

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND  
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY  
Director and General Counsel

January 6, 2011

The Honorable Robin Vos  
State Representative, 63<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Room 309 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Vos:

I am writing in response to your request that the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) provide an estimate of costs that county government, municipalities and the G.A.B. will incur for administering and conducting a 2012 statewide recall election.

G.A.B. staff solicited election cost data from Wisconsin's county and municipal local election officials (LEO) via an online survey and response tool. Surveys were mailed to municipalities (120) that do not have high-speed internet capability. LEO's were asked to provide estimates for a variety of election administration tasks that are necessary for conducting elections. Three different follow-up reminders were made to facilitate a full response. In order to assist LEO's to provide as complete information as possible, they were asked to use as a guide, actual costs incurred during the two most recent statewide elections, i.e. the November 2, 2010 General Election and the April 5, 2011 Spring Election.

The results of this survey are summarized in the attached report. At the time that this report was finalized, all 72 counties provided the requested information. Of the 1,850 municipalities, 1,707 or 92.3% responded. Based upon the survey responses, the total costs are estimated as follows:

|                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ➤ County Estimated Costs:           | \$2,348,423.98         |
| ➤ Municipal Estimated Costs:        | \$5,821,898.20         |
| ➤ G.A.B. Estimated Costs (Revised): | \$ 841,349.00          |
| <u>Total Estimate:</u>              | <b>\$ 9,011,762.18</b> |

Note that election costs can and do vary based on turnout rates and other changing factors. In addition, some clerks have costs that may not be incurred by other counties or municipalities. These estimates should, therefore, be interpreted as a guide rather than a definitive statement of costs for administering and conducting a 2012 statewide recall election.

Please let me know if you we can provide additional assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin J. Kennedy".

Kevin J. Kennedy  
Director and General Counsel  
Government Accountability Board

cc: Nathaniel E. Robinson  
Elections Division Administrator  
Government Accountability Board

## Government Accountability Board

### Summary Report of Cost Estimates – 2012 Statewide Recall Election

Based Upon Estimates from Municipal Clerks, County Clerks and the Government Accountability Board

➤ **Background**

- 1,850 Municipalities/Clerks: 1,707 / 92.3% Responded (as of Noon on January 6, 2012)
- 72 Counties/Clerks: 72 / 100 % Responded

| <u>Counties</u>                                   |                       | <u>Municipalities</u>                             |                       |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Absentee ballot preparation, including postage | \$9,608.82            | 1. Absentee ballot preparation, including postage | \$379,858.86          |
| 2. Ballot bags and security seals                 | \$11,750.50           | 2. Ballot bags and security seals                 | \$23,482.15           |
| 3. Memory devices for electronic voting equipment | \$177,949.57          | 3. Memory devices for electronic voting equipment | \$138,049.67          |
| 4. Programming electronic voting equipment        | \$545,553.38          | 4. Programming electronic voting equipment        | \$218,201.81          |
| 5. Staffs' time <sup>i</sup>                      | \$222,807.25          | 5. Staffs' time <sup>i</sup>                      | \$1,094,469.08        |
| 6. Other <sup>ii</sup>                            | \$341,539.95          | 6. Other <sup>ii</sup>                            | \$871,032.88          |
| 7. Wages for Canvass Board                        | \$56,961.30           | 7. Wages of poll workers                          | \$2,711,596.29        |
| 8. Printing ballots                               | \$793,772.12          | 8. Training poll workers and election inspectors  | \$385,207.46          |
| 9. Printing poll lists/books                      | \$19,385.00           |   |                       |
| 10. Printing and publishing notices               | \$169,096.09          |   |                       |
| <b><u>County Estimate:</u></b>                    | <b>\$2,348,423.98</b> | <b><u>Municipal Estimate:</u></b>                 | <b>\$5,821,898.20</b> |

G.A.B. Estimate: On November 17, 2011, \$652,699.00 (original estimate provided to the Joint Committee on Finance on November 17, 2011).

G.A.B. Revised Estimate: \$841,349.00 as of Noon, January 6, 2012.

**Combined Estimated Cost of a 2012 Statewide Recall Election: \$9,011,762.18**  
(County, Municipal plus G.A.B.'s Estimates)

Explanation of G.A.B.'s Revised Estimate:

1. November 17, 2011, the G.A.B. provided to the Joint Committee on Finance an estimated cost of administering and conducting a 2012 Statewide Recall Election, including of the review of Recall Petitions.
2. Since that preliminary budget was submitted, an off site facility has been secured. Additional cost estimates have been obtained related to site preparation and security, i.e. \$8,650 estimated for site preparation.
3. The revised G.A.B. estimate also reflects the impact of the Waukesha County Circuit ruling made on January 5, 2012. \$100,000 is estimated for the software and technical support necessary to implement the Court's decision.
4. Security costs and services provided by the Chief of Capitol Police amounts to \$80,000.

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- i Costs for Staffs' time most likely include regular time as well as any estimated overtime costs expected to be accrued while working on a 2012 statewide recall election.
- ii Some county clerks explained "Other" costs included supplies both for the day of the election, copying, delivery and mileage costs. Nine counties provided one cost estimate and did not provide a breakdown.

Some municipal clerks explained "Other" costs included printing and posting local notices, additional supplies, food, mileage, maintenance and costs of facility rentals. Ninety-five municipalities provided one cost estimate and did not provide any breakdown.