

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE DAVID G. DEININGER
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KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

DATE: March 7, 2012

TO: Wisconsin Municipal Clerks
City of Milwaukee Election Commission
Wisconsin County Clerks
Milwaukee County Election Commission

FROM: Nathaniel E. Robinson
Election Division Administrator
Government Accountability Board

SUBJECT: Clerks Advice on Preferred Date for Recall Election
Response Requested by Monday, March 12, 2012

This correspondence follows-up the letter from Director Kennedy that was sent to Barbara A. Frank, President of the Wisconsin County Clerks Association, and to Ann B. Uecker, President of the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association on February 17, 2012. Director Kennedy's letter was in regard to allegations that the Government Accountability Board was working to schedule separate recall election dates for the Senate officeholders and the Governor/Lt. Governor, which would cause significant additional election costs to counties and municipalities.

Specifically, Director Kennedy's letter states in part,

The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) has stated from the beginning of this latest round of recall initiatives that if recall elections are ordered, we prefer to have all recall events scheduled for two dates, one primary date and one election date. We ask that you continue to rely on our direct communications about the scheduling and administration of any recall elections rather than relying on second-hand information or interpretations of the Board's plans or actions.

For a complete copy of Director Kennedy's letter, please refer to our website under "Recent Clerk Communication," for the document titled, "[Letter to Clerk Association Presidents about Recall Election Timing](#)," dated February 17, 2012.

As we continue our contingency planning process, on behalf of Director Kennedy, I am seeking clerks' input on the most optimal date for a Recall Primary that will have the least adverse impact on clerks' ability to administer the Recall Primary in terms of closeness to previous or scheduled elections, voting systems' readiness, holidays and the like.

We have identified the following five viable options for your consideration on which to base your advice. We have also listed some of the obvious pros and cons for each of these options. Please provide us with your first choice date and share with us why you recommend these two dates.

1) **May 1st Recall Primary and May 29th Recall Election**

Pro: These two dates are what is required under the current court order, and the G.A.B. would need to obtain an additional extension from the court to authorize any later dates.

Con: Holding the Recall Primary and Election on these dates would mean holding any second election on the day after Memorial Day. In addition, adhering to these dates would allow the shortest time for clearing memory devices, reprogramming machines, and printing and issuing absentee ballots.

2) **May 8th Recall Primary and June 5th Recall Election**

Pro: These dates allow additional time after the April 3rd election for post-election tasks and preparation for the recall elections, and also avoid any Memorial Day conflicts.

Con: These dates differ from those authorized under the current court order.

3) **May 15th Recall Primary and June 12th Recall Election**

Pro: These dates allow the maximum amount of time between post-Spring Election wrap-up and recall elections, while also avoiding conflicts with Memorial Day.

Con: These dates differ from those authorized under the current court order.

4) **May 22nd Recall Primary and June 19th Recall Election**

Pro: These dates permit additional time between the April 3rd election and Recall Elections.

Con: Holding the Recall Primary and Election on these dates would mean a canvassing conflict with Memorial Day. The Primary date would create issues for canvassing boards that are required to meet on the following Monday, which is Memorial Day. These dates also differ from those authorized under the current court order.

5) **May 29th Recall Primary and June 26th Recall Election**

Pro: These dates permit additional time between the April 3rd election and Recall Elections.

Con: These dates would require holding the first election the day after Memorial Day. It would also require the shortest turnaround from the recall elections to the August Partisan Primary. These dates also differ from those authorized under the current court order.

How to Respond by Monday, March 12, 2012

Once again, please provide us with your first choice date with and share with us why you recommend these two dates, particularly if you can share details about the challenges related to any of the options (e.g. specifically, how would Memorial Day impact your election planning or work?).

In order to facilitate the collection of clerks' preferred Recall Primary and Recall Election Dates, for your convenience, we have created a web portal to allow you to enter your responses. Please follow the below simple steps:

1. Enter the following url into any web browser -
<http://wisapps.wi.gov/sites/GAB/Incident/Lists/Preferred%20Date%20for%20Recall%20Election%20Survey/overview.aspx>
2. Once the webpage has opened, click on the “Respond to this Survey” link in the middle of the screen.

Preferred Date for Recall Election Survey

Please provide us with your first choice date and share with us why you recommend these two dates. In addition, please share details about the challenges related to any of the options.

[Respond to this Survey](#) | **Actions** ▾ | **Settings** ▾

Survey Name:	Preferred Date for Recall Election Survey
Survey Description:	Please provide us with your first choice date and share with us why you recommend these two dates. In addition, please share details about the challenges related to any of the options.
Time Created:	3/5/2012 7:53 PM
Number of Responses:	1

[Show a graphical summary of responses](#)

[Show all responses](#)

3. Once the form has opened, select your county, municipality, and enter your contact information.

Preferred Date for Recall Election Survey: Respond to this Survey

* indicates a required field

County Name *

Municipality

First Name *

Last Name *

Phone Number

E-Mail Address

4. Please respond to each of the survey questions.

Please select your preferred dates *

- 1) May 1st Recall Primary and May 29th Recall Election
- 2) May 8th Recall Primary and June 5th Recall Election
- 3) May 15th Recall Primary and June 12th Recall Election
- 4) May 22nd Recall Primary and June 19th Recall Election
- 5) May 29th Recall Primary and June 26th Recall Election

Why do you recommend these dates that you have selected?

Do you have any particular challenges with any of the dates?

5. Once you have entered the information press the “Finish” button at the top or bottom of the screen.

Finish

Cancel

Thank you!