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MEMORANDUM

DATE: For the March 14, 2017 Commission Meeting

TO: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission

FROM: Michael Haas
Interim Administrator

Prepared by:

Nathan W. Judnic
Legal Counsel

Joseph Bukowski
Legal Intern

SUBJECT: Election Night Results Reporting

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (“WEC” or “Commission”) on the current state of advice that the Commission’s staff has provided on the requirements that unofficial Election Night returns be transmitted from municipal clerks to county clerks, and that county clerks must post all returns within two hours of receipt. These requirements were implemented by 2015 Wisconsin Act 261. The central issue is whether the directive to post “all” returns applies to the results of local contests. On June 30, 2016, the Commission deferred this matter to a future meeting since local contests generally did not appear on the fall 2016 ballot. It is important for the Commission to consider this issue before the April 4, 2017, spring election because this election will include many local contests.

The Government Accountability Board (“G.A.B.”) was first briefed on this statutory change at its April 26, 2016 meeting. The G.A.B. delayed action on this issue to allow staff to gather additional feedback from clerks on current practice and the severity of impact a change in practice could have on their offices.

Background and Prior Staff Recommendation

Following is an excerpt from the June 9, 2016 G.A.B. staff memorandum outlining the factors and clerk feedback that was received which should be considered:

Finally, as Board staff advised at the April Board meeting, Act 261 does not specify whether or not the results posted by county clerks on Election Night must include local contests. For the 2016 Spring Election, G.A.B. staff advised that that decision was left to the judgment of municipal and county clerks, but the results must include at least state judicial contests and the Presidential Preference Primary. The relevant text of the Statutes now reads:

7.51(4)(c) On election night the municipalities shall report the returns, by ward or reporting unit, to the county clerk no later than 2 hours after the votes are tabulated.

7.60(1) KEEP OFFICE OPEN. On election night the county clerk shall keep the clerk's office open to receive reports from the ward inspectors and shall post all returns. On election night the clerk shall post all returns, by ward or reporting unit, on an Internet site maintained by the county no later than 2 hours after receiving the returns.

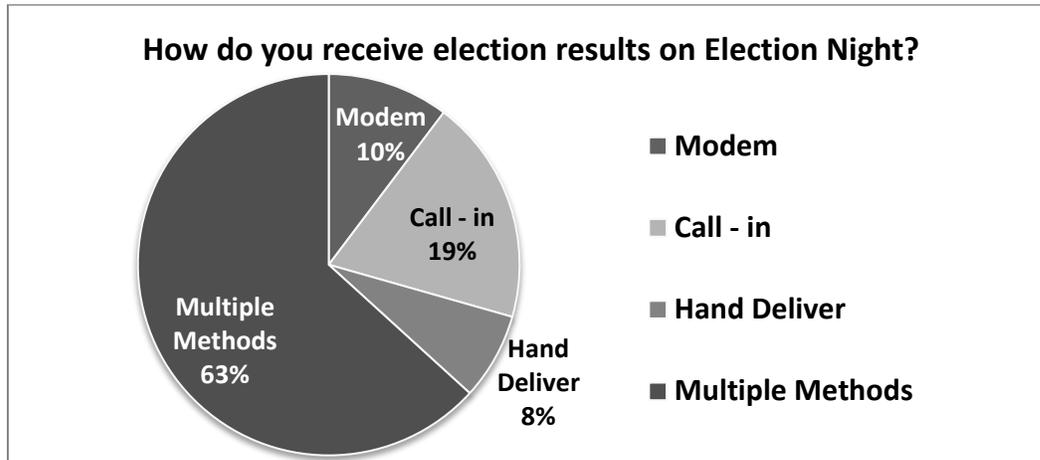
These provisions refer to “the returns” and posting “all returns,” which were phrases that existed prior to the enactment of Act 261. The time limits imposed by Act 261 have focused more attention on the results which must be posted by the two-hour deadline. Given this language, Board staff originally recommended that the Board conclude that the Legislature had not provided any exception to the returns which municipal clerks must report to county clerks, and which county clerks must post on the Internet on Election Night.

At its April meeting, the Board received comments from municipal and county clerks indicating that, depending upon the type of voting equipment being used, it may be a significant change in practice to post results of local elections such as municipal and school district contests. The Board directed staff to seek additional input from local election officials in order to develop a more informed policy as to the unofficial results which are required to be posted by county clerks on Election Night.

Board staff conducted a survey of county clerks regarding the requirement that they post all unofficial returns on a county website within two hours of receiving the returns on Election Night.

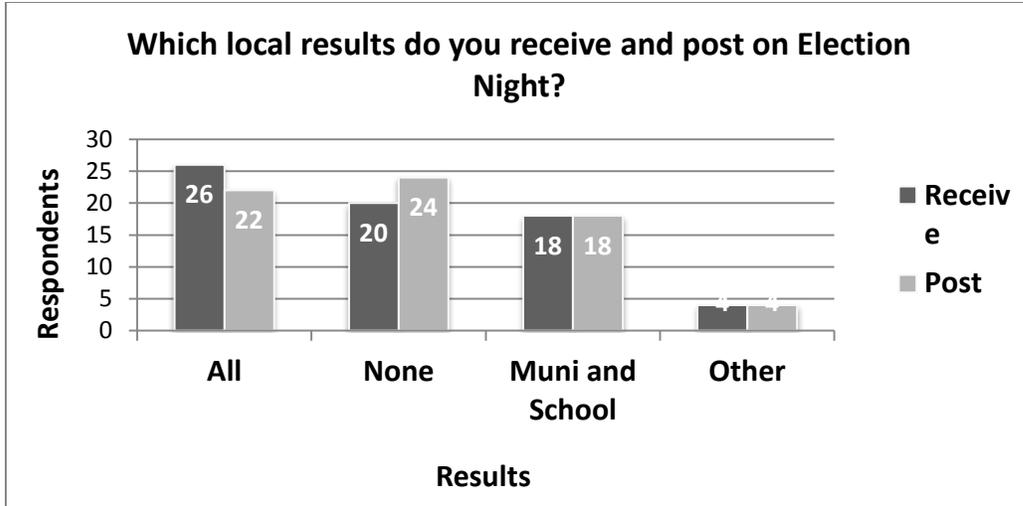
The G.A.B. received 68 total responses from county clerks in response to the survey (Burnett, Crawford, Jefferson and Ozaukee Counties did not respond). Wisconsin counties reported receiving results through a variety of methods from their municipalities on Election Night. Some counties have a uniform process for all municipalities, while other counties use a hybrid approach to receiving results. Thirteen counties, or 19 percent of all respondents, reported using call-in sheets as the only method results are reported to their office. The call-in process requires that results are telephoned into the county office and dictated to county staff over the phone. The next most common method for counties who use a uniform process involved results that are modemed

directly into the county election management system. Seven counties reported that they only receive modemed results on Election Night.

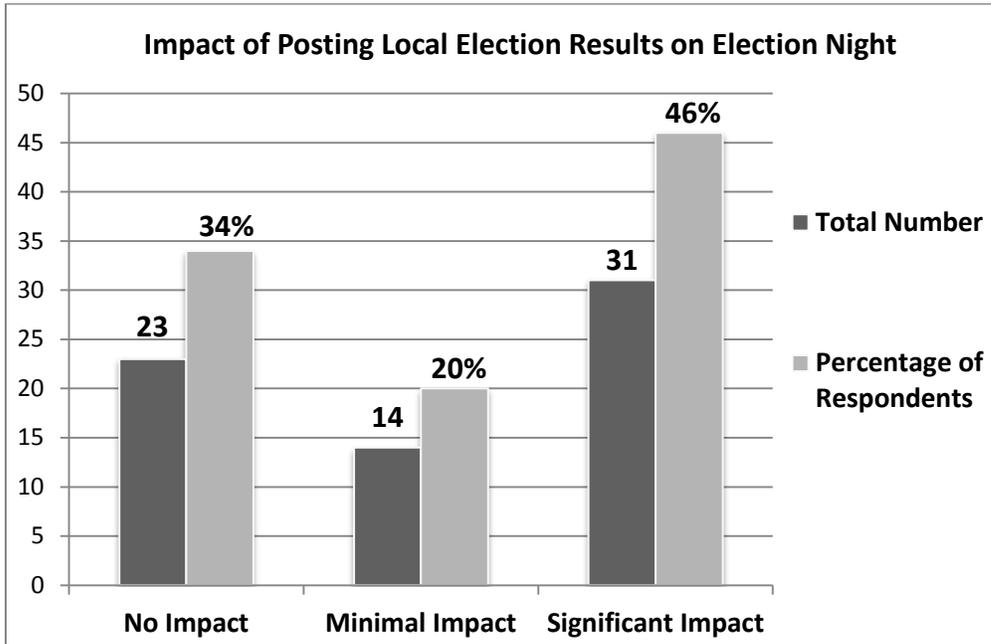


The vast majority of counties reported using multiple methods to receive election results from their municipalities. Forty-three respondents reported receiving results via multiple methods, with twenty-five counties using at least three methods. The lack of uniformity and the variety of combinations that counties use to receive and compile results on Election Night is representative of the decentralized system of election administration in Wisconsin. This variety also makes creating universal procedures challenging as technology, infrastructure and resource differences all impact the ability for county clerks to receive, compile and post comprehensive unofficial returns on Election Night.

A requirement to post all local election results by counties on Election Night would be complicated by the fact that nineteen counties reported that they do not currently receive local results on Election Night. Twenty-six counties receive all local election results, while an additional eighteen counties reported that they receive municipal and school district results, but not results for special district contests, such as sanitary and lake management districts. There are also several counties that receive all local election results but do not post them on Election Night.



When asked to describe the impact on Election Night procedures if local results were to be required to be posted, forty-five respondents stated this requirement would have some impact on them. Thirty-one counties indicated that posting these returns would significantly impact their Election Night procedures, while twenty-three counties identified no impact. The number of counties who reported no impact strongly correlates with the number of counties (22) who already post local results on Election Night.



Many of the counties who indicated that this requirement would have a significant impact on their Election Night procedures submitted narrative comments that provide additional insight on this issue. One county indicated that due to three voting equipment systems in use in their county, ten school districts that cross county lines and twenty-five county supervisory districts, it is already difficult to post timely and accurate results on Election Night. Requiring the posting of school district results and local results would be even

more burdensome. Other clerks indicated that posting results for contests below the county level would not be feasible given the volume of other work required on Election Night, limited staffing in county offices and the two-hour results posting timeline. Many clerks expressed that their staff is already overburdened on Election Night and highlighted concerns about problems caused by posting inaccurate results and results, such as school districts that cross county lines, which are potentially misleading to the media and general public.

As noted above, the requirement to post “all returns” predated Act 261. Due to practical obstacles, the reporting and posting of all returns has not been administered in a consistent manner at the local level. The new deadlines for reporting and posting unofficial returns on Election Night has highlighted the issue of whether returns for all local elections must be included in the information transmitted by municipalities and posted by counties, regardless of their past practice and any additional burdens it would create. Counties do not canvass results of municipal and school district elections and in many cases, requiring counties to receive and post those results would have a significant impact on their Election Night procedures.

While the phrase “all returns” can certainly be read to include returns for all local elections, Act 261 focused on the timing involved in reporting and posting results, and did not address whether the variety of existing practices across counties must change. Municipal and county clerks and their staffs are focused on numerous duties on Election Night and as an administrative priority, accuracy is more important than speed in posting unofficial results. Adding a requirement for counties to post local election results where the technology is not in place to easily do so on Election Night would risk creating errors elsewhere in their procedures.

In the opinion of Board staff, in light of the variety of tabulation equipment and process in use, and absent a more specific legislative directive to significantly alter past practices, the Board’s administrative guidance should seek to achieve a practical and workable result for local election officials providing unofficial results on Election Night. Staff recommends that Wis. Stat. §§7.51 and 7.60 be administered to require that municipalities must report, and county clerks must post, at least the results for all federal, state and county-level contests within their jurisdictions. In addition, if the tabulating equipment generates a report including local contests which may be easily transmitted to the county, the unofficial results of those contests must also be reported and posted. This would include results for school districts or other districts which cross county boundaries. Total results for those contests would need to be accumulated from all of the counties involved, as are the results of state or federal contests which involve multiple counties.

Recommended Motion: The Board advises that Wis. Stats. §§ 7.51(4)(c) and 7.60(1) require municipal clerks to report, and county clerks to post, at least the unofficial returns for federal, state, and county-level contests within their jurisdiction on Election Night. In addition, if the tabulating equipment generates a report including local contests which may be easily

transmitted to the county, the unofficial results of those contests must also be reported and posted.

Current Status

As the Spring 2017 Elections approached, the Commission staff sought guidance from the authors of the “posting of returns” provisions contained in Act 261. The Commission staff wanted to make sure the authors were aware of some of the concerns that the clerks raised related to the receipt and posting of local contest returns, and the impact such a requirement could have on Election Night. Commission staff received confirmation from the legislative staff that the term “all returns” was intended to refer to all offices. Commission staff believes additional instructions and assistance to county and municipal clerks will be necessary to ensure that returns are provided and posted in a timely and accurate manner. Communication between county clerks and municipal clerks will be needed to coordinate the transfer of returns that have not been transmitted previously.

Staff Recommendation:

Consistent with the original staff recommendation provided to the G.A.B. after the passage of Act 261 and after confirmation of the legislation’s intent by the original authors, the Commission directs municipal clerks to provide all election returns to the county clerk, including results of local contests. The county clerk is then to post to the county’s website all such election returns within two hours of receipt.

Item K
Legislative Agenda

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MARK L. THOMSEN, CHAIR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: For the March 14, 2017 Commission Meeting

TO: Members, Wisconsin Elections Commission

FROM: Michael Haas
Interim Administrator

Prepared and Presented By:
Commission Staff

SUBJECT: Suggested Legislative Changes for the 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda

Background

Throughout its existence, the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board recommended action to the State Legislature and adopted a legislative agenda for each of its divisions for several reasons. Some recommendations sought clarification on existing statutes. Other requests recommended changes to implement nationally recognized best practices. The Board also directed staff to communicate concerns of county and municipal clerks to the Legislature. This memo is intended to summarize the outstanding suggestions for legislative changes, as well as several new items, for consideration by the Elections Commission in developing the agency's 2017-2018 legislative agenda.

Introduction

Commission staff maintains an ongoing list of recommended changes to current laws identified by legislators, municipal and county clerks, and the public. Staff also regularly reviews and analyzes current statutes, administrative code, and Board policies in order to identify potential changes that may improve efficiency, cost-effectiveness, public comprehension, and general policy administration. The recommended changes below are those which staff believes would improve administrative processes, provide clarity or simplification to existing policies and procedures, or update policies to reflect modern practices.

Staff has organized the recommendations into three different categories:

1. *Major Policy Initiatives* are those that staff suggests that the Commission highly recommend because they would likely significantly improve election administration and have a substantially positive impact on those affected by the policy, or policies for which the Government Accountability Board previously demonstrated strong support.

2. *Minor Policy Initiatives* include the changes that would improve election administration and represent minimal policy decisions, such as improving efficiency or providing clarity.
3. *Technical Changes* are recommendations that address issues of inconsistency in the laws or drafting oversights.

MAJOR POLICY INITIATIVES

1. Provisions related to electronic poll lists. Agency staff has identified several provisions which could be created or amended to facilitate the implementation of electronic poll lists. These include the following:
 - A. § 5.02: Add definitions of “electronic poll book” and “electronic poll list” to the statutory definitions.
 - B. § 7.23(1)(e): Add language permitting electronic poll books to be cleared or erased after the deadline for filing a recount petition has passed but requiring the transfer of all data required to reproduce the voter list to a disk or other recording medium which may be destroyed 22 months after the election, consistent with other retention requirements.
2. Chapter 5 Subchapter III – Voting Equipment Statutes. This subchapter of the statutes refers to antiquated technologies such as voting equipment that utilizes levers or punch cards. These types of voting systems have been entirely replaced by electronic voting systems. The Legislature could revise this subchapter to remove references to antiquated technology. There are also references to such antiquated voting equipment elsewhere throughout the election laws. The Legislature could consider a broader review and revision of state law to reflect the electronic voting equipment currently in use throughout the State of Wisconsin, as well as the potential use of new technologies in the future.
3. § 6.86(1)(b). This provision sets forth the deadlines for requesting an absentee ballot. Under existing law there are three different deadlines (Thursday, Friday, or Election Day) for requesting an absentee ballot that depend on both the type of absent elector and the method by which the application is received. This multitude of deadlines has proven confusing for voters and election officials alike. The Election Day deadline for receipt of an absentee request also creates an unrealistic expectation that a ballot requested at such a late date could be successfully voted as the deadline for receiving the voted ballot is also Election Day and electronic transmission of the voted ballot is not permitted by state law. The Legislature could consider revising these deadlines by changing the deadline to 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to Election Day for all mailed, emailed, or faxed requests and 5:00 p.m. or close of business on Friday for all in-person requests regardless of the type of absent elector.
4. §§ 8.15(1) and 10.06(1)(h). These provisions establish the window for circulation of nomination papers and the deadline for the Commission to certify the candidates to appear on the Partisan Primary ballot. Wisconsin Administrative Code EL 2.07 provides for challenges to nomination papers to be filed up to three calendar days following the nomination paper deadline. Depending on the year, this means the Commission has between 4-6 business days to review and decide challenges to ballot access. The Government Accountability Board previously directed staff at its June 2014 meeting to request the Legislature allow for more time between the candidate filing deadline and the deadline to certify ballot arrangement so as to

allow for more thoughtful consideration of ballot access challenges. As there is not sufficient time in the calendar to move the candidate certification deadline later without changing the ultimate date of the election, the only practical option is to move the circulation period up. Commission staff recommends changing the first day to circulate nomination papers from April 15 to April 10, which would keep the first day to circulate nomination papers still after the spring election, and moving the filing deadline from June 1 to the last Tuesday in May.

MINOR POLICY INITIATIVES

Chapter 5

5. §§ 5.06(5) and (6). These provisions allow the Commission to issue an order to ensure compliance with election laws. The Legislature could revise these provisions in order to authorize the Commission to issue a temporary order while a complaint investigation is ongoing. Occasionally Commission staff must direct a local election official to stay any action until the completion of a review investigation, such as when the question is whether to schedule a recall election or whether a candidate has qualified for ballot access. Current statutes allow the issuance of an order only after the filing of a complaint, upon a motion of the Commission, or after completion of an investigation.
6. § 5.06(10). This provision prohibits the Commission from reviewing matters arising in connection with recounts under § 9.01. This appears to be intended to avoid conflict with Wis. Stat. § 9.01(6) which directs appeals of recounts to circuit court. However, there are a variety of decisions made by election officials under § 9.01 that could benefit from commission review, e.g., estimates of recount filing fees. A better option may be to phrase this provision such that the Commission may not review the recount result or substantive decisions of the board of canvassers in a recount other than to enforce consistent application of those decisions when multiple boards of canvassers are involved. This authority would permit Commission staff to resolve procedural questions or conflicts more definitively and is supported by the charge of Wis. Stat. § 9.01(10) for the Commission to develop standard forms and procedures for use in recounts.
7. §§ 5.15 and 66 subchapter II. These provisions provide limitations to the construction of wards. Current statutes restrict a town from drawing ward lines that do not cross the boundaries of a state assembly district, and requires towns to create a separate ward when a county does not adjust boundaries for county supervisory districts. However, statutes do not place similar restrictions on cities or villages annexing territory. This could be a problem if a city or village was to annex territory in different districts. The Legislature could revise these provisions to enact the same requirements for cities and villages that currently exist for towns and require specifying the identification of the created ward (e.g., ward 7).
8. § 5.84(1). This provision specifies that municipalities must conduct public tests of voting equipment in the 10 days prior to each election. The current requirement is problematic as larger municipalities may require several days to test all the equipment to be used at an election. Extending the testing window to the 15 calendar days prior to the election would grant municipal clerks more flexibility in the event any problems are identified during the public test. This provision also requires public notice of voting equipment testing via publication in a newspaper within the municipality or a newspaper of general circulation therein. Publishing in a general circulation newspaper, or even a municipal newspaper, may require significant costs to municipalities. The Legislature could revise this provision to require municipalities to provide the notice of the public test by the same means as other

election notices under Wis. Stat. §§ 10.04 & 10.05, which would permit such notices to be posted in lieu of publication.

9. § 5.94. This provision requires the publication of a sample ballot. Wis. Stat. §10.02 (2)(c) allows the ballot size to be reduced when publishing the notice. The Legislature could consider removing the requirement for an “actual-size” copy of the ballot for publication in Wis. Stat. § 5.94 to reduce the costs that jurisdictions must incur and make these two provisions consistent.

Chapter 6

10. § 6.18. This provision provides a process for former Wisconsin residents to vote in a Presidential Election if they do not yet qualify to vote in their new state of residency, but does not provide a specific deadline for such a request. The Legislature could revise this provision by establishing a receipt deadline of 5:00 p.m. on the fifth day before the election to request an absentee ballot, consistent with most other absentee voters.
11. §§ 6.22(1)(b), 6.34(1)(a). These provisions define the term “military elector”. However, § 6.22(1)(b) includes additional categories of individuals not included under 6.34(1)(a). These two different definitions of the same term have caused considerable confusion with clerks and military voters as to what they can or cannot do. The G.A.B. has previously recommended reconciling these two different definitions into a single broad definition of military elector. To avoid confusion and promote effective administration of the laws, the Legislature could harmonize these two definitions as the G.A.B. has previously recommended throughout Chapter 6.
12. §§ 6.22(5), 6.24(7). These provisions provide that military and permanent overseas voters obtain the signature of a US citizen witness when voting their absentee ballot. This commonly causes complaints from voters who do not have a US citizen easily available. The Government Accountability Board previously recommended retaining the witness signature, but removing the requirement that the witness be a US citizen. According to a 2012 study by the PEW Center for the States, only four states required any sort of witness signature for military and overseas absentee ballots (Alabama, Alaska, Virginia, and Wisconsin), and Wisconsin may be the only state which requires the witness to be a U.S. citizen. The Legislature could consider modifying or removing the witness requirement to ensure that military and permanent overseas absentee voters can vote their ballot without needing to find another US citizen.
13. § 6.22(6). This provision requires each municipal clerk to keep an updated list of eligible military electors that reside in the municipality in the format provided by the commission, and to distribute a copy the list to each polling place. The intent of this provision was to ensure compliance with absentee ballot procedures for military voters and the exemption from the voter registration requirement. In practice, all of the required information exists within WisVote and all known military voters automatically appear on the poll books. Clerks who rely on someone else for WisVote services communicate with their WisVote provider for lists prior to absentee voting. The Legislature could repeal this provision to reflect modern practices.
14. § 6.25(1)(c). This provision exempts military electors from the requirement to submit a separate absentee request before the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) may be counted. Overseas electors are not similarly exempted from the requirement to submit a separate absentee request in addition to the FWAB before the ballot may be counted. The declaration/affirmation page of the FWAB contains all the necessary information to serve as an

absentee request. Permanent overseas voters face many of the same difficulties voting as overseas military voters. The Legislature could modify this provision to allow permanent overseas voters to submit a FWAB without a separate absentee ballot application no later than the applicable absentee request deadline in order to establish a more consistent process for all overseas voters.

15. §§ 6.275 and 6.33(5). These provisions provide deadlines for reporting certain statistics, and recording voter participation and registration following an election, respectively. In practice, and particularly in larger municipalities, clerks complete entering voter registrations and recording voter participation in WisVote in order to provide accurate statistics. The 30-day deadline to report statistics and the 45-day deadline (60 days with an approved waiver) to enter voter registrations and record voter participation after general elections is inconsistent with current practices by many clerks. Clerks have 30 days to enter voter registrations and record participation after spring primaries, spring elections, partisan primaries, and special elections. Virtually all clerks are able to comply with both deadlines for elections other than general elections; however, many clerks struggle to meet the 60-day deadline after general elections. The Legislature could address this issue by clarifying that the deadline for reporting statistics coincides with the deadline to enter voter registrations and record voter participation in WisVote, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 6.33(5).
16. § 6.29(2)(b). This provision requires municipal clerks to prepare a certificate of registration in duplicate and provide one copy of the certificate to any person registering during the late registration period while keeping the other in their office. Commonly late registrations in-person are immediately followed by a request to vote an in-person absentee ballot. In this scenario, the preparation and issuance of the certificate of registration has no purpose. The Legislature could consider exempting clerks from the requirement to issue registration certificates if the voter chooses to vote absentee in the clerk's office in the same transaction as registering to vote.
17. § 6.29(2)(c). This provision requires any voter who registered to vote during the late registration period and receives a certificate of registration to provide that certificate to the inspectors at the polling place or to enclose that certificate with their voted absentee ballot. However, state law does not specify a consequence if the elector fails to provide their certificate of registration. It appears that the certificate is intended as a failsafe to prove registration has occurred in the event that the voter's name does not appear on the poll book despite their earlier registration. As such the Legislature could consider removing the requirement for the voter to provide their certificate of registration, but preserve the issuance of such certificates to maintain the failsafe.
18. § 6.30(4). This provision requires that municipalities make available a voter registration form and that "the form shall be pre-postpaid for return when mailed at any point within the United States." However, in practice, most municipalities simply make copies of the form available and do not offer pre-paid postage because of the cost. Additionally, the Commission has implemented online registration as directed by the Legislature, which may significantly reduce the demand for registration by mail. Due to the cost to municipalities and the online alternative the Legislature could consider elimination of the prepostpaid requirement for voter registration forms.
19. § 6.32(4). This provision requires a municipal clerk to send an address verification mailing to a voter who registers by mail or online. In practice, the Commission sends these mailings on behalf of municipalities. This facilitates consistent compliance and leveraging State purchasing

power. During the 2013-2014 Legislative Session, the Wisconsin Legislature enacted 2013 Wisconsin Act 149, specifically authorizing the G.A.B. to send out the Election Day Registrant address verification mailings. The Legislature could revise this provision to authorize the Commission to send out all other address verification mailings, including those related to the ERIC initiative, on behalf of municipalities.

20. § 6.34(3). This provision outlines the types of acceptable documents for proof of residence (POR) for the purpose of voter registration. In recognition of the broad move to replace paper documents with electronic documents, the Government Accountability Board previously authorized the acceptance of electronic versions of each acceptable proof of residence document. The Legislature could specifically authorize electronic proof of residence to be consistent with current practices and Board policy, as well as clarify the types of authorized POR to include other modern and common types of documents such as a cellphone bill, or internet service bill, or document from a financial institution.
21. § 6.34(3)(a)10. This provision allows for using a paycheck as proof of residence. As many voters do not receive a physical paycheck anymore, the G.A.B. previously interpreted this provision to include pay stubs, pay sheets, or other payroll documentation such as a direct deposit statement. The Legislature could revise this provision to also include these more modern alternatives to the paycheck and reinforce the agency's prior interpretation.
22. § 6.36(1)(b)1.a. This provision establishes information related to a voter record that must remain confidential. This list includes a voter's date of birth, operator license number, social security number, and any accommodation required for the individual to voter. If the voter is a confidential voter, their address is also confidential. The voter registration application also includes a place for a voter to list a phone number and email address. However, these are not required fields in order for a clerk to process a voter registration application. The Legislature could consider revising this provision in order to add phone number and email address to the list of confidential information that is not available for release through public record requests. The Legislature may also wish to clarify that a state-issued identification card number is also confidential by replacing *operator license number* with *driver license or state-issued identification card number*.
23. § 6.55(2)(d). This provision provides for a voter who has changed their name, but not their address to make such a change in their registration by notifying the election inspectors at the polling place instead of completing a new voter registration form. The Government Accountability Board consistently required voters who wish to change their name to complete a new voter registration. When the Legislature repealed § 6.40, it removed a provision that permitted voters to make changes to their registration without submitting a new registration form. The Legislature could ensure that every change in a voter's registration is documented with a new voter registration form by modifying this provision to eliminate the ability of a voter to change their name without providing a new voter registration form.
24. § 6.82(1). This provision permits an elector who is unable to enter the polling place due to a disability to receive their ballot at the entrance to the polling place. While this provision does not directly speak to whether this elector must sign the poll book, G.A.B. staff interpreted this provision to allow such electors to receive a ballot without signing the poll list because to qualify for the procedure a voter must be prevented from entering the polling place due to a disability and § 6.79(2)(am) specifically authorizes the election inspectors to waive the signature requirement if the elector is unable to sign due to disability. To clarify the procedure,

the Legislature could specifically direct that an elector voting under this provision is exempt from signing the poll book.

25. § 6.82(2). This provision permits an elector to receive assistance in marking the ballot. When voting with a physical ballot, the assistant is required to sign a certification on the back of the ballot that indicates the ballot was marked with their assistance. Where voting machines are used, this provision requires the assistant to certify on the registration list that the ballot was marked with his or her assistance. As voting machines are specifically designed to provide a voter with disabilities the opportunity to vote privately and independently, staff has previously directed that a voter who requires assistance with a voting machine be required to vote using a physical ballot. To clarify this procedure, the Legislature could specifically direct that an elector who requires assistance using a voting machine be required to vote on a physical ballot with the assistance of a person of the voter's choice other than their employer or agent of their labor union.
26. § 6.86(2)(b). This provision requires a clerk to send a 30-day notice to indefinitely confined voters that do not return their absentee ballot in order to stay on the "permanent absentee" voter list. However, there is not sufficient time between primaries and the subsequent general elections to do so and staff has previously advised clerks that such notice is only required after a general election. The Legislature could consider revising this section to recognize this practical impossibility and only apply this requirement to non-primary elections.
27. § 6.87(3)(d). This provision allows military and permanent overseas voters to receive their absentee ballot electronically. Voters who are temporarily overseas do not receive this transmission option and therefore must request their ballot significantly earlier to account for the additional time it will take for the blank ballot to reach them. The Legislature could consider revising this provision to allow temporary overseas voters to receive their ballot electronically in order to increase the opportunity for those voters to receive and return their ballot in a timely manner.
28. § 6.875. This provision covers absentee voting procedures involving special voting deputies (SVDs). This section does not specify whether a municipal clerk must issue a 30-day notice to renew their absentee ballot request as an indefinitely confined voter if the voter declines to vote via SVD. The Legislature could clarify this section by stating that the voter may decline to receive their ballot on a form prescribed by the Commission, as well as indicate if they wish to remain on the list of indefinitely confined voters ("permanent absentees"). This is current practice and is included in the Commission's SVD manual.
29. §§ 6.875(4)(b), 7.30(4). Wis. Stat. § 6.875(4)(b) sets forth the process by which individuals are appointed as special voting deputies. The process is similar to the process for appointing election officials generally as set forth in Wis. Stat. § 7.30(4), but does not specifically state that the process of 7.30 applies to these appointments. Staff have interpreted § 7.30(4) to include special voting deputies, but the Legislature could modify § 6.875(4)(b) or 7.30(4) to make this more clear.
30. § 6.97. This provision provides the option for a voter to cast a provisional ballot whenever they are required to provide proof of residence and cannot provide such documentation. Agency staff has interpreted this provision to only apply to persons who registered to vote on or before April 4, 2014 to coincide with when the G.A.B. directed clerks to stop accepting voter registrations that were missing proof of residence. After the few remaining voters in the statewide voter registration system who are still missing proof of residence provide such

documentation or are removed from the list, this provision will no longer be necessary and the Legislature may wish to remove this language to avoid the impression that a provisional ballot would be an option for new registrants who do not have a proof of residence.

Chapter 7

31. § 7.25. This section enumerates the duties of election officials in using “voting machines”. Voting machines are defined in 5.02(24r) as “a machine which serves in lieu of a voting booth and which mechanically or electronically records the votes cast by electors, who depress levers or buttons located next to the choices listed on a ballot to cast their votes.” Wisconsin no longer uses mechanical voting systems like lever voting machines and this section should be updated to reflect current practices and technology.
32. § 7.30(2). This provision sets forth the qualifications to be appointed as an election official. It specifically states that in 1st Class cities (Milwaukee) election inspectors may not hold any other public office except notary public. Board staff has discovered that other municipal officials may also be prohibited from serving as election inspectors due to specific provisions of municipal law or due to the incompatibility of office doctrine. The Legislature could consider modifying this provision to specifically list those public officials in other municipalities that also may not serve.
33. § 7.41. This section provides for the public’s right to be present at the clerk’s office, alternate absentee voting sites, and polling places in Wisconsin to observe all public aspects of the election process. A growing concern among voters and observers is the ability of observers to take photos or record video of what occurs at these sites. Agency policy and draft administrative rules currently prohibit observers from photographing or recording video at these locations. The Legislature could consider explicitly setting forth the Legislature’s position on photography and video recording in these places in this section.
34. § 7.50(2). The Legislature recently removed language in this section related to the counting of write-in votes cast by affixing a sticker to the ballot (see 2015 Act 37). However, the Legislature did not affirmatively prohibit the use of such stickers by write-in candidates. As Wis. Stat. § 7.50(2) still requires election officials to count an elector’s vote the person which the voter intended, agency staff has advised election officials to continue counting votes for candidates whose voters use stickers to write-in that candidate’s name. The Legislature may wish to revisit this section to more explicitly address this scenario.
35. § 7.50(2)(em). 2013 Wisconsin Act 178 amended this provision to state that all votes for write-in candidates shall be tallied if a candidate on the ballot dies or withdraws before the election. However, Wisconsin Statutes do not provide a procedure for candidates to withdraw. The Legislature could correct this issue by striking “*or withdraws*” from this provision or specifying what constitutes a candidate’s withdrawal.
36. § 7.60(5)(a). This provision requires county clerks to deliver or transmit to the Commission a certified copy of each county board of canvass statement. In current practice, county clerks use the Commission’s Canvass Reporting System (CRS) to generate those statements using their secure login credentials, and then mail a signed copy of that report to the Commission. The Legislature could modernize this provision by adding the language *in the manner prescribed by the commission after the county clerk shall deliver or transmit*, or consider replacing the word *certified* with *electronically signed*. In 2014, the Legislature made a similar change, allowing

political committees to sign their campaign finance reports electronically when certifying that information to the G.A.B.

Chapter 8

37. §§ 8.10(5), 8.15(4)(b), and 8.20(6). These provisions outline the filing requirements for candidates, including their declaration of candidacy, nomination papers, and statement of economic interest (SEI). Under current statutes, candidates are not required to file their SEI until 4:30 p.m. the third day after the deadline for the other documents. The Legislature could consider changing the deadline to file an SEI to match filing of declaration of candidacy and nomination papers. This would provide a consistent deadline that could improve administrative efficiency and public awareness of candidates that will appear on the ballot. Staff recommends moving the deadline to file the SEI to match the 5:00 p.m. deadline on the day that the declaration of candidacy and nomination papers is due. The counterpoint to this policy change is that the later deadline provides an “escape valve” where candidates no longer wishing to appear on the ballot could simply not file their SEI. The later deadline also allows the candidate additional time to gather the required financial information, though they have already had considerable time to gather nomination signatures. However, staff believes that a consistent deadline would improve administration and better inform the public of candidates who achieve ballot status.

Chapter 9

38. § 9.01(2). This provision establishes the candidate notification requirements prior to conducting a recount. Current statutes require personal delivery of the petition to the candidate or an approved agent, by either the clerk or the sheriff. Providing notice of the recount petition could potentially be delayed if the candidate and/or their agent is traveling outside of the municipality, county, or state after the election. The Legislature could revise this provision by allowing a three-step process. The first step a clerk would take is to attempt personal delivery of the petition to the candidate or approved agent. The second step would be to obtain documented confirmation of acknowledgement by the candidate or agent (e.g., through email or a documented phone call). The clerk could then issue a public notice and proceed with the recount process, if those two options are unsuccessful within a reasonable time period.
39. §§ 9.01(1)(ar)3. and (b). These sections establish deadlines for convening the board of canvassers for conducting a recount but provide conflicting deadlines. The Legislature could revise this section by setting the deadline to provide clarity, consistency, and sufficient time for clerks to prepare for conducting a recount.

Chapter 10

40. § 10.02(3)(b). This provision includes requirements for the information that must be contained in the Type B election notice. This language still refers to antiquated voting equipment technology and depressing levers. The Legislature could revise this provision to reflect modern voting equipment technologies.
41. § 10.04. This section relates to the publication of election notices and the fees charged for publication by newspapers. The Legislature could clarify this section by allowing publishing all types of elections notices as an insert, consistent with commercial rates for newspaper inserts.

Chapter 12

42. § 12.13(1)(f). This provision prohibits an elector from showing any person his or her marked ballot. Recent court cases have called into question the constitutionality of such a prohibition, particularly in the context of publicly sharing photos of a voted ballot via social media. The Legislature could consider revising or repealing this provision to avoid unnecessary litigation.

TECHNICAL CHANGES

Chapter 5

43. § 5.02(24r). This provision defines the term “voting machine” and includes mechanical voting equipment like lever voting machines. Mechanical voting systems have been entirely replaced by more modern electronic voting systems and the Legislature could consider revising this definition to remove the references to the antiquated technology.
44. § 5.51(2). This provision provides the requirements for the weight of paper used for hand-counted ballots using an arcane formula that is regularly misapplied by election officials. The Legislature could consider revising this requirement to specify a clearly understandable paper weight for ballots or direct the commission to specify the required paper weight for ballots.
45. § 5.60(3). This provision provides for a separate ballot for city offices, but unlike subsections for other levels of government this subsection does not require write-in lines be provided. The Legislature could clarify that write-in lines must be provided for city ballots as well.
46. § 5.62(1)(a). This provision requires that independent candidates for state office appear on partisan primary ballots. This was previously necessary to determine the independent candidate’s eligibility for public funding. As public funding for state candidates has been eliminated, this language should be removed.
47. § 5.72. This provision requires clerks to provide a ballot sample to Commission staff three weeks before any election for review. This conflicts with the 48-day deadline for ballots to be available for state and federal elections. The Legislature could address this by changing the deadline to “as soon as candidates are certified” instead. The Legislature could also consider making commission review of ballots voluntary, but still allow the commission to compel compliance with the prescribed ballot template, if necessary.

Chapter 6

48. § 6.02. This provision outlines the general qualifications to vote. The Legislature could clarify that for voter registration, a person turns 18 on the anniversary of their date of birth. This addresses the common sense versus common law issue previously addressed by the G.A.B., deciding that a person turns 18 on the anniversary of their date of birth.
49. § 6.03(3). This provision addresses the right to vote by persons under guardianship or adjudicated incompetent. State law currently reserves rights to the individual unless specifically determined by a court to be incompetent to exercise those rights. However, this provision contains old language requiring individuals subject to guardianship to have an affirmative finding that they are competent to vote. The Legislature could revise this provision to reverse the standard to assume competency as required by state law and cross-reference as

necessary with other state laws on guardianship. This change would make this provision consistent with other state laws regarding guardianship and legal competency.

50. § 6.25(4). The last clause of this provision states, “*and, if the elector is an overseas elector, the elector resides outside of the United States.*” The Legislature could eliminate the redundant second half of this clause as an overseas elector is already defined in § 6.24(1) as someone who does not qualify as a resident of this state.
51. § 6.34. This section covers proof of residence (POR) requirements for voter registration. Throughout this section, there are several references to POR as an *identifying document*. The Legislature could replace those references with *proof of residence* to clarify the section and avoid any confusion with the proof of identification requirement.
52. §§ 6.34(3)(a)1 and 2. These provisions refer to using either a Wisconsin driver license or state-issued identification card as proof of residence. The Legislature could revise these sections to include a receipt for either Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) product, consistent with DMV current practices of issuing a temporary receipt prior to the driver license or state-issued identification card.
53. § 6.34(3)(a)7. This provision allows for using a university, college, or technical college identification card as proof of residence for voter registration, with either a fee payment receipt or a list of students residing in school housing. The Legislature could clarify that the receipt or list of students must include the name and address of the registrant.
54. § 6.50(2r)(b). This provision lists the information the Commission must provide regarding the four-year voter list maintenance process. Specifically, this item is the number of postcards returned to the Commission as undeliverable. While the Commission would be sending out the postcards, the undeliverable mailings go to the municipal clerk. The Legislature could correct this issue by either striking the words *to the commission*, or replacing that phrase with *to the (municipal) clerk*.
55. § 6.96. This provision relates to the voting procedure for electors voting pursuant to a federal court order. The Legislature could revise this provision to require that the same notation shall appear resulting from an extension of voting hours by a circuit court as currently required after a federal court extension.

Chapter 7

56. § 7.08(10). This provision requires that the Commission provide to each municipal clerk, on a continuous basis, the names and addresses of organizations certified to provide services to victims of domestic abuse or sexual assault. As the addresses of these organizations may be sensitive information in that they provide temporary shelter to victims, this information cannot be placed on the Commission’s website. Additionally, sending this information unsolicited to over 1,800 municipal clerks could also compromise the security of victims. To better promote the security of victims of domestic abuse or sexual assault, the Legislature could consider modifying this provision to only provide this information to municipal clerks as needed to confirm the eligibility of confidential voters.
57. § 7.15(1)(j). This provision requires municipal clerks to send absentee ballots to electors who have filed a proper request. The provision appears to be redundant with subparagraph (cm) and could be removed or consolidated with (cm).

58. § 7.52(1)(b). This section provides a procedure by which a municipality may canvass absentee ballots on Election Day in a location other than the polling place and authorizes the municipality to appoint additional election inspectors to administer this absentee ballot canvass. However, when 2013 Act 147 expanded the residency of election officials to the county in which they serve, it did not similarly modify the residency requirement for election inspectors appointed to assist with this absentee ballot canvassing process. For consistency of administration, the Legislature could consider modifying § 7.52 to also permit the appointment of individuals who reside within the county of a municipality using this procedure.
59. § 7.52(3)(b). This section lists the reasons for which an absentee ballot may be rejected by the board of absentee ballot canvassers. 2015 Act 261 recently added the lack of the witness' address to the list of reasons an absentee ballot may be rejected at the polls, but did not make a similar adjustment to this section. For consistency of administration, the Legislature could consider modifying 7.52(3)(b) to include this additional reason for rejection of the absentee ballot.
60. § 7.53(2)(a). This provision states that in municipalities with multiple polling places, the municipal board of canvassers (MBOC) consists of the municipal clerk and two other qualified electors of the municipality. The word "other" implies that the municipal clerk is a qualified elector, which is not always true as many municipalities appoint their municipal clerk without regards to residency. Agency staff has interpreted 7.53(2)(a) to require that a municipal clerk must be a qualified elector of the municipality to serve on the MBOC, although the clerk should always be present to advise the members of the MBOC and handle the administrative processes associated with the canvass. To affirm the agency's interpretation the Legislature could consider revising this language to clarify that the municipal clerk may only serve as a member of the MBOC if they are a qualified elector and specifying who fills this position on the MBOC if the clerk is not a qualified elector.

Chapter 9

61. § 9.10(2)(e). This provision provides the reasons to not count recall petition signatures. In 2013 Wisconsin Act 160, the Legislature required that all petitions include the legibly printed name of the signer. While 2013 Act 160 required the printed name for nomination papers and petitions, it did not add the same requirement for recall petitions. The Legislature could correct this by adding to this section a reason not to count a recall petition signature if the printed name is not legible. The sections that cover the requirements for petitions are also inconsistent. Sections related to nomination papers and petitions affirm the requirements of what individuals must provide, whereas the section on recall petitions identifies when not to count signatures. Alternatively, the Legislature could revise this provision to state the information a recall petition must contain in order to count a signature, similar to the other sections.

Chapter 10

62. § 10.06(2). This section enumerates the various election notices that county clerks are required to publish. While subparagraphs (f) and (L) require the publication of a Type A Notice of Referendum Election before the spring and general elections, there are no similar provisions for such a notice for referenda held in conjunction with the spring or partisan primaries. There is also no requirement in this section for the Type C Notice of Referendum before these elections, although it is addressed in the general description of the Type C notice at 10.01(2)(c). For consistency, the Legislature could revision 10.06(2) to include similar referendum notice

requirements for state or county referenda held in conjunction with these elections as with any other election.

63. § 10.06(3). This section enumerates the various election notices that municipal clerks are required to publish. While subparagraph (as) requires the publication of a Type A Notice of Referendum Election before the spring primary if there is direct legislation to be voted on, there is no requirement for such a notice for other referenda held in conjunction with the spring primary. There is also no requirement for the Type C Notice of Referendum for non-direct legislation referenda voted on at the spring primary or for any referenda to be voted on at the partisan primary, except as part of the general definition of the notice in 10.01(2)(c). Finally, there is no Type D Notice of Polling Hours and Locations requirement in this section for either the spring or partisan primary although it is required as part of the general definition of the Type D notice at 10.01(2)(d). For consistency, the Legislature could revise this section to include similar notice requirements for all elections.

Chapters Not Administered by the Wisconsin Elections Commission

64. § 59.23(2)(s). This provision requires county clerks to provide a list of local officials to the Secretary of State. This information would help the Commission maintain accurate information on current office holders and election administration. The Legislature could revise this provision by requiring county clerks to also provide this list to the Commission, or require the Secretary of State to forward a compiled report to the Commission.
65. § 66.0217(9). This provision requires a municipality that annexes territory to file a copy of the related ordinance with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State is required to forward copies of that ordinance within 10 days of receipt to the Departments of Administration, Revenue, Public Instruction, Natural Resources, Transportation, Agriculture, and Trade and Consumer Protection. The Legislature could add Commission to the list of agencies that receive a copy of the ordinance, certificate, and plat from the Secretary of State in order to ensure accurate and current district boundaries recorded in the statewide voter registration system. The G.A.B. previously approved this recommendation.
66. Chapter 66 – Subchapter II. This subchapter generally describes the processes by which a municipality may incorporate or adjust municipal boundaries. Staff has been involved in several incorporations and boundary agreements where the provisions of this subchapter appear inconsistent with the rules applied to other petitions and referenda in Chapters 5-12. The Legislature could consider revisiting this subchapter to harmonize its provisions with the rules governing other forms of petitions and referenda.



**DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY
FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 03J25-02
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22350-4000

March 13, 2017

Michael Haas
Administrator
Wisconsin Elections Commission
212 East Washington Ave., 3rd Floor
Madison, WI 53707-7984

Dear Mr. Haas:

I am writing today with concerns regarding Wisconsin's handling of requests for absentee ballots from overseas American citizens who intend to return to the United States. As you are aware, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is the Department of Defense program charged with administering the federal responsibilities of the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*, 52 U.S.C. §§ 20301, *et seq.* Our mission is to help ensure Service members, their eligible family members and overseas citizens are aware of their right to vote and have the tools and resources to successfully do so.

Wisconsin's definitions of military and overseas electors exclude certain classes of voters who are entitled to protections under UOCAVA. Under Wisconsin Statute § 6.24(1) an "overseas elector" is partly defined as a U.S. citizen "who does not qualify as a resident of this state under [Wisc. Stat. § 6.10]." The residency standard under Wisconsin Statute § 6.10(1) states that a person who "intends to return" to the State of Wisconsin qualifies as a resident of the State. While this standard may be appropriate to evaluate Wisconsin state residency by these voters, the definitions set forth by *UOCAVA* should be used in determining the scope of protections afforded these Wisconsin voters seeking to vote in Federal elections. *UOCAVA*, under the definition of "overseas voter", makes no distinction between a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. who has an intent to return and a U.S. citizen residing outside of the U.S. whose return is uncertain. Specifically, *UOCAVA* defines "overseas voter" to include "a person who resides outside the United States and is qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States; or a person who resides outside the United State and (but for such residence) would be qualified to vote in the last place in which the person was domiciled before leaving the United States." 52 U.S.C. § 20310(5)(B)-(C).

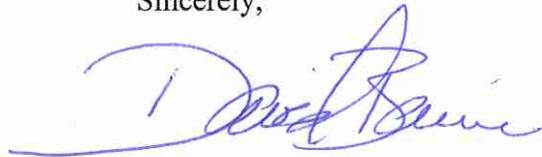
Our understanding is that currently, voters using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) who select "I am a U.S. citizen residing outside the United States, and I intend to return" are not considered *UOCAVA* voters under Wisconsin's state election laws and procedures. This excludes such voters from certain *UOCAVA* protections, including the ability to submit a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) and the option to have their ballot electronically transmitted to them, and also subjects them to additional identification requirements. It is FVAP's position that all voters who fall under the *UOCAVA* definition of "overseas voter," regardless of whether they intend to return to the U.S., should be provided all of the protections to register and vote absentee under *UOCAVA*. This includes, among other protections, the voter's ability to utilize

the FWAB in general elections for federal office as provided under 52 USC § 20302(a)(3) in accordance with 52 USC § 20303, the ability to request and receive their ballots electronically, and the ability to simultaneously register and request an absentee ballot for all federal elections without having to meet additional identification requirements

FVAP stands willing and ready to work with Wisconsin to resolve these concerns so that all *UOCAVA* citizens can register and vote in federal elections as envisioned in *UOCAVA*. Please contact Nate Bacchus, FVAP State Affairs Specialist, at nate.a.bacchus@fvap.gov with any questions, concerns or comments you may have.

Thanks for all you, your staff and colleagues in the Wisconsin Elections Commission do to support and assist our military and overseas voters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Beirne", with a large, stylized initial "D" at the start.

David Beirne
Director

Item M

Agency Budget Request

Johnson, Jennifer - ELECTIONS

From: Sara Ludtke <sludtke@town.middleton.wi.us>
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Rep.Hesselbein - LEGIS; Sen.Erpenbach - LEGIS; Elections HelpDesk; Haas, Michael R - ELECTIONS
Subject: Comments on WEC 2017-2019 Budget Proposal
Attachments: Comments on WEC Budget proposal.pdf

Please read my attached comments regarding the WEC 2017-2019 Budget Proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sara Ludtke, WCPC, CMC
Deputy Clerk/Public Works Coordinator
Town of Middleton
7555 W. Old Sauk Road
Verona, WI 53593

Population: 6,399
(608) 833-5887
(608) 833-8996

TOWN OF MIDDLETON
7555 W. OLD SAUK ROAD
VERONA, WI 53593

March 3, 2017

Via Email

Senator Diane Hesselbein
Rep.hesselbein@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Jon Erpenbach
Sen.Erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Elections Commission
elections@wi.gov
Michael Haas
Michael.haas@wi.gov

Re: WEC 2017-19 Budget Proposal

WEC Board & Legislators:

It has come to our attention that with the biennium budget coming up quickly as well as HAVA funds depleting, the proposed budget includes cutting members from the Wisconsin Elections Committee (WEC). This will leave an already small but important agency understaffed. With this potential cut I have a few concerns.

First, WEC is currently available for us if we have any questions regarding fair and equal elections. They have always responded in a timely manner. We worry that if the number of positions is reduced, it will be harder for us to get the proper information necessary in an appropriate timeframe, leading to clerks or chief inspectors trying to interpret the laws and regulations themselves.

Second, a key component of WEC is education and, as it is now, their programs are highly informative and comprehensive. WisVote, the statewide voter registration system, has many features to aid in understanding the correct way to use it. Nevertheless, this program is constantly updating as new programs are created and technology improves. It is understandable, then, to be worried that the education aspect of WEC will suffer if staff is cut. Again, we strive to have elections that are devoid of errors but without proper education this may become an issue in the future.

Finally, my main concern is always for the voters and citizens in my municipality and statewide. If this agency is reduced it will harm the voters the most. We want to maintain

transparency for our citizens but this will become increasingly difficult if almost 30% of the agency is eliminated. Ease and proficiency in elections for voters and staff is a priority and my biggest fear is that this cut would be harmful to the voters for whom we are all responsible.

This agency is incredibly valuable to the citizens of Wisconsin and cutting it would be a disservice to all. The WEC has recently had an increase in responsibilities, too, from both the Legislature and Congress (photo ID implementation, stricter requirements for serving military and overseas voters, administrative rule promulgation, online voter registration, complaint resolution, etc.). Therefore if the staff is cut from 22 to 16 people, the WEC would not be able to maintain the same level of service that is necessary and expected of them.

I respectfully ask that the Commission & the Legislature consider this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara Ludtke".

Sara Ludtke
Deputy Clerk

Johnson, Jennifer - ELECTIONS

From: Village of Fredonia - Sandra Tretow <stretow@village.fredonia.wi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 3:43 PM
To: Elections HelpDesk
Subject: budget proposal

I hate to be a negative person, but I say join the club! We all have to do more and more with fewer staff and fewer dollars.

We all are having to need to do more with less, and whining doesn't help.

Sandi Tretow
Clerk-Treasurer
Village of Fredonia
242 Fredonia Avenue/P.O. Box 159
Fredonia, WI 53021
Ph (262)692-9125
Fax (262)692-2883
stretow@village.fredonia.wi.us
Population 2,191

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Johnson, Jennifer - ELECTIONS

From: Elections HelpDesk
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 8:34 AM
To: Magney, Reid - ELECTIONS
Subject: FW: state budget

From: rosholtvillage@wi-net.com [<mailto:rosholtvillage@wi-net.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 8:32 AM

To: Elections HelpDesk

Subject: state budget

Hello,

I have served as the clerk-treasurer for the past 18 years. I often times say that, "just administering elections is worth my pay alone". **I rely heavily on the WEC to aid me in this task!**

As a member of the WI Municipal Clerk's association, I have also served in the capacity of a 'mentor clerk'. I have mentored several brand new clerks with limited knowledge on what their job encompasses. The previous clerk leaves and there they are, trying to figure everything out as they go. Not just elections, but budget, board of review, licensing, etc. Many of us are clerk-treasurer's which includes an additional set of tasks such as tax preparation. Each of these tasks is overwhelming the first time they're attempted. Imagine trying to learn all this, and at the same time, administer elections, especially without the aid of adequate staff at the WEC.

It concerns me that more responsibility will be placed on local clerks if staff is reduced at the WEC. The WEC really is the anchor for our training needs. I can't stress enough, the importance of having a full staff available for the local clerks. Elections are the heartbeat of our political system and we need to be armed as heavily as we can to complete the task in the most proficient and professional manner.

I urge you to implement a budget that will allow the WEC to maintain our current staffing needs.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Village of Rosholt
Theresa Hartvig
Clerk-Treasurer
715-677-4510
Population 500



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Johnson, Jennifer - ELECTIONS

From: Juno, Sandy L. <Juno_SL@co.brown.wi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:16 AM
To: Haas, Michael R - ELECTIONS
Subject: FW: Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC): Governor's Budget Proposal

Importance: High

For Your Information. You can share this with the commission if you so choose.

Sandy

Sandy Juno

*Brown County Clerk
305 E. Walnut St., Rm. 120
Green Bay, WI 54305-3600
Telephone: 920-448-4021
Fax: 920-448-4498*

*"Never, Never, Never Give Up"
-Winston Churchill*

From: Juno, Sandy L.
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:11 AM
To: Dave Hansen (Sen.Hansen@legis.wisconsin.gov); Frank Lasee (sen.lasee@legis.wisconsin.gov); Robert Cowles (Sen.Cowles@legis.wisconsin.gov); Andre Jacque (Rep.jacque@legis.wi.gov); Dave Steffen (rep.steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov); Eric Genrich (Rep.Genrich@legis.wisconsin.gov); Gary Tauchen (Rep.Tauchen@legis.wisconsin.gov); Jim Steineke (Rep.Steineke@legis.wi.gov); Joel Kitchens (rep.kitchens@legis.wisconsin.gov); John Nygren (Rep.Nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov); rep.macco@legis.wisconsin.gov
Subject: Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC): Governor's Budget Proposal
Importance: High

Greetings,

I'm writing regarding a huge concern I have in regard to the Governor's Budget proposal and allocations to the Wisconsin Election's Commission. The Governor does support most of the budget request; however, he did not include wages and benefits for 6 staff for an annual amount of \$360,000. I believe this is a critical mistake. WEC has been short staffed in recent years because of the loss of federal HAVA monies and the instability of retaining positions. Losing numerous staff and being short staffed has a direct effect on all phases of elections including training, advisement on questions and concerns, federal and state programs and related materials, database development, statistical data collection, legal advice, maintaining current procedures and policies, and a host of other critical factors. WEC is a resource for all aspects of elections and is utilized by clerks, administrators, elected officials, political parties, media, and the general public, etc. Transparency in government is important and in order to be compliant, we need the resources to do so.

1. WEC needs the six positions funded. Please know that over time the responsibilities of WEC have expanded; the total number of staff hasn't.
2. Staff shortages have been filled by borrowing staff from other departments or requiring staff overtime; this is done just to get the essentials done to comply with law; non-essentials get put on the back burner but sooner than later they need to get done as well.
3. Expansion of duties and responsibilities include Wisconsin Voter Registration System; ERIC; Photo ID; certification of voting equipment; Electronic Poll Books; tracking of Absentee Ballots; Overseas and Military Voter laws; maintaining, updating, and creating Administrative Code; researching technology and complying with new legislation; following court matters related to election laws; online voter registration; and etc.
4. The above mentioned don't have just a beginning date and end date; they are a continuous process that require constant attention to detail, analysis and review, scheduling, and communication with a host of parties
5. There are 72 County Clerks and 1,852 municipal clerks in Wisconsin that rely on services of WEC throughout the year. In April 2016 there were over 35,181 election inspections that needed training and education to serve our electors. We have only several elections a year but for the WEC and clerks this is a full time job. We need to plan, prepare, manage, coordinate, train, educate, recruit workers and comply with laws in advance of election day. The minute we complete one election we are onto the next.
6. Elections are at the foundation of our democracy. As clerks we are dedicated to upholding the process. Likewise, we are dependent on the WEC to provide the resources we need to uphold election processes. In replacing HAVA funding for six staff you will be satisfying the necessary resources for election accuracy and integrity.

Therefore, I am asking you to support adding \$360,00 to the WEC budget for staff salaries and benefits. Keep in mind the WEC's role in elections is ever increasing as we standardize functions and adapt to new technology statewide. We look to them for leadership and we look to you to ensure we have critical resources.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for taking time to read and understanding this budget request.

Sandy

Sandy Juno

Brown County Clerk

305 E. Walnut St., Rm. 120

Green Bay, WI 54305-3600

Telephone: 920-448-4021

Fax: 920-448-4498

"Never, Never, Never Give Up"
-Winston Churchill

Johnson, Jennifer - ELECTIONS

From: Carla Ledesma <clesdesma@wauwatosa.net>
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2017 10:26 AM
To: Elections HelpDesk
Subject: Proposed WEC Budget

Good morning, Commission members,

I am writing to ask you to please support an effort to retain the current staffing levels at the Wisconsin Election Commission.

The proposed retention of 16 of the 22 current HAVA-funded positions via use of state tax funds (General Purpose Revenue) in the Governor's proposed budget is critical, and much appreciated. The 72 County Clerks, 1,850 Municipal Clerks, *and* all of their respective staffs, rely on the WEC staff members for information and support that we cannot get from any other source.

However, the potential reduction of six positions in the WEC in mid-2018 when HAVA funds are depleted is frightening. As someone who has worked in a municipal clerk's office since 1985, and as someone who has held the title of Wauwatosa City Clerk since 1998, I can relate on a personal level to *how much more time elections take to administer* and *how much more complex they have become*. At one time, *one* clerical position in the Wauwatosa Municipal Clerk's office handled 95% of all election duties. The rest of the staff only 'helped out' during in-person absentee voting prior to big elections.

Fast-forward to 2016. It took my entire staff of *five employees (myself included)* working for weeks and weeks on election-related duties to stage the elections. Pre- and post-election duties are more numerous and complicated. I had 5-person temporary crews working daily for three weeks prior to the November election. Temporary staff was called in post-election as well.

I point all this out because I lead just one department who relies on the WEC staff for guidance and answers during these periods. Five people who may be calling the WEC. What about the other 1,849 clerks who also have questions, and whose staff also needs guidance from the WEC? **WHO** will assist us in managing the election process when issues arrive *if there are fewer staff WEC staff members to help?* We can't wait for days and days to get a response during pre-election periods. And the assistance they provide municipal clerks is but one segment of their duties. Their jobs have gotten incrementally more difficult and complex in the last 15 years because of the tremendous changes we've seen in the election processes. They have been asked to design innumerable new procedures, promulgate new administrative guidelines, implement new software, *continuously* develop new training programs, and generally oversee operations that never used to exist years ago.

One cannot repeatedly ask a person to do the work of two or three and expect it to be done timely, well, and without error. Please support retention of the current staffing levels. Thank you for your consideration,

Carla A. Ledesma, CMC, City Clerk
City of Wauwatosa
7725 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
414-479-8918
www.wauwatosa.net

Johnson, Jennifer - ELECTIONS

From: Kim Westman <kwestman@coawi.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 1:32 PM
To: Haas, Michael R - ELECTIONS
Subject: WEC budget letter of support
Attachments: WEC Mayor.pdf

Mr. Haas;

Please see the attached letter of support from the Mayor of the City of Ashland with regard to the 2017-2091 Budget Proposal.

I would like to add my thanks to all the members of the WEC staff for all their help over the too many years I have been dealing with the election process. Their expertise and support have been invaluable, and greatly appreciated. Kim

Kim Westman
Clerk's Office
City of Ashland
601 Main Street West
Ashland, WI 54806
Phone: 715-682-7071
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Email: kwestman@coawi.org

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City of Ashland, Wisconsin

601 Main Street West — Ashland, WI 54806 — www.coawi.org

March 1, 2017

Wisconsin Elections Commission

Attn: Michael Haas, Interim Administrator

212 East Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor

Madison, WI 53707-7984

**RE: Comments on WEC 2017-19 Budget Proposal for March 8, 2017 Special Meeting
Sent Via E-mail on March 1, 2017**

Dear Mr. Haas and Members of the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC):

I write in my capacity of Mayor for the City of Ashland, located on the south shore of Lake Superior. I have reviewed your background memo of February 28, 2017 regarding Governor Walker's proposed budget for the WEC and offer the following comments regarding our local experience in advance of the special meeting of the WEC scheduled on March 8, 2017:

In Ashland, our Deputy Elections Clerk, Kim Westman, started working in implementation of elections in 2004 and continues to be the main person responsible for executing elections. She is a highly competent, knowledgeable, and organized employee. In 2004, approximately ¼ of her work time was devoted to elections. Since 2004, the following major changes to elections have been made state-wide:

- 1) implementation of the state voter system in 2006 and subsequent changes to that system, and the new WisVote system;
- 2) numerous and near-constant changes in legislation, both state and federal, which have required an inordinate amount of time to understand and implement;
- 3) increase of requested information from political parties, watchdog groups, and the general public; and
- 4) recruiting and training of poll workers and chief inspectors.

Currently, the same Elections Clerk position requires $\frac{3}{4}$ of her work hours each week, year round, in preparing for and executing elections in the City of Ashland. None of the excellent work done by our Elections Clerk would be possible without all the technical support, training, and ongoing assistance throughout the year from the WEC staff. The WEC staff is a critical component of Wisconsin elections and we rely heavily on their knowledge and expertise to provide accurate and timely information so that we can execute the best possible elections for the voters in our city.

Although the WEC staff always does their level best in responding to our needs, with the loss of four staff positions in the current biennium there has already been a noticeable difference in access and response times during the 2016 elections. This is through no fault of the WEC staff considering the large number of municipal and county clerks relying on such a small staff for assistance.

We are extremely concerned and strongly oppose the proposed further reduction of six staff from the WEC if the current budget proposal stands. We strongly believe that such a reduction will be detrimental to the election process for the state as a whole and in particular to the voters in our city.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to this body for your dedication and professionalism in providing the necessary support to conduct elections in Wisconsin. It is greatly appreciated and vitally important. We are proud of our Wisconsin heritage of clean and well-run elections and believe that providing the necessary support to the WEC is essential to upholding this tradition of integrity.

With best wishes and kindest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra S. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D' and 'L'.

Debra S. Lewis

Ashland Mayor

cc:

Senator Janet Bewley

Representative Beth Meyers

Curt Wytenski, Jerry DeSchene, League of Municipalities

Governor Scott Walker

Senator Scott Fitzgerald

Representative Robin Vos

Item P
Agency Annual Report

WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL HAAS

MARK L. THOMSEN, CHAIR

2016 Election Commission Major Achievements

1. Transition from the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) to the Wisconsin Elections Commission: Senior G.A.B. staff worked with the Department Administration in early 2016 to complete a transition plan from the G.A.B. to the new Wisconsin Elections Commission and Wisconsin Ethics Commission, which was approved by the Joint Committee on Finance. Staff worked to orient new Commissioners as they were appointed and served as ex-officio members of the G.A.B. during the Spring of 2016, prior to the start of the two new commissions on June 30, 2016.

Staff also developed draft memoranda of understanding for shared office space and shared services between the two new commissions prior to the transition date, after which those MOUs were refined and approved by the two Commissions. In preparation for the changeover, staff developed new separate websites and new letterheads for each commission, and made many changes to rename and reformat standard forms and manuals to reflect the new structure and names. Financial staff also worked with DOA to create separate financial accounts for the two new agencies and allocate resources to each according to the transition plan.

2. Administration of Four Successful Statewide Elections and Other Election Events: Agency staff worked in conjunction with more than 1,850 municipal clerks, 72 county clerks, and tens of thousands of other local election officials to successfully conduct the Spring Primary, Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary, Partisan Primary and General Election.

Also, during 2016 staff provided administrative guidance to local election officials for 13 special elections in seven municipalities (five elections in the same newly created village), two school districts and one county. There were no special elections required to fill vacancies for legislative or other state offices. In addition to training and support of local election officials, staff worked with numerous candidates and other organizations to prepare for the elections. Following elections for state and federal offices, staff assembled and reviewed official results from the counties, prepared the official canvass for certification and issued Certificates of Election to the winners.

- Spring Ballot Access Procedures: The Spring Primary and Spring Election included nonpartisan elections as well as the Presidential Preference Primary. In January, staff conducted a meeting of the Presidential Preference Selection Committee, which determines which candidates' names appear on the Presidential Preference Primary ballot in April. Staff assisted state judicial candidates with the filing of ballot access documents. Staff completed the review of nomination papers submitted by 63 candidates for state offices and made recommendations regarding G.A.B. certification of candidates or denial of ballot

access. Staff also processed and evaluated challenges to nomination papers as well as appeals regarding decisions of local filing officers. At the end of 2016, staff conducted the review of nomination papers submitted by 71 candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction and judicial offices at the 2017 Spring Election.

- Fall Ballot Access Procedures: Staff assisted state candidates with the filing of ballot access documents for the Partisan Primary and General and Presidential Election. After the June 1 deadline for submission of ballot access forms, staff completed the review of nomination papers submitted by 365 candidates for state and federal offices and made recommendations to the G.A.B. for certification of candidates or denial of ballot access. In addition, there were two independent candidates for president whose nomination papers required review. There were a total of seven candidates for president. Staff also processed and evaluated challenges to nomination papers as well as appeals regarding decisions of local filing officers.
 - Ballot Redesign: Agency staff continued efforts to improve and standardize the design of ballots to be used in Wisconsin elections. Staff developed proposed ballot designs for the 2016 statewide elections and solicited input from clerks, political parties and legislators. The Government Accountability Board and the Wisconsin Elections Commission continued the practice of approving proposed ballot designs for the four regularly-scheduled 2016 elections and for the Spring 2017 elections.
 - Extended Office Hours: Agency staff members were available to assist local election officials before and after regular business hours in the days leading up to and after regular elections, as well as during the conduct of recounts. Staff was available for 16 hours on the day of the Spring Primary and 17 hours on the days of the Spring Election, Partisan Primary and General Election to assist with issues ranging from the opening of polling places to the reporting of unofficial results on Election Night. Staff also logged every telephone call received during the weeks surrounding each election to track the type of issues which arose and the resolution of those issues.
3. WisVote Launch and Maintenance: The new WisVote system launched on January 11, 2016. WisVote is used by Wisconsin's municipal clerks, county clerks, and thousands of staff in clerks' offices to register voters and administer elections.

WisVote replaced the former Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) which had been in use since 2006 and had reached end-of-life. The WisVote system was developed in-house by agency IT and program staff from July of 2014 through December 2015 using the Microsoft Dynamics CRM platform, which is completely web-based, unlike SVRS. The system was completed for \$2,052,756, which was not only \$100,000 under budget but also far less than the approximately \$3.6 paid to Accenture for the former SVRS system deployed in 2006. The new WisVote system addressed several critical deficiencies of SVRS, most notably improving ease of use, reducing maintenance and hosting costs, and improving stability, security and supportability.

- Data Migration: Once the WisVote system was complete, more than 100 million records needed to be migrated from SVRS into WisVote. Agency IT staff spent the first two weeks of 2016 migrating data related to voters, registrations, addresses, voting history, districts, offices and all other records needed for WisVote to be functional.
 - WisVote Learning Center: Agency staff developed the WisVote Learning Center website to deliver WisVote training to those who would be using the new system. The WisVote Learning Center represents a complete change in strategy for delivering training. While SVRS training was delivered in-person, the WisVote Learning Center is a completely on-line training platform. All users of the former SVRS system were set up with accounts in the Learning Center and were sent instructions to access the Learning Center and complete the required training for WisVote. The Learning Center contains interactive tutorial videos created by agency staff covering all aspects of the WisVote system. It includes a complete training manual written by staff that can be printed by clerks. It includes links to the many WisVote webinars prepared and recorded by staff both before and after the WisVote launch. The website received more than 160,000 page views from 6,296 unique users in 2016.
 - Rapid Felon Updates: The process used to interface with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) was completely redeveloped for WisVote. Instead of the monthly batch files delivered to SVRS, agency staff worked with DOC to create a nightly web service process so that new felon records and any updates to existing felon records are now processed in WisVote every night. This has tremendously improved the accuracy of the matching process in WisVote which compares felon records to voter records, and of the Ineligible Voter Lists that clerks print from WisVote to prevent felons on probation or parole from registering and voting while they are still serving a felony sentence.
 - Ongoing Maintenance: Agency staff deployed 13 updates to WisVote in 2016 after the system was implemented. These updates continued to add new features to WisVote and addressed bugs or suggestions submitted by clerks to improve WisVote.
4. MyVote Wisconsin Website: MyVote.wi.gov is the agency's voter services website for voters to look-up their polling place, view a sample ballot, register to vote, request an absentee ballot and more. Agency staff accomplished the following tasks in 2016 related to MyVote Wisconsin:
- MyVote Rebuild to Interface with WisVote: With the launch of the new WisVote statewide voter registration database, the technical infrastructure of the original MyVote.wi.gov website had to be rebuilt. The user interface of the site looked the same to users as the original MyVote; however, each element of the technical infrastructure was rebuilt and tested in coordination with the WisVote launch. The restructured MyVote site functioned well through the February and April 2016 elections.
 - Development and Testing of the Redesigned MyVote Website: As the first step in the website development process, agency staff finalized the development of detailed prototypes and business requirements for the redesigned MyVote website in 2016. The prototypes

and business requirements were created as a result of a comprehensive website usability study that was conducted in 2015. The final MyVote prototypes and business requirement documents consisted of more than 200 pages of detailed requirements that allowed agency staff to effectively and efficiently coordinate the web development process.

Once the prototypes and business documents were completed, agency staff worked with design agency Knupp, Watson & Wallman (KW2) to redesign and develop the MyVote Wisconsin website. At the same time, the agency's in-house IT developers created the infrastructure for the MyVote site by completing more than 700 tasks to link the new MyVote site to the WisVote database. Agency staff also oversaw the web design process by working with KW2 to create the layout and substantive content of all 278 pages and subpages of the new website. Agency staff also oversaw the web development of the user interface while working with contracted web developers through KW2. Agency staff began the redesign of the MyVote website in January 2016 and launched the redesigned site in June of 2016.

Another major component of the MyVote redesign project was the functional testing of the new MyVote site. Agency staff created and completed more than 1,000 unique test cases prior to the launch of MyVote 2.0. The testing protocol required hundreds of agency staff hours to ensure the site was operating as expected and to ensure that information was being correctly transmitted between the MyVote website and the WisVote database. Completing such a comprehensive test plan was paramount to the successful launch of the redesigned MyVote 2.0 website in June 2016.

- Launch and Training for the Redesigned MyVote: Following the June 2016 launch of the redesigned MyVote Wisconsin website, there were no major problems or issues reported. Between June 2016 and December 2016, the site successfully handled nearly one million unique user visits. More than 150,000 voters completed a voter registration form and more than 50,000 voters used the site to request an absentee ballot. More than 500,000 users found their polling place or viewed their sample ballot. Nearly 6,000 Military or Permanent Overseas voters used the site to download an absentee ballot.

The launch of the MyVote 2.0 website was a significant change for both Wisconsin clerks and voters. To prepare clerks and voters for the change, WEC staff developed numerous training resources. Training materials included a 60-page user manual. Agency staff also published a pre-recorded webinar for clerks in anticipation of the site's launch. After the launch, agency staff continued to develop and publish MyVote training materials for clerks and voter groups.

- Preparing for Online Voter Registration: In 2016 the WEC started to plan for the implementation of an Online Voter Registration system (OVR) through the MyVote website as required by 2015 Wisconsin Act 261. The OVR project required the WEC to work with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WI DOT) to interface both the MyVote website and the WisVote database to the WI DOT's database. WEC staff met with WI DOT management and IT staff on a weekly basis over the course of six months to discuss the technical and statutory requirements of the OVR system. WEC also worked

extensively with WI DOT to develop a Memorandum of Understanding which outlined the agreement and shared responsibilities of the two agencies in developing and maintaining the OVR system.

- MyVote/WisVote Address Services: One of the most critical components of both the MyVote website and the WisVote database is the address validation system. The address validation system is key to ensuring that voters receive the correct ballot, are assigned to the correct polling place and appear on the correct poll book. The WEC's former address service was discontinued in July of 2016. WEC staff researched and implemented a new address service provider in June of 2016. Agency IT developers then linked the new address service to the MyVote website and the WisVote database. The new service has greatly increased the accuracy and the positive return rate for all agency systems.

Agency staff also reviewed more than 300,000 addresses that migrated from SVRS into WisVote but were not being used. These were historic addresses where voters had previously been registered but were no longer active and in use. Staff re-verified these addresses to obtain current geographic locations for them and reactivated them for clerks to be able to use. While a small number of these addresses were incomplete and could not be verified, most were rehabilitated and made available for clerks to use.

5. Voter Photo Identification: Following reinstatement of the Photo ID Law after the 2015 Spring Election, agency staff developed and executed an unpaid, earned-media campaign for the 2016 Spring Elections using updated media materials created for the Bring It to the Ballot campaign. Larger-than-expected turnout for the Presidential Preference Primary in April highlighted the need for additional photo ID education. The G.A.B. directed staff to request \$250,000 in § 13.10 funding from the Joint Committee on Finance for a paid photo ID Informational Campaign in advance of the Partisan Primary and General Election. After the request was approved, staff worked with the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association and the KW2 ad agency to place television, radio and online advertising for the campaign. Following the District Court decision in *One Wisconsin Now Institute v. Thomsen*, staff worked with the Wisconsin Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation to promote the Photo ID Petition Process (IDPP) by developing new informational materials for voters.
6. Recount: There were three recounts ordered for the 2016 General Election that WEC staff was required to coordinate: Iron County District Attorney, State Senate District 32, and President of the United States. For all offices, the recount confirmed that the candidate who appeared to receive the most votes on Election Day was the winner. Although all recount efforts require significant preparations and coordination, the Presidential recount certainly required the most, given the abbreviated timeframe to complete the recount by the federal safe harbor date.

The hard work of many individuals contributed to the success of the first statewide recount for President in Wisconsin. Election officials completed the statewide recount of almost 3 million ballots in roughly 12 days. The very small number of changes in totals, given the overall number of ballots cast, confirms that Wisconsin's Presidential Election was fair, accurate and transparent, and should promote public confidence in the election results as well as our election administration system and procedures. Recounts can serve as a good roadmap for additional

training of local elections officials, and staff will incorporate lessons learned into 2017 training efforts. In addition to the hard work and dedication of the county clerks, county boards of canvass, county and city elections commissions, municipal clerks, deputies, tabulators and other election workers to ensure the recount was completed accurately and by the established deadline, the Commission staff also dedicated significant time, effort and resources to ensure the recount went as smoothly as possible and finished on time. Further information is provided in the Presidential Recount Report at the December 14, 2016 Commission meeting.

7. Electronic Registration Information Center: 2015 Wisconsin Act 261 required the agency to enter into an agreement with ERIC, a consortium of states which share data from their voter registration and motor vehicle agencies. ERIC has two goals: to identify voters who may be eligible to vote but are not registered, and to identify voters who are registered but whose registrations are inaccurate or out of date.

In 2016 Commission staff focused on voters who were potentially eligible to vote but were not registered by identifying voters who have a Wisconsin driver license or state ID card, but who did not have a current voter registration. Once identified, the Commission contacted potential voters and provided them with voter registration information.

The ERIC Membership Agreement requires that participating states reach out to voters who may be eligible but are unregistered once every two years, ahead of the fall General Election, no later than October 1. To meet this requirement, WEC staff designed a postcard mailer and coordinated the printing and mailing of the ERIC notification. The postcard directed recipients to register to vote using the MyVote website or to contact the WEC for more information. In September 2016, the commission mailed 1,238,538 postcards, and approximately 209,102 voters who received them registered to vote for the 2016 General Election.

Agency staff anticipated that the mailing of the ERIC postcards would significantly increase email and phone inquiries from voters. To prepare for the increased volume of calls, the WEC contracted with the Beyond Vision call center in Milwaukee. Agency staff trained Beyond Vision representatives to answer questions about voter registration and voter eligibility. Overall, the Beyond Vision call center answered 2,388 ERIC related phone calls. The WEC also hired and trained eight temporary employees through a staffing agency to assist with the influx of calls and emails resulting from the ERIC mailing. The temporary employees answered more than 5,000 ERIC related email and phone inquiries between September 23 and November 8, 2016.

8. Election Security and Contingency Planning: In 2016, agency staff took unprecedented actions to ensure the General Election was safeguarded from malicious attacks. Wisconsin Elections Commission staff partnered with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) to ensure that Wisconsin's election-related IT systems were prepared for the November Election. Wisconsin was one of several states to work with DHS National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center to perform a Cyber Hygiene Assessment. Through this program, DHS performed continuous security and vulnerability scans of Election Commission IT infrastructure and systems to assess their vulnerability to cyber-attacks.

Elections Commission staff partnered with Wisconsin Emergency Management, DET and Wisconsin's Adjutant General to help ensure that Wisconsin was prepared for the heightened security required to ensure a smooth election process. DET issued an enterprise-wide change freeze from October 25 to November 11, barring any IT system changes across all of state government without prior approval from the agency-head and the state CIO's office. Commission staff also hosted a joint meeting with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Wisconsin Emergency Management, and representatives of the Milwaukee and Dane County district attorney offices to discuss election day preparedness and to designate emergency points of contact in their respective offices for emergencies that may occur on Election Day.

Staff updated the Election System Security and Emergency Preparedness manual to be used as a resource for election officials in preparation for the Presidential Election. The manual describes various emergency situations and is intended to help election officials identify and respond to a wide array of unplanned occurrences that can take place leading up to Election Day.

In response to the anticipated additional traffic to WEC IT applications, primarily WisVote and MyVote, the server capacity was increased. The capacity has been doubled for the MyVote website as well as for the WisVote database that powers the site. Capacity for the agency's main website was also enhanced. Thanks to the significant advance planning and partnerships with both state and federal partners, there were no security events reported leading up to and including on Election Day.

9. Training and Guidance: The agency provides training to local election officials, including county and municipal clerks, chief inspectors, regular election inspectors, special voting deputies, election registration officials, special registration deputies and local boards of canvassers.
 - Webinars/Videos: Agency staff continued to produce timely election administration training sessions on rapidly changing legislative requirements and procedures, WisVote computer application training, teleconferences and training modules using webinar and Storyline software. Staff has produced 22 educational videos relating to election administration and WisVote topics and processes, including the implementation of the voter photo ID law and other court decisions, the development and use of Online Voter Registration and an introduction to WisVote for new users of the system. The webcasts and related materials are posted on the WEC website for clerks and other local election officials to use at their convenience.
 - In-person and Online Trainings: Agency staff continued to provide initial training classes for new municipal clerks and new chief inspectors using a combination of live webinars conducted by staff and in-person training classes conducted by certified clerk-trainers. Staff and clerk-trainers delivered 46 Baseline Chief Inspector training classes and trained more than 1,510 new and current chief inspectors and municipal clerks (current chief inspectors and municipal clerks are allowed to take the course once per two-year term as a refresher). Trainers also conducted six Municipal Clerk Core training classes and trained 185 new municipal clerks and current clerks seeking refresher training. Training for the

statewide voter registration system is available in the WisVote Learning Center via interactive tutorials and webinar overviews. Previous users of SVRS were automatically issued credentials for the Learning Center website and approximately 730 new users were issued either read-only, data-entry or clerk access roles, depending on their job duties in WisVote.

- Training Manual Updates: Agency staff updated the Election Day and Election Administration Manuals to reflect new laws approved by the state legislature, including 2015 Wisconsin Act 261, and recent court decisions. Staff also updated the Recount Manual prior to the statewide Presidential Election Recount, and the MyVote Wisconsin and WisVote Manuals to reflect the redesigned websites.
 - Clerk Association Presentations: Agency staff continued its successful practice of attending the annual and district conferences of the Wisconsin County Clerks Association, Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin League of Wisconsin Municipalities and Wisconsin Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute to provide legislative updates, education and training on clerk and local election official duties and to solicit input on pending legislative proposals and other procedures.
 - Clerk Communications: Agency staff continued a commitment to effective and timely communication to local election officials through a series of “Clerk Communications” which are posted to the agency website and categorized according to their priority. In 2016, staff prepared and posted 139 such communications (compared to 80 in 2015) on a variety of topics including legislative changes, election preparations, the status of the Voter Photo ID law and required tasks to be completed in WisVote. Complete and accurate communications typically require the drafting and editing work of several staff members.
 - Answering Questions: Agency staff also responded to specific requests for information from local election officials, ranging from the thousands of phone calls the agency receives every year to formal requests for guidance. In addition to addressing these questions as they arise, staff notes what questions arise with the greatest frequency and incorporates them into future training webinars, manual updates and clerk conferences.
 - Election Calendar: Agency staff created and published the annual, comprehensive Calendar of Election Events that includes all election-related tasks and deadlines for Election Administration and WisVote. It is a key tool used by local clerks and staff and is available publicly on the WEC website.
10. WisVote Checklists: WisVote staff provided two checklists to clerks for each of the four statewide elections in 2016.

Checklist I assisted in preparation of the election, including guidance for contest, candidate and reporting unit setup in WisVote as well as completing voter data quality review, absentee ballots tracking (which became a statutory requirement in 2016) and printing poll books and felon lists.

Checklist II provided instruction for post-election activities, including Election Night tasks such as entering provisional ballots into WisVote and posting unofficial Election Night results. Checklist II also provided other post-election guidance for recording voter participation and entering Election Day Registrations in WisVote and reconciling and reporting election statistics using the EL-190 form.

11. Election Readiness: In conjunction with the Checklists, beginning six weeks prior to each of the four statewide elections held in 2016, staff used a series of daily quality check reports designed to identify counties or municipalities that had not yet completed a step in their election preparation. Staff conducted outreach by telephone and email to assist clerks in meeting election readiness deadlines in WisVote. Clerk completion of WisVote election setup is critical to the voter experience on the MyVote website because until the setup is complete, voters cannot find their polling places, review sample ballots, or, in the case of military and overseas voters, download their ballots online.

Municipalities whose voter rolls had potential data quality issues were also identified. Prior to mailing absentee ballots and again prior to Election Day, staff alerted clerks to potential problems with voters registered in their municipality. The alerts identified voters who may be deceased or may have a felony conviction and voters who may have duplicate voting records. Staff also provided notice and guidance for ensuring voters would vote in the correct ward and receive the correct ballot by identifying potential problems with the voters' address. Identifying and clearing up these potential problems resulted in more accurate poll books.

In addition to providing the checklists and other clerk notifications, WisVote staff answered clerk questions, both those generated by these communications, as well as general questions regarding election-related tasks in WisVote. It was a common occurrence for individual staff members to respond to several dozen calls and emails daily. Questions typically range from very basic and simple questions about how an action might be completed in WisVote to specific questions that might require investigation by a team of staff.

After the elections, WisVote staff followed up on post-election data quality issues such as provisional ballots that were issued but did not show if they were counted or rejected, and reviewing voters who had more than one election participation record in an election. For the duplicate participation check, the goal was to determine whether the duplicate participation was in error and, if so, to correct it on the voter record and determine if such an occurrence can be prevented in the future. Consequently, if no error was found, the voter may have committed voter fraud by casting more than one ballot in an election. A team reviewed the data, categorized each instance for follow-up, and provided instructions for clerks, who then completed the investigation.

12. General Customer Service: Agency staff answered phone calls and in-person questions from clerks, candidates, incumbents, media and members of the general public on a variety of election-related subjects. In 2016, the front desk answered more than 5,700 phone calls and the Help Desk answered more than 7,100 phone calls and processed thousands of email

inquiries and requests for technical assistants. The agency maintains a general website and specific program websites for the public, which continue to provide a great deal of information to customers, especially near elections:

- Main Agency websites: gab.wi.gov and elections.wi.gov received 6.5 million page views from nearly 1.6 million unique users.
- MyVote website: myvote.wi.gov received 6.5 million page views from nearly 900,000 unique users.
- Voter ID microsite: BringIt.wi.gov received more than 392,000 page views from more than 172,000 unique users.

13. Voter Outreach: Agency staff completed the following tasks to ensure voters received the information they needed to participate in the 2016 elections:

- Social Media: The agency increased its presence on social media in 2016. The agency's following on Twitter increased to more than 3,600 and agency Twitter posts generated more than 3.8 million user impressions. The agency's following on Facebook also increased to more than 2,000, and agency Facebook posts generated around 3.1 million total impressions, including some paid and targeted Facebook posts.

Agency staff developed and used a pre-set social media plan for 2016. The social media plan outlined Facebook and Twitter content and images in relation to important deadlines and events in the 2016 election cycle. A suggested social media plan for 2016 was also provided to clerks and voter groups to use on their own social media pages.

- Voter Materials: Agency staff created and updated more than 40 voter handouts, guides and other materials on a variety of voting topics. In addition to voter handouts, agency staff also developed video presentations on voter topics. Each handout and video was updated at least three times throughout 2016 to reflect changes made by the courts, new legislation and as a result of the agency transition.
- Voter Outreach Kits: In 2016, agency staff developed a voter outreach kit for the use of clerks and voter groups. The outreach kit included news releases, voter guides, presentation materials, a social media plan and links to agency resources. Each component of the kit was updated at least twice in 2016 to reflect changes made by the courts, new legislation and as a result of the agency transition.
- Voter Outreach Presentations: Agency staff made in-person presentations to organizations and audiences about election laws and procedures, especially focusing on the Voter Photo ID Law. In assessing speaking opportunities, staff developed an approach that relies on the assistance of local election officials and community organizations to train organization staff and volunteers to disseminate information regarding the ID requirement. Public presentations were made throughout the year, including several events sponsored by organizations serving persons with disabilities.

- Services to Military and Overseas Voters: In 2016, the agency staff continued its commitment to assisting Military and Overseas voters (UOCAVA voters). In 2016 there were three federal elections that required agency staff to monitor the transmission of each UOCAVA ballot and report the transmissions to the U.S. Department of Justice. To ensure each ballot was sent on time, agency staff monitored each ballot request and sent thousands of emails and made hundreds of calls to clerks. For the April 5, 2016 Election, 1,063 UOCAVA ballots were requested by the Federal deadline. Of those ballots, 99.93 percent were reported to U.S. DOJ as sent timely. For the August 9, 2016 Primary, 2,565 UOCAVA ballots were requested by the Federal deadline. Of those ballots, 98.6 percent were reported to U.S. DOJ as sent timely. For the November 8, 2018 Election, 5,129 UOCAVA ballots were requested by the Federal deadline. Of those ballots, 99.94 percent were reported to U.S. DOJ as sent timely.
- To further assist UOCAVA voters, agency staff sent regular email reminders to UOCAVA voters to inform them of upcoming deadlines. Agency staff also created three clerk guide documents that outlined the procedure for fulfilling voter requests made using federal forms such as the Federal Write In Absentee Ballot, Federal Postcard Application and the National Voter Registration Application. Agency staff also presented information about UOCAVA voters and deadlines at each of the clerk conferences in 2016 and during multiple clerk webinars. Agency staff was also involved in the Council for State Governments' (CSG) Overseas Voting initiative and was active in creating the Policy Recommendations document that outlined best practices for communicating with UOCAVA voters. The CSG report was distributed nationally to state election officials and legislators.

14. Voting Equipment Testing and Approval: Agency staff evaluated several applications for approval of Engineering Change Orders (ECO) to previously-approved voting equipment systems. After staff evaluation of the ECO applications and their compliance with adopted standards, the Director and General Counsel of the former Government Accountability Board, in consultation with the former Board Chair, approved the ECO applications of Dominion Voting Systems and ES&S as *de minimis* changes to the voting equipment.

Addressing the need to replace aging electronic voting systems, several counties reported the purchase of new voting equipment for their municipalities in 2016. Agency staff updated agency records documenting the particular equipment used in each county and also attended some meetings in which equipment vendors introduced the equipment to local election officials.

15. National Election and Voting System Standards: G.A.B. and WEC staff actively participated in national efforts to define standards for future voting systems and IT systems used to administer elections in the United States.
- Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC): The TGDC was chartered by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to provide recommendations on voluntary standards and guidelines related to voting equipment and technologies. It is composed of 14 members selected from various standards boards and for their technical and scientific expertise related to voting systems and equipment. The

National Association of State Election Directors (NASSED) selected Elections Supervisor Ross Hein as its nominee on the TGDC and he served in that capacity throughout 2016.

- TGDC Interoperability Working Group: The TGDC instituted an interoperability working group to work on common data formats that allow the varied technical components used for administering elections to be able to exchange data and interoperate more effectively. The interoperability group has picked up much of the work that was being done by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Voting Systems Standards Committee (VSSC). WisVote Functional Lead Sarah Whitt sits on the interoperability working group and is involved with several sub-groups including Election Process Modeling and Online Voter Registration. She remains head of the Election Results Reporting group, which published its standard in 2016.
 - U.S. EAC Standards Board: Interim Administrator Michael Haas serves on the EAC's Standards Board, composed of state and local election official representatives from each State and Territory. The Standards Board is charged with reviewing and providing input to the EAC related to the guidelines under which the EAC certifies voting systems as well as its guidance and best practices recommendations to local election officials. At the end of 2015, in accordance with procedures adopted by the G.A.B., staff facilitated a process by which Wisconsin's local election official representative to the Standards Board would be appointed for a four-year term. The appointment process was completed in early 2016.
16. Voting Equipment Audit: After each General Election, the WEC is statutorily required to audit the performance of each type of electronic voting equipment used in Wisconsin and determine the equipment's error rate in counting valid ballots. On November 11, 2016 a random draw of reporting units to be audited was conducted by staff and all municipalities selected to participate in the audit were notified on November 14, 2016. As part of the recount planning special teleconference meeting of the WEC, Commission members voted unanimously to postpone the audit until the completion of the statewide recount. At its December 14, 2016 meeting, the Commission approved a motion to exempt municipalities which conducted the Presidential recount by hand from having to complete the 2016 voting equipment audit and a motion to change the audit deadline to January 31, 2017.
17. Polling Place Accessibility Compliance:
- Polling Place Audits: Over the course of four statewide elections in 2016, accessibility auditors completed audits of 386 polling places in approximately 340 municipalities in 39 counties. Agency staff hired and trained temporary workers to conduct onsite accessibility compliance audits, a program that is unique in the nation.

Following each audit, staff reviewed the responses submitted by municipal clerks and helped to ensure that accessibility problems identified by the audits are resolved as quickly and cost-effectively as possible. In support of clerks' efforts to make

polling places more accessible to voters with disabilities, agency staff distributed signs, page magnifiers, and other grant-funded accessibility supplies to municipalities.

Commission staff partnered with a member organization of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW), to staff the project for the Presidential Election. Seventeen teams, representing the three DRW field offices and consisting of 22 volunteers, participated in the project. In total, the teams from DRW completed 80 audits in 55 municipalities.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee: Agency staff organized and facilitated two meetings of the Accessibility Advisor Committee. The meetings were held in advance of the Spring Election and the General Election in order to provide updates regarding preparations for those elections, solicit input from representatives of disability advocacy organizations, and discuss how the agency can partner with those organizations to communicate with the public. Committee members heard presentations and discussed topics such as the polling place audit program, voting equipment testing, the Photo ID Law, accessibility components of the MyVote Wisconsin website and public outreach and education efforts.
 - Recognition from the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired: The Government Accountability Board was presented with the 2016 “Outstanding Public Service” award by the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired in June 2016 in recognition of its efforts to ensure accessible voting for all Wisconsin citizens.
18. Voter Felon Audit: Wis. Stat. §6.56(3m) requires the Commission to compare the list of voters in an election with the list transmitted to the Commission by the DOC containing the names of individuals disqualified from voting due to felony convictions. The Commission continued to use an updated automatic tracking process first implemented in 2014 to improve communications with DOC and to obtain information more quickly and accurately. The system allowed DOC and agency staff to review potential voter felon matches and refer appropriate matters to the District Attorney if it appears individuals who were still “on paper” cast ballots when they were in fact ineligible. The referral allowed the District Attorney to then conduct any additional investigation and make a decision as to whether sufficient evidence exists to file criminal charges. Commission staff will continue to provide the Commission with updates on the voter felon audit process and results twice per year.
19. Voter Registrations and Cancellations: The G.A.B. and WEC continued to receive a significant number of misdirected voter registration applications in 2016. The EL-131 Voter Registration form is processed at the local level by municipal clerks. However, some sources, including some national voter registration drives, list the WEC as the recipient. Individuals also find the WEC office address online or at the bottom of the form and sometimes send their registration applications into the agency. Processing these forms involves determining what municipality the voter resides in and forwarding the form to that clerk for processing. Agency

staff received and processed approximately 6,235 of these forms in 2016, requiring a significant investment of staff time.

Staff also received notices from election officials in other states of voters who have moved from Wisconsin into their state and who have registered to vote there. These voter registrations are then cancelled in WisVote and their municipal clerks are notified. In 2016, staff received 6,847 cancellation notices resulting in the cancellation of 8,872 voter registrations in Wisconsin.

20. BADGER Voters: Agency staff continued to process requests for WisVote data throughout 2016. The BADGER Voters website processed 789 initial data request quotes, of which 435 were purchased, generating \$235,820 in revenues. IT staff also implemented several improvements to the data request system to improve security and enhance the user experience. 2015 Wisconsin Act 261 required the WEC to implement a subscription service to provide electronic access to absentee ballot data entered in WisVote. Specifically, Wis. Stat. § 5.05(14)(b) mandates the subscription service to include updated absentee ballot data that must include the date on which an elector applied to vote by in-person absentee ballot, the date on which the clerk mailed an absentee ballot to the elector, and the date on which the elector returned the absentee ballot to the municipal clerk.

In July 2016, WEC staff developed and launched an automated process in BADGER Voters to fulfill the subscription service requirement. Users have the option to register for an annual subscription to obtain absentee ballot data information through BADGER Voters. The service allows the user to receive and download updates of their absentee ballot data request for the calendar year. Users have an option to receive absentee ballot data updates semi-weekly, weekly, bi-weekly and/or monthly. The cost to subscribe and receive frequent absentee ballot data on a rolling basis is consistent with existing data pricing rates which includes a standard \$25 to subscribe and \$5 per every 1,000 new records generated. Since the launch of the absentee subscription service in July of 2016, there have been a total of 10 subscribers. The system completed 119 absentee ballot data files under the subscription service, generating total revenue of \$27,230.00.

21. Wisconsin Elections Data Collection System (WEDCS): In 2016, municipal clerks completed EL-190 statistics reports for the Partisan Primary and General Election and the Spring Primary and Spring Election. Municipal and county clerks submitted the EL-191 election-specific cost report for those elections as well as the Annual Election Costs Report for 2016.

All of the data reports are conveyed electronically through WEDCS. Agency staff invested considerable time and effort in educating local election officials regarding the reporting requirements, obtaining and monitoring compliance with the reporting requirements and reconciling discrepancies in the data. Staff reconciled WEDCS data internally, as well as with voter participation and election data from WisVote and the Canvass Reporting System.

After all data was reconciled, it was used to complete several major federal reporting requirements: The U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) covering the 2016 General Election, and the Federal Voting Assistance Program's grant reporting requirements related to the development and use of MyVote

Wisconsin. Cumulatively, staff completed reporting on more than 600 data points for each municipality on behalf of all of Wisconsin's municipal and county clerks. This equates to more than 1 million total data points.

22. Canvass Reporting System: Counties use the Canvass Reporting System (CRS) to transmit official results for federal and state offices to the Commission. Many counties also use CRS for reporting unofficial election night results. Agency staff provided support and assistance to county and municipal clerks using CRS to report unofficial Election Night results for the four statewide elections and three recounts in 2016. Voting equipment must be capable of exporting results on election night to CRS. Commission IT staff worked with voting equipment vendors to develop new export reports for counties that purchased new voting equipment in 2016.
23. Promulgation of Administrative Rules: Legal Counsel continued with the promulgation of administrative rules related to election administration in 2016. Permanent rules codifying technical college ID cards as valid forms of photo ID for purposes of voting were effective February 1, 2016. Legal Counsel worked with the Legislative Reference Bureau to properly convert Chapter GAB rules to Chapter EL rules with an effective date of June 30, 2016. Legal Counsel continued to work on proposed administrative rules at various stages in the promulgation process. Significant progress on the promulgation of administrative rules, or proposed legislation in lieu of promulgation of administrative rules in certain topic areas is anticipated in 2017.
24. 2015 Wisconsin Act 261: The revision of election-related statutes continued with the enactment of 2015 Wisconsin Act 261 on March 16, 2016, which was promptly addressed by staff and incorporated into the agency's ongoing Election Official training program as well as procedures. The election-related changes in the new law included:
 - Electronic Voter Registration
 - Elimination of Special Registration Deputies/Appointment of Election Registration Officials
 - Counting of Absentee Ballots
 - New Proof of Residence Document
 - New Voter ID Document
 - Additional Categories of Information in the Official Registration List
 - Subscription Service for Absentee Voting Information
 - Posting Election Night Returns
 - Election Official Evaluations

- Electronic Poll Books
 - Joining the Election Registration Information Center (ERIC)
 - Approval of Electronic Voting Equipment
 - Treatment of Overvoted Ballots
 - Elimination of Voter Registration Transfers
 - WEC Authority to Perform Certain Registration Activities
25. Other Legislation: The Legislature passed five additional revisions of election-related statutes in 2016 which required staff to change procedures, publications and training programs:
- 2015 Wisconsin Act 154: prohibiting a legislator from concurrently holding office as a county executive.
 - 2015 Wisconsin Act 229: training period for election officials and terms for members of a board of canvassers.
 - 2015 Wisconsin Act 209: responding to a request for an absentee ballot.
 - 2015 Wisconsin Act 229: training period for election officials and terms for members of a board of canvassers.
 - 2015 Wisconsin Act 356: creating a program to protect the confidentiality of addresses for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, or stalking; providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures; and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority.
26. Assistance to Legislature: Agency staff provided information and answered questions from legislators and legislative staff regarding legislative proposals as well as specific inquiries from legislators and constituents regarding application of election laws. Staff assisted in preparing testimony for legislative hearings, and submitted fiscal estimates at the request of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau.
27. Litigation: The WEC was involved in three major cases which originated with the Government Accountability Board:
- *Frank v. Walker*: Ongoing challenges to Wisconsin's Voter Photo ID Law.
 - *One Wisconsin Institute v. Thomsen*: This case challenges almost all election law legislation passed in the State of Wisconsin since 2005. The case touches on many aspects of election administration such as absentee voting, in-person absentee voting, election observers, voter registration requirements and voter photo ID.

- *Whitford v. Nichol*: This case challenges the district maps put into place by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2012, and alleges that they constitute an unconstitutional gerrymander, based in part on a theory of a disparate impact on voters in certain demographic and racial categories.

Litigation filings, discovery requests and hearings required significant effort and attention from Legal Counsel and agency staff, as well as consultations with the Department of Justice.

28. Biennial Budget Preparation: Staff prepared the 2017-2019 Biennial Budget Request based on instructions to assume there will be zero growth in overall General Purpose Revenue appropriations in each fiscal year of the biennium. However, the agency also faces the end of its federal HAVA funding during the next biennium which supports 22 full time employees, four IT contractors and other program initiatives. At its August meeting, the Commission directed staff to submit a budget request which sustains current agency operations and services to local election officials, voters, candidates and the public. The Commission Chair, Administrator and Chief Administrative Officer held numerous meetings with key legislators, state budget officials and the Governor's office regarding the budget in late 2016 to explain the agency's budget request.
29. STAR Project: Agency financial staff spent countless hours in 2016 creating new accounting structures in preparation for the State Transforming Agency Resources (STAR) Project which consolidated multiple outdated human resource, procurement and financial business IT systems into one efficient, transparent and modern enterprise-wide system. As with all new computer systems, there have been some significant challenges that the financial staff continues to work through with the State Controller's Office, the State Budget Office and the STAR experts.