

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 31, 2016

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Absentee Voting Update

MADISON, WI – With early voting wrapping up Friday and mailed absentee ballots coming in for the April 5 Presidential Preference Primary and Spring Election, more than 172,000 absentee ballots have been issued so far, according to the Government Accountability Board.

Of the 172,194 ballots recorded as being issued through Thursday morning, there have been 87, 244 early ballots issued in-person in clerks' offices. Those ballots are stored securely and then counted on Election Day at the polls or an alternate location.

Last week, the G.A.B. projected that 1.75 million Wisconsin residents – or 40 percent of eligible voters – will vote in the 2016 Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary, which would be the biggest since 1980 for an April election.

Kevin Kennedy, Wisconsin's chief elections official, cautioned that the absentee numbers released are partial and preliminary. Additional absentee ballots are being continuously issued and the data tracking those ballots may not be entered yet by municipal clerks.

In the April 2012 Presidential Preference Primary, there were a total of 94,859 absentee ballots out of 1,127,414 total ballots cast. Of the 94,859 absentee ballots, 27,085 were in-person absentee.

Elections Division Administrator Michael Haas reminded voters that the deadline to mail absentee ballots back to the clerk is Election Day, April 5. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day and received in the clerk's office by 4 p.m. Friday, April 8 to be counted.

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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. consists of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.