

# Government Accountability Board

## State of Wisconsin

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## Wisconsin Elections Get High Ratings for Preparedness and Technology

MADISON, WI – Wisconsin and its Government Accountability Board are receiving accolades for election preparedness and innovation in elections technology.

Wisconsin ranked among the top five states in a recent study assessing “how prepared each state is to ensure that every eligible voter can vote and every vote is counted.” The study, *Counting Votes 2012: A State by State Look at Voting Technology Preparedness*, was conducted by three agencies: Common Cause Educational Fund, Verified Voting Foundation, and Rutgers Law School. The study ranks states from best to worst in five areas including ballot reconciliation, election contingency plans, and post-election audits. The full report can be viewed at: <http://countingvotes.org>.

“The top priority of the G.A.B. and local election officials is and will continue to be election integrity,” said Kevin J. Kennedy, director and general counsel. “We were very pleased and honored that others are recognizing Wisconsin’s election system and the continued hard work of Wisconsin’s election officials.”

This week, the G.A.B. will be awarded the *Election Center Best Practices Award*, recognizing the agency’s excellence in election administration for its submission titled, “Elections at Your Fingertips: App-ortunities to Connect with Wisconsin Voters.” On Friday, August 17, Kennedy, Wisconsin’s chief election official, will accept the award at the Election Center – National Association of State Election Directors’ Summer Meeting in Boston.

The award-winning submission outlines the G.A.B.’s new mobile elections smartphone application, “Vote WI.” The new app’s functions include polling place look-up with GPS directions, voter record look-up, clerk information look-up with GPS directions, and much more. “Vote WI,” is expected to be available to the public in September 2012 for the Android platform and in October of 2012 for the iPhone.

“Wisconsin is known as a laboratory for creating technological solutions to election challenges, and for developing and implementing best practices in elections,” said Elections Division Administrator Nat Robinson. “The new mobile elections app is a prime example of our creative staff and innovative programs that assist both the public and local election officials by bringing election information to their fingertips.”

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The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The G.A.B. is made up of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.