From: michael juris [mailto:michaeljuris@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 2:48 PM
To: Sen.Cowles; Rep.Kerkman; Sen.Lassa; Rep.Shankland
Cc: Amherst Village Hall Clerk's Office; michael juris
Subject: Written Comment Re: Public Hearing on Audit of Government Accountability Board

January 12, 2015

FROM: Michael Juris President - Village of Amherst Amherst, Wisconsin

REGARDING: The Joint Legislative Audit Committee's scheduled public hearing at 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 14, at the State Capitol on the Legislative Audit Bureau's recent audit of the Government Accountability Board.

To whom this may concern;

As an elected official representing the staff and residents of the Village of Amherst, I wish to provide the following comments for inclusion in the testimony to be compiled through the public hearing as noted above.

We all understand how essential the election process is within our system of government as citizens vote to empower their representatives and decide issues through the referendum process. Wisconsin's election process, as it is administered at the local level, relies upon the dedication and training of countless election officials. I feel that Wisconsin's Government Accountability Board, in its current organizational structure, provides invaluable direction and support for these local election officials. With current state statutes and recent legislative directives often providing interpretive and administrative challenges for our local election officials, I believe the efforts of the G.A.B. have successfully served to protect the integrity and fairness of Wisconsin's elective process.

With about 1,045 residents, the Village of Amherst is fortunate to employ a full-time certified municipal clerk who informs me of her inquiries to the G.A.B. for clarification or information on various matters relative to elections as needed. In each instance, she has indicated that G.A.B. personnel have provided clear answers in a timely manner, and have been available to discuss specific details if needed. I believe that the G.A.B., within its current operating structure, has done an exceptional job in keeping our clerk informed and updated on changes pertinent to our Wisconsin election procedures, as well as providing appropriate educational opportunities for election officials to utilize. The Village of Amherst is indeed fortunate to have a trained, experienced village clerk, but I cannot help but think of just how valuable and necessary the G.A.B.'s availability and expertise must be to the numerous local municipalities that employ officials or staff with less training, experience or time to devote to election administration. It would be a true disservice to the people we all serve to advocate to drastically alter the structure or modify the authority of this board.

Therefore, for the purposes of this audit and the public hearing underway, I would encourage and support recommendations that will allow the Government Accountability Board to continue to operate as closely as possible within its present form.

Sincerely, Michael Juris President - Village of Amherst

Village Office: 160 Mill Street Amherst, WI 54406 715.824.5613



CLERK OFFICE

2155 Holmgren Way Ashwaubenon, Wisconsin 54304-4605

Phone (920) 492-2302 Fax (920) 492-2328 www.ashwaubenon.com

January 13, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882 Sen.Cowles@legis.wi.gov

RE: Public Hearing & GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

This letter is in reference to the GAB audit hearing and why I feel the potential restructuring of the GAB would be detrimental to the integrity of elections in Wisconsin, a system that is known for being one of the best in the United States.

I am new to the Clerk's office with only six months experience and I can honestly say that the GAB has been instrumental in helping me understand, trouble shoot and even train me in all things Election related.

I know the GAB was tasked with governing elections, as well as implementing the laws that the legislature puts into the books. From what I've learned, the GAB has had a whirlwind of election laws to implement since 2010, among other things. Many of these laws are complicated at best and many variables are in play at any given time, causing elections to be very cumbersome. Through this whole process the GAB has maintained and exceeded their level of training via webinars and seminars. SVRS support is incredibly efficient and the enhancements to SVRS have helped tremendously to reconcile elections in a timely manner. In addition, the GAB has gone above and beyond when it comes to training videos and keeping all Clerks and Deputy Clerks in the loop.

I have also been made aware that the GAB has seen a tremendous amount of turnover. They have been forced to train and retrain their staff in trying times while keeping up with updating and communicating everything with the Clerks. If the GAB were funded to allow for enough staffing many of these issues may not come into play. Furthermore, if the cloud of uncertainty were lifted regarding the future of the GAB, more qualified individuals would be willing to work there and even stay within the department.

Everyone that I have personally encountered at the GAB has done an excellent job at being supportive, while keeping their own political beliefs at bay and staying non-partisan. We should not, and cannot go back to the ways of the old State Election Board. I can't even imagine how that would be done.

Everyone is always a work in progress and departments need to learn, grow and change with the times, often with less support and less of a budget. There will always be room for improvement and I believe that this audit should be looked at as such. A starting point to improve the GAB without stripping it of what makes it work. Wisconsin is, and has been an excellent example when it comes to elections. Please help to continue making Wisconsin a leader in elections by maintaining the GAB and working to better it so that the 1800+ clerks in Wisconsin can do their jobs and do them well!

Sincerely. NTRU Deputy Cler



Jennifer Broich jbroich@ashwaubenon.com

Village of Big Bend

W230 S9185 Nevins Street • Big Bend, Wisconsin 53103 (262) 662-2747 • Fax: (262) 662-3751

James Soneberg, Village President Barbara Woppert, Clerk Marie Kumershek, Treasurer

January 13, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator P.O. Box 7882 Madison WI 53707-7882

RE: Public Hearing re: GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

Thank you for the opportunity to give my feedback regarding the audit hearing for the Government Accountability Board. As a municipal clerk with over 20 years of experience with elections, I assure you I am vested when legislation impacting elections is considered. I feel I must speak up.

When I began my career, election management was handled with little to no oversight from anyone. There was a lack of coordination, no comprehensive training, methods and procedures were home grown and there was little to no consistency between processes from one municipality to another. There was no statewide data base, no audits, little technology and not much accountability.

The Government Accountability Board has proven to be an excellent resource for the improvement of election management across the state. The election process has grown over the years with more and more legislation and incredible amount of public scrutiny and criticism. The GAB has thankfully taken on a very large role in providing guidance, support, training, education, common procedures, manuals, notices, reminders and forms. Most importantly, the GAB provides oversight to keep elections in Wisconsin fair! Statewide systems and procedures from the GAB gives municipalities the ability to detect voter fraud and abuse across municipal borders much easier; voter experience is consistent no matter what community an elector lives in; and translating legislation into process and procedures is done superbly!

The staff at the GAB is educated, well informed, professional, supportive, and most importantly non-partisan in carrying out their function. Frankly, I believe they have done a wonderful job and would encourage you to allow them to continue their work for the electors, candidates, and municipalities across the State.

Instead of considering to disband the Government Accountability Board, I would encourage you to provide the support need for them to continue their function in its current form, and provide them the necessary staffing and funds to improve in those areas that need it.

Thank you again for allowing me this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Janbara Wappert

Barbara Woppert Clerk for the Village of Big Bend

Village of Cambria 111 West Edgewater Street P.O. Box 295 Cambria, Wisconsin 53923-0295 (920)348-5443

January 12, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882 Sen.Cowles@legis.wi.gov

RE: Public Hearing re: GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the audit of the Government Accountability Board. As a municipal clerk with over 21 years of experience working for a small municipality I can assure you I am vested when legislation impacting municipalities is considered.

When I first began working with election management there was not much oversight from anyone. There was no statewide data base, no audits, little technology and frankly not much accountability. If clerks had a question about election administration they didn't have one source to go to, each municipality had to go to their own attorney or another source to interpret the laws. This resulted in many different opinions on how the law should be followed across the state. There was also a lack of comprehensive training, therefore, methods and procedures were made up differently in each municipality so there was little to no consistency between processes from one municipality to another. The laws need to be equally and fairly enforced across the state and the GAB is there to assist the municipalities to assure that it is. This helps the voters to better understand the election process when every municipality is doing it the same way.

The Government Accountability Board has proven to be an excellent resource for the improvement of election management across the state. The election process has grown over the years with more and more legislation and an incredible amount of public scrutiny and criticism. The GAB has been instrumental in educating the citizens of the state in the voting processes as well.

The GAB has thankfully taken on a very large role in providing guidance, support, training, education, common procedures, manuals, notices, reminders and forms. Most importantly, the GAB provides oversight to keep elections in Wisconsin fair! Statewide systems and procedures from the GAB gives municipalities the ability to detect voter fraud and abuse across municipal borders much easier; voter experience is consistent no matter what community an elector lives in; and translating legislation into process and procedures is done superbly!

The staff at the GAB is educated, well informed, professional, supportive, and most importantly non-partisan in carrying out their function. The GAB has done a tremendous job and I would encourage you to allow them to continue their fine work for the electors, candidates, counties, municipalities, and citizens across Wisconsin.

With regard to the Legislative Audit Bureau's exceptions report. This is a great tool for selfimprovement! We all have room and should strive daily for improvement by assessing what went well and working towards the betterment in those areas that did not. The LAB audit is meant for that purpose and using it for any other agenda is just wrong.

Thank you again for allowing me this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lois Frank MMC, WCPC, CMTW Village of Cambria Clerk/Treasurer

cc: Rep. Samantha Kerkman Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov

VILLAGE OF CLINTON 301 Cross Street – P. O. Box 129 Clinton, Wisconsin 53525-0129 608 676-5304

January 13, 2015

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Re: Public Hearing re: GAB Performance

Dear Members of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee:

Thank you for taking time to read my letter concerning the GAB. I have been working for the Village of Clinton for over 18 years. At first as deputy clerk/treasurer, it was my job to assist in elections. I was amazed at the lack of organization for election training. Now I am the clerk/treasurer and find the GAB to be most helpful.

The GAB is an excellent resource for my questions and concerns. The GAB has a very large role in providing support, training, education, manuals, notices, forms, etc. I believe that the GAB's most important role is in keeping Wisconsin elections fair!

The staff at GAB is educated, well informed, professional, supportive, and most importantly non-partisan in their election functions. I believe they have done a marvelous job and would encourage you to allow them to continue their work for the electors, candidates, counties and municipalities in Wisconsin.

Respectfully, there is no individual, business, government agency or legislator who couldn't find room for improvement. We should all strive daily for betterment in our jobs.

I hope you do not consider disbanding the GAB. Perhaps with the necessary staffing and funds, they will be able to improve in the areas that need it the most.

Sincerely,

Nola

Pam Franseen Clerk/Treasurer

LAGE

155 N FRONT STREET PO BOX 353 Coloma WI 54930 www.villageofcoloma.com

Phone: 715-228-2871 Fax: 715-228-2873 clerk@villageofcoloma.com

January 12, 2015

Sen. Robert Cowles PO Box 7882 Madison WI 53707-7882 sent via email

re: GAB restructuring

Dear Sen. Cowles:

It has been brought to my attention that the current Legislature is considering the restructure of the current Government Accountability Board. I'm writing today, to give my support for the GAB as it currently exists.

As a small municipality, I rely on them for election assistance and support for election related activities. It's a huge resource for us as clerks, to have them available to us. Having someone who is impartial overseeing elections in the State of Wisconsin is an asset to all of us, regardless of which party you are affiliated with.

When I first began my job as Village Clerk, election management was handled with little to no oversight from anyone. We were missing coordination, comprehensive training, uniform procedures and consistency across the state. Today, we have all that, along with a statewide database to provide continued accuracy for the Election process. As clerks, we know we have someone to turn to with those difficult questions, and the answers will be well thought-out and consistent.

The training we receive from the GAB is always timely and well prepared. . Many of us come from small municipalities, and the webinars provided allow all of us to gain the knowledge needed to continue to administer the Election process in our communities.

Instead of viewing the audit as a way to change the current system, why not use it as a tool for improvement? Who among us is without room for growth in our lives, both on the job and off?

I would respectfully ask that you continue to allow the GAB as it currently exists, to oversee the Election process in the State of Wisconsin and provide them the funding necessary to make improvements in those areas that need it.

Thank you for your time and attention to my concerns.

Cordially,

Grenlagudeau

Brenda Walker Village of Coloma Clerk/Treasurer





January 12, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882 Sen.Cowles@legis.wi.gov

Re: GAB Performance Public Hearing

Dear Senator Cowles:

I appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback on the Government Accountability Board from the Village of Grafton's perspective. The Government Accountability Board holds a very important role as liaison between State Election legislature and the Wisconsin municipalities; therefore, the Village of Grafton has a considerable interest in their devoted efforts. As Village of Grafton Village Clerk, I have concerns regarding the possible impact of the Public Hearing. Because of this, I would like to take this opportunity to outline the importance of the Government Accountability Board's role with the Village of Grafton and municipalities Across the State of Wisconsin.

Primarily, the Government Accountability Board has been instrumental in the implementation, administration and communication of the newest election legislation. Forefront in mind, Voter Photo Identification throughout the year in 2014. As with all new legislation, G.A.B. was instrumental in notifying municipal clerks of any changes with photo identification as quickly as possible, and ensuring the correct information be delivered to the public and the media as well. With many legislative photo identification changes and Clerks Statewide busy preparing for the Fall General Election, it would have been difficult for clerks and public alike without the Board as liaison, to attempt to keep up with all the legislative changes. The Government Accountability Board has been the municipal clerks' ears and eyes for all of the legislative changes. The Village of Grafton being challenged to keep up with changes and staffing needs, makes the Governmental Accountability Board an essential element in helping the Village Clerk to continue to carry out all the statutory duties of the elections.

Subsequently, the Government Accountability Board is largely responsible for the excellent resources provided to clerks, election officials and the public for public information, training, education, webinars, manuals, brochures, videos, certification of training materials utilized by

municipalities for inspector training, presentations and/or training at Clerk's Conferences, Clerk's Institutes, Individual Classes and Chief Inspector Classes. Reported Clerk Certification hours are also kept by the Government Accountability Board and reminders sent to Clerks of additional hours needed for certification. The Board has been vital to the municipal clerks elections education needs. This fundamentally assists in trained, skilled election personnel and Clerks throughout the State, giving the Wisconsin State Public the necessary administration, information and tools needed for successful elections. They also provide an excellent source of information to our State public.

Finally and largely, the desirable support given by the Government Accountability Board with the Statewide Voter Registration System, accessibility, clarification, inquiries, annexations and Legals is all handled quickly by an excellent G.A.B. Staff. The excellent, very pleasant, well-educated, non-partisan and professional Government Accountability Board staff is vital during municipal clerks' busiest election times across the State and they deliver every election.

The continuation of amendments to legislature dictates the need for the Government Accountability Board, as the laws are ever-changing; the Board is and will continue to be a crucial component in the clerk's world with their charges of oversight of the State of Wisconsin's campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws. Your support is necessary across the State of Wisconsin to enable the State to continue with a non-partisan, professional and well-educated election administration. The Government Accountability Board plays that role for all of us.

On behalf of the Village of Grafton and our State elections, I am grateful for this opportunity of contribution.

Sincerely.

Kelly A. Meyer Village Clerk Clerk's Office

cc: Joint Legislative Audit Committee Village Administrator Darrell Hofland Village Director of Administrative Services Paul Styduhar



January 12, 2015

The Honorable Samantha Kerkman State Respresentative P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708 <u>Rep.Kerkman@legis.wi.gov</u>

Re: GAB Performance Public Hearing

Dear Representative Kerkman:

I appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback on the Government Accountability Board from the Village of Grafton's perspective. The Government Accountability Board holds a very important role as liaison between State Election legislature and the Wisconsin municipalities; therefore, the Village of Grafton has a considerable interest in their devoted efforts. As Village of Grafton Village Clerk, I have concerns regarding the possible impact of the Public Hearing. Because of this, I would like to take this opportunity to outline the importance of the Government Accountability Board's role with the Village of Grafton and municipalities Across the State of Wisconsin.

Primarily, the Government Accountability Board has been instrumental in the implementation, administration and communication of the newest election legislation. Forefront in mind, Voter Photo Identification throughout the year in 2014. As with all new legislation, G.A.B. was instrumental in notifying municipal clerks of any changes with photo identification as quickly as possible, and ensuring the correct information be delivered to the public and the media as well. With many legislative photo identification changes and Clerks Statewide busy preparing for the Fall General Election, it would have been difficult for clerks and public alike without the Board as liaison to attempt to keep up with all the legislative changes. The Government Accountability Board has been the municipal clerks' ears and eyes for all of the legislative changes. The Village of Grafton being challenged to keep up with changes and staffing needs, makes the Governmental Accountability Board an essential element in helping the Village Clerk to continue to carry out all the statutory duties of the elections.

Subsequently, the Government Accountability Board is largely responsible for the excellent resources provided to clerks, election officials and the public for public information, training, education, webinars, manuals, brochures, videos, certification of training materials utilized by municipalities for inspector training, presentations and/or training at Clerk's Conferences, Clerk's Institutes, Individual Classes and Chief Inspector Classes. Reported Clerk

Certification hours are also kept by the Government Accountability Board and reminders sent to Clerks of additional hours needed for certification. The Board has been vital to the municipal clerks elections education needs. This fundamentally assists in trained, skilled election personnel and Clerks throughout the State, giving the Wisconsin State Public the necessary administration, information and tools needed for successful elections. They also provide an excellent source of information to our State public.

Finally and largely, the desirable support given by the Government Accountability Board with the Statewide Voter Registration System, accessibility, clarification, inquiries, annexations and Legals is all handled quickly by an excellent G.A.B. Staff. The excellent, very pleasant, well-educated, non-partisan and professional Government Accountability Board staff is vital during municipal clerks' busiest election times across the State and they deliver every election.

The continuation of amendments to legislature dictates the need for the Government Accountability Board, as the laws are ever-changing; the Board is and will continue to be a crucial component in the clerk's world with their charges of oversight of the State of Wisconsin's campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws. Your support is necessary across the State of Wisconsin to enable the State to continue with a non-partisan, professional and well-educated election administration. The Government Accountability Board plays that role for all of us.

On behalf of the Village of Grafton and our State elections, I am grateful for this opportunity of contribution.

Sincerely,

Kelly A. Meyer

Kelly A. Meyer Village Clerk Clerk's Office

cc: Village Administrator Darrell Hofland Village Director of Administrative Services Paul Styduhar



January 9, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

Sen.Cowles@legis.wi.gov

RE: Public Hearing re: GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to give you feedback on the Government Accountability Board. As a municipal clerk with over 25 years of experience working for three different municipalities over the years, I can assure you I am vested when legislation impacting municipalities is considered. This being one of those times, I feel I must speak up.

When I first began my duties in local government, election management was handled with little to no oversight from anyone. There was a lack of coordination, no comprehensive training, methods and procedures were home grown and there was little to no consistency between processes from one municipality to another. There was no statewide data base, no audits, little technology and frankly not much accountability.

The Government Accountability Board has proven to be an excellent resource for the improvement of election management across the state. The election process has grown over the years with more and more legislation and an incredible amount of public scrutiny and criticism. The GAB has thankfully taken on a very large role in providing guidance, support, training, education, common procedures, manuals, notices, reminders and forms. Most importantly, the GAB provides oversight to keep elections in Wisconsin fair! Statewide systems and procedures from the GAB gives municipalities the ability to detect voter fraud and abuse across municipal borders much easier; voter experience is consistent no matter what community an elector lives in; and translating legislation into process and procedures is done superbly!

The staff at the GAB is educated, well informed, professional, supportive, and most importantly non-partisan in carrying out their function. Frankly, I believe they have done a tremendous job and would encourage you to allow them to continue their fine work for the electors, candidates, counties and municipalities across Wisconsin.

With regard to the Legislative Audit Bureau's exceptions report. This is a great tool for self-improvement! Respectfully, there is no individual, business, government agency or legislator who can say they have no room for improvement. We all have room and should strive daily for it by assessing what went well and working towards the betterment in those areas that did not. The LAB audit is meant for that purpose and using it for any other agenda is just wrong.

Instead of considering to disband the Government Accountability Board, I would encourage you to provide the support needed for the GAB to not only continue their function in its current form, but provide them the necessary staffing and funds to improve in those areas that need it.

Thank you again for allowing me this opportunity.

Respectfully,

Mary Amike Mary Smith, CMC, WCMC

531 N. Nash St. PO Box 99 Hortonville WI 54944-0099



Phone: 920-779-6011 Fax: 920-779-6552 www.hortonvillewi.org

January 13, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882 Sen.Cowles@legis.wi.gov

RE: Public Hearing on GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

As a municipal employee for thirty years and a municipal clerk for fifteen of those years, I have been involved with elections for a respectable period of time. Over this period of time there have been many changes in elections due to legislation.

Elections used to have more of a local flavor as municipalities and clerks ran the elections with a basic core of rules but had quite a bit of leeway in the actual operation on election day. Since that time there have been more questions about elections and changes have been made so that voters know what to expect no matter where they vote.

The Government Accountability Board has been a needed source of training, guidance, and answers as elections are made consistent and more open to the electorate. The GAB provides training and manuals that are common to all election inspectors and clerks so everyone has the same references and is quick to change these references to align with new legislation; maintains the statewide system for voter registration to detect voter fraud across borders; and answers questions and clarifies processes so all clerks have the same information.

Everyone has room for improvement. The goal should be to enable the GAB to improve in the areas that may need it and to continue to perform their function in its current form.

The staff at the GAB are very professional and work hard to support the clerks and election inspectors around the state. It is important to have a non-partisan group such as the GAB to support elections so that the election processes can move forward to support all voters. I would encourage you to continue support of the GAB so that they can maintain their current excellent work for the electors and municipalities of Wisconsin.

Thank you for the opportunity to give input for this hearing.

Sincerely, VILLAGE OF HORTONVILLE

Lynne Mischker, WCMC Village Clerk-Treasurer



913 S. Wisconsin Drive Howards Grove, WI 53083 TELEPHONE (920) 565 3511 FAX (920) 565 4879

January 13, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles Wisconsin State Senator PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: GAB Performance Public Hearing

Dear Senator Cowles:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to offer feedback on the Government Accountability Board. As a municipal Clerk with over 17 years of experience, I assure you that I am very interested in legislation that impacts local municipalities regarding elections.

When I first started as a municipal clerk and found that I would be administering elections, I found it to be a large task and an even bigger responsibility to ensure integrity in the process. What I found in those beginning years was that not all municipalities followed the same rules. There was little to no training, no requirement to obtain the training and inconsistencies were found from one local office to the next. Voter registration was only found in the larger cities and maintained solely by themselves.

When legislation was passed in 2006 to provide uniformity across the State, and to implement a state wide voter registration system, it was found that training of municipal clerks and election workers was needed and therefore accountability became an important task. With that process also came the responsibility of a person or group of persons to administer the training and processes. I believe the Government Accountability Board has provided non-partisan support to the election process and to the voters of Wisconsin. With the ever constant change in election laws, the GAB has proven instrumental in providing oversight to local election officials and works diligently in keeping Wisconsin elections fair. The uniformity of every municipality processing an election offers consistency and confidence to the voter when they move around this state.

The GAB has hired professional, educated and supportive staff; this has become very important in today's highly sensitive partisan driven elections. And in my opinion, as a voter and administrator of the election process, I couldn't be more satisfied with the electoral process in

Wisconsin, and believe that the GAB has done a tremendous job working with County and Municipal Clerks as well as the Electors of Wisconsin.

I believe that the legislative audit report is a fantastic idea; it can serve as a very important tool in providing detailed information on areas that need improvement and what areas they are excelling at. No single person or group of people are perfect, each and every one of us has room for improvement.

Please reconsider your thoughts of disbanding the GAB and use your resources to better the GAB by giving them more staffing and funds to better their operation. In the end it's Wisconsin voters who will benefit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jó Ann Lesser, WCMC Clerk/Treasurer

From: Vicki Tessen [mailto:vtessen@vokimberly.org] Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 11:31 AM To: Sen.Cowles; Rep.Kerkman Subject: GAB Audit hearing

January 9, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Samantha Kerkman State Representative P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708

RE: Audit of GAB, January 14, 2015

Senator Cowles and Representative Kerkman,

I became the Deputy Clerk for the Village of Kimberly in March of 2012. As Deputy Clerk I am responsible for running elections from start to finish. I beg of you, to maintain and continue the staff and processes already in place for GAB / clerk relations and education.

2012 was a challenging year for all clerks in regards to the number of elections we had, the numerous rule changes and the highly charged atmosphere and attention those elections had. However, as a new clerk, in a village where there is only one person that is supposed to know everything (SVRS, what is published and when, registration, absentee ballots...) my first year was more like a "fraternity hazing" and <u>I could not have made it through without GAB's help</u>.

SVRS Training – At the 2 day SVRS training in Madison the instructors were knowledgeable, prepared and dedicated – they *wanted* you to succeed. The training materials and individual computers allowed attendees to actually do the tasks versus watching the instructor do the tasks which was very helpful in learning the program.

The Website & Webinars – It would be impossible to comply with all of the Election laws and rules without the GAB website and the webinars that they produce. It is truly that simple. Without good education **WISCONSIN WILL FAIL** in the election process.

Phone & Email Support - I have contacted the GAB probably 100 times. I always receive a full and accurate answer to my questions in a timely manner. The staff is amazing!

PLEASE do not make any changes to the relationship between the current GAB and the clerks that run elections. In my opinion, restructuring the GAB would jeopardize the integrity of *Wisconsin elections*.

Respectfully,

Vicki Tessen

Vicki Tessen WMCA, District 7 Co-Director Village of Kimberly, Deputy Clerk

920-788-7500 920-788-9723 (fax)

Population 6,586

As Municipal Clerks or Deputy Clerks, we work very closely with the Government Accountability Board. I feel the Government Accountability Board serves a vital role in elections in Wisconsin. Please find attached a letter from Kelly Michaels in the City of Brookfield. I agree with every statement Kelly makes in her letter. The Government Accountability Board has been essential in assisting clerks in Wisconsin with standards for conducting elections, training, and ongoing assistance with day to day questions regarding elections. Please consider supporting the GAB and giving them the opportunity to improve in the areas raised in the Audit exceptions report. They are vital to conducting elections in a standardized, efficient and unbiased manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joan M. Hintze, CMC Deputy Clerk Village of Menomonee Falls



Village of New Glarus

319 Second St. P.O. Box 399 New Glarus, WI 53574

www.newglarusvillage.com

Phone: (608) 527-2510 Fax: (608) 527-6630

12 January, 2015

Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator PO Box 7882 Madison WI 53707-7882 Sen.Cowles@legis.wi.gov

The Honorable Samantha Kerkman State Representative PO Box 8952 Madison WI 53708 Rep.Kerkman@legis.wi.gov

Dear Honorable Cowles and Honorable Kerkman:

I am writing in support of the current structure and staff of the Government Accountability Board. As a municipal clerk in a small village, I rely very heavily on the assistance and training provided by the Government Accountability Board to not only understand the Election Laws, but to implement those rules, train the local election officials working here and help to educate the public. Having been in this position for over 20 years, I can honestly say that the past few years have been some of the most frustrating and difficult in election administration. Because of the expertise and oversight of the Government Accountability Board, our election processes are readily available, training is provided and information distributed to all municipal clerks providing consistency throughout the state and, I believe, greater voter confidence in the system. I have contacted the Government Accountability Board on numerous occasions for assistance with unusual circumstances that come up during the election cycle and having them available for those instances on election days is priceless. Election administration is one small piece of the work most Clerk's do, therefore, having the Government Accountability Board's expertise available to us is essential.

Nicholas W. Owen Administrator email: nowen@newglarusvillage.com

An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer

Lynne R. Erb Clerk - Treasurer email: ngclerk@newglarusvillage.com



Being on the front lines of an election, I see the importance of a non-partisan process for the administration of elections to maintain voter confidence in a system that has seen so many changes over the past few years. We hear voters express their frustrations with the changes to the laws on a regular basis and in fact some have indicated they no longer want to vote as a result. Being able to educate the public and help to assure them that the elections are being administered in a consistent, fair and impartial way is an important piece of what we do at the local level and that would be impossible without the Government Accountability Board being able to continue to operate as they do today.

The November, 2014 General Election with all the changes to the voter id law in the weeks prior to the Election is a prime example. Without the Government Accountability Board reviewing the various decisions, relaying information to all the municipal clerk's in the State of Wisconsin, providing new forms and outlining processes, the municipal clerk's would not have been able to provide the necessary training and communication to the election officials and voters for that Election.

As a frontline administrator of elections in this State, I respectfully ask that the Government Accountability Board continue to operate in its current form.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynne R. Erb Village of New Glarus, Clerk-Treasurer



January 12, 2015

Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: Public Hearing Gab Performance January 14, 2015

Dear Senator Cowles:

I am writing you in regards to the GAB Audit Public Hearing giving you my feedback as to their performance. Having served as a City Clerk in another state for 25 years and now in Wisconsin as a Village Administrator/Clerk for just under 2 years, I have extensive experience in government and working with the election process. I also served on a state league's legislative committee for over 10 years working directly on legislation impacting local government. With that said I feel it is important to share my thoughts on the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board's performance.

My experience with the GAB has overall been a very positive experience. At all times staff presents themselves in a very professional, non-partisan manner. They are extremely helpful and a great resource when issues arise either with election questions or SVRS (State-wide Voter Registration System software) problems. Their training to Clerks throughout the state is always very informative and always a highlight of any seminar or conference I attend. The GAB is continually striving to keep the Clerks informed and I feel have done the best they can with the limited resources they have been given. I will admit that at times it can be frustrating dealing with the GAB but feel those times are out of their control. Specifically I am referring to issues or down time with SVRS and a shortage of manpower when calling the GAB. This I believe is due to the lack of adequate state funding.

I admit that I do not always agree with directives issued by the GAB however these are procedures staff is directed to enforce. The GAB can only handled the workload it has the staff to do so. I feel they have the best interest in providing support for not only the governmental agencies conducting the elections but also the candidates and voters.

It has been mentioned in Madison that the GAB should be disbanded. I do not agree with this. Continued audits with directives and opportunities for improvement, state funding for additional staff and computer hardware/software, and moral support versus unfair criticism is what is needed.

I ask for your support to allow the GAB to continue in its role.

Sincerely,

and Jesuchen

Rick J Goeckner, MMC Village Administrator/Clerk Village of Newburg

☆ Washington and Ozaukee Counties ☆
 ☆ 614 Main Street ☆ P.O. Box 50 ☆ Newburg, Wisconsin ☆
 Phone 262 • 675 • 2160 ☆ Fax 262 • 675 • 2287



January 12, 2015

Honorable Samantha Kerkman State Representative PO Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708-7882

RE: Public Hearing Gab Performance January 14, 2015

Dear Representative Kerkman:

I am writing you in regards to the GAB Audit Public Hearing giving you my feedback as to their performance. Having served as a City Clerk in another state for 25 years and now in Wisconsin as a Village Administrator/Clerk for just under 2 years, I have extensive experience in government and working with the election process. I also served on a state league's legislative committee for over 10 years working directly on legislation impacting local government. With that said I feel it is important to share my thoughts on the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board's performance.

My experience with the GAB has overall been a very positive experience. At all times staff presents themselves in a very professional, non-partisan manner. They are extremely helpful and a great resource when issues arise either with election questions or SVRS (State-wide Voter Registration System software) problems. Their training to Clerks throughout the state is always very informative and always a highlight of any seminar or conference I attend. The GAB is continually striving to keep the Clerks informed and I feel have done the best they can with the limited resources they have been given. I will admit that at times it can be frustrating dealing with the GAB but feel those times are out of their control. Specifically I am referring to issues or down time with SVRS and a shortage of manpower when calling the GAB. This I believe is due to the lack of adequate state funding.

I admit that I do not always agree with directives issued by the GAB however these are procedures staff is directed to enforce. The GAB can only handled the workload it has the staff to do so. I feel they have the best interest in providing support for not only the governmental agencies conducting the elections but also the candidates and voters.

It has been mentioned in Madison that the GAB should be disbanded. I do not agree with this. Continued audits with directives and opportunities for improvement, state funding for additional staff and computer hardware/software, and moral support versus unfair criticism is what is needed.

I ask for your support to allow the GAB to continue in its role.

Sincerely,

and Jeloun

Rick J Goeckner, MMC Village Administrator/Clerk Village of Newburg

☆ Washington and Ozaukee Counties ☆
 ☆ 614 Main Street ☆ P.O. Box 50 ☆ Newburg, Wisconsin ☆
 Phone 262 • 675 • 2160 ☆ Fax 262 • 675 • 2287

Training/Webinars

I began my career working with Elections in 1996. As a new employee in Jefferson County Clerk's office and being fairly new to elections, there were limited resources for me. I recall calling the Elections Board and talking with Barbara Hanson almost on a daily basis.

In 2000 the rules for absentee voting were changed – the requirement of not having to list a reason for an absentee ballot was eliminated. This was implemented prior to the November General Election and I remember many Clerks being unaware of the new change in the law.

Let's fast forward to 2014.....

- Clerks now have the government Accountability Board to work with who have implemented required training for Municipal Clerks and chief Inspectors.
- The GAB has created and maintained a website containing a multitude of forms, information, updates and training webinars for Clerks to view and share in their training of municipal election workers.
- Updates to manuals are done on a routine basis so Clerks are up to date with legislative and policy changes. This is extremely valuable to Municipal Clerks when there are elections right around the corner. As an example, the GAB sent out notification to Clerks notifying them in August of changes to page 16 & 23 in the Election Day Manual. This information was important to the upcoming election. If staff is reduced, this type of communication would probably be eliminated.
- Allison and her staff have created many training opportunities, both in person and as a webinar. Under the guidance of Mike Haas they have created ongoing training for County and Municipal clerks to continue serving as trainers. This would be an impossible task if staffing levels were reduced.
- The creation of webinars and training requires staff with experience and knowledge. If current staff is cut trying to use temporary staff would cause huge problems with not having qualified educated staff working and

advising on elections. Many of the 1853 municipal clerks are unable to attend in-person training because of their work schedules. The ability to log onto the webinars in an extremely valuable tool for their education.

- It was noted in the Audit the low number of Clerks who had reported their training as of 2013. This training is to be reported by December of even years. Many of us gather all of our training documentation and report it at one time. The low number of reported trainings is in no way reflective of Clerks not attending training. If you look at the 33 page report now on the GAB website, you will note a very low number of Clerks who have not turned in their training information. This is being followed up by staff at GAB.
- Current GAB staff respond quickly to inquiries from Clerks via e-mail or phone calls. As an example, yesterday a Clerk sent an e-mail to GAB at 3:15, received a response at 3:29 and shared this response with the Clerkslist at 3:33. A reduction in staffing at GAB would result in not receiving responses timely.

The GAB has come a long way since their creation in the early 2000. The training offered to Clerk and Election workers is top notch. The SVRA system has improved over the years, they have created a step by step manual to assist every level of user. The helpline has increased the availability of receiving rapid responses to all inquiries. The management team of Kevin Kennedy, Mike Haas and the GAB board have responded to the needs of County and Municipal Clerks statewide. All of this has evolved over the past 10+ years, but also in those years we have seen countless legislative changes, recalls, recounts, along with regularly scheduled elections. Cutting staff or reorganizing staff will only delay implementation or follow up of any future legislative actions.

The audit captured a portion of how the GAB assists our Clerks and municipalities. I was one of the 20 Clerks interviewed by the committee, so my input is in your report. My job has been made easier because of GAB. I respectfully request the continued funding for the GAB to continue providing excellent education, training, and guidance to maintain the high level of Elections standards that the State of Wisconsin is known for.

Manup Hutale Clerk Velax. V. Pomanikas



Village of **Shorewood Hills**

January 12, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator P.O. Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882

SUBJECT: Public Hearing January 14, 2015 regarding Government Accountability Board

Dear Senator Cowles:

As the municipal clerk for the Village of Shorewood Hills, I have a vested interest in the fate of the Government Accountability Board (GAB). I am writing prior to the Public Hearing scheduled for January 14, 2015 to let your know how invaluable the GAB's assistance has been to the election workers here.

The GAB has proven to be an excellent resource for the improvement of election management across the state. The voting process has grown over the years with new legislation and an incredible amount of public scrutiny and criticism. I appreciate the fact the GAB has taken on an active role in providing guidance, training, manuals, reminders and forms to those who administer Wisconsin's election laws. The GAB has been successful in translating state and federal legislation into processes and procedures that our election workers can follow. The staff at the GAB is well informed, professional and supportive in carrying out their duties.

The GAB provides oversight to keep elections in Wisconsin fair. I am thankful that it is clearly nonpartisan, despite the sometimes contentious nature of the elections it is overseeing. The statewide systems and procedures it has implemented have resulted in a voter experience that is consistent, no matter what community an elector lives in.

With regard to the Legislative Audit Bureau's exceptions report, it would be hard to understate the difficult tasks the GAB has been required to undertake for the last several years: implementing a statewide voter registration system; dealing with myriad state and federal voting regulations and disseminating those requirements to the municipalities; administering several elections, including a statewide recount and a recall. The GAB has been required to prioritize its responsibilities and respond to its workload with limited staff. The Legislative Audit Bureau has identified areas that need improvement. I am hopeful the Legislature will give the GAB the latitude and resources it needs to address the deficiencies while leaving the structure of the GAB intact.

The GAB staff has done a tremendous job. I encourage the Legislature to allow them to continue their fine work for the electors, candidates, counties and municipalities across Wisconsin.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely, Colleen Boyle Albrecht

Shorewood Hills Village Clerk

810 Shorewood Boulevard Madison, WI 53705-2115 • Phone: 608-267-2680 • Fax: 608-266-5929 www.shorewood-hills.org



January 12, 2015

Village of Shorewood Hills

Samantha Kerkman Wisconsin State Assembly P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708

SUBJECT: Public Hearing January 14, 2015 regarding Government Accountability Board

Dear Representative Kerkman:

As the municipal clerk for the Village of Shorewood Hills, I have a vested interest in the fate of the Government Accountability Board (GAB). I am writing prior to the Public Hearing scheduled for January 14, 2015 to let your know how invaluable the GAB's assistance has been to the election workers here.

The GAB has proven to be an excellent resource for the improvement of election management across the state. The voting process has grown over the years with new legislation and an incredible amount of public scrutiny and criticism. I appreciate the fact the GAB has taken on an active role in providing guidance, training, manuals, reminders and forms to those who administer Wisconsin's election laws. The GAB has been successful in translating state and federal legislation into processes and procedures that our election workers can follow. The staff at the GAB is well informed, professional and supportive in carrying out their duties.

The GAB provides oversight to keep elections in Wisconsin fair. I am thankful that it is clearly nonpartisan, despite the sometimes contentious nature of the elections it is overseeing. The statewide systems and procedures it has implemented have resulted in a voter experience that is consistent, no matter what community an elector lives in.

With regard to the Legislative Audit Bureau's exceptions report, it would be hard to understate the difficult tasks the GAB has been required to undertake for the last several years: implementing a statewide voter registration system; dealing with myriad state and federal voting regulations and disseminating those requirements to the municipalities; administering several elections, including a statewide recount and a recall. The GAB has been required to prioritize its responsibilities and respond to its workload with limited staff. The Legislative Audit Bureau has identified areas that need improvement. I am hopeful the Legislature will give the GAB the latitude and resources it needs to address the deficiencies while leaving the structure of the GAB intact.

The GAB staff has done a tremendous job. I encourage the Legislature to allow them to continue their fine work for the electors, candidates, counties and municipalities across Wisconsin.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely, Colleen Boyle Albrecht

Shorewood Hills Village Clerk

810 Shorewood Boulevard Madison, WI 53705-2115 • Phone: 608-267-2680 • Fax: 608-266-5929 www.shorewood-hills.org

JAN 1 4 2015

A FRIENDLY SMALL TOWN WITH A FUTURE

VILLAGE OF SPENCER

105 Park Street • P.O. Box 360 • Spencer, WI 54479 Email <u>clerk@vil.spencer.wi.us</u> Phone 715-659-5423 • Fax 715-659-5358

Pauline Frome President Thaddeus Kubisiak Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

1-13-2014

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882 Sen.Cowles@legis.wi.gov

RE: Public Hearing re: GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

I very much so appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed restructuring of the Government Accountability Board. As the Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer for the Village of Spencer, I have worked with the GAB on countless occasions in and around each election season.

I find this proposed maneuver suspect. Is the Legislature going to go after the Green Bay Packers because someone in the Assembly dislikes Aaron Rodgers' mustache? It is a complete head scratcher, and quite concerning, that the Wisconsin Legislature would be considering a restructure of one of the best election agencies in the country.

Let's please remember the State's worst campaign catastrophe ever. In the wake of the Caucus Scandal, the Legislature came together and went to work with their first bill of the Biennium. The 2007 Wisconsin Act 1 created the GAB. Act 1 also provided that elected officials, including legislators, who are charged with violations of elections, ethics, or lobbying laws will be tried in the circuit court for the county in which the defendant resides.

Why do a handful of Legislators feel that they need to fix an agency that is not broken? Let's talk about the DMV. Why are my constituents forced to drive a half hour, to an office that is only open on Mondays and Wednesdays, to have their driver license renewed? Let's also talk about the DOT's billing methods. The STH 13 project was completed in the fall of 2011, but yet the Village of Spencer tax payers are still continuing to receive invoices that read "This is not a final bill." How many more years into the future do I have to budget money for that project? I have attached the latest bill from December. When will these two agencies be fixed?

In its current state, the GAB is an incredible resource for local Clerks and election inspectors. The agency's website offers an electronic archive of election and campaign forms and training videos, as well as information for voters. The audit of this political subdivision pointed out that there is room for improvement. This account should be used as a starting point to improve the GAB without removing the powers vested to insure that current and future legislators follow the rules. Wisconsin is, and has been, a

beacon when it comes to elections. I want to insure that Wisconsin remains a leader in elections by maintaining the GAB for the residents of this state. We do not need to be considered another Cook County Illinois. Thank you for your time as well as your service to the state of Wisconsin.

Sincerely, 12l

Thaddeus Kubisiak Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer Village of Spencer

Cc: Co-Chairperson Rep. Samantha Kerkman Senator Mary Lazich Senator Alberta Darling Senator Kathleen Vinehout Senator Janet Bewley Rep. John Macco Rep. John Nygren Rep. Melissa Sargent Rep. Terese Berceau

Enc:



DIVISION OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT Bureau Of Business Services PO Box 7366 Madison, WI 53707-7366

> PROGRESS INVOICE - THIS IS NOT A FINAL BILL NORTH CENTRAL REGION

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT THE REGION OFFICE (715) 421-8344

To: THADDEUS KUBISIAK VILLAGE OF SPENCER PO BOX 360 SPENCER WI 54479-0360 DECEMBER 4, 2014

Invoice: L33862

State Project No.: 1620-00-72 MARSHFIELD TO SPENCER APPLE STREET - STH 98 RECONSTRUCTION FEDERAL PROJECT NO.: WISC 2010917Local Unit ID:S7181Local Appropriation ::373

VILLAGE OF SPENCER:	\$10,919.30

.....

\$43.34

PREVIOUS PAYMENTS AND WORK CREDITS: \$10,875.96

Balance Due:

****** BALANCE DUE - PAYMENT DUE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT ******

Invoice Number: L33862 Balance Due: \$43.34 Amount Paid:______ Date: 2014-12-04 Mail To: WISCONSIN DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION WISCONSIN DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION Bureau of Business Services P.O. Box 7366 Madison, WI 53707-7366

****** BALANCE DUE - PAYMENT DUE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT ****** **** FOR PROPER CREDIT, RETURN THIS PART WITH YOUR REMITTANCE ****



Municipal Services Center

January 12, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles State Senator PO Box 7882 Madison, WI 53707-7882 Sen.Cowles@legis.wi.gov

RE: Public Hearing re: GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

First, thank you for the opportunity to allow me to speak with you on Saturday, January 10, 2015 at the Shopko Hall in Green Bay. The Clerk and I appreciate that you allowed me the time to convey my concerns about the GAB audit hearing. This letter is in reference to said conversation, but goes into more detail why we feel the potential restructuring of the GAB would be detrimental to the integrity of elections in Wisconsin, a system that is touted as being one of the best in the United States.

First and foremost, the GAB is tasked not necessarily with governing elections, but rather with implementing the laws that the legislature puts into the books. As such, the GAB has had a whirlwind of election laws to implement since 2010, among other things. Many of these laws are complicated at best and many variables are in play at any given time, causing elections to be very cumbersome. Through this whole process the GAB has maintained and exceeded their level of training via webinars and seminars. SVRS support is incredibly efficient and the enhancements to SVRS have helped tremendously to reconcile elections in a timely manner. In addition, the GAB has gone above and beyond when it comes to training videos, the new handicap accessibility training video comes to mind and is exceedingly better than the old archaic one.

The GAB has seen a tremendous amount of turnover, certainly due in part to the uncertainty of the funding and the future of the GAB. They have been forced to train and retrain their staff in trying times when many tenuous circumstances have been underfoot. If the GAB were funded to allow for enough staffing, many of these issues may not come into play. Furthermore, if the cloud of uncertainty were lifted regarding the future of the GAB, more qualified individuals would be willing to work there.

In no way have we seen any partisanship at play with the staff at the GAB. Yes, everyone has their own political beliefs, but the GAB does an amazing job of being supportive and non-partisan. We should not and cannot go back to the ways of the old State Election Board.

We are a firm believer that everyone should continue education and self-improvement and that no one has achieved perfection in either of these areas. As many people will say, there is always room for improvement. Please take this audit as room for improvement and nothing more, this is a starting point to improve the GAB without stripping it of what makes it work. Wisconsin is, and has been, a beacon when it comes to elections. Please help to continue making Wisconsin a leader in elections by maintaining the GAB and working to better it so that the 1800+ clerks in Wisconsin can do their jobs and do them well!

Sincerely,

Bonne

Bonnie Swan Village Clerk Village of Suamico

meliscatorpoto

Melissa Hongisto Village Deputy Clerk Village of Suamico

Cc: Co-Chairperson Rep. Samantha Kerkman Senator Mary Lazich Senator Alberta Darling Senator Kathleen Vinehout Senator Janet Bewley Senator Dave Hansen Rep. John Macco Rep. John Nygren Rep. Melissa Sargent Rep. Terese Berceau



VILLAGE OF TWIN LAKES

108 East Main Street • P.O. Box 1024 • Twin Lakes, Wisconsin 53181 Phone (262) 877-2858 • Fax (262) 877-4019

January 12, 2015

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

SUBJECT: Public Hearing - GAB

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to give you feedback on the Government Accountability Board (GAB). As a municipal clerk with over 20 years of experience, I can assure you I am fairly vested when legislation impacting municipalities is considered. This being one of those times, I feel I must share my thoughts with you.

When I first began my duties in local government, election management was handled with little to no oversight from anyone. There was a lack of coordination, no comprehensive training, and no real consistency between the municipalities and the State. There wasn't any statewide data base, and little accountability. The GAB has proven to be an excellent resource for the improvement of election management across the State. The election process has grown over the years with more legislation and a huge amount of public scrutiny and criticism. The GAB has taken a very large role in providing guidance, support, training, education for the public, manuals, notices, reminders, and forms. Most importantly, they provide oversight to keep elections consistent and fair for Wisconsin. Statewide systems and procedures from the GAB give municipalities the ability to detect voter fraud and abuse across municipal borders. Voter experience is more consistent no matter what community an elector lives in.

The staff at the GAB are well informed, educated, professional, very supportive and most importantly non-partisan in carrying out their function. I believe that they have done a tremendous job and are invaluable to the clerks of this State. I cannot tell you how many times I have contacted them with questions and the response has always been prompt and accurate. I would encourage you to allow them to continue their work not only for the clerks, but for the electors, candidates, and every county/municipality in Wisconsin.

The audit should be used as a tool for self-improvement. There is no individual, business, government agency or legislator who can say they have no room for improvement. The audit should be used for that purpose and to use it any other way is wrong. Instead of considering the disbandment of the GAB, I encourage you to provide support needed for them to continue their function.

Kathleen Richardson, CMC Village Clerk/Treasurer Re: Public Hearing on Audit of Government Accountability Board Jan 14, 2015

Suggestion for improvements of current election process:

- 1. Review "Election Administration Manual for Wisconsin Municipal Clerks" and simplify current 205 Pages Manual
- 2. Review "Election Day Manual for Wisconsin Election Officials" and simplify, currently 150 Pages Manual
- 3. Webinar Training is very helpful, however, it is not helpful to change some Election Rules as close as the day before the Election. (Photo I.D. Fiasco. November 2014 Elections early Absentee Voters had different rules applied for I.D. than Absentee Voters voting closer to Election Date)
- 4. Change current rules when a voter which states during Election Day Process that Address changed has to go through the "New Voter Registration Process" this creates major problems trying later to reconcile Voter Numbers and implementing the change in the SVRS.
- 5. Abolish Election Day Voter Registration. Best cut-off date for New Registration should be Friday 5 p.m. before the Election Day.
- 6. SVRS Data Base is flawed. Every Election we have a Number of faithful older Voters which are taken out of the SVRS Data Base and therefore are no longer listed in the Poll Book. We then have to re-register them as new Voters, in this process the entire Voter History is lost. Voters are very upset that this can happen.

Clerk is responsible to enter and maintain the SVRS Data Base but then changes are made to the Data Base through the GAB without feed back to the Clerk, which creates major issues that Voters are removed from this Data Base and then no longer appear in the Poll Book Printout. Which requires that Voter has to go through the New Registration Process and his entire life voter history is lost.

- 7. During November 2014 Voter Reconciliation Process a discrepancy surfaced in scanned in votes and Election Day reported Vote Count of 1 (one). Clerk and Chief Election Inspector spent several days trying to find the 1 vote discrepancy which in the end turned out to be again a glitch in the SVRS Database.
- 8. Abolish the Provisional Voting system which does not contribute to End Voter Results, but creates a big complicated Paper Work process, usually based on the fact that voter has not the proper papers to register on Election Day, (again abolishing Election Day Registration would take care of some of these cases).

These suggestions for improvements are submitted by:

Elisabeth Schneider

Chief Election Inspector,

Village of Williams Bay, Walworth County, P.O. Box 580, Williams Bay, WI 53191

January 13, 2015