. The data-gathering phase for developing the 2009-2014 Election Administration Plan began in 2008. Throughout the 2008-2009 Election Cycle, staff regularly solicited and received feedback from:

- Wisconsin's 3.8 million eligible registered voters (our customers)
- 1,850 municipal clerks (our local election partners)
- 72 county clerks (also our local election partners)
- Other local and statewide election officials
- Members of the Wisconsin Legislature
- City Mayors (including the City of Milwaukee), and Town and Village Board Presidents
- Other local and statewide elected representatives; and
- The statutorily created Wisconsin Election Administration Council

The Wisconsin Election Administration Council (WI-EAC) convened on April 16, June 17, and July 28, 2009, to advise on the development of the Draft Plan. On June 22, 2009, during its regular meeting, the G.A.B. reviewed a Synopsis of the Draft Plan and authorized its distribution to the Legislative Joint Committee on Finance (JCF), and the public for review and comment.

On June 26, 2009, a notice for public comments was posted both in the state newspaper and on the G.A.B's website. The notice allowed a 30-day period for comments on the Draft Plan, or until July 27, 2009.

On June 29, 2009, the Elections Division Administrator began briefing individual JCF members and their respective staff on the Plan. When the JCF briefings concluded on July 15, 2009, 15 of the 16 JCF members and/or their respective staff persons had been visited.

On July 20, 2009, the JCF was provided with an amendment to the Draft Plan. The amendment was written as enabling language designed to capture the impending Federal legislation, "Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act," s.1415, that was being considered by the United States Congress.

During its July 28, 2009, meeting, the WI-EAC took in-person public comments and considered both the in-person and written public comments before recommending to the Government Accountability Board, that the 2009-2014 Election Administration Plan be adopted.

During its July 28, 2009, meeting, the WI-EAC considered the in-person and written comments, and made a decision as to what was to be incorporated and what was not. The WI-EAC recommended several editorial clarifications for improving the Draft Plan.

The 2009-2014 Election Administration Plan was approved by the Wisconsin Legislative Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) on a 13-1 vote on October 13, 2009. The Plan was forwarded to the United States Election Assistance Commission on October 16, 2009, for publishing in the Federal Register for 30 days, after which, the Plan was approved.

2. **Improving Communications between Clerks and the G.A.B.**

A major portion of staff members' time has been devoted to participating in meetings with county and municipal clerk partners in Madison and in eight venues throughout Wisconsin, regarding suggestions and recommendations on making the G.A.B./Clerk Partnership more effective, especially in the area of communications. As a result of these listening sessions, staff developed and implemented a protocol that should lessen the frequency and intensity of mass communication to clerks.

3. **End of Wisconsin Election Data Collection System Grant**

In May of 2008, Wisconsin was among five states selected to receive a competitive $2 million grant for purposes of improving election data collection. The cornerstone of Wisconsin's data collection project was the development of the Wisconsin Election Data Collection System (WEDCS). The system is a data warehouse with web-based, front-end access by our 1,923 county and municipal clerks. The system also features robust reporting functionality, allowing us to easily complete the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Election Day Survey, as well as to provide reports on-demand to members of this agency, other agencies, and the general public. Now that the funds have been exhausted, staff prepared the necessary close-out forms to bring the grant to an end and completed numerous accounting transactions to reconcile and close-out the account.

4. **New Website**

Elections Division staff members made significant contributions to the new website which brings together information about the Board's Elections and Ethics divisions in one convenient, easy-to-use place. The new website was launched on June 1, 2010.

5. **Early Voting**

The G.A.B. conducted an in-depth study of adopting early voting in Wisconsin in 2009. The staff held listening sessions in eight locations around Wisconsin to gather feedback from election officials and voters. More than 500 people attended the sessions. The preliminary report was delivered to the Board on October 5, 2009. Based on the feedback received, the staff explored recommendations for Early Voting, as well as ways to streamline the existing in-person absentee voting process. A final report was delivered to the G.A.B. on December 17, 2009, which did not

recommend traditional early voting implementation in Wisconsin due to limited staff resources at the local level. The report did recommend a number of changes to streamline the existing in-person absentee process.

6. **"Click and Mail" Voter Registration**
Staff is developing a system using the Voter Public Access website and the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) to facilitate mail-in voter registration. This is a web-based portal where voters can fill in voter registration information, and then print off and mail in a completed voter registration form. The data is saved in SVRS, so when the clerk receives the mailed-in form, they can simply review and approve the pending voter application in SVRS rather than having to manually enter the data.

7. **Statewide Recount (Supreme Court Justice Race Spring 2011)**
The recount instilled confidence with the voters. Out of 1.5 million votes cast, the variance between the original count and the recount was only a 1,233 vote difference.

8. **Voter Photo Identification (ID) Law**
2011 Wisconsin Act 23, the Voter Photo ID Bill became law on June 9, 2011. This legislation is the most pervasive and sweeping change to election administration in Wisconsin's history. The Board staff began making presentations to the Legislature starting in January 2011 until the bill became law. G.A.B. staff had been implementing a strategy including educational materials and tools for administering the Voter Photo ID Law.

9. **Voter Photo ID Statewide Public Media Education/Informational Campaign**
An advertising agency will be procured to assist in crafting and branding a Voter Photo ID Statewide Public Media Education/Informational Campaign that will launch in print, voice, visual and electronic media on January 2, 2012. The theme of this Campaign is "Bring it to the Ballot!" Bringit.wisconsin.gov | 1-866-VOTE.WIS (1-866-868-3947).

10. **Voter Photo ID Speaker's Bureau**
The Speaker's Bureau was created to launch a robust public outreach program initiative for Wisconsin electors who may have challenges obtaining a statutory ID.

11. **The Federal 2010 Decennial Census Results and 2011 Wisconsin Acts 39, 43 & 44**
These actions govern redistricting. The Wisconsin Legislature published the updated population data and census maps that resulted from the 2010 decennial Census on March 21, 2011. This officially started the redistricting clock. All local elections beginning January 1, 2012 are managed from the newly established districts. The Wisconsin Legislature must complete the new legislative districts by early May 2012 so they can be used for the 2012 fall elections. The Legislature provided a Geographic Information System (GIS) tool for municipalities and counties to draw their new districts. The new districts will be available as GIS data files as soon as they are complete. Staff continues to work closely with clerks and their respective IT staff to make sure

that every voter is properly placed in the appropriate ward. Necessary upgrades and refinements in SVRS to allow the migration from the address range model to GIS Geocoding represent the single biggest change to SVRS since it was created.

12. 2011 Wisconsin Act 75

This Act was developed, passed and signed into law in order to comply with the 2009 Federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, by moving the September Partisan Primary to the second Tuesday in August.

13. AccessElections! Wisconsin Accessibility Compliance Program

During the 2011 Election Cycle, G.A.B. experienced its most extensive onsite accessibility compliance initiative in the history of the agency as reflected in the following data.

- 1,850 Municipalities (cities, towns and villages) / Municipal Clerks
- 2,658 Polling Places were open on April 5, 2011 Election Day
- 396 Conducted Onsite Accessibility Compliance Audits
- 41 Counties visited
- 275 Municipalities visited

14.9% of the state's polling places were audited.

14. 2011 Recalls / Preparing for 2012 Recall Elections

Wisconsin experienced nine recall elections in 2011: the most in the state's, or the nation's, history. In addition to overseeing four 2012 regular scheduled statewide elections including the November General Election, G.A.B. and local election officials are poised to administer/conduct two additional statewide elections for the Office of Governor and Lt. Governor, and four recalls for the Office of State Senator. G.A.B., in conjunction with local election officials, is preparing to administer and manage the most widespread recall initiatives in the history of both the state and the nation.

15. Greater Use of Technology

The G.A.B. expects to continue and even expand upon these alternatives to in-person meetings in 2012 in order to continue to improve efficiencies and effectiveness, and to provide even greater quality and timely service to our customers and partners at a measurably reduced cost. Some noteworthy examples of the use of technology include:

- Major improvements to the canvass reporting system (CRS). The CRS is now more intuitive and more user-friendly thus, increasing the efficiency of both G.A.B. staff and clerk partners.
- G.A.B. Election Administration Calendar has been integrated and interfaced with the Microsoft Outlook Calendar.
- Teleconferencing, webcasts/webinars, YouTube videos, Facebook, Twitter, G.A.B. website, etc., were used more frequently to reach a larger/wider audience for gaining input from, and

to educate local election officials on such program initiatives as Voter Photo ID and Redistricting.

Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Activities and Accomplishments

Elections are administered at the state level by the (G.A.B.), but are conducted at the local level by 1,923 local elections officials covering 72 counties and 1,851 municipalities. In FY 2010, there were 6 state-level elections. During FY 2011, there were 23 state-level elections, three regularly scheduled elections (including the 2010 General Election), 17 recall elections and three special elections to fill vacancies. During these elections, Wisconsin used approximately 2,888 polling places and recorded votes in approximately 3,596 reporting units. There were also 5 state-level recounts during FY 2011, one of which was a statewide recount for the office of Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice.

HAVA 101

For every state-level election, the G.A.B. has special extended office hours from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to provide assistance to local election officials, candidates, and the public. G.A.B. staff draft Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) checklists for all regularly scheduled elections and share these checklists with local election officials before each election in order to improve consistency amongst the 1,922 local elections officials.

The G.A.B. has been working with the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Enterprise Technology (DOA/DET) to assemble a "team approach" to applications development and support for the Elections and related IT systems. This new team is co-managed by G.A.B. and DOA/DET, and supports all Elections Division software applications including the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS), Wisconsin Election Data Collection System (WEDCS), Canvass Reporting System (CRS), AccessElections! Accessibility Compliance System, and any new IT tools the Elections Division may need.

Ten updates were installed to SVRS during FY 2011. These updates made improvements to existing reports and mailings that are used during the election cycle, improved the performance of the Voter Public Access (VPA) website, updated the SVRS to handle the requirements of 2011 Wisconsin Act 23 (Voter Photo ID law), and made changes in preparation for the decennial redistricting.

The 2010 General Election marked the second time in which local election officials used the G.A.B. Canvass Reporting System (CRS). This system is an online application by which local election officials provide election results electronically. All 72 counties used the CRS to report the official election results for the 2010 General Election. Based upon feedback from local election officials, critical improvements were made to the CRS between the Partisan Primary and the General Election. The improvements reduced the amount of paper local election officials were required to mail to the G.A.B. and eliminated the number of canvass reports that were rejected by the G.A.B. New step-by-step instructions were sent to all local election officials and G.A.B. staff was available during and after normal work hours to

provide one-on-one technical support as needed. Another version of the CRS was installed on February 14, 2011. This new version made several updates requested by local election officials and G.A.B. election administration staff to improve the canvassing process. G.A.B. staff continues to work with local election officials to further improve the CRS.

Local election officials continue to use the SVRS to validate voter registration information against Department of Transportation (DOT) and Social Security Administration (SSA) records, and confirm matches with Department of Corrections (DOC) felon information and Department of Health Services (DHS) death data. Local election officials process these "HAVA Checks" and confirm matches on a continuous basis during the course of their daily election administration tasks. This process has been followed since these interfaces first became functional in SVRS on August 6, 2008.

Beginning in early March 2011, G.A.B. and Wisconsin Department of Administration's Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) technical staff began the process of refreshing the SVRS server farm with new virtual servers and associated hardware. G.A.B. Information Technology staff have completed modifications to SVRS to allow for the new boundaries to be imported directly into the SVRS from the Geographic Information System (GIS) tool that local units of government are using to draw the new district boundaries, alleviating the need for local election officials to manually enter them. There were many system upgrades and changes made during 2011 to prepare SVRS for the new districts. A proof of concept and planning report were prepared in 2010 by DOA/DET (supported with funds from the $2 million dollar Election Data Collection Grant awarded to Wisconsin in 2008 by the US-EAC) which provides the roadmap for these changes. Updating the SVRS to import these new districts directly from GIS is the most significant update the SVRS has seen since its original implementation.

In March 2011, the Wisconsin Legislature published the updated population data and census maps that resulted from the 2010 decennial census. Municipalities subsequently enacted ordinances or resolutions establishing municipal wards. After that, counties and municipalities established election districts. All local elections beginning January 1, 2012, must be managed from the newly established districts. The Wisconsin Legislature adopted new districts in July 2011, which become effective August 24, 2011, for elections occurring beginning November 6, 2012. These new legislative districts will be used for the circulation of nomination papers beginning April 15, 2012.

One of the methods to improve the accuracy of voter information in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) is to share voter registration data between states, and enhance the detection of possible voter fraud, particularly the states that border Wisconsin. Board staff has continued working with local election officials and the election officials of neighboring states (e.g. Minnesota) to compare and verify voter data in order to determine whether any individuals voted in both Wisconsin and another state during the national elections.

The Governor signed 2011 Wisconsin Act 23 (the Voter Photo ID law) on May 25, 2011; it was published on June 9, 2011, with some provisions going into effect immediately on June 10, 2011. While

the Legislature allocated $1.9 million in the state budget for voter and local election officials' education and implementation, HAVA resources and staff have also been used to support some early aspects of the voter education and implementation effort.

G.A.B. staff is developing a system using the Voter Public Access (VPA) website and the SVRS to facilitate mail-in voter registration. This system is a web-based portal where voters can fill in voter registration information, print a computer generated voter registration form with that information, and mail in the completed voter registration form to their municipal clerk. The data is saved in the SVRS, so when the local election official receives the form, they can simply review and approve the pending voter application in the SVRS rather than having to manually enter the information on the form.

G.A.B. staff continued development and deployed a new election integrity section on the agency website to collect voter comments and complaints, including allegations of election fraud. This voter integrity section complements the existing toll-free voter helpline, 1-866-VOTE-WIS.

The Public Information team served to ensure the Voter Photo ID information and messages were developed and produced in a variety of formats and designed to reach a variety of demographic audiences. This team also was charged with the procurement of an advertising/marketing firm to assist with these tasks. A firm was secured to effectively craft the Voter Photo ID message and brand, and determine the best markets and venues for message placements. The Public Information team managed the work of this firm and coordinated the development of responses to inquiries regarding G.A.B.'s public information and education initiatives.

In 2010 and 2011, G.A.B. staff conducted over 300 training classes to reach thousands of election officials. This did not include any training provided via on-demand online training. These classes ranged from classroom-structured election administration training, to large-scale teleconferences with hundreds of listeners at a time for refreshers and updates on timely election subjects. G.A.B. staff also created a series of web-based election training videos to educate election officials on changes to the law and demonstrate new functionality of the (SVRS).

In response to the changes imposed by the new Voter Photo ID law, over 1,000 local election officials attended in-person seminars. In addition, G.A.B. staff conducted an extensive revision and update of the majority of our print and online training resources for local election officials.
The G.A.B. maintains a toll-free hotline (1-866-VOTE-WIS) to collect voter comments, questions, and complaints. During the reporting period, 2,670 calls were received via this hotline.

The G.A.B. continues to host a Voter Public Access (VPA) website that provides voters' registration status, list of elected representatives, polling place location, sample ballot (if available) and participation history. This website can also be used by voters to determine whether their provisional ballot was counted, and, if the ballot was not counted, the reason why it was not counted.

HAVA 251

In 2010, the State of Wisconsin requested a Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act waiver on the basis that the state's statutorily-set September Partisan Primary did not provide sufficient time for the November General Election ballots to be prepared and sent by the 45-day deadline. On August 27, 2010, that waiver request was denied. The waiver's denial was resolved with a consent decree between the United States and the State of Wisconsin for the 2010 General Election.

In compliance with the consent decree between the United States and the State of Wisconsin, county election officials submitted proofs of the ballots for the November 2, 2010, General Election for review and approval by Election Division staff. In the event that ballot printers were unable to print and deliver ballots to the county elections officials for distribution to municipal elections officials no later than noon on October 1, 2010, county elections officials were instructed to provide an electronic PDF version of the ballot to municipal elections officials. G.A.B. staff worked with municipal and county elections officials to ensure all ballots were mailed and tracked in the SVRS. The consent decree also extended the time period after Election Day in which military and overseas absentee ballots could be counted from 10 days to 17 days. Of the more than 2,600 military and overseas absentee ballots which were outstanding on Election Day, approximately 101 ballots were returned and counted after Election Day.

The consent decree also required G.A.B. to capture post-election statistics. A supplemental form requesting specific military and overseas statistics was developed and distributed to local election officials for completion following the 2010 General Election. G.A.B staff worked with municipal elections officials to enter their election data into the SVRS and the Wisconsin Election Data Collection System (WEDCS), which formed the basis of the statistics required for the final report to the US DOJ.

G.A.B. staff subsequently began planning the steps required to move the Partisan Primary from September to another date that will allow for compliance with the MOVE Act's 45 day ballot transmission deadline. The Special Election cycle and Presidential Preference election will also have to be updated to meet MOVE Act requirements.

The Government Accountability Board staff has worked with legislative leaders regarding the need to adjust the election timeline for the Partisan Primary, special elections, and Presidential Preference. The Senate and Assembly Committees on Elections met and wrote two bills, SB 115 and SB 116, with feedback from G.A.B. staff. Senate Bill 115 moves the Presidential Preference election to coincide with the April Spring Election and requires the creation of a special Presidential Preference Only ballot 48 days before the election that must be sent to military and overseas electors to comply with the MOVE Act. Senate Bill 116 moves the September Partisan Primary to the second Tuesday in August and addresses the timeline of other election related events. Wisconsin is now in full compliance with all provisions of the MOVE Act.

HAVA 261

The G.A.B. is working towards the following goals:

- *To make polling places accessible to individuals with a full range of disabilities. "Polling places" include the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility.*

- *To provide the same opportunity for access and participation in the electoral process, including privacy and independence, to voters with disabilities as that which exists for voters with no disabilities.*

- *To provide training for election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers on how best to promote access and participation of individuals with disabilities in elections for Federal office.*

- *To provide information to individuals with a full range of disabilities with information about the accessibility of polling places.*

The G.A.B. has provided information and assistance to municipalities that are considering opening additional polling places or moving existing polling places to a new location. Our primary goal continues to be 100% accessibility compliance at all polling places in Wisconsin.

The G.A.B. staff is implementing the next phase of the Polling Place Accessibility Survey project, which is the creation and implementation of a web-based system containing accessibility information for polling places statewide. An Elections Accessibility Specialist was hired in January 2011 to oversee G.A.B. accessibility efforts.

A team of temporary workers have now taken polling place accessibility data from over 2,700 paper surveys and entered it into the AccessElections! Wisconsin Accessibility Compliance System. The data was collected in 2009 from Wisconsin's county and municipal election officials. Data entry was completed in March and enables staff to produce targeted reports on barriers for voters with disabilities. There are many advantages of the new online format. When rolled out to local election officials, it will enable them to conduct future accessibility surveys online and update their records as improvements are made to their polling locations. It will also enable staff to pinpoint existing barriers to voters with disabilities and better track assistance provided through grants.

On April 5, 2011, a small team resumed on-site compliance surveys, with site visits based on targeted reports showing areas of most concern and with the greatest need. G.A.B. staff, augmented by temporary workers, also took advantage of the summer 2011 recall and special elections to conduct onsite accessibility compliance reviews. During this period, staff conducted 371 onsite accessibility compliance audits, across 41 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, in 277 of Wisconsin's 1,850 municipalities.

This represents approximately 14% of all polling places (2,658 total) used for the April 5, 2011 Spring Election.

Top findings of the 2011 accessibility compliance reviews include:

- Some polling places with insufficient signage for accessible parking spaces and entrances.
- Some door thresholds that are greater than ½" high and would require the addition of a threshold ramp.
- Some polling places lack required election notices and those posted are not printed in 18 point font.
- Some municipalities that received G.A.B. Accessibility improvement grant funds or supplies to assist respective polling places to achieve compliance could not show or demonstrate items that the funds were intended to purchase, or the supplies that were received. This finding is disturbing and will be closely followed-up for explanations.

The G.A.B. has now replaced our existing paper-based polling place accessibility survey with a new electronic survey that will significantly improve data collection, accuracy, and analysis. The new accessibility survey is a user-friendly electronic tool that includes self-registration, skip logic, and stores previous responses to eliminate costly re-entry of data.

The survey is also available via mobile or portable wireless device for easy data entry from the field. The tool also allows election officials to quickly analyze their results and provides election officials immediate feedback on how to improve their polling place accessibility on Election Day. It serves as a robust administration system for G.A.B. to update or revise the survey design, enter paper survey data, review and analyze data, and generate reports. It provides detailed reporting (customizable to state-specific requirements) to analyze survey data, including, but not limited to: identifying key barriers at polling places to match needs with supplies, comparison reports by location, and providing a method to randomly select polling places for site visits.

The system is also integrated with SVRS to provide the details of each polling place's accessibility and provide a public portal for that information along with photos and maps to the polling place through the VPA website. This feature is expected to go live in FY 2012.

Elections in Wisconsin are organized and carried out at the local municipal level (currently 1,850 municipalities) using approximately 2,700 polling places. Many of these polling places are town halls in rural areas and were built before the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. These municipalities typically do not have the resources to renovate these buildings to make them more accessible. Additionally, many municipal clerks are part-time and have other full-time employment. This proves to be a significant challenge for the G.A.B. in education and training.

G.A.B. staff meets periodically with our Accessibility Advisory Group and local election officials to obtain feedback on agency activities. Most recently during this reporting period, G.A.B. staff has

worked with a variety of organizations representing voters with disabilities to discuss the impact of Wisconsin's new Voter Photo ID law.

The G.A.B. encourages all voters to use the accessible voting equipment. This has a number of advantages. First, the voter with disabilities does not feel singled out by needing to use the accessible voting equipment. Second, the greater usage protects the privacy of the votes cast on the machine. Third, the accessible equipment is often newer and easier to use than paper ballots or older voting equipment. And finally, accessible equipment is often easier to count as it is either direct-record electronic or machine marked so there are fewer questions of voter intent during the canvass.

In FY 2011, the G.A.B. conducted eight municipal clerk core curriculum trainings and 30 baseline Chief Inspector training classes, with approximately, 120 clerks and 700 chief inspectors received training. At each of these classes, there are specific sections dedicated to accessibility issues to better educate local election officials on the needs of individuals with disabilities. At baseline chief inspector training, G.A.B. trainers also show a training video entitled, "Access to Voting, Access to Democracy," which was produced specifically to address these issues in the polling place and provide poll workers with guidance for assisting individuals with disabilities.

The G.A.B. website also hosts the "Access to Voting, Access to Democracy" instructing elections officials on how to better assist people with disabilities. The site includes a map that indicates what type of accessible equipment is used in every municipality in Wisconsin along with links to videos demonstrating the use of the equipment. The G.A.B. plans to produce a new training video for accessibility that will be produced in a digital format to allow for easier updating. This new video will feature updated procedures for assisting individuals with disabilities and more detailed information on how to set up and use the accessible voting equipment approved for use in Wisconsin.

A working collaboration has been established between the G.A.B. and other governmental and non-profit organizations such as Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities. The G.A.B. continues to be invited to lectures, special forums and meetings conducted by municipal clerk, county clerk and school district administrator associations. As an agency, we view each event as an opportunity to communicate and share information with every citizen in Wisconsin and generally the response has been very positive. In return, we benefit by receiving feedback from clerks, election inspectors, and community members. Also, we hear anecdotally that the attention paid to accessibility of polling places continues to pay dividends to the issue of accessibility in general. The G.A.B. also maintains a toll-free hotline for citizens to call to report accessibility problems, (1-866-VOTEWIS). To date no accessibility problems have been reported through the hotline.

Ethics and Accountability Division

Campaign Finance Information System (CFIS)

In an effort to inform the electorate, the Campaign Finance Information System was created. Campaign finance reports provide information which aids the public in fully understanding the public positions taken by a candidate or political organization.

The Government Accountability Board's Campaign Finance Information System is an online database of all **state** candidates, committees and contributors, as well as their campaign spending, donations and transfers. CFIS contains campaign finance data from January 2009 to the present.
Changes to the Campaign Finance Information System in 2009 include:

- Occupation codes no longer used.
- Removal of the employer search and match data entry.
- Removal of the contributor search and match data entry.
- Made the Excel spreadsheet more user-friendly.
- Removal of validation on non-required field.
- Improvements in the Upload Process.
- Display all comments on the system generated reports.
- Improve the Public Search functionality.

Lobbying

Since 1997-98, the State of Wisconsin has maintained an online database of lobbying activities, allowing the public to monitor in real time efforts to influence the Legislature. The lobbying database was created by the former Wisconsin Ethics Board, which is now part of the Government Accountability Board.

G.A.B. staff began work on creating a new and enhanced version of the web-based Eye on Lobbying information system. G.A.B. partnered with the Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) to build the new database application. Pursuant to §13.685 (8), *Wisconsin Statutes*, the Board was required to submit a proposed contract to the co-chairpersons of the Joint Committee on Finance. Staff included and solicited feedback from members of the lobbying community and other interested stakeholders in the design of the new application. Staff invited members of the lobbying community, members of the Joint Committee on Finance, and members of the Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology to participate in a Focus Group presentation and discussion on the functionality of the public search feature of the new lobbying database on May 19, 2011. Work will continue on the project, with release of the application scheduled for late 2012.

Contract Sunshine

Contract Sunshine was created by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2006. In enacting the Contract Sunshine Act, the Legislature's intention was to enhance citizens' confidence in the State's procurement process by providing a one-stop internet location where citizens, the press, vendors, and others can learn about current procurement activities. The Legislature intended that the Act provide potential vendors of goods and services with ready access to information about the State's purchases and confirm that the State's procurement programs are operating fairly and efficiently.

The Act directs every state office and agency in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government to post on the Internet a list identifying each solicitation for bids or proposals and each proposed order or contract of the agency for which bids or proposals will not be solicited that involves an expenditure of $10,000 or more, or if a contract or order is for continuing purchases, an expenditure of $10,000 or more in the current fiscal biennium.

In 2007, the former State Ethics Board consulted extensively with State agency purchasing officials in developing the Contract Sunshine system. In January 2008, the Contract Sunshine web site was launched. On October 13, 2009, an administrative services staff person was hired to focus on the administration of the Contract Sunshine Program. There is a website in place for reporting. However, state agencies have not been consistent in providing the required information. There is no statutory penalty for failure to comply. With the filled position we will expand efforts to educate state agencies and to encourage compliance.

Many agencies have asked the Government Accountability Board to provide them with the ability to export their purchasing information in bulk to the Contract Sunshine system. When it created the program, the Legislature did not provide the resources necessary to develop such a system.

In January of this year, our Contract Sunshine administrator met with the State Agencies Purchasing Council to update them on the system's status and gather feedback on the system's functionality.

Yearly reports maintained by the Ethics and Accountability Division

- All candidates, PACs, parties, conduits, and sponsoring organizations are required to file January/July Continuing **campaign finance reports** with the Government Accountability Board.

- §13.685 (8), *Wisconsin Statutes*, requires all registered lobbying organizations to complete a 6 month **Statement of Lobbying Activities and Expenditures (SLAE)** report that contains information related to the organizations' lobbying effort between January 1 and June 30. The SLAE report is due on or before July 31. As a party of the SLAE report, those lobbyists who

are authorized to lobby for the organization are required to complete a time report that identifies those hours spent communicating or working on other lobbying related matters for the organization. This report is also due on or before July 31. Both reports are filed electronically.

- Staff contacts all state agencies to review the list of officials required to file a **Statement of Economic Interest** in order to ensure its accuracy before pre-printed statements are mailed. State officials and candidates file Statements of Economic Interests for public inspection at the time they enter the public arena and continue to update them annually. A statement identifies a filer's and his or her immediate family's employers, investments, real estate, commercial clients, and creditors. The purpose of the statement is to disclose the official's or candidate's financial relationships. Approximately 2,500 state public officials and candidates for state office file statements of economic interests on an annual basis.

- Staff is also preparing **Quarterly Transaction reports** for State of Wisconsin Investment Board members and staff required to file quarterly reports. These reports are reviewed by the Legislative Audit Bureau.

- Any non-candidate committee with expenses over $2,500 is required to pay a $100 **filing fee**. If this fee is not paid timely, the committee is required to pay a total of $300 for filing fees, and up to $500 forfeiture.

Goals for 2011-2013

The 2009-2014 Election Administration Plan was approved by the Wisconsin Legislative Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) on a 13-1 vote on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. The Plan was forwarded to the United States Election Assistance Commission on Friday, October 16, 2009, for publishing in the Federal Register for 30 days, after which, the Plan was approved. The JCF made no changes to the Plan. See the 2009-2014 Election Administration Plan here.

Report on Flexible-Time Work Schedules, Permanent Part-Time Positions and Alternative Work Patterns

The G.A.B. maintains a commitment to providing flexible time and staggered-hour work schedules, job sharing and other alternative work patterns. All employees are allowed to adjust their start and leave times and lunch breaks. The G.A.B. utilizes lap-top computers and dial-in connectivity for staff to work from other locations when they cannot be in the office. Many of the agencies employees work non-standard hours, while providing quality service through a mutually satisfactory arrangement. The G.A.B. also provides extended hours surrounding elections to maintain quality service to our partners. The G.A.B. currently employs permanent, project, and LTE personnel.

Organization Chart

The Honorable David Deininger, Monroe	June 6, 2007- April 2008 (term expired May 1, 2009) Resigned April, 2008 Reappointed June 2010-May 1, 2016
The Honorable William Eich, Madison	June 6, 2007- June 2, 2010
The Honorable James Mohr, Eagle	June 6, 2007- April 2008 (term expired May 1, 2011) Resigned April 2008
The Honorable Gerald Nichol, Madison	June 6, 2007- May 1,2012 Reappointed
The Honorable Thomas Cane, Wausau	June 6, 2007- May 1,2013
The Honorable Michael Brennan, Marshfield	June 6, 2007- May 1,2014
The Honorable Gordon Myse, Appleton	June 2008- June 17, 2011
The Honorable Victor Manian, Glendale	June 2008-May 26, 2009
The Honorable Thomas Barland, Eau Claire	June 2009-May 1, 2015

Individuals Employed by the Board:

Administration

- Kevin J. Kennedy – Director and General Counsel
- Sharrie Hauge – Chief Administrative Officer
- Shane W. Falk – Staff Counsel
- Michael Haas – Staff Counsel
- Reid Magney – Public Information Officer
- Sonia Kubica – Financial Specialist
- Michael Lauth – Accountant
- James Malone – Operations Program Associate
- Julie Nischik – Office Operations Associate
- Tiffany Schwoerer – Office Operations Associate

Elections Division Staff

- Nathaniel E. Robinson – Division Administrator, Elections Division
- David Buerger – Elections Specialist – HAVA Compliance
- Allison Coakley – Elections Training Coordinator
- Christopher Doffing – Multimedia Training Officer

- Edward Edney – SVRS Application Trainer
- Jo Futrell - Accessibility Specialist
- Adam Harvell-SVRS Application Trainer
- Aaron Frailing – Elections Specialist
- Ross Hein – Elections Specialist
- John Hoeth – Help Desk
- Diane Lowe – Lead Elections Specialist
- Kathryn Mueller – MOVE Act Coordinator
- Ann Oberle – SVRS User Acceptance Testing – Lead
- Steve Pickett – Elections Specialist – Local Election Administration
- Steven Rossman – Help Desk Lead
- Sarah Whitt – SVRS Functional Team Lead

Ethics and Accountability Division Staff

- Jonathan Becker – Division Administrator, Ethics and Accountability Division
- Richard Bohringer – Lead Campaign Finance Auditor
- Nathan Judnic – Campaign Finance Auditor/Ethics Specialist
- Cindy Kreckow – Ethics and Lobbying Program Support
- Tracey Porter – Campaign Finance Auditor/Lobbying Specialist