

State of Wisconsin \ Government Accountability Board

212 East Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor
Post Office Box 7984
Madison, WI 53707-7984
Voice (608) 266-8005
Fax (608) 267-0500
E-mail: gab@wisconsin.gov
<http://gab.wi.gov>



JUDGE GORDON MYSE
Chairperson

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

DATE: September 10, 2010

TO: Wisconsin County Clerks
Milwaukee County Election Commission

FROM: Nathaniel E. Robinson
Elections Division Administrator
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

SUBJECT: Request Copies for Inspectors' Statements (GAB-104 Forms)
2010 September 14 Partisan Primary and November 2 General Election

I am writing to request that you send copies of your Inspectors' Statements (GAB-104 Forms) that will be completed during the 2010 September 14 Partisan Primary by **October 8**, and the November 2 General Election by **November 19**. We ask that you invoice us for copying and mailing fees.

Background: As part of our ongoing efforts to assess the effectiveness and needed improvement of all of our core election administration business practices, following the November 2008 General Election, we decided to review Inspectors Statements. As part of the \$2 million dollar Federal grant (WEDCS), we solicited the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Political Science Department's assistance. (<http://gab.wi.gov/publications/reports/polling-place-incidents-2008>).

21 counties submitted statements, covering 1,466 polling places that accounted for 53% of the total votes cast in the November 2008 General Election. Because our collection of 2008 Statements was incomplete, we considered this a pilot review that provided a descriptive background and foundation on which a more thorough study of a larger collection of Statements. Although the 2008 sample is not perfectly representative of the State, it covers a wide range of communities and provides a fair portrayal of the range of incidents reported by poll workers. Starting with the 2010 Fall Election Cycle, we want to gather 100% of Inspectors Statements completed during all statewide elections, to continue our ongoing review of what happens in polling places on Election Day.

As public rhetoric is on the increase about voter fraud, intimidation, discrimination, and rumors we are hearing about intent to challenge voters during the upcoming elections based on non-statutory grounds, clear and complete documentation of such incidences captured on Inspectors Statements is essential. Inspectors Statements are intended to provide a comprehensive account of potential and actual problems, and administrative responses at each polling place. Aside from firsthand observations at the polls, there is probably no better source for understanding what happens on Election Day. The Statements offer the opportunity to understand why particular incidents occurred and how pollworkers' responses to them might be improved.

Request: We would appreciate it if you would send us copies of Inspectors Statements completed during the September 14 Primary by October 8, and Statements for the November 2 General Election by November 19. Once again, we ask that you invoice us for copying and mailing fees.

If you need further information, please contact the G.A.B. Help Desk at GABHelpDesk@wi.gov, or at (608) 261-2028. Thank you.

cc: Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Government Accountability Board