

**Testimony of Kevin J. Kennedy
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Wisconsin Government Accountability Board**

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

January 14, 2015

Room 411 South, State Capitol

Public Hearing

Audit Report 14-14: Government Accountability Board

Chairpersons Cowles and Kerkman and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Legislative Audit Bureau's recent report on the Government Accountability Board. I am joined here today by three Board Members: newly selected Chair Judge Gerald Nichol; Judge Timothy Vocke, a member of the agency audit committee; and former Vice-Chair Judge Harold Froehlich. I expect that two other Board Members, former Chair Judge Thomas Barland and newly selected Vice-Chair, Judge Elsa Lamelas; may participate by telephone.

Introduction

The Government Accountability Board is a Wisconsin success story. This is a legislative initiative the public and the Legislature should be proud of. Since its creation by the Legislature in 2007, G.A.B. has been recognized nationally and locally as a model for nonpartisan administration of elections and ethics laws. More importantly, the agency has been a steadfast, consistent presence in the midst of a politically turbulent time which has enabled the public to readily access key information about the sources of support of those trying to influence election campaigns and policy making. The G.A.B. has facilitated full citizen participation in the extraordinary number of elections over the past five years.

Wisconsin's nonpartisan G.A.B. and nonpartisan municipal clerks consistently run America's best elections. Since the G.A.B.'s inception, Wisconsin has ranked in the top four states on the Pew Elections Performance Index for 2008, 2010 and 2012. Wisconsin continues to be a leader in voter participation, including the recently concluded 2014 general election.

From the outset, the agency management team has embraced the LAB audit. As with any organization, we knew we could always improve and build on our past performance. The audit report gives the Board an unbiased, nonpartisan outside analysis and a road map of what we need to do to improve our operations.

Many of the recommendations in the Audit Report are about things the Board and its staff were not able to get done. Let me remind the Committee that the four years covered by the Audit Report were one of the most politically tumultuous periods in any state capitol in America. During this period there were 19 recall elections, one statewide Supreme Court recount, legislative redistricting and related lawsuits, implementing a new voter ID law and defending that law against numerous lawsuits, implementing the federal MOVE Act along with a federal consent decree, and implementing and dismantling the Impartial Justice law that funded the 2011 Supreme Court campaign.

These extraordinary events forced the Board and me to make tough decisions about how to allocate and where to deploy our resources. We had to set priorities, and we had to be flexible.

I will discuss several points raised in the audit report: Board-Staff Communication, Post-Election Felon Voting Audits, Imposition of Penalties for Late Filing, Administrative Rulemaking, Complaint Tracking and Agency Staffing. Board members will also have comments following my presentation. I will also be happy to respond to any questions.

Board-Staff Communications

The Government Accountability Board is a part-time, citizen board that sets policy for the staff to carry out. The Board meets between eight and 12 times a year. The Board members in attendance today may talk about their own perceptions of their role, but it is not feasible for Board members to be involved in every day-to-day decision.

The staff provides a great deal of information to Board members for meetings as well as between meetings. During the four years covered by the audit, their agenda packets averaged more than 150 pages, but they can often run to more than 300 pages of reports and information about staff activities. During this four year period, staff provided Board members with over 7,800 pages of informational materials for meetings. This does not include email communications, news articles, court filings and other documents given to Board members to keep them fully informed of the issues surrounding the agency between meetings.

Pursuant to the Board's annual delegation of authority to me, I communicate weekly – and sometimes daily – with the Board Chair on a variety of matters. The Chair and I decide whether a matter is important enough to call a special meeting of the Board.

Many of these communications are not documented in Board minutes or meeting materials, and as a result, the LAB audit does not completely reflect when Board members were informed about certain matters.

The LAB report mentions that in some cases, the staff had not kept the Board fully informed of certain developments, and some critics have latched on to that comment to spin a narrative that the Board has a “rogue staff.” That particular characterization is nowhere in the Audit Report. In fact, LAB interviewed all current Board members as well as several past members for the audit, and did not report any complaints about staff communication or activity that was not authorized by the Board. LAB reported, “Members indicated that between meetings, staff provide them with regular updates about ongoing issues and staff activities.” (Page 10).

That said, we can and will do an even better job of communicating with the Board in the future. The Audit Report gives us direction for how to more fully inform the Board members, and the Board will decide in the future what level of detail it wants.

Felon Voter Audits

The LAB Audit Report highlighted delays the agency encountered in conducting post-election felon voting audits. What was not discussed is that throughout the period, the agency was matching felon records with voter registration records to keep ineligible felons from voting. I have included with my testimony a copy of a recent guest editorial penned by former Board Chair Judge Thomas Barland about our efforts to prevent and detect felon voting.

The LAB Audit Report discusses the staff's efforts to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the post-election felon voting audit, but that detail has somehow gotten lost in the public discussion. The G.A.B. takes illegal voting seriously. Strong protections, in addition to the post-election audit, were in place to prevent felons from voting in Wisconsin. In the relatively few cases where felons have voted in recent years, they will not escape prosecution solely due to a delay in the felon voting audits conducted by the G.A.B.

State statutes require the G.A.B. to do a simple match between voting records and the Department of Corrections list of active felons under supervision. We learned that a simple match was not good enough. Innocent people were being matched as felon voters and referred to District Attorneys for prosecution. In one case an innocent man was charged, and the DA had to make a public apology.

District Attorneys told us the process was not reliable or useful. In some cases they told us not to send them any more referrals. As a result, we temporarily suspended the audits while we fixed the problem. The new system is more efficient and provides more accurate results.

With the new system in place, our staff caught up on 16 post-election audits in nine months. The audits identified 110 cases to investigate out of 16 million votes cast. We have completed the post-election felon audit for the August partisan primary and are poised to begin the audit for the November general election.

Imposition of Penalties for Late Filing

The LAB Audit Report criticized staff's efforts in seeking voluntary payment of civil penalties, often referred to as forfeitures, for late filing. Our Board's philosophy has never been that collecting forfeitures is an end in itself. The Board and staff's primary focus is to ensure timely filing of disclosure reports. Civil penalties are one tool to ensure people file their reports on time.

The purpose of campaign finance reports, lobbying reports and statements of economic interest is to provide the public with information about who supports candidates, who is trying to influence government, and where public officials get their financial support. Each year there are a minimum of four and as many as six campaign finance filings, two lobbying filings and a series of SEI filing deadlines.

Our staff regularly exceeds the statutory minimum for notification of filing requirements. We primarily focus our efforts on making sure all reports get filed on time to provide full disclosure. We send out numerous reminders by email before and after the deadlines.

Our staff spends countless hours on the phone helping campaign treasurers, many of whom are volunteers, file their reports. We provide state public officials, who must file a Statement of Economic Interests, with a pre-filled form containing the prior year's information. We provide online filing of campaign finance and lobbying reports.

Our focus is on securing compliance with filing disclosure reports. If the Board instructs staff to more strictly follow its guidelines for seeking penalties without regard to individual circumstances, we will do so.

Administrative Rulemaking

The Audit Report noted that agency staff was far behind in promulgating, amending and repealing certain administrative rules. This was a resource allocation issue. In light of some of the extraordinary events that occurred over the last four years, one of the things that had to be delayed was promulgation of several administrative rules.

The agency has two staff attorneys. During the audit period the attorneys primary focus was to work with the Department of Justice and other attorneys on the myriad of lawsuits challenging agency actions as well as Legislative actions such as redistricting and voter ID. Since 2013, we have also been down an attorney at separate times as we recruited to fill vacancies.

When the Legislature passes a new law, the agency's first focus is to make sure that local election officials and other people affected by that new law have the proper procedures to carry out the law. What that means to the G.A.B. is developing manuals, guidance and training tools. In many cases, the requirement to promulgate an administrative rule provides a legal backstop in the event a local election official fails or refuses to follow the law. While this is certainly important, we have never been in a position where we needed, but did not have, an administrative rule in place to compel a local election official to act in conformance with the law.

The administrative rulemaking process is very labor intensive and requires outreach and consultation with groups affected by the rule and Legislative Committees. The agency spent considerable resources in 2013 and 2014 on our Election Observer Rules (GAB Chapter 4) because those were a priority to ensure orderly elections. Over the course of two public hearings and numerous discussions with Legislative staff, the Board refined its original proposals incorporating almost every suggestion offered. Because the Legislature failed to act, the agency must now begin again to promulgate this rule.

I would be hard pressed to say we should have prioritized administrative rules over more immediate demands such as the implementation and subsequent dismantling of the

Impartial Justice Act, all the work of marshalling resources and setting up an offsite location to review recall petitions, implementing the on-again off-again voter ID law and developing detailed procedures for local election officials to administer the numerous election law changes adopted by the Legislature in the past two sessions.

Complaint Tracking

Another area the LAB Audit Report highlighted is the G.A.B. performance in dealing with the wide variety of complaints it receives. The Audit Bureau recommended the staff do a better job of tracking complaints. Unlike some larger state agencies, the G.A.B. does not have a complaints division. The same program staff and staff attorneys who handle complaints also conduct other agency business.

Frankly many of the complaints we receive are not substantiated or not germane. Prisoners regularly complain about the conditions of their incarceration, the effectiveness of their attorneys and the fairness of their judge. Other complaints come from people who do not agree with legitimate decisions made by local and state public officials. If you will remember, the G.A.B. received, evaluated and ultimately dismissed hundreds of complaints about actions of legislators and the Governor in 2011 in the fight over Act 10.

One area we have jurisdiction over that generates many complaints is the failure to include disclaimers on yard signs. We try to resolve these kinds of complaints while it matters during the campaign. Many complaints filed with the Board are confidential, so many are resolved without public notice.

The fact that LAB recommended better complaint tracking methods does not mean the staff did not take complaints seriously and deal with all of them in a consistent and professional manner. The staff brought all significant complaints to the Board, which dealt with them appropriately.

Our staff is developing a tracking system, as recommended by LAB, and it is nearly complete. It will categorize complaints and provide a better method of reporting on their status and disposition.

Staffing

The audit report notes the dilemma facing the Board –the vast majority of the work on election administration is done by our federally funded employees who will not be authorized to work after June 30, even though federal funds are available. Simply put, without these staffing resources, every aspect of election administration will be in jeopardy. This presents the most real and immediate risk to the integrity of elections in Wisconsin.

We have funds available to continue staffing through June 30, 2017 because we carefully managed those federal funds given to Wisconsin to implement federal law and administer federal elections.

Part of the reason for the agency's success is its use of IT resources that allow staff to work more efficiently. These projects include the Canvass reporting system used by County Clerks, the nationally recognized Election Data Collection system, our newly developed post-election felon voter audits dashboard, the Badger Voters election data purchasing application and MyVote Wisconsin, which provides online ballot delivery to military voters. None of these would be possible without the work of our federally funded program staff.

It takes years for a new election specialist to be fully trained and effective. We have lost experienced and talented staff because their positions are not permanent, and we are extremely concerned about continued attrition due to the June 30 expiration of these project positions.

Confidentiality

Let me address some issues that were not raised directly in the LAB Audit Report, but which have become part of the public discussion since the report was released.

The Board and its staff have been unfairly criticized for following the confidentiality laws which govern our investigation records. With limited exceptions, Section 12.13(5) of the Statutes strictly prohibits the Board and its staff from disclosing any information about complaints or investigations involving campaign finance or ethics matters. Any violations of this prohibition can be prosecuted as crimes and subject our staff and Board members to a fine of \$10,000 or 9 months in jail, or both.

Since the start of the G.A.B. in 2008 we have taken that prohibition very seriously. Our staff comes to work every day with that threat of criminal prosecution in mind. There are certainly other agencies that handle confidential information or data, but I do not know of another agency whose staff is subject to criminal prosecution for releasing confidential investigation information.

When the issue of confidential records arose during this audit, I told the State Auditor that we would like to share all records with the Audit Bureau but we first needed to obtain the opinion of the Attorney General. After all, the State Auditor cannot protect our staff from criminal prosecution. As the Committee knows, in July the Attorney General concluded that the Statutes did not permit us to share confidential investigation records with the LAB. Attorney General Van Hollen commented that it would be hard to imagine a more powerful way of saying that the Legislature really meant what it said about the confidentiality of G.A.B. records than by imposing criminal penalties for improper disclosure.

So with all due respect, it seems more than a bit disingenuous for some to be repeatedly criticizing the G.A.B. for following the state's confidentiality laws for investigations. This is especially true when the critics are the people who have the power to change the

laws under which we operate. It is unfair to the dedicated public servants who are doing their jobs as directed by the Legislature, and being accountable to the Statutes.

Accountability

I am disappointed that some critics of the agency have used this nonpartisan audit to make political points rather than focusing on how we can work together to maintain Wisconsin's excellent record and reputation for running elections and transparency in government.

A bipartisan Legislature created the G.A.B. as a nonpartisan watchdog. But it is not surprising to hear people ask: Who watches the watchdog? That question has several answers.

We are accountable to the Governor, who appoints the six members of the Board from nominations submitted by a committee of current Court of Appeals judges. Five of the six current members were appointed by Governor Walker. We are accountable to the Senate, which has the power to confirm or reject the Governor's appointments.

The Board is also accountable to the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization under Section 5.05 (5f), which says that the committee "shall be advisory to the board on all matters relating to operation of the board." Every two years the G.A.B. is accountable to the Governor and Legislature through the Biennial Budget. The Legislature has the power of the purse, and the power to approve positions. The Board is accountable to the Statutes which govern its responsibilities and authority, just as much as to any individual legislator or political party.

My staff and I are accountable to a Board of six former judges who between them have more than 100 years of experience as nonpartisan judges, and who know what it means to be accountable to the voters. These judges are trained decision makers who are pillars of their community. Ethically, they are beyond reproach. As the director, I am accountable to the Board. I serve at their pleasure and audition for my job every day. If four of the

six Board members are unhappy with my performance, I am gone. The same is true for my two Division Administrators.

Finally, there is accountability created by the transparency of Board meetings and the opportunity for any member of the public or the Legislature to offer comments directly to Board members. This is rare in executive agencies. The recommendations and decisions of our staff and Board are subject to regular public evaluation and critique.

Conclusion

We are grateful the audit has highlighted these issues and given us a road map for further improvement. The Legislature should be proud of the Board, not only for its nonpartisan nature, but for its accomplishments and performance over the first seven years in existence.

Wisconsin has among the highest voter turnout in America, and one of the reasons for that consistent record is that voters have confidence in the fairness of our elections. Wisconsin consistently ranks near the top in national evaluations of effective election administration.

Among the most important tasks in our democracy are ensuring fair and honest elections, ensuring that everyone plays by the same rules and providing the public with detailed information to assist in making informed decisions.

In Wisconsin, the Legislature has entrusted those responsibilities to the Government Accountability Board, an agency as far removed from politics as any state in the country. The Legislature ought to be proud of that, not shy away from it.

I am happy to respond to any questions.

Thank you for inviting me to participate today.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Kennedy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" at the beginning.

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Attachment 1

2011-2014

**Annual Lists of
Elections Division
Accomplishments**

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Top 10 2011 Election Administration Major Accomplishments

(Election Administration at the beginning of 2011 is very different than at the end of 2011)

1. Statewide Recount (Supreme Court Justice Race): The recount instilled confidence with the voters. Out of 1.5 million votes cast, the variance between the original count and the recount was only a 1,233 vote difference.
2. Voter Photo Identification (ID) Law: Wisconsin Act 23, the Voter Photo ID Bill became law on June 9, 2011. Wisconsin Act 23, the Voter Photo ID Law is the most pervasive and sweeping changes in the state's election administration in Wisconsin's history. From making presentations to the Legislature starting in January 2011 until the bill became law on June 9, 2011. Government Accountability Board (G.A.B) staff have been implementing a strategy including educational materials and tools for administering the Voter Photo ID Law.
3. Education/Training/Technical Assistance Provided to Local Election Officials: Between August and the end of October 2011, over 1,000 clerks across the state were educated on all aspects of the Voter Photo ID Law.
4. Voter Photo ID Statewide Public Media Education/Informational Campaign: An advertising agency was procured to assist in crafting and branding of a Voter Photo ID Statewide Public Media Education/Informational Campaign that will launch in the print, voice, visual and electronic media on January 2, 2012. The theme of this Campaign, "Bring it to the Ballot!" Bringit.wisconsin.gov | 1-866-VOTE.WIS (1-866-868-3947).
5. Voter Photo ID Speaker's Bureau: The Speaker's Bureau was created to launch a robust public outreach program initiative for Wisconsin electors who may have challenges obtaining a statutory ID. Since September 2011, over 50 presentations and 1,500 participants attend Photo ID outreach seminars. These 1,500 participants provide informational and advocacy services to their respective constituents, so the word about the Photo ID law, its requirements and how electors may comply, is reaching and will continue to reach thousands of voters.
6. The Federal 2010 Decennial Census Results and Wisconsin Acts 39, 43 and 44: These actions govern redistricting. Staff continue to work closely with clerks and their respective IT staff to make sure that every voter is properly placed in the appropriate ward so there are no unpleasant surprises on Election Day. Necessary upgrades and refinements in SVRS to allow the migration from the address range model to GIS Geocoding represent the single biggest change to SVRS since it was created.

7. Wisconsin Act 75: This Act was developed, passed and signed into law in order to comply with the 2009 Federal Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, by moving the September Partisan Primary to the second Tuesday in August.
8. AccessElections! Wisconsin Accessibility Compliance Program: During the 2011 Election Cycle, G.A.B. experienced its most extensive onsite accessibility compliance initiative in the history of the agency as reflected in the following data.
- 1,850 Municipalities (cities, towns and villages) / Municipal Clerks
 - 2,658 Number of Polling Places were open on April 5, 2011 Election Day
 - 396 Conducted Onsite Accessibility Compliance Audits
 - 41 Counties visited
 - 275 Municipalities visited
 - 14.9% Of the total number of state's polling places were audited.
9. 2011 Recalls / Preparing for 2012 Recall Elections: The State experience nine recall elections in 2011; the most in Wisconsin's or the country's history. In addition to overseeing four 2012 regular scheduled statewide elections including the November General and Presidential Election, G.A.B. and Local Election Officials are poised to administer/conduct possibly two additional statewide elections for the Office of Governor and Lt. Governor, and possibly four recalls for the Office of State Senate.
- G.A.B. in conjunction with Local Election Officials partners, are preparing to administer and manage the most widespread recall initiatives in the history of both the state and the nation. In 2012, over 1.5 million signatures and over 300,000 pieces of paper are expected to be reviewed and analyzed.
10. Greater Use of Technology: 2011 was a year for utilizing technology to a far greater extent than in previous years. G.A.B. expect to continue and even expand upon these alternatives to in-person meetings in 2012 in order to continue to improve efficiencies and effectiveness, and to provide even greater quality and timely service to our customers and partners at a measurably reduced cost. Some noteworthy examples of the use of technology include:
- Major improvements to the canvas reporting system's (CRS). The CRS is now more intuitive and more user-friendly thus, increasing the efficiency of both G.A.B. staff and clerk partners.
 - 2011 is the first year the G.A.B. Election Administration Calendar has been able to be integrated and interfaced with the Microsoft Outlook Calendar.
 - Teleconferencing, webcasts/webinars, YouTube videos, G.A.B. website, etc., were used more frequently to reach a larger/wider audience for gaining input from, and to educate Local Election Officials on such program initiatives such as Voter Photo ID and Redistricting.

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2012 Election Administration Major Achievements

(Strategic Achievements from a Historic Year in Wisconsin's Election Administration)

1. **Administered Six Successful Statewide Elections:** The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) administered a historic number of statewide elections during the 2011-2012 cycle which required extensive preparations by G.A.B. staff. The G.A.B. worked in conjunction with our 1,851 municipal clerk partners, 72 county clerk partners, and over 30,000 other local election officials to successfully conduct six elections statewide. In addition, the G.A.B. also provided administrative guidance to local election officials for local and special elections.
2. **2012 Recall Process:** The G.A.B. successfully reviewed approximately two million Petition signatures for the Recall of the State's Governor, Lieutenant Governor and four State Senators during 2012. This detailed, highly public profile and time-sensitive task was a huge and complex undertaking with no model available to address the scope of the unprecedented responsibility. Operating policies, procedures and standards had to be developed for the quality assessment and successful review and analysis of the 2012 Recall Review Process. This task was performed under the scrutiny and watchful eye of an interested and curious public via a video feed that was available nationwide.

The G.A.B. also conducted and assisted in several other local recalls including a mayor, Town Board Chairs, Town Board Supervisors, and two Sanitary Districts. Additionally, special referendum elections were conducted at the local level.

3. **Voter Photo Identification (ID) and Other Legislative Changes:** The G.A.B. implemented Wisconsin Act 23, the Voter Photo ID Bill, which became law on June 9, 2011 and fully effective with the February 21, 2012 Spring Primary. Act 23 was a sweeping change in the State's election administration. From making presentations to the Legislature starting in January 2011 until the bill became law on June 9, 2011, through a team approach, G.A.B. staff implemented a comprehensive strategy that included the development of educational materials and tools for administering the Voter Photo ID Law. To educate the public about this significant change, the G.A.B. launched a statewide media education/informational campaign which included television ads, radio spots, and print media. The theme of this public campaign was "Bring it to the Ballot!"

The G.A.B. also provided administrative guidance to local election officials and members of the public on major legislative changes to election law. Some of the most notable changes include:

- **Act 227:** Legislative change limiting persons who have completed an absentee ballot from voting at the polling place.
- **Act 115:** Legislative change to county and municipal canvassing procedures, provisional ballot information, recount petition deadlines, and more.
- **Act 75:** Legislative change that moved the date of the Presidential Preference Primary and the Partisan Primary election to ensure time for military and permanent overseas voters to cast their ballots.

4. Implementation of the 2012 Decennial Census Results (Redistricting): The G.A.B. implemented the Wisconsin State Legislature's new district boundaries. Administration of the new districts included a complete revamp of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) to include mapping tools to assign voters to their respective districts. The new districts created as a result of redistricting were implemented in SVRS using these tools which allowed clerks immediate access to the new districts without having to spend months manually updating address ranges and voter assignments.
5. Development of a Comprehensive MyVoteWisconsin Website: For the first time, Wisconsin voters can use the G.A.B.'s voter portal to answer basic questions about their voter registration status and generate a voter registration form that can be signed and delivered to their local municipal clerk. All data gathered on the website is fed directly into SVRS and electronically accessed by local election officials. This new workflow allows for more efficient and accurate registration information without the need to hand-key voter registration forms. The system automatically adjusts the instructions applicable to the voter based on registration deadlines and provides voters with the correct municipal clerk to send or hand-deliver their form to. Voters can use this system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.
6. Compliance with the Federal MOVE Act Consent Decree: The G.A.B. worked with the U.S. Department of Justice to ensure that Wisconsin's military and permanent overseas voters were able to receive absentee ballots in a timely manner, in accordance with the 2009 Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, which require at least 45 days' transit period prior to an election in which a Federal Office is on the ballot. The G.A.B. ensured absentee ballot deadlines were met through a series of required reports and surveys of all municipal and county clerks. Surveys were completed before the April 2nd Presidential Preference Primary, the August 14th Partisan Primary, and the November 6th Presidential and General Election regarding compliance with the transmittal of ballots to military and permanent overseas voters. G.A.B. also reported findings to the U.S. Department of Justice. Four reports were required before each election with three of those reports necessitating responses from all 1,851 municipal clerks. The G.A.B. also intervened in specific cases to facilitate voting by military and overseas voters.
7. G.A.B. Awarded a Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Competitive Grant: The G.A.B. was successful in preparing a \$1.9 million dollar nationally competitive grant application that was submitted to the U.S. Department of Defense, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) and formally received on March 5, 2012. Grant funds enabled the State to provide significantly improved customer services to the State's military and overseas voters, by supporting the development of an Online Absentee Ballot Delivery System for these electors. This new system allows military and overseas voters to access their voter information and an absentee ballot on their own schedule with immediate turnaround. These improvements facilitate the State's capacity and ability to serve our military and overseas voters more efficiently and effectively. The online absentee ballot delivery system also enables Wisconsin to comply with the Federal MOVE Act and with the 2011 Wisconsin Acts 45 and 75 regarding the Presidential Preference Primary and the Partisan Primary.
8. Improved Mechanism for Delivering Effective Education and Training Programs to Clerk Partners: The G.A.B. developed and utilized new webinar software to conduct election administration training sessions, host teleconferences and develop educational modules. This allowed G.A.B. staff to provide critical and up-to-date election administration information about current processes and procedures as well as rapidly changing legislative proposals and new state statutes. Election officials have the option to attend training live or review recorded webinars available for download from our website on-demand at no charge. Using a combination of certified clerk-trainers and live, online webinars, the G.A.B. conducted 25 Municipal Clerk Core training classes for 360 new municipal clerks and staff and 81 Baseline Chief Inspector training classes for 1,990 Chief Inspectors. The webcasts were posted shortly after each training session for refresher training for municipal clerks and for poll worker training.

In addition, the G.A.B. produced updated election administration manuals to clerks including: The Election Administration Manual, the Election Day Manuals and the SVRS Manual. How-to videos on various election administration topics were also produced and distributed to local election officials.

9. Improved Services to Voter Customers: The G.A.B. launched and continued development of a comprehensive initiative focused on voter education and technical assistance. The goal of the initiative was to inform Wisconsin electors about important aspects of election law and their rights and responsibilities. Some of the highlights of this initiative to “get the word out” to our customers included:

- The use of social media including Facebook and Twitter.
- Development of voter materials including a reference guide on photo ID, a comprehensive document on election administration legislative impacts, and a voter rights and responsibilities document.
- Development and implementation of a speaker’s series in which G.A.B. staff gave presentations to voter groups across the state, entitled Voting 101.

To further meet the needs of Wisconsin electors, the G.A.B. also developed two systems to aid in responding to customers in a more timely and efficient manner. The G.A.B. created a database for the improved management of customer complaints and one for managing public records requests.

10. Assistance Rendered to the City of Milwaukee Regarding Section 203 Compliance: The G.A.B. assisted and advised the City of Milwaukee concerning compliance with their Spanish language designation under Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act. G.A.B. facilitated the translation of election administration forms and polling place notices from English to Spanish and created a surname analysis tool to assist the Milwaukee Election Commission in determining their need for bilingual poll workers. G.A.B. staff monitored Milwaukee polling places for Section 203 compliance over the course of three elections in 2012, and provided feedback to the Commission.

11. Election Cost Data Gathered as Part of Elections Statistics: For the first time, the G.A.B. staff worked with Wisconsin’s 1,851 municipalities and 72 counties to collect actual election cost data (not estimates). Cost data were gathered for five statewide elections during 2012. Municipal and county clerks reported cost data in eleven different pre-determined categories for each election. The cost categories include training, ballots, memory devices, programming of equipment, ballot bags, wages for local election officials, staff costs, polling place rental, notices, polling place documents, and miscellaneous costs which clerks are asked to specify. The G.A.B. incorporated the collection of election cost information into its business practices because these data are a major component for providing a complete reporting on elections results and statistics. In addition, this information:

- Helps municipalities and counties convey the complete cost of conducting election to their respective chief executives, governing boards and voters.
- Assists municipalities and counties in preparing and budgeting for elections.
- Enables the G.A.B. to more accurately inform the State Legislature whenever G.A.B. is asked to perform fiscal impact statements on pending and enacted election-related legislation.
- Enables the G.A.B. to inform the general public about the cost of conducting elections.

- Assist municipalities and counties to predict election costs based on voting trends and projected turnout. Election cost information can also help identify potential cost savings.

12. 2012 Fall Election Strategic Planning Team: To ensure a problem-free Fall Election cycle, G.A.B. staff developed and launched a comprehensive education and training program for local election officials and voters which focused on the fundamentals of elections and voting in Wisconsin. This “Back to Basics” Campaign supplemented the agency’s ongoing election preparedness effort. In addition to providing routine assistance to our clerk partners and elector customers, the “Back to Basics” initiative resulted in the completion of significant special election preparedness projects in advance of the August Partisan Primary and November General and Presidential Election. Projects completed included, but were not limited to the following:

- A comprehensive guide for voters and election officials on how to handle electronic forms of proof of residence.
- A guide for handling student residency requirements.
- A voter rights and responsibilities document.

While these documents were created for the August and November 2012 elections, they will be useful resources for election officials and voters in future elections.

13. Election Administration Research/Studies: During the last quarter of 2012, the G.A.B. staff conducted two comprehensive studies on issues that if enacted by the Legislature and the Governor, would affect and impact election administration in Wisconsin. Both studies were completed in December 2012.

First, G.A.B. staff researched the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program maintained by the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and developed a report that was submitted to members of the Government Accountability Board, and a State Senator that requested researching the SAVE initiative. This report provides the results of this research, as well as recommendations for how the SAVE Program could be used in Wisconsin for the purpose of voter registration list maintenance.

In addition, a study was conducted by G.A.B. staff that determined the cost and administrative impact on elections in Wisconsin if Election Day Registration (EDR) was eliminated. This study included a detailed analysis of the fiscal and administrative impact of implementing requirements from the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) if EDR were eliminated in Wisconsin. This report was submitted to members of the Government Accountability Board, the Legislature and the Governor.

14. Ensuring Polling Place Accessibility: Through the agency’s AccessElections! Accessibility Compliance Program, accessibility compliance audits were conducted at 895 polling places during seven elections in 2012. A total of 456 municipalities were visited in 27 counties. Tablet PCs were incorporated into the audit process to enhance auditors’ ability to conduct audits more efficiently and at a reduced cost.

15. Assessing the Integrity of Wisconsin’s Voting Systems: Pursuant to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and Wis. Stat. § 7.08(6), the G.A.B. ordered the audit of a random sample of each voting system that is currently in use in Wisconsin. One hundred reporting units were selected and notified of the audit requirement. This audit is designed to assess how the electronic voting equipment performed on Election Day by comparing the system’s vote totals with the actual ballots cast by voters to ensure the system maintains an accurate tally. These audits are required to be conducted publicly.

16. Increased Use of Technology to Improve Program Efficiency and Effectiveness: In 2012, the G.A.B. Information Technology (IT) team released multiple applications that significantly increased clerk efficiency, resolved issues, and supported major initiatives. These IT program initiatives improved the election process for both election officials and voters across the State. Some of the most notable IT improvements include:
- Upgrade of the Canvass Reporting System: The G.A.B. worked with Waukesha County to develop a reliable process for reporting election night results. The new process has worked well and is available for the use of all counties and municipalities. The G.A.B. has encouraged all county and municipal clerks to consider using the expanded functionalities of the Canvass Reporting System for reporting unofficial election night results.
 - Improved Access of the Ineligible Voter Lists: Beginning with the April 3, 2012 Presidential Preference and Spring Election, the G.A.B. implemented an online system for distributing ineligible lists provided by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. The online system allows municipal clerks to print the required list on demand. A clerk or election inspector may also search the online database instead of printing a paper list. By offering an online system for distributing ineligible voting lists, the G.A.B. now provides the most up-to-date information at a significantly lower cost.
 - Development of a Comprehensive MyVoteWisconsin Website: Please refer back to page 2, item #5.

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2013 Election Administration Major Achievements

1. Administration and Management of Elections

a. Conducting Elections

The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) administered the regular spring elections, along with three special elections for State Assembly offices, working in conjunction with 1,852 municipal clerk partners, 72 county clerk partners, and thousands of election inspectors. In addition, the G.A.B. also provided administrative guidance to local election officials for 12 local special elections in 2013. G.A.B. staff processed nomination papers and ballot access documents for candidate for state offices. Staff also provided direction to and support of local election officials regarding functions of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS), processing of candidate filings, preparation of ballots and polling places, training election inspectors and canvassing and certifying election results. Division staff and legal counsel also processed and resolved several elector complaints regarding decisions of local election officials.

G.A.B. staff supported users of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) with an updated "SVRS Election Checklist" series for each regularly scheduled election and the special elections held in Assembly Districts 21, 69 and 82. G.A.B. staff monitored local election setup and the progression of election Milestones in SVRS. As part of its post-election activities, the G.A.B. performed cross-system data analysis, comparing election statistics (GAB-190 Form) reported in WEDCS, Canvass results and voter participation in SVRS. Staff worked with local clerks in reviewing and reconciling these data sources.

b. Special Topics Assistance

In December of odd-numbered years, municipal governing bodies are required to appoint election inspectors to a two-year term, beginning January 1st. By November 30th, county political parties may submit names of election inspector nominees to the municipal governing bodies for appointment in December. Due to this year's exceptionally high party participation and clerks' relative unfamiliarity with receiving names from the parties, staff communicated extensively with party leaders and municipal clerks advising both of their respective responsibilities related to this process. Staff also created a chart which parses the statutes regarding the procedures for inspector nomination and appointment.

Staff created an additional chapter for the *Election Administration Manual* entitled "Wards, Districts, Reporting Units and Annexations." The "annexation" portion of the new chapter was developed in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Intergovernmental Relations. Staff expects that the information provided will improve clerks' understanding of the relationship of wards to reporting units and districts and also assist with the process of annexing unincorporated property into a city or village. An Annexation Checklist was also developed to further guide clerks through the annexation process.

c. Ballot Design

Working toward uniformity and consistency of ballot format, staff designed a simpler, easier-to-read ballot. The new design was used successfully for the three special elections in 2013. Although the new design will be used statewide for the 2014 elections, consultation with a ballot design specialist is expected to improve ballot format further.

2. Monitoring Legislative Proposals: While there were no new legislative changes enacted in 2013, G.A.B. provided input, testimony, and fiscal analysis of numerous State and federal legislative proposals. Staff prepared research and testimony for the Director to present at seven legislative hearings, monitored progress of nearly 70 pieces of legislation, and consulted with clerks and legislators regarding the administrative implications of proposed legislation.
3. Development of MyVoteWisconsin Website: 2013 marked the first full year of the MyVote Wisconsin website. Staff made numerous improvements to the site's functionality, the information available to voters, and the overall voter experience. G.A.B. staff also received approval from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to reallocate grant funds to facilitate additional consulting to improve website usability and technical capabilities. In early 2013, staff completed the first post-election report for the FVAP grant, which is required after each general election. A highlight from that report was a finding that the average ballot transit time for MyVote Wisconsin ballots was about half of the transit time for ballots transmitted by traditional methods. Board staff also developed a new section of the *Election Administration Manual* regarding clerks' duties related to MyVote Wisconsin processes.
4. Training Projects and Improvements: The G.A.B. continued to utilize webinar software to conduct election administration training sessions, host teleconferences and develop targeted training modules with its second series of webinars, "Building on the Basics." The webinar training platform allows the G.A.B. to deliver effective, timely, and uniform training at a reduced cost. Due to positive feedback from county and municipal clerks regarding this method of training, Board staff launched a new webinar training series that focuses on the Statewide Voter Registration System. Webcasts were posted shortly after each training session for refresher training for municipal clerks and for poll worker training. Board staff also provided instructor-led and hands-on instruction on SVRS and voter data management for municipal clerks attending the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute Program. Using a combination of certified clerk-trainers and live, online webinars, the G.A.B. conducted 11 Municipal Clerk Core training classes for 230 new municipal clerks and staff and 32 Baseline Chief Inspector training classes for 875 Chief Inspectors.

The Board also approved expanded and revised language proposed by Elections Division staff for the *Absentee Voting in Nursing Homes, Retirement Homes and Certain Adult Care Facilities Manual* to provide more comprehensive and clear guidance to clerks, Special Voting Deputies, voters and the public.

5. New SVRS Training Environment Configuration and updated training exercises/materials: The G.A.B. began transitioning the SVRS portable server-based training environment to a web-based training environment for use in all future SVRS training. Advantages to a web-based environment include a reduction in the number of technical problems encountered during training sessions and a closer representation of the SVRS experience clerks can expect once they start using SVRS in production.

In conjunction with creation of the new training environment, the G.A.B. updated all training materials for use in SVRS training. The new materials:

- Have been expanded to include the ability to train up to 40 clerks at the same time.

- Reflect new and updated content (e.g. Address Ranges are no longer referenced and Geocodes are included, reflecting changes to mapping within SVRS).
- Have been reformatted to make editing and printing materials easier.

The new training server and materials will be used in training sessions beginning in January, 2014.

6. SVRS Training Manual Updates: Board staff updated and published new versions of 19 of the 27 chapters in the SVRS Training manual during 2013. Additionally, two SVRS tutorial videos and companion documents were created to support some of the newly featured tasks within the CRM Election Data website. These new tutorials were integrated into the CRM Election Data website allowing clerks the convenience of watching the videos in conjunction with performing their tasks.
7. Assistance Rendered to the City of Milwaukee Regarding Section 203 Compliance: The G.A.B. assisted and advised the City of Milwaukee concerning compliance with its Spanish language designation under Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act. G.A.B. provided a surname analysis report to assist the Milwaukee Election Commission in determining its need for bilingual poll workers for two elections in 2013. G.A.B. staff also observed a meeting of the M.E.C. Advisory Task Force that was created to solicit feedback on the language program from the Milwaukee community.
8. Electronic Poll Book Research: Board staff also began researching the possibility of using electronic poll books in Wisconsin. Wisconsin law already permits the use of electronic poll books, but requires that the system be approved by the Board prior to use. In July 2013, a team of Board staff was formed to research a variety of questions related to the use of electronic poll books and to develop standards for testing and approval of an electronic poll book system. The team submitted an interim report to the Board at its December 2013 meeting with a final report due to be submitted in March 2014.
9. Clerks' Election Workload Concerns Task Force: 2012 was a record-breaking year for elections in Wisconsin with six statewide elections. In late 2012, local election officials voiced concerns through their professional associations that the workload had grown too large and procedures too cumbersome to continue given available staff and resources at the local level. In response, the Board created the Clerks' Election Workload Concerns Task Force in August 2012. This group consisted of members of the Wisconsin County Clerks Association, Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, and the Wisconsin League of Municipalities. This group first met on October 18, 2012 and continued to meet during 2013 to discuss election officials' concerns and to develop recommendations to address these concerns.

The Board addressed these recommendations in March and May of 2013, accepting a variety of recommendations from the Task Force and endorsing several legislative changes that would improve election administration in Wisconsin. Board staff has implemented several of the Task Force recommendations, and implementation of other recommendations is ongoing.

10. Communications to Wisconsin Towns Association and League of Wisconsin Municipalities: Government Accountability Board staff contributed articles to monthly publications of the the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and the Wisconsin Towns Association in October of 2013. The articles grew out of discussions with the Clerks' Workload Concerns Task Force regarding the need for local elected officials to have a better understanding of the many tasks that municipal clerks must carry out to maintain the Statewide Voter Registration System, as well as of the costs and sources of funding for elections. Members of the Clerks Task Force requested that the G.A.B. broaden its communications about these tasks and costs to local governing bodies. The

articles were intended to give local municipal decision makers information for planning budgets to prepare for election administration, and to also explain the roles of SVRS providers and reliers.

11. Data Collection and Reports and Improvements to Data Collection and Reconciliation Processes: The G.A.B. completed all federal reporting requirements related to the 2012 Presidential Election on behalf of the State of Wisconsin, all 72 counties, and 1,852 municipalities. This includes the U.S. EAC's Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS), the FVAP 2012 Presidential and General Election Survey, and the FVAP grant post-election report (referenced in item three above). The G.A.B. also successfully concluded all MOVE Act Consent Decree Reporting requirements with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Staff made several changes to the WEDCS reporting procedures in response to issues identified by the Clerks' Election Workload Concerns Task Force. Staff standardized the questions for the GAB-190 report into a federal and non-federal version, arranging the questions in a more logical order and making the forms always available online ahead of elections. The GAB-190 Help Guide now includes updated tutorials on completing the forms with more accurate and updated definitions. Thanks to considerable input from municipal and county clerks, the GAB revised election cost reporting into an election-specific report for April and November elections, and an annual report for general costs. The deadline for submitting the cost reports was also extended from 30 to 60 days after the election.

12. Election Administration Research/Studies: G.A.B. staff finalized the report on the impacts and costs of eliminating Election Day Registration (EDR) in Wisconsin in February 2013. The final version of the report included detailed cost estimates for implementing the additional responsibilities that the Government Accountability Board and partner state agencies would have upon the elimination of EDR in Wisconsin.

G.A.B. Staff collaborated with the LaFollette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin – Madison to conduct two cost-benefit analysis projects. The first project compared online voter registration to the current paper-based registration system. The second project analyzed four policy options for conducting voter list maintenance using the National Change of Address (NCOA) system versus utilizing mass mailings, and conducting either list maintenance option at the state or local level. Final reports on both projects will be presented to staff in early 2014.

13. Voter Data Request Automation Project: G.A.B. staff continues working on developing an online application for processing common requests for voter data. This new website will allow candidates, political parties, and the general public to electronically request SVRS voter data including voter participation based on jurisdiction or district, participation in a particular election or elections, or absentee voters. Data request customers will be able to submit their requests and download the completed file from this new website. The second phase of this project will add the ability to accept electronic payment for SVRS data, either by credit card or electronic funds transfer (EFT), and completely automating the entire process. The estimated completion date for all phases of this project is mid-February, 2014.
14. Polling Place Audit Program: G.A.B. staff conducted 323 polling place accessibility audits during three elections in 2013. In all, 243 individual municipalities in 13 different counties were visited. In addition, reports for 491 audits conducted during four 2012 elections were finalized and distributed to relevant municipalities. Staff processed Plans of Action for 808 audit reports covering 13 elections from 2011 to 2013 and 1,741 accessibility-related supplies were distributed to 381 municipalities. Data collected through the audit program was used to create comprehensive accessible voting information on the G.A.B. website, including resources such as a polling place set-up guide and an explanation of the top 10 most commonly identified accessibility problems.

15. Accessibility Advisory Committee: The Accessibility Advisory Committee was reconvened in 2013 and membership was expanded to include representation from 10 different disability and elderly advocacy groups. Meetings were scheduled to correspond with the fall and spring election cycles with a plan adopted for a similar meeting schedule to continue in 2014. G.A.B. staff and representatives from several of the advocacy groups agreed to collaborate on several public education and public outreach projects for the 2014 election cycle.
16. Accessibility Legislative Report: Per requirements under Wis. Stats §5.25(4)(d), G.A.B. staff prepared and filed the *Impediments to Voting* report with the Wisconsin State Legislature. This report was also posted to the agency website and distributed to the media via press release. The report provided a summary of the results from the 1614 polling place accessibility audits conducted during the 2011-2013 filing period. It also outlines G.A.B. efforts to increase accessibility and compared the data from Wisconsin to available national statistics. The report was posted to the Presidential Commission on Election Administration website and the audit program cited as an example of “best practices” for use by election officials to increase physical accessibility of polling places.
17. Assessing the Integrity of Wisconsin’s Voting Systems: Voting equipment audits are completed pursuant to the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and Wis. Stat. §7.08(6), in order to determine that the error rate of voting systems in counting ballots is within acceptable limits established by the federal government. This audit is designed to assess how the electronic voting equipment performed on Election Day by comparing the system’s vote totals with the actual ballots cast by voters to ensure the system maintains an accurate tally. These audits are required to be conducted publicly. Accordingly, the G.A.B. ordered the audit of a random sample of each voting system that is currently in use in Wisconsin. In 2012, the G.A.B. selected one hundred and seven (107) reporting units to fulfill the audit requirement. Board staff had previously conducted audits following the general elections of 2008 and 2010. Due to other agency priorities which arose following the 2008 and 2010 general elections, Board staff was unable to previously present reports summarizing those audit results and combined those findings with the report of the 2012 voting equipment audit. As the 2008-2012 Voting Equipment Audit report found, voting equipment in Wisconsin, some of which is nearly twenty years old, continues to accurately record the votes of Wisconsin electors.
18. Created processes for testing non-EAC certified voting systems- modem only: At the Board’s March 20, 2013 meeting, the Board directed staff to establish protocols that will be used as guidelines for evaluating future (and concurrent) applications for approval of non-U.S. EAC certified voting systems, where the underlying voting system received U.S. EAC certification to either the 2002 VVS or 2005 VVSG, but any additional modeming component does not meet the 2005 VVSG. Staff subsequently developed protocols for use with applicable systems and have implemented them with an application for approval by one vendor, Elections Systems and Software (ES&S).
19. Prime III: The Board authorized staff to pursue development of a pilot program of the Prime III, a new hardware-agnostic open source voting system. This system was developed through federal grants from the U.S. EAC and is designed to be a next-generation voting system with advancements in several areas including accessibility, security, usability, and privacy. Staff will seek to implement a pilot use of the Prime III at the 2014 Spring Election and the G.A.B. is currently seeking counties or municipalities that would be interested in joining the pilot program.
20. Revisited Central Count Absentee Policies, Procedures, and Compliance: Board staff surveyed by e-mail and by phone all 72 county clerks in November 2013 to create a current and comprehensive list of municipalities utilizing the central count absentee process under Wis. Stat. § 7.52. This one-question survey requested county clerks to provide a list of municipalities in their county using the central count absentee process. This review identified 12 municipalities with central count absentee ordinances. Board staff has collected and filed copies of these

ordinances as well as the procedures used by each municipal board of absentee canvassers. Board staff is reviewing these documents for compliance with central count absentee guidance adopted by the Board at its December 13, 2011 meeting and revisions adopted by the Board at its May 15, 2012 meeting.

21. SVRS Version 8.4/8.5 Releases: Two new releases of the SVRS software were developed and deployed during 2013. SVRS version 8.4 was released in March and included a variety of maintenance fixes and improvements. SVRS version 8.5 was released in October and included improvements to the mapping features used by clerks in SVRS to help validate that voters are assigned to the correct districts. These improvements make the maps easier for clerks to use, and include additional tools to help clerks identify voters that may need some additional investigation to ensure their district assignment. Clerk feedback on the new mapping features has been very positive.
22. Improvements to Deceased Vital Records Matching: The State Vital Records office in the Department of Health Services (DHS) updated its vital records tracking system which allowed it to use more current technologies when providing death records to the G.A.B. Board IT staff were able to redesign the process to import those records into SVRS to make the process more stable and to replace antiquated middleware that was previously used. The death records provided to G.A.B. under the new system also include additional data that improves the quality of the data matches, and provides additional supporting information to help a clerk determine if a death record and a voter record actually relate to the same person.
23. Voting Information Project: G.A.B. IT staff began work in 2013 to participate in the national Voting Information Project (VIP), sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts. As part of the project, G.A.B. will be providing election related information such as polling places and sample ballot information so that search engines like Bing and Google can help educate voters on where to vote and what is on the ballot. The project is targeted to go live in time for the February 2014 Spring Primary.
24. 2012-2013 Four-Year Voter Record Maintenance: On behalf of Wisconsin's 1,852 municipalities, the Board completed the statutorily required biennial voter list maintenance. Wisconsin Statute §6.50 (1) and (2) mandate the inactivation of voters who have not voted within the past four years. A mailing is required to be sent to registered voters who have been qualified to vote for the past four years but who have not voted. Of the 299,748 postcards mailed by the Board, 105,667 were returned undeliverable, 16,652 postcards were returned requesting continuation of registration, and 177,422 postcards were not returned. The purpose of the biennial maintenance is to help Wisconsin maintain accurate and quality voter data, and make sure every voter's name and address is correct and current, and to remove names of voters that no longer wish to vote from poll lists.

For the 2012-2013 Four-Year Voter Record Maintenance, a new dashboard was developed to simplify the processing of returned postcards. The new dashboard which utilized Microsoft Dynamics CRM streamlined the process for providing clerks list of all voters sent postcards as part of the biennial maintenance process. Clerks reported that the new dashboard was easy to use and reduced the time spent processing returned postcards.

25. District Upload Tool: The IT Staff have developed a GIS tool to improve the process for G.A.B. SVRS staff to update districts to account for annexations, school district boundaries, and sanitary district boundaries. This uses a step-by-step process to increase the efficiency with which G.A.B. staff can update boundaries received from local Land Information departments into SVRS, and reduces the turnaround time for an annexation to be accurately reflected within SVRS. It also greatly decreases the IT resources required to update district boundaries in SVRS to represent accurately updated changes.

26. Voter Felon Audit: Wis. Stat. §6.56(3m) requires the Board to compare the list of voters in an election with the list transmitted to the Board by the Department of Corrections (DOC) containing the names of individuals disqualified from voting due to felony convictions. G.A.B.'s program staff worked with the IT team on development of a tool that will be used to automate and track this process. A tracking system has been developed for DOC users to update felon information for potential matches, and to streamline communication between DOC, G.A.B. staff, and municipal clerks regarding the processing of potential matches. The IT team plans to begin testing the new tracking system in January 2014.

For the November 6, 2012 Presidential and General Election, G.A.B. staff has used the new matching process to identify potential matches between names on the DOC list and voter records with participation for that election in SVRS. DOC staff has reviewed the initial list and removed offender records that should not have been reported as serving a felony sentence on the date of the election. G.A.B. staff is reviewing the updated DOC list. As part of that review, G.A.B. staff will be contacting clerks to determine whether participation was accurately recorded for that voter and to gather more information on whether the voter and the offender record match. G.A.B. staff will adjust the list of potential matches based upon the information obtained in the clerk review. G.A.B. staff will make a final review of the felon and voter records and any names that have not already been referred to the District Attorney because of other felon matching processes (SVRS Matching and the Ineligible Voter Lists) will be sent to the appropriate District Attorney.

27. Completion of 2011-2013 Biennial Report to Department of Administration: The Biennial Report of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board was completed and submitted to the Department of Administration on October 15, 2013. The report measures the agency's performance during the biennium and describes its goals and objectives for the future.
28. Voter Photo ID Trial: While implementation of the voter photo ID requirement was enjoined, Division staff spent considerable time, under the guidance of staff counsel, in responding to discovery requests resulting from litigation challenging the legislation and assisting legal counsel at the Department of Justice. In addition, several Division staff members were called to testify at the federal court trial in Milwaukee, which required additional preparation.
29. State Program Audit: Elections Division staff spent considerable time working with Legislative Audit Bureau staff to provide information due to its ongoing audit of the agency. Staff had participated in numerous extensive meetings to describe agency programs and initiatives and provided a large volume of documents and data files to LAB staff. G.A.B. staff looks forward to the release of the audit in the early part of 2014 as an outside assessment of the agency's efforts and recommendations for improvement.
30. Public Records Responses and Revision of Retention Schedules: Elections Division staff assisted in compiling documents and data for several large public records requests in 2013. Division staff, along with staff counsel and other agency staff, also undertook a comprehensive review of existing G.A.B. public records retention schedules and recommended updates and revisions of the schedules to the State Public Records Board.
31. Division Staffing and IT Management: The Elections Division transitioned to new management and absorbed the loss of several key staff due to retirement or other career opportunities. Division management, with the assistance of G.A.B.'s administrative staff, was able to make significant progress in filling vacant staff positions. As part of this recruiting effort, a GIS Elections Specialist position was created and filled, which has helped to ensure the accuracy of GIS boundary, ward, and voter information in SVRS. Currently, there are two positions that are vacant and will be recruited in the near future. In addition, Division staff participated in the restructuring of the management of, and coordination with, agency IT contractors and resources, leading to closer collaboration between program staff and the IT team, as well as more efficient use of IT resources.

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2014 Election Administration Major Achievements

1. Administration of Four Successful Statewide Elections and Other Election Events:
Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) staff worked in conjunction with its 1,852 municipal clerk partners, 72 county clerk partners, and over 30,000 other local election officials to successfully conduct four statewide elections. Also, the G.A.B. provided administrative guidance to local election officials for several local and special elections, and organized and oversaw two recounts for legislative offices after the Partisan Primary. In addition to training and support of local election officials, G.A.B. staff worked with numerous candidates, political committees, and other organizations to prepare for the elections. Prior to the November General Election, staff organized meetings with representatives of the Republican and Democratic Parties to discuss issues of concern and preparations.
 - Ballot Access Procedures: For the spring nonpartisan elections and the fall partisan elections, G.A.B. staff assisted candidates with the filing of ballot access documents. Staff completed the review of nomination papers submitted by candidates for state and federal offices (52 candidates for the Spring Election and 316 candidates for the General Election) and made recommendations regarding Board certification of candidates or denial of ballot access. Staff also processed and evaluated challenges to nomination papers as well as appeals regarding decisions of local filing officers. The compressed statutory timeline for review of challenges to nomination papers of partisan candidates required extraordinary effort of numerous staff to complete the analysis and recommendations for Board consideration.
 - SVRS Checklists: Checklists are step-by-step instructions provided to county and municipal clerks to guide them through the election setup and completion process in the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS). Included in the checklists are reminders to complete SVRS maintenance tasks, such as reviewing death, felony and duplicate voter records to ensure up-to-date and accurate poll books. Staff produced and distributed three SVRS checklists for each of the four 2014 regular elections. Checklists must be modified and tailored to each specific election, and staff monitors clerk progress by running data queries and then following up by contacting clerks individually when necessary.
 - Extended Office Hours: G.A.B. staff members were available to assist local election officials before and after regular business hours in the days leading up to and after regular elections, as well as during the conduct of recounts. G.A.B. staff was available for 18 hours on each of the days of the Partisan Primary and the General Election to assist with issues ranging from the opening of polling places to the reporting of unofficial results

on Election Night. Staff also logged every telephone call received during the three-week period surrounding each election to track the type of issues which arose and the resolution of those issues.

2. Voter Photo Identification (ID): Throughout the year, G.A.B. staff continued to monitor the status of cases at both the state and federal level involving 2011 Wisconsin Act 23, the Voter Photo ID Law. The law was first enjoined by Dane County Circuit Court Judge David Flanagan on March 6, 2012, and was later enjoined in federal court by Judge Lynn Adelman. Both decisions were appealed to higher courts, and multiple staff members were called to give testimony in these cases and to assist Department of Justice attorneys in preparing for trials and court hearings.

On July 31, 2014, the Wisconsin Supreme Court lifted the injunction issued by Judge Flanagan, and on September 12, 2014, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals lifted the injunction issued by Judge Adelman. G.A.B. staff quickly implemented necessary changes to absentee voting procedures before the September 18 deadline for municipal clerks to send ballots to voters with an absentee ballot application on file.

Forms were updated and made available to municipal clerks by high-priority communication on September 17. Substantial staff time was then dedicated to updating the Election Administration Manual and the Election Day Manual to reflect both the reinstatement of the Voter Photo ID Law and related legislative changes enacted after the original injunction. High-priority guidance and training was provided to municipal clerks. The 2011 "Bring it to the Ballot!" public education campaign, including television, radio and internet ads, was updated with current information and prepared for immediate release. Staff updated both the SVRS system and the MyVote Wisconsin website to reflect that the photo ID requirement was in effect and to provide functions and features to support the photo ID law.

On October 9, 2014, the United States Supreme Court ordered that the photo ID requirement would not be in effect for the November 4, 2014 General Election. Staff immediately notified county and municipal clerks and removed all references to photo ID from the G.A.B. and MyVote Wisconsin websites, posting previous versions of forms and manuals. The public education program was pulled.

Through Election Day, November 4, 2014, staff continued to respond to inquiries regarding the photo ID law and provide guidance and instructions not to implement the blocked law.

Implementing legislative and court developments affecting the photo ID requirement required prompt, focused, flexible and coordinated efforts of the program staff, IT staff, and legal counsel, as well as effective communication and partnership with local election officials. Staff continues to monitor the status of the United States Supreme Court case regarding 2011 Wisconsin Act 23.

3. Other Legislative Changes: The 2013-2014 Legislative Session saw the adoption of 18 bills affecting the administration of elections, each of which was promptly addressed by

G.A.B. staff and incorporated into the G.A.B.'s ongoing Election Official training program and into G.A.B. IT systems including SVRS, MyVote Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Election Data Collection System (WEDCS). Some notable legislative changes administered and implemented by G.A.B. staff include:

- 2013 Wisconsin Act 146: Limiting the times for voting by absentee ballot in person.
 - 2013 Wisconsin Act 148: Requiring clerks and the G.A.B. to report statistics regarding the verification postcard audit that is performed on voter registrations received at the polls on Election Day.
 - 2013 Wisconsin Act 149: Transferring the responsibility for reviewing the voter registration list and mailing notices to voters from local election officials to the G.A.B., and requiring new statistical reports from the G.A.B.
 - 2013 Wisconsin Act 159: Substantially changing absentee voting at residential care facilities.
 - 2013 Wisconsin Acts 160 and 174: Requiring nomination signatures to include a legible printed name and changing the number of required signatures for aldermanic districts in second and third class cities, respectively.
 - 2013 Wisconsin Acts 177, 178, 179, 180, 181: Collectively requiring substantial changes to the way Chief Inspectors conduct their polling places, the way write-in ballots are counted, and the way Election Inspectors are selected.
 - 2013 Wisconsin Act 182: Requiring all non-UOCAVA electors to provide a proof of residence document when registering to vote, regardless of the registration period, and requiring clerks to track information regarding the proof of residence document used.
4. Election Calendar: G.A.B. staff creates and publishes a yearly, comprehensive Calendar of Election and Campaign Events that includes all election related (Election Administration, Campaign Finance, and SVRS) tasks and deadlines. It is a key tool utilized by local clerks and staff and is available publicly on the G.A.B. website.
5. Training and Guidance: The G.A.B. provides training to local election officials, including county and municipal clerks, chief inspectors, regular election inspectors, special voting deputies, special registration deputies and local boards of canvassers.
- Webinars/Videos: The G.A.B. continued to produce timely election administration training sessions on rapidly changing legislative requirements and procedures, SVRS computer application training, teleconferences and training modules using webinar software. The Elections Division staff has produced 24 educational videos relating to election administration and SVRS topics and processes, including 19 recorded webinar sessions, three videos on accessibility-related topics, and two videos on topical subjects.

- In-person Trainings: The G.A.B. continued to provide initial training classes for new municipal clerks and new chief inspectors using a combination of live webinars conducted by Board staff and in-person training classes conducted by certified clerk-trainers. Staff and clerk-trainers delivered 49 Baseline Chief Inspector training classes and trained over 1700 new and current chief inspectors and municipal clerks (current chief inspectors and municipal clerks are allowed to take the course once per 2-year term as a refresher). Trainers also conducted 13 Municipal Clerk Core training classes and trained 290 new municipal clerks and current clerks seeking refresher training. Based on the results of the 2014 SVRS training survey, staff conducted 13 strategically-located regional Application, Election Management/HAVA Interfaces and Absentee Process computer training for 172 municipal and county clerks who provide or self-provide SVRS services. Staff further extended the agency's training reach by conducting a new "Train the Trainer" session whereby staff trained 10 qualified and experienced county and municipal clerks to conduct Baseline Chief Inspector training locally.
- Training Manual Updates: G.A.B. staff updated the Election Day and Election Administration Manuals to reflect new laws approved by the state legislature and changes in the status of the Voter Photo ID Law due to various court decisions. Staff updated the manual regarding Absentee Voting in Residential Care Facilities and Retirement Homes for the second time in two years due to legislative changes, and solicited and incorporated input from legislators, clerks, Special Voting Deputies and interested members of the public in the process. Finally, staff made significant changes in manuals related to agency technology systems, including MyVote Wisconsin, the Voter Felon Audit and the SVRS Provisional Tracker, as well as revising ten chapters of the SVRS Manual to accommodate legislative revisions.
- Clerk Association Presentations: The G.A.B. continued its successful practice of attending the annual and district conferences of the Wisconsin County Clerks Association, Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, Wisconsin League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Association of School Superintendent Assistants and Wisconsin Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Institute to provide legislative updates, education and training on clerk and local election official duties and to solicit input on pending legislative proposals and other procedures.
- Clerk Communications: G.A.B. staff continues a commitment to effective and timely communicate to local election officials through a series of "Clerk Communications" which are posted to the agency website and categorized according to their urgency and priority. In 2014, staff prepared and posted approximately 115 such communications on a variety of topics including legislative changes, election preparations, the status of Photo ID litigation, and required tasks to be completed in SVRS. Complete and accurate communications typically require the drafting and editing work of several staff members.
- Answering Questions: The G.A.B. also responds to specific requests for information ranging from the thousands of phone calls the agency receives every year to formal requests for guidance. As a significant example, staff developed guidance for

“Curbside Voting” in response to an inquiry from the Milwaukee Election Commission. This guidance expands on previous procedures to provide greater security and privacy to the curbside voting process.

Some questions recur with sufficient frequency to make them noteworthy. In addition to addressing these questions as they arise, staff notes what questions arise with the greatest frequency and incorporates them into future trainings.

6. Assistance to Legislature: G.A.B. staff provided information and answered questions from legislators and legislative staff regarding legislative proposals as well as specific inquiries from legislators and constituents regarding application of election laws. G.A.B. staff drafted and presented testimony for numerous legislative hearings, and submitted two fiscal estimates at the request of the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. G.A.B. staff also participated in a full-day conference regarding elections technology sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures and held in Sun Prairie in June. The conference brought together legislators and staff involved in elections law with local election officials. G.A.B. staff prepared and presented a video summary of G.A.B. technology systems as well as remarks regarding significant aspects and challenges of election administration in Wisconsin.
7. Public Presentations: Elections Division staff assisted in preparing materials for the Director and General Counsel for numerous presentations including testimony before the Presidential Commission on Election Administration and other national conferences. Division staff also made regular presentations to state organizations interested in elections and voting laws, including voter organizations and law enforcement personnel.
8. Promulgation of Administrative Rules: G.A.B. staff devoted considerable time in attempting to finalize promulgation of administrative rules governing the conduct of election observers. Staff presented testimony at legislative hearings, worked with legislators and legislative staff to incorporate changes, and made multiple presentations to the Board regarding the proposed rules which had been developed and implemented in elections since 2008. The Board approved proposed rules incorporating almost all of the changes requested by Legislature, but the re-submission of the rules failed to obtain the support of the necessary legislative committees, resulting in the expiration of the rulemaking process. Staff will start over with the process of promulgating the proposed rules in 2015.
9. PCEA Review: The bipartisan Presidential Commission on Election Administration released its report and series of recommendations to improve the conduct of elections and the voting process in January 2014. G.A.B. staff conducted a thorough review of the report to determine which recommended practices were already in place in Wisconsin and which recommendations could be implemented administratively or with legislative action. The PCEA report specifically singled out the G.A.B.’s success in gathering and using elections data and recommended its accessibility audit program as a model for other states.
10. Voting Equipment Testing and Approval: G.A.B. staff worked closely with voting equipment manufacturers and local election officials from pilot municipalities to test

several new pieces of voting equipment to be considered for approval by the Board for use in Wisconsin:

- Clemson University – Prime III: The Prime III voting equipment system was first brought to the G.A.B. for approval in 2013. Relying on open-source software and commercial off-the-shelf hardware, the system sought to provide improved functionality and accessibility at substantially reduced cost. After preliminary testing in 2013 and Board approval on February 25, 2014, a pilot program was created for the April 1, 2014 election with the assistance of the Manitowoc County Clerk and the municipal clerks from the Town of Newton and the Town of Kossuth. An introductory user's video was created for voters and was viewed during the election. Between the two municipalities, 737 voters cast ballots on the Prime III voting system in the April election. Exit polling determined that overall voters were satisfied with the process, citing high confidence in the system and ease of use. However, a number of system issues arose during the day and during staff testing that will require further research by the Clemson team. The Board accepted a report making recommendations to the Clemson team and the U.S. EAC to consider for future development of the Prime III software, but did not endorse or approve the system.
 - ES&S – Unity 3.4.0.1: In 2013 the Board granted conditional approval for the use of Election System and Software's (ES&S) Unity 3.4.0.1, which was identical to the Unity 3.4.0.0 voting system already in use in Wisconsin except for the addition of a modem component used to transmit preliminary election results to the county. Preliminary research completed by the G.A.B. staff, as well as field testing conducted by staff in cooperation with representatives from ES&S and municipal clerks, had shown that the successful operation of the equipment depended heavily on the fidelity of the telephone networks between the polling place and the county seat. The conditional approval, therefore, required that those systems purchased be tested in place, along with the telephone networks intended to support them, prior to the election in which they were to be used. At the May 21, 2014 meeting of the Board, staff presented reports collected from county clerks who had used the system subsequent to its conditional approval. Those reports demonstrated that the system worked satisfactorily in a live election. The Board granted final approval to the Unity 3.4.0.1 system, with the condition that municipalities are recommended to test the telephone networks intended to support the Unity 3.4.0.1 system in advance of any election in which it is to be used.
 - ES&S – EVS 5.2.0.0 & EVS 5.3.0.0: The G.A.B. Voting Equipment Team conducted a test campaign for ES&S's EVS 5.2.0.0 and EVS 5.3.0.0 voting systems from July 7-16, 2014. A public demonstration was held July 8. A demonstration was held before the Wisconsin Election Administration Council on July 9. The Board accepted the staff's recommendation to approve the two systems for sale and use in Wisconsin, under the condition that the equipment be programmed to automatically reject over-voted ballots and return them to the voter so errors can be corrected.
11. Voting Equipment Audit: After each General Election, the G.A.B. is statutorily required to audit the performance of each type of electronic voting equipment used in Wisconsin

and determine the equipment's error rate in counting valid ballots. In a public meeting on November 7, 2014, Board staff randomly selected one hundred reporting units as a base sample and augmented that sample with additional reporting units until each currently certified voting system used in the State of Wisconsin was represented by at least five reporting units (except the Populex system which is only used in two reporting units in the state). The final sample set contained 106 reporting units in 78 municipalities. At that same meeting, staff also selected the contests to be audited in addition to the Governor's contest. As a result of random selection, the contests for Attorney General, State Treasurer and Sheriff were included in the audit.

As of December 23, 2014, all 78 municipalities have published their audit notices and held their audit. Of those, 74 have submitted their audit results to the G.A.B. Staff has reviewed 65 of the audits and found 43 of them to be acceptable. Twenty-two are awaiting additional information to clarify or verify audit results.

12. Accessible Voting Equipment Reimbursement Program: G.A.B. staff concluded the reimbursement grant process for accessible voting purchases in 2014. As required by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), all municipalities were required to provide accessible voting equipment for individuals to vote privately and independently. Staff began the reimbursement process in 2005 and continued the reimbursement process until August 31, 2014. Staff continued the grant process for an extended time as many municipalities had remaining funds available that were set aside for the purchase of a voting equipment tabulation device that ultimately never received federal certification. Most municipalities that had funds set aside were able to claim reimbursement for other related accessible voting equipment costs, such as maintenance and programming costs. Each municipality was eligible to receive up to \$6,000 for each polling place within the municipality established by 2005. Since the inception of the program, G.A.B. staff has processed requests for and distributed a total of \$15,355,000 in federal funds to municipalities throughout Wisconsin.
13. E-Poll Book Research: Staff concluded research on electronic poll books and presented a report to the Board at its March meeting outlining findings and recommendations for administering statutes authorizing the use of the technology in Wisconsin. Based upon the experiences and best practices of other states, the report recommended development of a testing and approval process for electronic poll books, should a manufacturer seek approval of a system by the Board. Staff recommended further study and analysis of the costs and benefits of developing an electronic poll book solution. The Board directed staff to discontinue further research and development of electronic poll book standards for the present time.
14. National Election and Voting System Standards: G.A.B. staff has actively participated in national efforts to define standards for future voting systems and IT systems used to administer elections in the United States.
 - IEEE Voting System Standards Committee: The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) formed the Voting Systems Standards Committee (VSSC) at the request of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to develop consensus-based standards for voting system and election administration IT system interoperability

using common data formats. G.A.B. staff member Sarah Whitt is chair of the Election Results Reporting working group which finalized work on a standard for election results reporting. The standard is nearing the end of the balloting process within IEEE at which point it will become an official standard. The standard was developed in coordination with diverse stakeholders including State and county election officials, voting system vendors, the Associated Press, The National Institute of Standards and Technology, and other interested groups. Wisconsin is also participating in other VSSC standards activities including the Election Modeling working group which is developing a comprehensive data model for all of the systems involved in administering elections.

- NASED Voting System Committee: G.A.B. Elections Supervisor Ross Hein serves on the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED) Voting System Certification Sub-Committee, as facilitated by the Bipartisan Policy Center. The Sub-Committee has made several recommendations to the U.S. EAC regarding approval and development of voting equipment standards and certification. Additionally, the Sub-Committee focuses on contingency planning should the certification process at the federal level currently performed by the U.S. EAC be reformed, and what role the federal government should provide in voting equipment standard setting and certification.
15. Ballot Redesign: Staff redesigned ballot formats with an eye toward clarity and usability. Staff consulted with nationally recognized Usability Specialist Dana Chisnel and reached out to county and municipal clerks for their comments and suggestions throughout the process. With this assistance, a ballot was developed that incorporated simple and concise instructions, navigational cues, shading to define office types and titles and readable text. The ballot format recommended by G.A.B. staff for the General Election was not universally accepted by county clerks, resulting in the use of a variety of ballots throughout the state. The Board subsequently approved ballot formats for use at the 2015 Spring Primary and Spring Election, and committed to revisiting ballot format before the 2016 Partisan Primary and General Election.
16. Polling Place Accessibility Compliance:
- Polling Place Audits: Over the course of four statewide elections in 2014, G.A.B. accessibility auditors completed audits of 571 polling places in 420 municipalities in 33 counties. G.A.B. staff hired and trained fifty temporary workers to conduct onsite accessibility compliance audits, a program that is unique in the nation.
 - Voting Equipment Security Checks: The Polling Place Accessibility Auditors also complete brief inspections of voting equipment security. Auditors are trained on the specific pieces of voting equipment they will encounter and the procedures by which the equipment is secured. In the field, auditors verify that all voting equipment seals are in place and unbroken, that they match what is recorded in the Chief Election Inspector's Incident Log, and that the Chief Inspector has initialed for the pre-election security check, and not pre-initialed the post-election security check. This check was done at each of the 571 polling places audited.

- Public Education and Outreach Materials: G.A.B. staff created informational material to better serve voters with disabilities and for use by clerks and poll workers. A new section has been added to the agency website with information for clerks including guidance on polling place setup, a list of the most common issues found in onsite audits and easy ways to fix them for Election Day. Staff created two video tutorials demonstrating the AutoMARK ballot-marking device and the AccuVote TSX tabulator. Both are available on the agency's website to view online by the public or to download for use by local election officials.

The G.A.B. worked closely in partnership with the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition to produce public education materials for voters with disabilities in advance of the November General Election. These materials included an update and redistribution of the *Voting in Wisconsin: A Guide for Citizens with Disabilities* pamphlet. Paper copies of this document have been distributed to over 3,100 community-based residential care facilities across the state and in outreach efforts conducted by the Disability Vote Coalition. A digital version is made available to the public on the G.A.B. website.

Also distributed to residential care facilities along with the *Voting in Wisconsin* guide were informational packets containing voting-related videos, voter registration, and absentee ballot request forms and information sheets on the appropriate manner in which facility staff should talk to residents about voting issues. Facilities that are eligible to be served by Special Voting Deputies also received a copy of the updated *Absentee Voting in Residential Care Facilities and Retirement Homes* manual. Additionally, a training video for local election officials, *This Is Where We Vote*, was created to teach poll workers and municipal clerks about the issues important to the disability community and the unique challenges they may face in voting. It is available for public viewing on the agency website.

- Analysis of Accessibility Audit Results: An enhanced effort was made in 2014 to improve data quality and engage clerks and municipal officials in the improvement of polling place accessibility. In 2014, G.A.B. staff has received and processed 252 plans of action for polling places visited by the onsite audit program. Staff continues to work with municipal clerks to ensure accessibility issues are adequately addressed. Staff has worked with agency IT contractors to begin the process of automating the report generation and notification system, which will ultimately reduce costs in staff time as well as paper and postage.
- Accessibility Supplies: In support of clerks' efforts to make polling places more accessible to voters with disabilities, G.A.B. staff has distributed 893 signs and other supplies to 218 municipalities. Additional supplies have been procured in order to continue to address the most common accessibility audit findings.
- Improvement of Accessibility Survey: The onsite compliance audits are conducted using an electronic survey instrument loaded onto a tablet computer. In 2014 the electronic survey received many much-needed upgrades to improve clarity and ease of

use. These changes have already proven invaluable in smoother training processes and in reducing confusion in the field.

- Accessibility Advisory Committee: The Accessibility Advisory Committee, consisting of representation from ten different disability and elderly advocacy groups, convened twice in 2014. In addition to providing ideas for compliance efforts and maintaining communication with the community, the committee also approved changes to the electronic version of the accessibility survey.
17. SVRS Modernization: Significant work has been completed on staff's efforts to redesign the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) to take advantage of modern design philosophies and provide greater ease of use and improved data quality. IT staff has created a development server environment with Microsoft Dynamics CRM (2013), which will be the underlying framework for the new system. Staff is using this development server to work on the layout of the new system. Primary navigation systems have been developed, as well as the screen template, which will be used throughout the system. Security roles have been developed to cover a variety of use-case scenarios, and fundamental jurisdictions and districts have been built into the system. The remainder of the system has been divided into four sections, each being analyzed and developed by its own staff team: Voter, Elections, Absentee and Districts. Voter and Absentee functions are nearing completion, allowing staff to focus more resources on the Elections node, which will be the largest section of the new system. Staff met on September 18, 2014 with representatives from Microsoft who reviewed the developments as of that date. The representatives were impressed with what had been developed so far and offered tips and recommendations for staff to consider during the remainder of development.
 18. BADGER Voters: On April 25, 2014, the G.A.B. launched a new web portal making it easier to request publicly available voter data, and to significantly reduce staff time required to process these requests. This new website was developed entirely by agency program staff and IT developers, and allows candidates, political parties, and the public to request SVRS voter data online, including voter participation based on jurisdiction or district, participation in a particular election or elections, or absentee voter information. Data request customers can submit their requests, make payments online through US Bank, and download the completed file from this new website. This process was previously done manually, requiring significant staff time for each request.

Since its inception, BADGER Voters has received approximately 430 requests and processed 275 purchased data files. The system has generated \$147,656.25 over eight months and reduced agency costs by approximately \$72,000 in that same time frame. Total website development costs were less than \$50,000.

19. Voting Information Project: Due to the efforts of G.A.B. staff, Wisconsin participated in the the national Voting Information Project (VIP), sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts, for the November 2014 election. G.A.B. staff provided election information such as polling places and sample ballot data in a standard format that search engines such as Bing and Google used to educate voters on where to vote and what offices and candidates were on their ballots. As a result of the

sustained behind-the-scenes work of G.A.B. staff, Wisconsin voters and media outlets were able to access election information more easily and through the portals that they are accustomed to using.

VIP partnered with the Internet Association in 2014 to offer the new GetToThePolls.com website, which attracted almost 8 million visits as of November 11, 2014, with 104,000 of those visits in Wisconsin. Facebook continued to offer its "I Voted" badge which linked to VIP polling place and sample ballot information, with nearly 7 million Facebook users sharing the link. VIP also provided a free Voting Information Tool that could be embedded on any website to allow people to look up polling place and sample ballot information. The tool was used by 12 media and campaign websites in Wisconsin including WXOW-TV, WQOW-18, WAOW, WBAY-FM and the Scott Walker for Governor campaign. Google used its Google Now mobile application to push voting information to voters on their Android phones or tablets as well.

20. Data Collection and Reconciliation: In 2014, municipal clerks completed GAB-190 statistics reports for the Spring Primary (select jurisdictions), Spring Election, Partisan Primary, and General Election. Municipal and county clerks complete the GAB-191 election-specific cost report for the Spring Election and the General Election. By January 31, 2015, they will also complete the GAB-192 Annual Election Costs Report. All of the data reports are conveyed electronically through the G.A.B.'s Wisconsin Elections Data Collection System (WEDCS). G.A.B. staff invests considerable time and effort in educating local election officials regarding the reporting requirements, obtaining and monitoring compliance with the reporting requirements, and reconciling discrepancies in the data. WEDCS is also being utilized to comply with 2013 Wisconsin Act 148 which requires clerks to report certain statistics related to Election Day Registration address verification postcards. Staff is currently engaged in reconciling WEDCS data internally, as well as with data from SVRS and the Canvass Reporting System, in order to complete multiple federal reporting requirements, including the Election Administration and Voting Statistics report required by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission following each General Election.
21. Systems Maintenance: G.A.B. program staff worked with agency IT contractors to update and maintain multiple existing Elections IT systems, including the following:
 - SVRS: While developing the new SVRS database, staff continued to provide updates to the existing system. In addition to several minor bug fixes, SVRS version 8.6 was rolled out on June 20, 2014 which included features mandated by new legislation enacted in 2014. Most of these changes involved how Proof of Residence information is tracked in SVRS. The update also resulted in noticeably improved performance by SVRS, which was received very positively by clerks. Additional changes were made after the court injunction barring implementation of the Voter Photo ID Law was lifted, allowing clerks to track voters who provided a photo ID for mail-in absentee ballots and voters who are exempt from the photo ID requirement. Although the law has since been enjoined again, this tracking feature has been left active so that the process may continue smoothly should the new injunction be lifted.

- Canvass Reporting System: G.A.B. staff developed updates to the Canvass Reporting System (CRS) to fix minor issues, and to upgrade the aging software CRS uses to generate reports, allowing for easier export of large files.

The Canvass Reporting System was used by municipalities in four counties to report their Election Night results in 2014. In Barron, Milwaukee, Sheboygan and Waukesha Counties, municipal clerks and county staff entered election results directly into CRS on election night and ran reports from CRS to post results on their county websites. G.A.B. staff provided additional training and support to these counties to facilitate successful Election Night Reporting using the system. Several smaller counties also generated reports from CRS to facilitate the posting of unofficial Election Night results in 2014. Election Night Reporting is a new and exciting addition to the CRS that could be used by additional municipalities and counties in the future.

- MyVote Wisconsin: The MyVote Wisconsin website underwent several changes in 2014. MyVote version 1.8 was introduced in June to incorporate mandatory changes to accommodate new legislation enacted in 2014. Another update was made in September to improve the on-line ballot for the Partisan Primary. MyVote version 1.9 was introduced in October to update information regarding the Voter Photo ID law that had recently been put back into effect. Shortly thereafter, the Voter ID law was enjoined by the U.S. Supreme Court and MyVote Wisconsin was rolled back to version 1.8.1, which included other improvements from 1.9 but removed the Voter Photo ID changes.

Staff contracted with nationally recognized elections usability specialist Dana Chisnell to review the MyVote Wisconsin website and determine ways to make it easier for the public to navigate. Ms. Chisnell instructed staff in conducting usability interviews, and then assisted staff in conducting interviews with several members of the public including voters from various areas in Wisconsin and one overseas voter. Staff later conducted more interviews with new staff, using the techniques provided by Ms. Chisnell. The interviews identified areas on the website where voters become confused or are unable to find the information they are looking for. G.A.B. staff is working on ways of addressing these issues and creating a more streamlined, user-friendly interface for the MyVote Wisconsin 2.0 release.

Each of these technology upgrades required significant problem-solving, innovation, and coordination of efforts involving G.A.B. program staff and IT developers, as well as communication with and training of local election officials to implement the new functions and incorporate them into regular election procedures.

22. Voter Felon Audit: Wis. Stat. §6.56(3m) requires the Board to compare the list of voters in an election with the list transmitted to the Board by the Department of Corrections (DOC) containing the names of individuals disqualified from voting due to felony convictions. Due to inherent problems in the procedures previously used, G.A.B. staff developed and implemented a new automated process in 2014 to review the matching of records. Through the G.A.B. Microsoft Dynamics website, clerks identify whether they believe that records of a the voter and a felony offender relate to the same person and

whether a vote was correctly recorded for the voter. Clerks are asked to locate and provide an electronic copy of the poll list page for the voter and the Voter Registration GAB-131 Form. Through the automated process, clerks then assign the record back to G.A.B. staff, which forwards the case to the appropriate District Attorney.

G.A.B. staff, in conjunction with clerks and DOC staff, have completed the felon audit for the past 17 statewide elections since February 2012 and found 283 matches. One hundred and eleven of these have been referred on to District Attorneys. The G.A.B. has received notice that district attorneys have closed nine of these cases. There are several reasons why a match found by the system might not result in action by a District Attorney: two records may have the same name and birthdate, but be found by other means to not be the same individual; a data entry error may result in a vote being recorded for an elector when they did not cast a ballot; or the individual may be found not to have been serving a felony sentence at the time of the election.

23. Voter Registrations and Cancellations: Staff received a large quantity of voter registrations this year. The GAB-131 Voter Registration form is processed at the local level by municipal clerks. However, some sources, including some national voter registration drives, list the G.A.B. as the recipient. Individuals also find the G.A.B. office address online and send their registration applications into the agency. Processing these forms involves determining what municipality the voter resides in and forwarding the form to that clerk for processing. The G.A.B. received and processed 4,029 of these forms in 2014, requiring a significant investment of staff time. This is significantly more than are received in an odd numbered year. In 2013, for example, only 79 forms were received. Staff created a video tutorial related to the GAB-131 Form and made it available to local election officials on the agency's website highlighting the requirements and the process. This video was then updated when new 2014 legislative changes affected the GAB-131 Form.

G.A.B. staff also receives notices from election officials in other states of voters who have moved from Wisconsin into their state and who have registered to vote there. These voters are then cancelled in SVRS. In 2014, staff received over 5,100 cancellation notices. The processing of these cancellations is ongoing.

24. Customer Service: G.A.B. staff answers phone calls and in-person questions from clerks, candidates, incumbents, media and members of the general public on a variety of subjects. In 2014, the front desk had answered 9,128 phone calls and the SVRS Help Desk had answered 15,473 and processed over 16,140 email inquiries and requests for technical assistants. Help Desk staff supports over 2,000 municipal SVRS users statewide. Additionally, staff provides voter information through the G.A.B. website, the MyVote Wisconsin website, Facebook and Twitter. The agency Facebook and Twitter accounts each reach over a thousand users, while the MyVote Wisconsin website peaked on November 6, the day of the General Election, with 132,233 unique users in a single day and totaled 466,235 unique users in 2014.
25. Legislative Audit Bureau Program Audit: On September 10, 2013, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee directed the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) to conduct a programmatic

audit of the G.A.B. Substantial staff time was spent meeting with LAB auditors and providing required documents and data files. The audit report was released on December 12, 2014 and included a series of suggestions for improvement of agency functions and performance, as well as some policy considerations for the Board and Legislature. G.A.B. staff provided the LAB with a comprehensive response to the audit, which describes the ways in which the G.A.B. will comply or has already complied with each of the findings.

26. Annexation Notification: The G.A.B. has been working to facilitate and improve the process for municipalities to contact the agency upon the completion of annexations. This information is an important part of keeping SVRS accurate and up to date and ensuring electors receive the correct ballot. In the past, there have been complications with receiving this information in a timely manner, but staff has initiated recent improvements.

G.A.B. staff has coordinated with the Department of Administration (DOA) to receive copies of annexation reports provided to it statutorily by the Secretary of State. DOA has offered (but is not required) to send a quarterly list of all the annexations it has received.

Staff has also updated the GAB-100 Annexation Notification Form, improved communication with clerks, and increased interaction with the Wisconsin Land Information Community. The G.A.B. has also worked to facilitate improved communication between annexing municipalities, their County Land Information Departments and County Clerks, and other state agencies concerned with maintaining updated ward and municipal boundary data. Partnerships between G.A.B. and the Wisconsin GIS community are critical to the ongoing support of SVRS and MyVote Wisconsin, and will continue to result in more accurate data for clerks to use to better administer elections for voters.

27. Section 203 Assistance to the Milwaukee Election Commission: Board staff provides support to the Milwaukee Election Commission (MEC) regarding its minority language program implementation. The City of Milwaukee is a covered jurisdiction under §203 of the Voting Rights Act and must provide language assistance and election materials in Spanish. For each election, the G.A.B. provides the MEC with a surname analysis report that allows it to determine bilingual poll worker coverage for each election. Board staff also participated in conference calls with U.S. Department of Justice representatives and MEC staff concerning the development of the minority language program in the City of Milwaukee.

Attachment 2

Statutory

Responsibilities of

G.A.B.

Authority	Subject	Statutory Reference	Duties
GENERAL AUTHORITY	GAB Statutory Authority	5.05 (1)	The government accountability board shall have the responsibility for the administration of chs. 5 to 12, other laws relating to elections and election campaigns, subch. III of ch. 13, and subch. III of ch. 19. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(1).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Administrative Rules	5.05 (1)(f)	Promulgate rules under ch. 227 applicable to all jurisdictions for the purpose of interpreting or implementing the laws regulating the conduct of elections or election campaigns or ensuring their proper administration. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(1)(f).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Personnel	5.05 (1m)	The board shall employ outside the classified service an individual to serve as legal counsel who shall perform legal and administrative functions for the board. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(1m).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Audits	5.05 (2)	The board shall conduct an audit of reports and statements which are required to be filed with it to determine whether violations of ch. 11 have occurred. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(2).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Audits	5.05 (2)	The board shall make official note in the file of a candidate, committee, group or individual under ch. 11 of any error or other discrepancy which the board discovers and shall inform the person submitting the report or statement. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(2).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Investigations & Enforcement	5.05 (2m)(a)	The board shall investigate violations of laws administered by the board. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(2m)(a).
ETHICS DIVISION	Ethics Division Statutory Authority	5.05 (2s)	The ethics and accountability division has the responsibility for administration of ch. 11, subch. III of ch. 13, and subch. III of ch. 19. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(2s).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Elections Division Statutory Authority	5.05 (2w)	The elections division has the responsibility for the administration of chs. 5 to 10 and 12. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(2w).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Chief Election Officer	5.05 (3g)	The board shall designate an employee of the board to serve as the chief election officer of this state. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(3g).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Nonpartisan Employees	5.05 (4)	All employees of the board shall be nonpartisan §5.05(4).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Biennial Report	5.05 (5e)	The board shall include in its biennial report under s. 15.04 (1) (d) the names and duties of all individuals employed by the board and a summary of its determinations and advisory opinions. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(5e).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Advisory Opinion	5.06 (6a)	The board shall review a request for an advisory opinion and may issue a formal written or electronic advisory opinion to the person making the request §5.05(6)(a).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Officials	5.05 (7)	The board shall conduct regular information and training meetings at various locations in the state for county and municipal clerks and other election officials. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(7).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Education & Information	5.05 (10)	The board shall adopt and modify as necessary a state plan that meets the requirements of P.L. 107-252 to enable participation by this state in federal financial assistance programs authorized under that law. Wis. Stat. § 5.05 (10).

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Education & Information	5.05 (11)	The board shall conduct an educational program for the purpose of educating electors who cast paper ballots, ballots that are counted at a central counting location, and absentee ballots of the effect of casting excess votes for a single office. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(11).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Education & Information	5.05 (13)(a)	The board shall maintain one or more toll-free telephone lines for electors to report possible voting fraud and voting rights violations, to obtain general election information, and to access information concerning their registration status, current polling place locations, and other information relevant to voting in elections. Wis. Stat. § 5.05 (13)(a).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	5.05 (13)(c)	The board shall maintain a freely accessible system under which a military elector, as defined in s. 6.34 (1) (a), or an overseas elector, as defined in s. 6.34 (1) (b), who casts an absentee ballot may ascertain whether the ballot has been received by the appropriate municipal clerk. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(13)(c).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	5.05 (13)(d)	The board shall designate and maintain at least one freely accessible means of electronic communication which shall be used for the following purposes: To permit a military elector or an overseas elector to request a voter registration application or an application for an absentee ballot at any election at which the elector is qualified to vote in this state, to designate whether the elector wishes to receive the applications electronically or by mail and to permit a municipal clerk to transmit to a military elector or an overseas elector a registration application or absentee ballot application electronically or by mail, as directed by the elector together with related voting, balloting, and election information. Wis. Stat. § 5.05(13)(d).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	5.05 (15)	The board is responsible for the design and maintenance of the official registration list under s. 6.36. Wis. Stat. § 5.05 (15).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	5.05 (15)	The board shall require all municipalities to use the list in every election and may require any municipality to adhere to procedures established by the board for proper maintenance of the list. Wis. Stat. § 5.05 (15).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Legal Counsel	5.054 (1)	The board's legal counsel shall call a meeting of the government accountability candidate committee whenever a vacancy occurs on the board. Wis. Stat. § 5.054(1).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Legal Counsel	5.054 (2)	The board's legal counsel shall assist the government accountability candidate committee in the performance of its functions. Wis. Stat. § 5.054(2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Elections Division Administrator	5.055	The administrator of the elections division of the board shall, in consultation with the board, appoint an individual to represent this state as a member of the federal election assistance commission standards board. Wis. Stat. § 5.055.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Elections Division Administrator	5.055	The administrator shall also conduct and supervise a process for the selection of an election official by county and municipal clerks and boards of election commissioners to represent local election officials of this state as a member of the federal election assistance commission standards board. Wis. Stat. § 5.055.

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Elections Division Administrator	5.056	The administrator of the elections division of the board shall enter into the agreement with the secretary of transportation specified under s. 85.61 (1) to match personally identifiable information on the official registration list maintained by the board under s. 6.36 (1) with personally identifiable information maintained by the department of transportation. Wis. Stat. § 5.056.
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Complaints	5.06	The board may conduct a hearing on the matter in the manner prescribed for treatment of contested cases under ch. 227 if it believes such action to be appropriate. § 5.06(1).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	HAVA Compliance	5.061	The board shall make a final determinations with respect to the merits of the complaint and issue a decision within 89 days of the time that the complaint or the earlist of any complaints was filed. § 5.061.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Voting Rights/Impediments	5.25 (4)	The board shall ensure that the voting system used at each polling place will permit all individuals with disabilities to vote without the need for assistance and with the same degree of privacy that is accorded to nondisabled electors voting at the same polling place. Wis. Stat. § 5.25(4).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Voting Rights/Impediments	5.25 (4)(d)	No later than June 30 of each odd-numbered year, the board shall submit a report on impediments to voting faced by elderly and handicapped individuals to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s. 13.172(3). In preparing its report the board shall consult with appropriate advocacy groups representing the elderly and handicapped populations. Wis. Stat. § 5.25(4)(d).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Voting Rights/Impediments	5.35 (6)(a)4a.	The board shall prescribe instructions for electors for whom proof of identification is required under s. 6.79 (2) or for whom proof of residence under s. 6.34 is required under s. 6.55 (2). Wis. Stat. § 5.35(6)(a)4a.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Voting Rights/Impediments	5.35 (6)(a)4b.	The board shall prescribe general information concerning voting rights under applicable state and federal laws, including the method of redress for any alleged violations of those rights. Wis. Stat. § 5.35(6)(a)4b.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Voting Rights/Impediments	5.40 (4)(b)	The board shall ensure that the voting system used at each polling place in any jurisdiction that is subject to the requirement under 42 USC 1973aa-1a to provide voting materials in any language other than English is in compliance. Wis. Stat. § 5.40(4)(b).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Voting Rights/Impediments	5.40 (4)(d)	The board shall submit a report on impediments to voting faced by elderly and handicapped individuals to the appropriate standing committees of the legislature under s. 13.172 (3) no later than June 30 of each odd-numbered year. Wis. Stat. § 5.40(4)(d).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Ballots	5.60 (1)(b)	The board shall certify the candidates' names and designate the official ballot arrangement for candidates for state superintendent, justice, court of appeals judge, circuit judge and, if commissioners are elected under s. 200.09 (1) (am), the metropolitan sewerage commission. Wis. Stat. § 5.60(1)(b).

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Ballots	5.62 (3)	The board shall designate the official primary ballot arrangement for statewide offices and istric attorney within each prosecutorial district by using the same procedure provided in s. 5.60(1)(b). Wis. Stat. § 5.62(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Ballots	5.655 (3)	The board shall prescribe notices and instructions to be given to electors who use a consolidated ballot. Wis. Stat. § 5.655(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Elections Administration Council	5.68 (3m)	The election administration council shall provide guidance to local units of government concerning the procurement of election apparatus, ballots, ballot forms, materials, and supplies for use in elections in this state to help ensure that competitive prices are obtained by those units of government. § 5.68(3m).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Ballots	5.72 (2)	The board shall review ballots and proof copies and shall notify the county and municipal clerk of any error as soon as possible but in no event later than 7 days after submission. Wis. Stat. § 5.72(2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Electronic Voting Systems	5.87 (2)	The board shall, by rule, prescribe uniform standards for determining the validity of votes cast or attempted to be cast with each electronic voting system approved for use in this state under s. 5.91. Wis. Stat. § 5.87(2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Electronic Voting Systems	5.905 (2)	The board shall determine which software components of an electronic voting system it considers to be necessary to enable review and verification of the accuracy of the automatic tabulating equipment used to record and tally the votes cast with the system. Wis. Stat. § 5.905(2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Electronic Voting Systems	5.905 (2)	The board shall require each vendor of an electronic voting system that is approved under s. 5.91 to place those software components in escrow with the board within 90 days of the date of approval of the system and within 10 days of the date of any subsequent change in the components. Wis. Stat. § 5.905(2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Electronic Voting Systems	5.905 (2)	The board shall secure and maintain those software components in strict confidence except as authorized in this section. Wis. Stat. § 5.905(2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Electronic Voting Systems	5.905 (3)	The board shall promulgate rules to ensure the security, review and verification of software components used with each electronic voting system approved by the board. Wis. Stat. § 5.905(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Electronic Voting Systems	5.91 (intro)	The board shall approve any ballot, voting device, automatic tabulating equipment or related equipment and materials to be used in an electronic voting system. Wis. Stat. § 5.91(intro).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Electronic Voting Systems	5.93	The board may promulgate reasonable rules for the administration of electronic voting systems. Wis. Stat. § 5.93.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Electronic Voting Systems	5.95	The board shall prescribe information to electors in municipalities and counties using various types of electronic voting systems to be published in lieu of the information specified in s. 10.02 (3) in type B notices whenever the type B notice information is inapplicable. Wis. Stat. § 5.95.

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	6.06	The board is the agency designated by the state of Wisconsin under 42 U.S.C. §1973ff-1 to provide information regarding voter registration and absentee balloting procedures to absent members of the uniformed services and overseas voters with respect to elections for national office. Wis. Stat. § 6.06.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	6.22 (4)(d)	For military absentee ballots, the board shall prescribe the instructions for marking and returning ballots and the municipal clerk shall enclose instructions with each ballot, including supplemental instructions for local elections. Wis. Stat. § 6.22(4)(d).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	6.24 (3)	The board shall design a form to ascertain the qualifications of overseas electors. Wis. Stat. § 6.24(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	6.24 (4)(d)	The board shall prescribe a special certificate form for the envelope in which the absentee ballot for overseas electors is contained, which shall be substantially similar to the certificate used for absentee voters domiciled in Wisconsin as provided under s. 6.87(2). Wis. Stat. § 6.24(4)(d).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	6.24 (5)	The board shall prescribe a special ballot for use by overseas/military voters whenever necessary, limited to national offices and designed to comply with the requirements under ss. 5.60(8), 5.62, and 5.64(1) insofar as applicable. Wis. Stat. § 6.24(5).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	6.24 (6)	For overseas ballots, the board shall prescribe the instructions for marking and returning ballots and the municipal clerk shall enclose instructions with each ballot, including supplemental instructions for local elections. Wis. Stat. § 6.24(6).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Special Registration Deputies	6.26 (3)	The board shall, by rule, prescribe procedures for appointment of special registration deputies, for revocations of such appointments, and for training of special registration deputies by municipal clerks and boards of election commissioners. Wis. Stat. § 6.26(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.275 (2)	The Board shall publish registration and voting statistics on its website within 7 days of receipt from local election officials and update this information on a monthly basis. Wis. Stat. § 6.275 (2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	6.276 (2)	Within 30 days after each general election, each municipal clerk shall transmit to the board a report of the number of absentee ballots transmitted to absent military and overseas electors and the combined number of those ballots that were cast by those electors in that election. Wis. Stat. § 6.276 (2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Overseas / Absent Military Voting	6.276 (3)	Within 90 days after each general election, the board shall compile the information contained in the municipal clerks' reports and transmit the information to the federal Election Assistance Commission. Wis. Stat. § 6.276(3).

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.29 (2)(am)	The board shall provide to each municipal clerk a list prepared for use at each municipal clerk's office showing the name and address of each person whose name appears on the list provided by the department of corrections under s. 301.03 (20m) as ineligible to vote on the date of the election, whose address is located in the municipality, and whose name does not appear on the registration list for that municipality. Wis. Stat. § 6.29(2)(am).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.33 (1)	The board shall prescribe the format, size, shape and content of registration forms consistent with statutory requirements. Wis. Stat. § 6.33 (5).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.33 (5)(a)	Municipal clerks may update changes to registrations within 45 days after the date of a general election. The legal counsel of the board may, upon request of a municipal clerk, permit the clerk to update registration entries that change on the date of a general election within 60 days after that election. The municipal clerk shall also provide to the board information that is confidential under s. 6.47(2) in such manner as the board prescribes. Wis. Stat. § 6.33(5)(a).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.36 (1)(a)	The board shall compile and maintain electronically an official registration list consistent with statutory requirements. Wis. Stat. § 6.36 (1)(a).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.36 (2)(a)	The board shall, by rule, prescribe the space and location for entry of each elector's signature on the poll list which shall provide for entry of the signature without changing the orientation of the poll list from the orientation used by the election officials. Wis. Stat. § 6.36(2)(a).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.36 (6)	The board shall establish by rule the fee for obtaining a copy of the official registration list, or a portion of the list. Wis. Stat. § 6.36(6).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.50 (1)	No later than June 15 following each general election the board shall identify each elector who has not voted within the previous 4 years and mail a suspension notice. Wis. Stat. § 6.50 (1)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.50 (2)	The board shall change the registration status of an elector receiving a notice of suspension who does not apply for continuation of registration within 30 days of the date of mailing the suspension notice. Wis. Stat. § 6.50 (2)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.50 (2g)	The board may delegate to a municipal clerk the responsibility to change the registration status of voter suspended under s. 6.50 (2). Wis. Stat. § 6.50 (2g)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.50 (2r)	No later than August 1 of an odd-numbered year the board shall publish on its website specified statistics related to the suspension notice mailing. Wis. Stat. § 6.50 (2r)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.55 (2) (cs)	The board shall provide to each municipal clerk a list prepared for use at each polling place showing the name and address of each person whose name appears on the list provided by the department of corrections under s. 301.03 (20m) as ineligible to vote on the date of the election, whose address is located in the municipality, and whose name does not appear on the registration list for that municipality. Wis. Stat. § 6.55 (2) (cs).

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.56 (3m)	As soon as possible after all information relating to registrations after the close of registration for an election is entered on the registration list following the election under s.6.33 (5) (a), the board shall compare the list of new registrants whose names do not appear on the poll lists for the election because the names were added after the board certified the poll lists for use at the election with the list containing the names transmitted to the board by the department of corrections under s. 301.03 (20m) as of election day. If the board finds that the name of any person whose name appears on the list transmitted under s. 301.03 (20m) has been added to the registration list, the board shall enter on the list the information transmitted to the board under s. 301.03 (20m) and shall notify the district attorney for the county where the polling place is located that the person appears to have voted illegally at the election. Wis. Stat. § 6.56 (3m).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.56 (7)	The board may elect to perform audits of all electors registering to vote at the polling place and all electors registering by agent on election day. Wis. Stat. § 6.56 (7).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Absentee Voters	6.869	The board shall prescribe uniform instructions for municipalities to provide to absentee electors. Wis. Stat. § 6.869.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Special Registration Deputies	6.875 (5)	The board shall prescribe an oath that special registration deputies must file as required by s. 7.30 (5). Wis. Stat. § 6.875 (5).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Registration	6.92, 6.925	The board may prescribe by rule questions that inspectors or other electors may use to test a person's qualifications in a challenge. Wis. Stats. §§ 6.92, 6.925.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Officials	7.03 (2)	The board shall fix the amount to be paid any person employed to perform duties for the state. If the board employs an individual to perform duties which are the responsibility of a county or municipality, the board shall charge the expense to the county or municipality. Wis. Stat. § 7.03(2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Ballots	7.08 (1)(a)	In addition to its duties for ballot arrangement under ch. 5 and date and notice requirements under ch. 10, the board shall prescribe all official ballot forms and revise them to harmonize with legislation and the current official status of the political parties whenever necessary. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(1)(a).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Ballots	7.08 (1) (a)	The board shall include on each ballot form in the endorsement section space for identifying overvoted or damaged ballots as original or duplicate with an identifying serial number. Wis. Stat. § 7.08 (1) (a).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Ballots	7.08 (1)(b)	The board shall also prescribe the necessary sample forms and ballot containers to make the canvass, returns, statements and tally sheet statements for all elections the results of which are reportable to the board under s. 7.60 (4) (a), and all other materials as it deems necessary to conduct the elections. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(1)(b).

<p>ELECTIONS DIVISION</p>	<p>Registration</p>	<p>7.08 (1)(c)</p>	<p>The board shall prescribe the format, size, and shape of registration forms required by ss. 6.24 (3) and (4), 6.30 (4), 6.33 (1), 6.40 (1) (a), 6.47 (1) (am) 2. and (3), 6.55 (2), and 6.86 (2) to (3). All such forms shall contain a statement of the penalty applicable to false or fraudulent registration or voting through use of the form. Forms are not required to be furnished by the board. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(1)(c).</p>
<p>ELECTIONS DIVISION</p>	<p>Electronic Voting Systems</p>	<p>7.08 (1)(d)</p>	<p>The board shall promulgate rules for the administration of the statutory requirements for voting machines and electronic voting systems and any other voting apparatus which may be introduced in this state for use at elections. Pursuant to such responsibility, the board may obtain assistance from competent persons to check the machines, systems and apparatus and approve for use those types meeting the statutory requirements and shall establish reasonable compensation for persons performing duties under this paragraph. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(1)(d).</p>
<p>ELECTIONS DIVISION</p>	<p>Candidates</p>	<p>7.08 (2)(a)</p>	<p>The board shall transmit to each county clerk a certified list of all candidates on file in its office for which electors in that county may vote. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(2)(a).</p>
<p>ELECTIONS DIVISION</p>	<p>Publications</p>	<p>7.08 (3)</p>	<p>The board shall prepare and publish separate from the election laws an election manual written so as to be easily understood by the general public explaining the duties of the election officials. Wis. Stat. § 7.08 (3).</p>
<p>ELECTIONS DIVISION</p>	<p>Publications</p>	<p>7.08 (4)</p>	<p>The board shall publish the election laws and shall sell or distribute or arrange for the sale or distribution of copies of the election laws to county and municipal clerks and boards of election commissioners and members of the public. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(4).</p>
<p>ELECTIONS DIVISION</p>	<p>Publications</p>	<p>7.08 (5)</p>	<p>The board shall distribute, upon request and free of charge, to any candidate for representative in Congress, state senator, or representative to the assembly a copy of the map or maps received under s. 16.96 (3) (b) showing district boundaries. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(5).</p>
<p>ELECTIONS DIVISION</p>	<p>Electronic Voting Systems</p>	<p>7.08 (6)</p>	<p>Following each general election, audit the performance of each voting system used in this state to determine the error rate of the system in counting ballots that are validly cast by electors. If the error rate exceeds the rate permitted under standards of the federal election commission in effect on October 29, 2002, the board shall take remedial action and order remedial action to be taken by affected counties and municipalities to ensure compliance with the standards. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(6).</p>
<p>ELECTIONS DIVISION</p>	<p>Election Officials</p>	<p>7.08 (11)</p>	<p>The board shall allocate and assign sufficient members of its staff to coordinate their activities with local election officials and maintain their availability to respond to inquiries from local election officials for each statewide election and each recount in progress. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(11).</p>

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Voting Rights/Impediments	7.08 (12)	The board shall engage in outreach to identify and contact groups of electors who may need assistance in obtaining or renewing a document that constitutes proof of identification for voting and provide assistance to the electors in obtaining or renewing that document. Wis. Stat. § 7.08(12).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Voter Fraud	7.15 (1)(g)	Report summary of suspected election frauds, irregularities and violations received from municipal clerks annually to the legislature under s 13.72. Wis. Stat. § 7.15 (1)(g)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Officials	7.31 (1)	The board shall, by rule, prescribe requirements for certification of individuals to serve as chief inspectors. Wis. Stat. § 7.31 (1).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Officials	7.31 (3)	The board shall, upon application, issue certificates to qualified individuals who meet the requirements to be certified as chief inspectors. Each certificate shall carry an expiration date. Wis. Stat. § 7.31(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Officials	7.31 (4)	The board shall require each individual to whom a certificate is issued under this section to meet requirements to maintain that certification. Wis. Stat. § 7.31(4).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Officials	7.31 (5)	The board shall also conduct regular training programs to ensure that individuals who are certified by the board as chief election inspectors are knowledgeable concerning their authority and responsibilities. The board shall pay all costs required to conduct the training programs from the appropriation under s. 20.511 (1) (bm). Wis. Stat. § 7.31(5).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Officials	7.315	The board shall, by rule, prescribe the contents of the training of election officials. Wis. Stat. § 7.315.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Observers	7.41 (5)	The board may promulgate rules that are consistent with the requirements of the public's right to access to the polling place regarding the proper conduct of individuals exercising the right, including the interaction of those individuals with inspectors and other election officials. Wis. Stat. § 7.41(5).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Canvass	7.60 (5)(b)	If the board of canvassers becomes aware of a material mistake in the canvass of an election for state or national office or a statewide or technical college district referendum prior to the close of business on the day the government accountability board receives returns from the last county board of canvassers with respect to that canvass, the board of canvassers may petition the government accountability board to reopen and correct the canvass. The government accountability board shall direct the canvass to be reopened and corrected if it determines that the public interest so requires. Wis. Stat. § 7.60(5)(b).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Canvass	7.70 (1)	Upon receipt of the certified statements from the county clerks, the board shall record the election results by counties and file and carefully preserve the statements. Wis. Stat. § 7.70(1).

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Canvass	7.70 (3)	The chairperson of the board or a designee of the chairperson appointed by the chairperson to canvass a specific election shall publicly canvass the returns and make his or her certifications and determinations on or before the 2nd Tuesday following a spring primary, the 15th day of May following a spring election, the 3rd Wednesday following a partisan primary, the first day of December following a general election, the 2nd Thursday following a special primary, or within 18 days after any special election. Wis. Stat. § 7.70(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Canvass	7.70 (5)	The board shall record in its office each certified statement and determination made by the chairperson of the board or the chairperson's designee. Immediately after the expiration of the time allowed to file a petition for recount, the board shall make and transmit to each person declared elected a certificate of election under the seal of the board. For presidential electors, the board shall prepare a certificate showing the determination of the results of the canvass and the names of the persons elected, and the governor shall sign, affix the great seal of the state, and transmit the certificate by registered mail to the U.S. administrator of general services. Wis. Stat. § 7.70(5).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Nomination Papers	8.07	The board shall promulgate rules under this chapter for use by election officials in determining the validity of nomination papers and signatures thereon. Wis. Stat. § 8.07.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Nomination Papers	8.12 (1)(d)	The board shall forthwith contact each person whose name has been placed in nomination under par. (b) and notify him or her that his or her name will appear on the Wisconsin presidential preference ballot unless he or she files, no later than 5 p.m. on the last Tuesday in January of such year, with the board, a disclaimer stating without qualification that he or she is not and does not intend to become a candidate for the office of president of the United States at the forthcoming presidential election. Wis. Stat. § 8.12(1)(d).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Ballots	8.12 (2)	The form of the official ballots (Presidential Preference Vote) shall be prescribed by the board. Wis. Stat. § 8.12(2).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Reporting	8.12 (3)	No later than May 15 following the presidential preference primary, the board shall notify each state party organization chairperson under sub. (1) (b) of the results of the presidential preference primary within the state and within each congressional district. Wis. Stat. § 8.12(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Candidates	8.185 (2)	The board may waive the requirement of 8.185 (2) but only if the results of the general election indicate that a write-in candidate for the office of president is eligible to receive the electoral votes of this state except for noncompliance with this subsection. In such event, the write-in candidate shall have until 4:30 p.m. on the Friday following the general election to comply with the filing requirements of this subsection. Wis. Stat. § 8.185 (2).

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Nomination Papers	8.19 (3)	The board shall not certify nor the county clerk print the name of any person whose nomination papers indicate a party name comprising a combination of existing party names, qualifying words, phrases, prefixes or suffixes in connection with any existing party name. Wis. Stat. § 8.19(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Nomination Papers	8.40 (3)	The board shall, by rule, prescribe standards consistent with this chapter and s. 9.10 (2) to be used by all election officials and governing bodies in determining the validity of petitions for elections and signatures thereon. Wis. Stat. § 8.40(3).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Special Elections	8.50 (1)(b)	If [a] special election concerns a national or state office, the board shall give notice as soon as possible to the county clerks. Wis. Stat. § 8.50(1)(b).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Special Elections	8.50 (1)(d)	When the election concerns a national office or a special election for state office is held concurrently with the general election, the board shall transmit to each county clerk a certified list of all persons for whom nomination papers have been filed in its office at least 62 days before the special primary, and in other cases the board shall transmit the list to each county clerk at least 22 days before the special primary. If no primary is required, the list shall be transmitted at least 42 days prior to the day of the special election unless the special election concerns a national office or is held concurrently with the general election, in which case the list shall be transmitted at least 62 days prior to the day of the special election. Wis. Stat. § 8.50(1)(d).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recount	9.01 (1)(ag)4.	The board shall deposit all moneys (recount fees) received by it into the account under s. 20.511 (1) (g), and shall pay the fees required for each recount to the county clerks of the counties in which the recount is to be held.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recount	9.01 (1)(ar)3.	Whenever the board receives a valid recount petition and any payment under par. (ag) 3., the board shall promptly by certified mail or other expeditious means order the proper county boards of canvassers to commence the recount.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recount	9.01 (1)(ar)3.	The chairperson of the board or the chairperson's designee may not make a determination in any election if a recount is pending before any county board of canvassers in that election.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recount	9.01 (1)(ar)3.	The chairperson of the board or the chairperson's designee need not recount actual ballots, but shall verify the returns of the county boards of canvassers in making his or her determinations.

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recount	9.01 (2)	When the recount concerns an election for a state or federal office, the board shall promptly prepare a copy of the petition for delivery to each opposing candidate for the same office whose name appears on the ballot. In a recount proceeding for a partisan primary, the board shall prepare a copy of the petition for delivery to each opposing candidate for the same party nomination for the same office, to each opposing candidate for the party nomination of each other party for the same office and to each independent candidate qualifying to have his or her name placed on the ballot for the succeeding election.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recount	9.01 (5)(c)	If the chairperson of the board or the chairperson's designee receives the recount results, the chairperson or designee shall publicly examine the returns and determine the results not later than 9 a.m. on the 3rd business day following receipt, but if that day is earlier than the latest day permitted for that election under s. 7.70 (3) (a), the chairperson of the board or designee may examine the returns and determine the results not later than the day specified in s. 7.70 (3)(a).
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recount	9.01 (10)	The government accountability board shall prescribe standard forms and procedures for the making of recounts under this section.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recount	9.01 (10)	The procedures prescribed by the government accountability board shall require the boards of canvassers in recounts involving more than one board of canvassers to consult with the government accountability board staff prior to beginning any recount in order to ensure that uniform procedures are used, to the extent practicable, in such recounts.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recall	9.10 (3)(b)	Within 31 days after the petition is offered for filing, the board with whom the petition is offered for filing shall determine by careful examination whether the petition on its face is sufficient and so state in a certificate attached to the petition.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Recall	9.10 (3)(b)	If the board finds that the amended petition is sufficient, the board shall file the petition and call a recall election to be held on the Tuesday of the 6th week commencing after the date of filing of the petition.
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.01 (1)	The form of the various election notices shall be prescribed by the board to standardize election notices. To accomplish this purpose, the board shall make rules and draft whatever forms it considers necessary. The board shall also prescribe the provisions for municipal notices which shall be sent to each county clerk who shall immediately forward them to each municipal clerk. Wis. Stat. § 10.01 (1)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.01 (1)	Notification or certification lists of candidates or referenda questions sent to the county clerks shall prescribe the form in which the county clerks shall publish the relevant portions of the notice and any additional county offices and referenda questions. Wis. Stat. § 10.01 (1)

ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.01 (1)	The board shall also prescribe the provisions for municipal notices which shall be sent to each county clerk who shall immediately forward them to each municipal clerk. Wis. Stat. § 10.01 (1)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.06 (1)(a)	On or before November 15 preceding a spring election the board shall send a type A notice to each county clerk. Wis. Stat. § 10.06 (1)(a)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.06 (1)(c)	As soon as possible after the deadline for filing nomination papers for the spring election, but no later than the 2nd Tuesday in January, the board shall send a type B notice certifying the list of candidates to each county clerk if a primary is required. Wis. Stat. § 10.06 (1)(c)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.06 (1)(e)	As soon as possible following the state canvass of the spring primary vote, but no later than the first Tuesday in March, the board shall send a type B notice certifying to each county clerk the list of candidates for the spring election. Wis. Stat. § 10.06 (1)(e)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.06 (1)(e)	When there is a referendum, the board shall send type A and C notices certifying each question to the county clerks as soon as possible, but no later than the first Tuesday in March. Wis. Stat. § 10.06 (1)(e)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.06 (1)(f)	On or before the 3rd Tuesday in March preceding a partisan primary and general election the board shall send a type A notice to each county clerk. Wis. Stat. § 10.06 (1)(f)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.06 (1)(h)	As soon as possible after the deadline for determining ballot arrangement for the partisan primary on June 10, the board shall send a type B notice to each county clerk certifying the list of candidates for the partisan primary. Wis. Stat. § 10.06 (1)(h)
ELECTIONS DIVISION	Election Notices	10.06 (1)(i)	As soon as possible after the state canvass, but no later than the 4th Tuesday in August, the board shall send a type B notice certifying the list of candidates and type A and C notices certifying each question for any referendum to each county clerk for the general election. Wis. Stat. § 10.06 (1)(i)
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.02 (1)	The board is the filing officer for each candidate for state office and for each committee which or individual who is acting in support of or in opposition to any candidate for state office, and for each committee which or individual who is acting in support of or in opposition to any candidates for state and local offices. Wis. Stat. §§ 11.02 (1), 11.02 (2).
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.02 (5)	The board is also the filing officer for each group which or individual who is acting in support of or in opposition to any statewide and local referenda. Wis. Stat. § 11.02 (5)
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.055	The board collects filing fees and registration information for each individual who, or committee, group or corporation that, is required to register with the board under s. 11.05 or 11.38 (1). Wis. Stat. § 11.055.

ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.21 (1)	The board shall prescribe forms for making the reports, statements and notices required by this chapter. The board shall furnish forms for making reports or statements without charge to all persons who are required to file reports or statements with the board, and shall distribute or arrange for the distribution of all forms for use by other filing officers. Wis. Stat. § 11.21 (1).
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.21 (3)	The board shall prepare and publish for the use of persons required to file reports and statements under this chapter a manual setting forth simply and concisely recommended uniform methods of bookkeeping and reporting. Wis. Stat. § 11.21 (3).
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.21 (4)	The board shall develop a filing, coding, and cross-indexing system consonant with the purposes of this chapter. Wis. Stat. § 11.21 (4).
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.21 (5)	The board shall make the reports and statements filed with it available for public inspection and copying. Wis. Stat. § 11.21(5).
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.21 (7)	The board shall compile and maintain a current list of all reports and statements or parts thereof pertaining to each candidate, individual, committee, or group. Wis. Stat. § 11.21(6). The board may also include compiled data for total contributions, disbursements, incurred obligations, and expenditures in its biennial report under s. 15.04(1)(d). Wis. Stat. § 11.21(7).
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.21 (11)	The board shall receive and maintain in an orderly manner all reports and statements required to be filed with the state under the federal election campaign act, and shall preserve such reports and statements for a period of 6 years from the date of receipt, as well as compile and maintain lists of all reports. Wis. Stat. § 11.21(11).
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.21 (14)	The board shall prepare and publish for the use of persons required to file reports and statements under this chapter a manual setting forth simply and concisely recommended uniform methods of bookkeeping and reporting. Wis. Stat. § 11.21(3), as well as a manual simply and concisely describing the filing and registration requirements established in this chapter in detail, as well as other major provisions of this chapter and ch. 12. Wis. Stat. § 11.21(14).
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.21 (16)	The board shall require each registrant that accepts contributions in excess of \$20,000 in a campaign period to file campaign finance reports electronically using software specified by rule. The software shall enable the registrant to sign the report electronically. Wis. Stat. § 11.21 (16)

ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.21 (17)	The board shall promulgate rules that require public access channel operators and licensees of public television stations in this state to provide a minimum amount of free time on public access channels and public television stations to individuals whose names are certified under s. 7.08 (2) (a) or 8.50 (1) (d) to appear as candidates for state office on the ballot at general, spring, or special elections. The rules promulgated under this subsection shall require public access channel operators and licensees of public television stations to offer the same amount of time to each candidate for a particular state office, but may require different amounts of time to be offered to candidates for different offices. Wis. Stat. § 11.21(17).
ETHICS DIVISION	Campaign Finance Registration & Reporting	11.60 (4)	Except as otherwise provided in ss. 5.05 (2m) (c) 15. and 16. and (h), 5.08, and 5.081, the board may bring a civil action for violations of ch. 11. Wis. Stat. § 11.60(4).
ETHICS DIVISION	Lobbying	13.63 (1)(a)	Upon approval of the application and payment of the applicable license fee under s. 13.75 (1) or (1m) to the board, the board shall issue a license which entitles the licensee to practice lobbying on behalf of each registered principal who or which has filed an authorization under s. 13.65 for that lobbyist and paid the authorization fee under s. 13.75 (4). The license shall expire on December 31 of each even-numbered year. Wis. Stat. § 13.63(1)(a).
ETHICS DIVISION	Lobbying	13.685 (1)	The board shall prescribe forms and instructions for preparing and filing license applications under s. 13.63 (1), registration applications under s.13.64 and the statements required under ss. 13.68 and 13.695. Wis. Stat. § 13.685(1).
ETHICS DIVISION	Lobbying	13.685 (2)	The board shall prepare and publish a manual setting forth recommended uniform methods of accounting and reporting for use by persons who are required to provide information under s. 13.68 (4) or to file statements under s. 13.68 or 13.695. Wis. Stat. § 13.685(2).
ETHICS DIVISION	Lobbying	13.685 (4)	The board shall, by rule, define what constitutes a "topic" for purposes of ss. 13.67 and 13.68 (1) (bn). Wis. Stat. § 13.685(4).
ETHICS DIVISION	Lobbying	13.685 (7)	Beginning with the 3rd Tuesday following the beginning of any regular or special session of the legislature and on every Tuesday thereafter for the duration of such session, the board shall, from its records, submit to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature, for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2), a report of the names of lobbyists licensed under s. 13.63 and the names of officers and employees of agencies filed under s. 13.695 who were not previously reported, the names of the principals or agencies whom they represent and the general areas of legislative and administrative action which are the object of their lobbying activity. Wis. Stat. § 13.685(7).
ETHICS DIVISION	Lobbying	13.74	The board may audit statements filed with it under this chapter and may subpoena and bring before it any person or records relevant to an investigation. Wis. Stat. § 13.74.

ETHICS DIVISION	Ethics	19.48 (1)	The board shall promulgate rules necessary to carry out this subchapter and subch. III of ch. 13, giving prompt notice of the contents of its rules to state public officials who will be affected thereby. Wis. Stat. § 19.48(1).
ETHICS DIVISION	Ethics	19.48 (2)	The board shall prescribe and make available forms for use under this subchapter and subch. III of ch.13. Wis. Stat. § 19.48(2).
ETHICS DIVISION	Ethics	19.48 (4)	The board shall preserve the statements of economic interests filed with it for a period of six years from the date of receipt in such form as will facilitate document retention, except that upon expiration of three years after an individual ceases to be a state public official, is not elected, or is not confirmed by the senate as a nominee for appointed office, the board shall destroy any statements of economic interests. Wis. Stat. § 19.48(4).
ETHICS DIVISION	Ethics	19.48 (5)	The board shall make statements of economic interests available for public inspection and copying during regular office hours. Wis. Stat. § 19.48 (5).
ETHICS DIVISION	Ethics	19.48 (6)	The board shall make statements of economic interests available for public inspection and copying during regular office hours. Wis. Stat. § 19.48(5). The board shall also compile and maintain an index to all the statements of economic interests on file to facilitate public access. Wis. Stat. § 19.48(6).
ETHICS DIVISION	Ethics	19.48 (8)	The board shall report the full name and address of any individual or any person represented by an individual seeking to copy or obtain information from a statement of economic interests in writing to the individual who filed it, as soon as possible. Wis. Stat. § 19.48(8).
ETHICS DIVISION	Ethics	19.48 (9)	The board shall administer programs to explain and interpret this subchapter and subch. III of ch. 13 for state public officials, and for elective state officials, candidates for state public office, legislative officials, agency officials, lobbyists, as defined in s. 13.62, local public officials, corporation counsels and attorneys for local governmental units. The programs shall provide advice regarding appropriate ethical and lobbying practices, with special emphasis on public interest lobbying. The board may delegate creation and implementation of any such program to a group representing the public interest. The board may charge a fee to participants in any such program. Wis. Stat. § 19.48(9).
GENERAL AUTHORITY	Contract Sunshine	19.48 (11)	Maintain an Internet site on which the information required to be posted by agencies under s. 16.753 (4) can be posted and accessed. The information on the site shall be accessible directly or by linkage from a single page on the Internet. Wis. Stat. § 19.48 (11)

Attachment 3

Judge Barland

Op-ed Column

G.A.B. prevents and catches felon voting

By Thomas H. Barland

The Legislative Audit Bureau's report on the Government Accountability Board has generated a great deal of discussion, but out of that discourse has come some misinformation which needs to be cleared up.

I want to assure the Legislature and the public that the G.A.B. takes illegal voting seriously, and that strong protections are in place to prevent felons from voting in Wisconsin. In the relatively few cases where felons have voted in recent years, they will not escape prosecution solely due to delayed felon voting audits by the G.A.B.

Prior to every election, the G.A.B. provided Wisconsin's 1,852 municipal clerks with a list from the Department of Corrections (DOC) of felons ineligible to vote. The clerks inactivated the felons' listings on the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) so that they could not receive an absentee ballot, register to vote late in the clerk's office, or register and vote if they showed up on Election Day. The G.A.B. routinely followed up to ensure clerks were inactivating those felons.

Furthermore, after each election, clerks entered Election Day voter registrations into SVRS, which compared them to the DOC's list of felons who were ineligible to vote. When SVRS found matches, clerks made referrals directly to their county's District Attorney.

Wisconsin statutes require the G.A.B. to conduct a post-election felon audit, which is a final check to ensure that municipal clerks have done their job to identify any felon voters who slipped through the cracks by registering to vote in the 20 days before the election or on Election Day. The G.A.B. has expanded that audit to include any felon who may have voted in the election.

Unfortunately, there were problems with the post-election felon audits conducted prior to 2010 because the computer produced a significant number of false positive matches. In one case, charges were filed against an innocent person based solely upon the computer match. The results were sufficiently flawed that some District Attorneys told the G.A.B. they did not want further referrals.

In response to feedback from the District Attorneys, the G.A.B. staff temporarily suspended conducting the final felon audits while they worked with DOC, developed and tested a new felon audit program. Once that work was finished in early 2014, the G.A.B. staff completed audits of 17 elections in nine months and closed all outstanding cases. When clerks complete their data entry responsibilities for the November 2014 General election, G.A.B. staff will promptly complete this audit.

Out of 16 elections, 110 suspected cases of felon voting were found and referred to District Attorneys – an average of nearly seven possible instances per election. All those cases have been referred for prosecution within the time mandated by the statute of limitations.

To put this number in perspective, there were more than 16 million votes cast during the same period.

Conducting post-election felon voting audits is a very complicated process, and I would encourage anyone who wants to learn more to visit our website (gab.wi.gov), where we have posted additional information we shared with the Legislative Audit Bureau.

Overall, the audit of our agency documented that our Board and staff are fulfilling almost all of our 150 statutory duties. The LAB's recommendations

cover a small set of our responsibilities, and we are working hard to fix those issues as quickly as we can. We look forward to reporting to the Legislature on our progress.

Judge Thomas H. Barland is chair of the Government Accountability Board. He served in the Wisconsin State Assembly as a Republican from 1961 to 1967, and as a nonpartisan Eau Claire County and Circuit Court Judge from 1967 to 2000.

Attachment 4

Status Report for

LAB

Recommendations

Page #	Section	LAB Recommendation	Status
22	Training Local Election Officials	Promulgate administrative rules that prescribe the contents of training that municipal clerks must provide to election inspectors and special voting deputies.	Need approved scope statement
22	Training Local Election Officials	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of its efforts to implement this recommendation.	Will submit report
26	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Regularly monitor Statewide Voter Registration System records to identify and then contact clerks who have not mailed letters to registrants whose personally identifiable information did not match information held by other agencies.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
26	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement this recommendation.	Will submit report
29	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Review the records of the deceased individuals LAB identified and determine whether any of these individuals' votes were inappropriately cast in FY 2012-13 elections.	In progress
29	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Review Statewide Voter Registration System records after each election in order to identify and investigate instances in which votes were cast in the names of individuals who died before Election Day.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
29	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement these recommendations.	Will submit report
32	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Regularly monitor Statewide Voter Registration System records to contact clerks who have not mailed letters to individuals whose voter registration records have been inactivated because of ongoing felony sentences.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
32	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Review information for the individuals LAB identified whose voter registration records may have been erroneously inactivated and ensure that the relevant clerks have notified the individuals.	In progress
32	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement these recommendations	Will submit report
33	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Complete in a timely manner the statutorily required reviews to identify individuals with ongoing felony sentences who may have voted.	Completed August 2014
33	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Report to the Government Accountability Board on any actions taken by district attorneys against the 33 individuals who may have voted while serving felony sentences.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
33	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Work with the Department of Corrections to improve the accuracy of information regarding individuals serving felony sentences, including by ensuring that individuals convicted of misdemeanors are not erroneously included in the information that is electronically provided to the Statewide Voter Registration System.	Completed
33	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement these recommendations.	Will submit report

LAB Audit Recommendations and Status Overview

Page #	Section	LAB Recommendation	Status
34	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Promulgate administrative rules that specify the responsibilities of clerks for maintaining voter registration records in the Statewide Voter Registration System.	Need approved scope statement
34	Maintenance of Voter Registration Records	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of its efforts to implement this recommendation.	Will submit report
49	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Present to the Government Accountability Board for its approval written procedures specifying penalty amounts to assess on campaign finance entities that do not pay their annual filing fees by January 31.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
49	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement this recommendation.	Will submit report
52	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Adhere to the Government Accountability Board's February 2008 penalty schedule for assessing penalties on campaign finance entities that do not file statutorily required campaign finance reports on time.	Now current practice
52	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Report to the Government Accountability Board at least quarterly on all campaign finance reports that were not submitted on time, whether a penalty was assessed for each late report, the amount of each assessed penalty, and the amount of each penalty that was paid and unpaid.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
52	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement these recommendations.	Will submit report
54	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Adhere to the Government Accountability Board's February 2008 penalty schedule when assessing penalties for campaign contributions in violation of statutory limits.	Now current practice
54	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Track centrally all penalties assessed for violations of campaign finance contribution limits and use the information to report to the Government Accountability Board at least quarterly on all violations of campaign finance contribution limits, whether a penalty was assessed for each violation or a written warning was provided in lieu of a penalty, the amount of each assessed penalty, and the amount of each penalty that was paid and unpaid.	Under development
55	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement these recommendations.	Will submit report
56	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Publish on the Government Accountability Board's website summaries of all confidential advisory opinions issued related to compliance with campaign finance laws.	Completed

Page #	Section	LAB Recommendation	Status
56	Oversight of Campaign Finance Laws	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement this recommendation.	Will submit report
59	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Determine whether to revoke the existing licenses of lobbyists who are delinquent in paying state taxes or court-ordered child or family support payments.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
59	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement this recommendation.	Will submit report
64	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Adhere to the Government Accountability Board's February 2008 penalty schedule when assessing penalties.	Now current practice
64	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Track centrally all penalties assessed for violations of lobbying laws, all penalties waived and the reasons for waiving them, and all written warnings provided in lieu of assessing penalties and the reason for each written warning and use the information to report to the Government Accountability Board at least quarterly on the number of violations of each lobbying law, whether a penalty was assessed for each violation, the amount of each assessed and waived penalty, and the amount of each penalty that was paid and unpaid.	Under development
64	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Prohibit principals that have not filed timely semiannual expense statements from allowing lobbyists to lobby on their behalf or request that the Legislature modify this provision.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
64	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement these recommendations.	Will submit report
65	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Include in the weekly reports to the Legislature while the Legislature is in session all statutorily required information about lobbying activities or request that the Legislature modify statutes to allow these reports to exclude information that is publicly available on the Eye on Lobbying website.	Information provided electronically pursuant to agreement with Legislative Clerks
65	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Include in the biennial reports to the Legislature all statutorily required information.	Will complete
65	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement these recommendations.	Will submit report
67	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Publish on the Government Accountability Board's website summaries of all confidential advisory opinions issued related to compliance with lobbying laws.	Completed
67	Oversight of Lobbying Laws	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement this recommendation.	Will submit report

LAB Audit Recommendations and Status Overview

Page #	Section	LAB Recommendation	Status
73	Oversight of Code of Ethics Laws	Develop written policies for granting individuals extensions to the deadline for filing statements of economic interests and comply with statutes by setting forth in writing the reasons for granting each extension.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
73	Oversight of Code of Ethics Laws	Promptly notify the Department of Administration and the employing agency when an individual does not file a statement of economic interests on time.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
73	Oversight of Code of Ethics Laws	Track centrally how often they assess penalties on individuals who have not filed statements of economic interests on time and the amounts of the assessed penalties and use this information to report to the Government Accountability Board at least quarterly on the extent to which statements were not filed on time, whether a penalty was assessed for each violation, the amount of each penalty assessed, and the amount of each penalty that was paid and unpaid.	Under development
73	Oversight of Code of Ethics Laws	Adhere to the Government Accountability Board's February 2008 penalty schedule when assessing penalties on individuals who do not file statements of economic interests on time.	Now current practice
73	Oversight of Code of Ethics Laws	Present to the Government Accountability Board for its approval policies indicating when staff should not attempt to collect penalties that have been assessed on individuals who do not file statements of economic interests on time.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
74	Oversight of Code of Ethics Laws	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement these recommendations.	Will submit report
87	Complaints	Present to the Government Accountability Board for its approval written policies for considering complaints filed with the Ethics and Accountability Division and the Elections Division.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
87	Complaints	Maintain complete, centralized information about all complaints received and inquiries undertaken, including the resolution of these issues.	Under development
87	Complaints	Report regularly to the Government Accountability Board on the status and resolution of all inquiries.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting
87	Complaints	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of their efforts to implement these recommendations.	Will submit report
92	Administrative Rules	Promulgate all required administrative rules.	In progress
92	Administrative Rules	Remove from the Administrative Code the eight rules that are not in effect because it did not vote to adopt them.	In progress
92	Administrative Rules	Require its staff to report to it regularly on the status of efforts to promulgate administrative rules and remove from the Administrative Code rules that are not in effect.	Preparing report for the March Board Meeting

Page #	Section	LAB Recommendation	Status
92	Administrative Rules	Report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee by April 15, 2015, on the status of its efforts to implement these recommendations, including a schedule for promulgating each statutorily required administrative rule.	Will submit report

Joint Legislative Audit Committee Distribution
January 14, 2015

Honorable Gerald C. Nichol
Government Accountability Board

January 13, 2015

Joint Legislative Audit Bureau
22 East Mifflin Street Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703

Chair Persons Cowles, Kerkman, Committee members, Joint Legislative Audit Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today.

I come as the only Board member that has been here since the creation of this agency. I was appointed and confirmed under Act 1 2007 when the Government Accountability Board (GAB) was created in 2008. Thus I am in possession of the institutional memory of the agency from its inception to now.

GAB in 2008 was a new government agency which combined the responsibilities of the Election Board and the Ethics Board. Some of the challenges facing this new entity included new staff, some completely new to this area of government, appointment of reserve judges with little or no experience in the field of campaign finance, elections lobbying and ethics. For example, in nearly 17 years on the trial bench, I never encountered one case dealing with this area of law.

I did have some experience in the ethics areas when in private practice I served as a special prosecutor for the Ethics Board and prosecuted a State Senator and a member of the Board of Regents.

The initial task of the new Board was to hire its Director and General Counsel. Our choice, which was unanimous, was Kevin Kennedy. He serves at our pleasure. It was a wise choice because Kevin is nationally known in the areas of election law and campaign finance. He has hired a wonderful staff that is committed and dedicated and has done a superb job of operationalizing a new agency.

There was little time for orientation of the Board to its areas of responsibilities. Our immediate task was to review the administrative code and those provisions in areas of the Board's responsibilities. This task took the better part of 2-3 meetings. Then it was, as we used to say in the army OJT (on the job training).

Because of the pressure to make the agency operational, enough time might not have been spent on orientation of new members. I intend to raise this issue with the Board in a future meeting. The LAB audit never addresses this issue.

Another variable that handicapped the new agency was something totally outside its control. The original Act 1 provided for staggered terms of service of all six Board members. The Court of Appeals panel, which provides the Governor with three nominees to choose from, refused to re-nominate any existing Board member who was an applicant for the first five years of our existence. It would have benefited the agency if the original Board members who had been appointed for short terms, could have continued to serve while the agency was developing standards and processes. I am not advocating for permanent positions for the reserve judges, just consideration of some continuity at a critical time of development of the agency.

There has been criticism that the Board is beholden to the Director and his staff. That is just not true. Although the Board appreciates the staff and their dedication, the Board has been always informed and acts with proper oversight. Contacts with staff are daily by e-mail or telephone. Numerous times the Board has disagreed with staff recommendations and has acted independently of those recommendations.

Finally, it has been brought to the attention of the Legislative Audit Committee's attention the extraordinary number of additional issues the Board has encountered in its six years of existence: i.e. recounts, voter ID, recall elections, new legislation. This has impacted our operations, but the staff met the challenges very professionally. During the recalls, staff slept in their offices overnight in order to verify petition signatures which were well over one million on 15 recalls. Additionally, time to verify signatures was time limited.

Page 3 – Joint Legislative Audit Bureau
January 13, 2015

The LAB audit will be helpful to the Board and agency staff. The report basically says there are ways the GAB can improve operations. I agree. But, on balance, I do not find the report highly critical of GAB's operations re: campaign finances, training clerks and staff, lobbying and ethics. On balance, I believe we deserve a "B."

Sincerely,

Honorable Gerald C. Nichol
125 North Hamilton #705
Madison, WI 53703

GCN

Joint Legislative Audit Committee Distribution
January 14, 2015

Honorable Timothy L. Vocke
Government Accountability Board

January 14, 2015

To the Members of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee:

My name is Timothy L. Vocke. I was appointed by Governor Walker to the GAB in 2011 and again in 2012.

I was Chairman of the GAB in 2013, and I replaced Judge Brennan as Secretary when he left the GAB in 2014. Judge Barland and I were also on the Audit subcommittee.

Let me introduce you generally to the Judges who make up the GAB. Judge Gerald Nichol of Madison, Judge Thomas Barland of Eau Claire, Judge Harold Froehlich of Appleton and Judges Elsa Lamelas and John Franke of Milwaukee. Together we have over 123 years of experience as elected Circuit Judges for the State of Wisconsin. Judge Barland, alone has 33 years. All of us with the exception of Judge Franke have been appointed as Reserve Judges with an additional total of 65 years' experience. I have 32 years of experience myself.

I was formerly Circuit Judge in Vilas County from 1979 until 1983 when I resigned and assumed Reserve Judge Status. I am the second longest serving Reserve Judge in Wisconsin.

I am the only Member of the GAB having Democrat credentials having been appointed DA in Vilas County by Governor Lucey in 1976, and then running successfully for election on the Democrat ticket.

I'd like to address you folks briefly on five issues and then take a crack at answering any questions that you have of me:

- 1) What I see my role as a Member of the Board as opposed to the role of staff;
 - 2) What I as a Board member expect from staff;
 - 3) How much information is provided by staff, especially in my role as Chair of the GAB;
 - 4) Confidentiality issues; and,
 - 5) My general thoughts about the LAB Audit.
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- 1) Speaking just for myself, I also have many years of experience on various Boards of Directors including two churches, one hospital board, one very small nonprofit organization, the Wisconsin Cello Society and one large nonprofit, the Samoset Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

As a Board member, I am involved with policy and not the day-to-day operations of the agency; that is the function of the staff under the supervision of Kevin Kennedy, Mike Haas

and Jonathan Becker. There are certain decisions made by the Board and others made by the staff. The Board does not try to micromanage, nor should it. Like many other state agencies, Governance is by a civilian Board and the operations by professionals who are employees of the state. There are two features that make this agency's Board unique: we are chosen by all three branches of government, and in a previous life we were Judges. We are trained as critical thinkers; we ask questions of the staff and of each other. Regardless of the outcome of a vote, we continue on to the next issue and behave with respect toward each other as well as staff. I am reminded of a story about a well-known Judge from Judge Barland's area by the name of Karl Peplau. He took the time to compliment an Attorney who made an argument in front of him. Judge Pelau told the attorney that he had utilized relevant facts well, pointed out some intriguing issues and had done a superb job of arguing. Nevertheless, he was going to rule against him on each and every issue.

- 2) I expect enough information from staff to keep me informed as to what is going on in general. For example, yesterday we had a list of each and every announced candidate for state office this spring as well as information about them, the number of signatures they needed, and the number, if any, that they filed with the GAB. I didn't NEED that information, but I appreciated getting it and I found it useful.

I expect to get information from staff to allow me to make an informed decision if I'm required to take action. Yesterday, I had received information on some announced candidates which put into question whether they were ballot eligible or not. I had to have that information in order to make a decision.

If we as members don't feel that we have enough information we are not shy about telling staff that their job is not done, and we want more. Communication is a two way street, so we let them know exactly what we feel that we need and why we need it.

I expect the staff to be honest and straight forward when they send information to us. Each of us Judges has experience with an attorney making an argument without including ALL relevant case law; or worse, misusing citations. We are by nature suspicious as a result. This staff works hard ... when we were involved in the recall, I remember getting emails in the middle of the night and throughout the weekend before our meeting. I was impressed by the dedication of the staff. We generally get a factual base for decision making including background. We often get alternatives and pros and cons of any decision that we may make. Having been involved in private practice for 26 years, I appreciate that a great deal. I would do the same with clients: "here are the facts; here is the law; here are your alternatives and here are the potential repercussions from any choice you make."

Much like an attorney in private practice we often get specific recommendations as well ... which we discuss and sometimes follow, sometimes disregard and sometimes modify.

I am pleased with this staff.

- 3) I did not realize when I became Chair of the GAB that I would become subject to so much information. It was not unusual to receive dozens ... literally dozens of emails weekly from Kevin Kennedy as well as numerous phone calls. Some of my responsibilities I was able to delegate to the Vice-Chair; it didn't seem economically feasible for me to drive from Rhinelander to sign documents certifying election results, so Judge Nichol usually did that. On the other hand, when in 2013 we received two new members, I came down to meet with them and fill them in on what we were doing and why. The Board authorizes our Director and General Counsel certain authority and specific powers. In some situations, the Director is required to contact the Chair and the Chair may approve or alternatively order that the other members be polled or a Special meeting be called before the delegated action is taken.
- 4) Much of what Judges are authorized to do is confidential, such as issuing search warrants, handling Juvenile cases, and certain probate matters. So it was no surprise to find that as a member of the GAB I was subject to confidentiality requirements on matters such as investigations. I think that speaking for the Board and at least for myself, I would have preferred to give the LAB absolutely everything that it wanted to see during the Audit. However, as you can well imagine we did not want to run afoul of the criminal statutes, so we asked for a formal AG's Opinion. As you certainly also well know, the opinion said that we could not turn over information to the LAB without violating those criminal laws. By now, I presume that you have seen the GAB's recommendation as to that issue. We hope the legislature will change the law that bound us, so we can provide the requested information in future audits without risking a stay at the Crossbar Motel and Restaurant.
- 5) During my tenure as Chair, I was asked by a reporter during an interview as to what I thought about the idea of an audit by the LAB. I told her then that I was pleased by the idea. In my opinion all agencies need a periodic check to determine how they are doing. I told her that I felt confident that we were doing much right, and that we were with no doubt providing the citizens of Wisconsin a quality product. I also said that I was equally sure that we were making mistakes. An audit would provide us with both feedback as to what we were doing correctly as well as what we were not doing correctly. And in either case, it would give the GAB guidance to improve its performance.

We received recommendations that we've already implemented; recommendations that we will implement; and we received feedback that will make us do some critical thinking.

This is no surprise. I will be 67 in a couple of months. My 40th anniversary is in less than two weeks. Believe it or not, I've made mistakes in my life. I expect that I will continue to make mistakes. Hopefully, I will catch them or someone else will point them out and I will learn and correct. As an example of some unexpected, unasked for and useful criticism, I was told Monday that members of a three-church parish in the Upper Peninsula wished that I would either speak louder or use a mike when I do my sermons.

NOBODY.....NOBODY, had ever asked me to speak up before when I was trying to address them. I happen to like to walk around when I speak and I do not read my sermons, I use notes instead. So with that in mind, I'm going to make an adjustment on February 1. I do not want a bunch of Finlanders peeved with me.

The bottom line of the Audit in my opinion was there was no criticism as to dishonesty, laziness, unfairness nor partisanship.

Thank you for allowing me to address you.

If there are any questions, I'll take a crack at them now.