

FAQs: What's New for the 2014 Elections?

Q: Are persons on the list subject to the same process as non-affiliated persons, e.g. complete an application. The app asks if person is qualified to vote etc.

A: Without knowing your process it is hard to say, but yes, ideally they should be treated as any other inspector.

Q: Do all NEW Chief Inspectors have to have the baseline training in person or can it be taken online?

A: It can be taken online, but it must be a live online presentation conducted by G.A.B. staff. The webcast, once posted, can be used for recertification hours once per 2-year term.

Q: If I receive application from high school student(s) to work at polls, can they only be used after the lists from the parties have been exhausted, or can they be used at any election?

A: Only after the lists are exhausted (assuming you have lists from both parties that account for 100% of your spots).

Q: What if a party nominee cannot commit to working all Elections can we dismiss this person as a nominee?

A: Appointees are supposed to work at all elections, talk to the party first about it.

Q: What if the political party made a recommendation and that individual is not a member of the party who made the nomination?

A: Party can nominate whomever (not just paying party members).

Q: Received one nominee for Republican party, do we have to train them as a Chief Inspector and always use them as the Chief?

A: No requirement to use party nominees as CIs.

Q: Is it safe to assume that if you do not receive an original list that you will not receive a supplemental list?

A: Correct.

Q: If a webinar is less than the advertised 2 hours, what amount of hours do we put on our training that we send in?

A: The running time of the webinar. It will be listed in the table of contents that's posted on the webinar page.

Q: The MCT Recertification hours reporting is done once a year...?

A: it should be filed once per two-year term, but it can be filed after each class if you prefer to keep current.

Q: What is the "or what" penalty if appointments are not made by these rules to clerks?

A: Likely this would lead to a complaint from the party under Wis. Stat. 5.06, and we would follow up and potentially initiate legal action to compel compliance.

Q: Sorry, I meant the cost reports in April and November.

A: No, those are election-specific costs only, the GAB-192 is for other annual costs not captured on the GAB-191 (election-specific costs).

Q: If you have the accessible machine up do you also have to have an ADA voting booth set up?

A: Yes. The voter can choose whether he or she wants to use the machine or vote a paper ballot.

Q: Isn't the Annual report a repeat of the regular GAB-190's?

A: The annual report should be capturing unique cost information that was not already included in the GAB-191 (the 190's only cover voting statistics, not costs).

Q: The Republican list was addressed to me but said, "Dear Mayor" and the Mayor never got the list at all. Do I have to honor the list?

A: Should have been received by the Mayor, but we have told the parties to CC the clerk (which they did). We would encourage you to honor the list, but legally you may not be required to. Check with your municipal attorney.

Q: If after appointing someone from a party, and they are not working out for whatever reason, what steps do we take to remove them mid-term?

A: The statutes provide for summary dismissal for certain situations (lacking qualifications, failure to attend training, misconduct or neglect of duties), but "not working out" is a vague reason that probably wouldn't work.

Q: Elections training or all clerk training reported on the MCT form?

A: Just election training that counts for GAB recertification.

Q: Do the parties have to send a list every term? If a poll worker was designated previously, but didn't receive a list from the party this time, are they unaffiliated?

A: Yes, they must send a list every 2 year term, so if they didn't send a list this term, that person, if they continue, would be unaffiliated.

Q: During absentee voting in the clerk's office, do two staff members have to conduct curbside voting? Or is it ok for only the clerk to conduct the curbside voting? What if there aren't to staff members to do curbside voting in the clerk's office?

A: We recommend that curbside voting be conducted using two people. If due to limitations on staff, it can be done with one person.

Q: Do we county clerks still need to send in our training agenda to Allison to get it approved for training hours?

A: Yes.

Q: I received a call from the Republican Party stating that they had sent the Chairman a list of nominees via certified mail. As of our last meeting, he had not gone to the Post Office to obtain. They did send me an e-mail with a name that was nominated. Can I just work off of that e-mail or do I have to require my Chairman to run to the Post Office to go and sign for the certified letter?

A: We would advise that you work off the email until you get the letter (assuming the letter was timely)

Q: I would like to ask the Board to adopt an ordinance that would allow me, the Clerk, to have the discretion to have less than 7 workers at an election (i.e. spring primary). Is that ok to do? Anything to watch out for?

A: Statute provides that the default is 7 (or 5 if you use voting equipment), but you can go down to no less than 3. We have seen municipalities delegate authority to the clerk to modify the minimum number, but of course check with your municipal attorney.

Q: I would like to appoint the former clerk as a Chief Election Inspector. Her term ended in April of this year. What form is she required to complete, if any?

A: As a Chief Inspector, she wouldn't need to file for clerk recertification, she would just need Chief Inspector Baseline training.

Q: I have noticed that the Baseline Chief Inspector Training is located about an hour and a half from Green Bay. Any chance there might be some training closer to this area soon?

A: We use certified clerk-trainers and online live webinars with GAB staff to provide Baseline. We will have additional webinars before each of the spring elections and I anticipate clerk-trainers scheduling new classes next year, so check the schedule periodically.

Q: Quick recap a municipality should have an ordinance stating Election Workers work split shifts plus a resolution to give Clerk latitude to decide number of Election Workers? Does GAB have sample Ordinance or Resolution?

A: it is an ordinance, and no, the GAB does not provide a sample ordinance for this for legal reasons, I'd suggest checking with WMCA to see what other municipalities have done.

Q: You mentioned that shifts must be established by resolution, like the number of election officials? Where is this stated in the statutes or elsewhere?

A: Same place I believe, 7.30, it is an ordinance that is required.

Q: Loved the quiz. Nice touch and good review.

A: Thanks!

Q: Please encourage the clerks to work with their county clerks right from the beginning of the annexation process as well.

A: Will do - thanks.

Q: If we need an alternate because of a vacancy, received an original list, do you have to ask for a supplemental list?

A: No, but it may be good practice to avoid the party complaining that you didn't consult them.

Q: Do the people on the supplemental list need to be used before a non-affiliated poll worker?

A: Yes, the supplemental list is adding to the party list, so it would take priority when filling vacancies.

Q: If the party list does not specify a nominee as a CI do you have to appoint a party nominee as a CI?

A: The CI is purely the discretion of the clerk, the party can't make you choose a particular person as the CI, nor are you required to use a party person as the CI if you have unaffiliated poll workers as part of the primary group.

Q: Do these people have to work all day or just a portion of the election?

A: If you have an ordinance, you can allow them to work all day or shifts as you decide.

Q: I just want to clarify that the training that the election workers is good until January 2014?

A: The new term starts January 1, 2014, so training taken during 2012-2013 applies toward the new term.

Q: So, training done in 2012-2013 is good for 2014? Sorry to be so confusing. :(

A: You always train ahead for the next term, so this term's training certifies you for the next term, but you'll need another 6 hours in that two year term to recertify for the the next term.

Q: I had spoken to Diane about a trustee being on a party list. I know it was not advised to allow the trustee to work an election if she is on the ballot. But should we not allow her to work an election that is local to avoid an issue with our other trustees?

A: If someone is on the ballot, they can't be an election inspector. The Wisconsin Towns Association issued an opinion some time ago that discourages the use of trustees as election inspectors if they are not on the ballot because they set wages for election inspectors and it appears to be a conflict of interest.

Q: When choosing workers from our lists, do they have to work at the polling place they vote at?

A: Law allows you to shuffle election inspectors around in the municipality as needed.