

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 5, 2011

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Voter IDs Not Required for August Elections

MADISON, WI – Wisconsin’s new Voter Photo ID Law will be put to another test at Tuesday’s recall election, and the Government Accountability Board reminds people who do not yet have a photo ID that they can still vote.

“Until February 2012, we are still in a ‘soft implementation’ period when a photo ID is not required,” said Kevin Kennedy, director and general counsel of the Government Accountability Board. “However, our Help Desk continues to get calls from people concerned that they can’t vote in the coming recall elections because they don’t have a photo ID.”

Under the new law during soft implementation, voters must be asked for a photo ID before they receive a ballot; however, if they do not have a photo ID they can still vote. Voters without photo IDs must be given a handout explaining they will need a photo ID to vote beginning in February 2012. The handout also explains what IDs are acceptable, and how to get a free photo ID for voting purposes.

The handout is available at <http://gab.wi.gov/publications/brochures/voter-id-handout>.

Elections Division Administrator Nathaniel E. Robinson said the Board is also aware of misinformation being spread about voter registration. “The new Voter Photo ID Law did not change Election Day Registration,” Robinson said. “You can still register to vote on Election Day at your polling place.”

Robinson urged anyone with questions about the new Voter Photo ID Law to visit the Board’s website for complete, accurate information: <http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id>.

The Government Accountability Board encourages all eligible voters to participate in the August 9 and August 16 recall elections. Voters can check their registration status, find the election date in their area and view their sample ballot at the Voter Public Access website: <http://vpa.wi.gov>.

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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.