

Email Submissions to the Committee Chairs

Subject: PUBLIC HEARING RE: GAB PERFORMANCE

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. 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.

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, but provide them the necessary staffing and funds to improve in areas that may need it.

PLEASE, do not disband the GAB, they are a tremendous help and resource to the clerks in the election process.

Janice DuChateau, Clerk
Town of Athelstane
Marinette County



1880 S. Stoughton Road Madison WI 53716
Phone 608-223-1104 * Fax 608-223-1106
www.blmgrove.com

January 13, 2015

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

I have been a Town Clerk for 12+ years. In that short time the election process has become much more cumbersome, and in my opinion, no better than it was when I started.

It is my opinion that the legislature passes elections laws with two interests in mind. One is to genuinely improve the process in such a way as to minimize fraud while maximizing the ability for eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote. The other is to improve the chances of Republicans winning future elections.

It is my experience that the Government Accountability Board's staff does an outstanding job of informing, training and otherwise working with municipal clerks to implement state election laws. They do this without partisanship, and that is why they are well-respected by clerks around the state – regardless of the clerks' political persuasion.

I respectfully ask that you do NOT advocate or vote for any fundamental changes to the GAB. Yes, improvements on specifics are always welcome. But making the overseer of election law more partisan simply does not make any sense. This would be true regardless of whether it was Democrats or Republicans making that change.

I appreciate that there are colleagues of yours that want to fire the referee and hire their own. But this would not be in the best interest of our state in the long run.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Wolf
Town Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator
Town of Blooming Grove, Dane County

Subject: GAB

Dear Honorable Senator Cowles:

I am contacting you to let you know how much myself, as a town clerk, rely on the GAB for all of our election guidance and advice. They are very prompt with their replies to any questions that I may have come up concerning election issues. The webinars that they make available to us for training are invaluable to me, as I can view them from my laptop instead of driving to a central location to listen to. They do an excellent job in informing clerks with all the changes the legislature has made the past several years. I don't know what I would do if the GAB was not available for guidance.

Darrell Frandsen—Clerk
Town of Bone Lake—Polk County

From: Darrell Frandsen [mailto:DarrellF@Lakeland.ws]
Sent: Friday, January 09, 2015 9:25 AM
To: Rep.Kerkman; Rep.Jarchow
Subject: GAB

Dear Honorable Representatives:

I am corresponding to you to let you know how much the GAB has done to help the municipal clerks (I am a town clerk of 34 years) in conducting elections. Their guidance by way of webinars for training, prompt replies to my many questions, and their effectiveness in processing the many legislative changes in the past few years has been invaluable to me personally. Whenever I have a question concerning any election issue, I am always answered quickly and courteously either by email or by phone. As you proceed with your audit of the GAB please remember how invaluable they are to all municipal clerks in Wisconsin.

Darrell Frandsen—Town Clerk
Town of Bone Lake—Polk County
954 280th Avenue
Frederic, WI 54837
darrellf@lakeland.ws
715/472/8212

From: Town Bridgeport [<mailto:bridgeport.one@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, January 11, 2015 1:10 PM
To: Sen.Cowles
Subject: GAB audit

Senator Cowles,

The GAB has always been a great source of information when questions arise, the webinars are very helpful and having them online is invaluable.

The only source of frustration for me, as a rural area clerk, is the short 10 days, no weekends, time for in person absentee voting. This is very limited time and a burden to our voters. Would like to see this changed so once the ballots are available electors can vote my mail in person until election day.

Thank you

Linda Smrcina
Town of Bridgeport Clerk
Crawford County
Ph: 608-326-7220 or 608-326-2385

TOWN OF CLIFTON
N7401 1195th Street
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

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 allowing me to give you feedback regarding the Government Accountability Board. As a town clerk for over 14 years, I sit up and notice when legislation concerning municipalities is being considered.

There have been some mighty big changes in the election procedures over the past few years, especially. Granted, some of the changes have been frustrating to say the least. For example, do we require the photo I.D. or not. A decision not to have a photo I.D. was made within a month of an election, creating chaos for clerks. This decision was made by the legislature, not the *GAB*.

From my standpoint, I feel the *GAB* has done an admirable job in all ways, under extenuating circumstances, again, created by the Legislature. When Rep. Dean Knudson mentioned in the January 1st edition of the River Falls Journal "the agency also failed to match voter lists with list of felons", I was very surprised. I have received that list from the *GAB* as far as I can remember.

Granted, we've been frustrated with all the training programs, the surveys, the audits, the stringent policies to follow before and after the elections, the record keeping, etc. That is what is required of the clerks from the GAB and rightfully so. They have also been very supportive of the clerks in all the changes that have been created by the legislature, as well as themselves.

I also am very disappointed that the legislature is thinking about removing the retired judges from the board. If this is the case then who will be on the board? Will this also become a partisan issue? Seems like everything in Wisconsin is becoming partisan, instead of fair.

Sincerely,

Judy Clement-Lee

Clerk/Treasurer

Town of Clifton



WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

Public Hearing Slip

(PLEASE PRINT PLAINLY)

DATE: Jan. 14, 2015

BILL NO.: 1

OR

SUBJECT: SAB Hearing

Kristi Williams
NAME

3768 Bohmsack Ln
STREET ADDRESS OR ROUTE NUMBER

Cottage Grove, WI 53527
CITY AND ZIP CODE

Town of Cottage Grove
REPRESENTING

Speaking

In Favor

Against

Information only

Not Speaking

In Favor

Against

Please Read my Comment on Back

Please return this slip to a messenger PROMPTLY.

SAB as it is, is responsive sharing new information & helpful answering questions. Our problem is with newly enacted laws that are not thought through & have negative, unintended complications.

For example the redistricting gave 1 own of Cottage Grove Town Assembly District -

I wish to defend SAB & criticize lawmakers for not reviewing laws for unintended implications

Thank you

From: Town of Egg Harbor (Pam) [<mailto:towneggharbor@newwis.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 8:58 AM
To: Sen.Cowles
Subject: GAB Audit

Good Morning Senator Cowles:

The sun is shining and it is finally in the teens here in Door County. Hope this finds you and your family well.

I would like to stress my positive experiences over the years with the GAB. In April I will have held this position for the Town of Egg Harbor for 20 years, so you can imagine, just like you I have seen a lot of change in election laws over the years, some good, some not so good, but the GAB has definitely been a very positive asset for my job and many other local municipal clerks. From their availability throughout the year and on election days to their continuing education to keep us in compliance of the state laws.

When they conduct their three hour trainings at WTA state conventions to the Clerk's state conventions I wish some state legislators would attend those trainings. The GAB conducts themselves on a very professional bases and presents all the necessary information needed to keep us up to date and prepared for running our elections not to mention the many continuing education webinars that are available. Their website offers everything to the necessary forms we need throughout every election process to keeping us updated to any election law changes. I could go on and on.

The state of Wisconsin and Municipal Clerks are very fortunate to have such an organization and I feel it is very important that they continue as a non partisan organization. After all ultimately are we not the ones to make sure elections are run correctly and the GAB is a huge tool for us to do our job!

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to be of any help.

P.S. How about them packers!!!!!!

Pam Krauel
Clerk-Treasurer
5242 County I
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
920-743-6141 towneggharbor@newwis.com
townofeggharbor.org

Connie Zimmerman
Clerk/Treasurer
fultonclerk@townoffulton.com



608-868-4103
Fax: 608-868-4104
fulton@townoffulton.com

January 12, 2015

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

2738 W. Fulton Center Dr.
Edgerton, Wisconsin 53534
www.townoffulton.com

To The Honorable Robert Cowles,

My name is Connie Zimmerman, and I am a Town Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Fulton (population 3263) in Rock County, Wisconsin. I wear many hats in my capacity of being the town clerk/treasurer, as I am a one person office. One of my many important responsibilities includes elections. As you are aware, there are continually changing laws that I need to stay up to date on in order to provide the best service to our citizens when they come to the polling place to vote. I strive to give the best service to our electors, and ensure I and my election officials are running a smooth, and lawful polling place.

Keeping up with all the laws and litigation is nearly impossible with all the other responsibilities I have. I credit GAB for keeping me informed and educated on these ever changing laws and rules. GAB provides much needed training and guidance to all clerks throughout the state, whether the training is in person, written communication, or webinars. GAB is instrumental in keeping clerks up to date, and provides consistency throughout the state in the way we conduct elections. GAB additionally records training hours attended by clerks to assure municipal clerks maintain their certification, and are compliant with the state law.

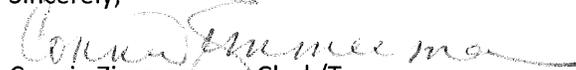
GAB continually provides training and updates to all clerks for SVRS (the State Wide Voter Registration System) which is a valuable, complicated software program linking the entire state together to ensure voter records and history is maintained and current. Their provided support through their Help Desk is another service they provide on a daily basis for all of us SVRS users. Questions and/or issues arise when clerks use this system, and it is extremely important to have support available on a daily basis because many clerks use the program at different times.

GAB staff ensures their availability for questions or issues that may come up during the weeks prior to and also the day of and after the election by expanding their hours, and being available to us clerks and the public should the need arise. GAB additionally has orchestrated MyVoteWI.gov which is a website designed specifically for the voter, giving them easy access to their voter history, absentee voting, and registering to vote just to name a few. It also provides information to overseas voters, and military voters, and enables them to submit requests for absentee ballots online, and print ballots out immediately rather than waiting for them to arrive in the mail.

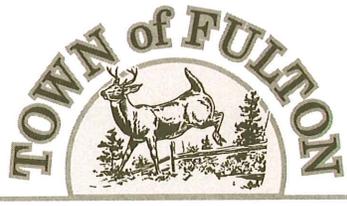
In this ever changing world of technology, GAB is working hard to keep the clerks trained and informed with new equipment, websites and software enhancements. It would be detrimental to all clerks throughout the state to have the GAB staff reduced, and GAB legal counsel limited.

It is very important to me that GAB remain an integral part in elections, and continue to supply municipal clerks with the much needed guidance, training and assistance to assure clerks can continue to provide our voters with the best and lawful services allowable.

Sincerely,


Connie Zimmerman, Clerk/Treasurer

Connie Zimmerman
Clerk/Treasurer
fultonclerk@townoffulton.com



608-868-4103
Fax: 608-868-4104
fulton@townoffulton.com

January 12, 2015

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

2738 W. Fulton Center Dr.
Edgerton, Wisconsin 53534
www.townoffulton.com

JAN 14 2015

To The Honorable Samantha Kerkman,

My name is Connie Zimmerman, and I am a Town Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Fulton (population 3263) in Rock County, Wisconsin. I wear many hats in my capacity of being the town clerk/treasurer, as I am a one person office. One of my many important responsibilities includes elections. As you are aware, there are continually changing laws that I need to stay up to date on in order to provide the best service to our citizens when they come to the polling place to vote. I strive to give the best service to our electors, and ensure I and my election officials are running a smooth, and lawful polling place.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Zimmerman".

Connie Zimmerman, Clerk/Treasurer

Subject: GAB audit public hearing

Dear Senator Cowles,

For years now I've felt that the GAB is not doing the job of keeping elections fair. They make the elections even more complicated by using their office to distribute busywork to the municipalities instead of concentrating on the largely liberal Wisconsin cities and counties whose voting was over 100%. The changes they send us are usually biased and not statutory.

Their harassment of conservative donors was completely out of line and their not returning the assets of those donors should be considered felony theft! How can we possibly trust them?

While many municipalities like ours are struggling to keep taxes down Wisconsin is spending an enormous amount on this unnecessary and even detrimental department. The rent on their block of offices alone is more than our whole budget. Our constituents are having a very difficult time paying their property taxes. Many are unable to pay them. Then when I get the facts on the GAB budget it makes me ill.

Ginny Strobl
Town of Georgetown Chair
N5957 Woodlawn Rd.
Kennan, Price County, WI 54537

From: Ginny Strobl [mailto:gstrobl@centurytel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 7:57 PM
To: Rep.Kerkman
Subject: GAB audit public hearing

Dear Representative Kerkman,

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Ginny Strobl
Town of Georgetown Chair
N5957 Woodlawn Rd.
Kennan, Price County, WI 54537
715 474 3434



TOWN OF GRAND RAPIDS
WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

JAN 13 2015

January 13, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles
State Senator
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7822

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. I was unable to attend the Public Hearing and wish to express my thoughts on this issue.

I have been a municipal clerk for the past 8 years and the Government Accountability Board has proven to be an excellent resource for the improvement of election management across the state. GAB has played a large role in providing guidance, support, training, education, common procedures, manuals, notices, reminders and forms to all the state clerks at both the county and local levels. Most importantly, the GAB provides oversight to keep elections in Wisconsin fare. The statewide systems and procedures from GAB help to provide a consistent voter experience no matter what community an elector lives in and provides excellent translation of legislation into understandable processes and procedures.

I believe that the staff at GAB is well educated, professional, a great asset to the municipal clerks and most importantly non-partisan in carrying out their functions. I would encourage you to allow them to continue their fine work for the electors, candidates, counties and municipalities across Wisconsin.

I believe that the Legislative Audit Bureau's exception report is a great tool for self-improvement but every person, business, government agency or legislator has room for improvement and I believe that the Legislative Audit Bureau's report should be used for that purpose and using for any other agenda is 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 to provide them with the necessary staffing and funds to improve in those areas that need it.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to voice my thoughts.

Sincerely,
Town of Grand Rapids

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Judy McLellan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy McLellan, CMC, WCMC
Town Clerk



January 13, 2015

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

RE: Public Hearing on the Government Accountability Board

Dear Senator Cowles:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input regarding the Public Hearing concerning the Government Accountability Board. It's important for the Municipal Clerk's voice to be heard as it is us who deal directly with the GAB, and it is us who are responsible for elections.

As clerks, we can confirm that election laws are difficult to understand, change quickly, and change often. Sometimes the change is so fast that clerks have to scramble to understand what the expectations are and how to efficiently carry out those expectations. What role does GAB play? GAB breaks down these laws to an understandable format and establishes practical procedures to carry them out. It's the clerk's role to make these procedures as efficient as possible for their community.

GAB provides an unbiased, unformed approach to elections. Their work is based on facts, not politics. Politicking's place is during the creation of the laws, not in enforcing them. GAB takes every effort to assure the process is as neutral as possible, which is what the election process is meant to be.

GAB is the impartial complaint department for elections. When there's a citizen complaint, it is GAB who investigates; they are the government's representative. Their objective is based on laws and facts, and their job is to guarantee the process is carried out according to the law; a quasi-law enforcement of the election process.

GAB is a board consisting of six former judges who oversees staff. The staff is of the utmost professional staff to represent the State of Wisconsin. Should there be a question with staff's performance, it's brought to the attention of the board; much like the structure of local government. GAB is not one person; it's an accumulation of many; many thoughts, many opinions, many ideas, many processes and many procedures. However, there can only be one outcome which is a result of the many options taken into consideration. Without the many, there outcome is questionable.

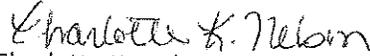
process in 2007. Its job is to enforce the laws written by the legislature to assure a fair and impartial electoral process. It is governed not by one, but by many. We are grateful to the GAB staff for all the help they have given us as clerks, and as citizens of this state. They have restored our faith in the election process. The election process is not a perfect process, but it's a good one, and one that many countries wish they had.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Respectfully,
Town of Ledgeview, Brown County, WI



Sarah K. Burdette
Clerk/Administrator



Charlotte K. Nelson
Deputy Clerk

Cc: Senators Lasee and Hansen
Representatives Kerman, Jacque, and Macco

James Weiss
Chairman



Sue Polyock, CMC/WCMC
Clerk/Treasurer

TOWN OF LINN

WALWORTH COUNTY

Supervisors:
Christine Jones
Craig DeYoung
Roy White
Alex Palmer

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:

Thank you for allowing our input in this very important review of the Government Accountability Board. As a Certified Municipal Clerk and a Wisconsin Certified Municipal Clerk with over 24 years of service as well as my Deputy Clerk of 19 years who serves as the Town's Election Specialist, we feel the need to voice our opinions in our interaction with the GAB.

Since the GAB was established in 2008 I have received over 38 hours of election training and my Deputy Clerk over 90 hours of election training offered by the GAB. In all of those hours of interaction there has never been a hint of partisanship from any of the GAB counsels or staff. The Board has conducted classes at every Wisconsin Municipal Clerk's Convention and its District meetings throughout the state. Extensive training was offered on the Statewide Voter Registration System when that was implemented. Support and updates on the SVRS continues. When you consider Wisconsin has over three and a half million registered voters that's quite an accomplishment. Training was conducted in person, at the County level by conference call and, most recently, on web based classes that may be attended live or by archived broadcast. The training the GAB offers on election law and procedures is invaluable. The GAB keeps us informed when changes occur, sometimes changing between each election. They also update all of the manuals and forms required with great efficiency. The 2014 General Election saw many oscillations in the weeks and days leading up to the election. The GAB kept us informed and helped us through those uncertain weeks.

While no process run by human beings will ever be without room for improvement, that is the beauty of the system and humanity. People can change. The Government Accountability Board has been receptive to and invites input from the clerks who are charged with conducting the elections. I can not say enough positive things about their willingness to include our input and suggestions. I think the GAB has done a remarkable job of helping us train our poll workers. Whenever we have called them with questions or other issues about election procedures or unique SVRS entries an expert in that area has always responded.

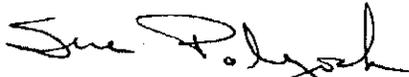
We hope that you will agree that the Government Accountability Board as it now stands is providing excellent nonpartisan service to our state , municipal and county clerks and, more importantly, to our voters. The demand put on the GAB has been unrelenting with a seemingly endless stream of legislative changes. Perhaps more staff in certain areas is necessary. I'm sure the GAB would have suggestions on what it might need to fulfill what you believe is necessary for it to run efficiently and effectively. When I think of how far we have come since 2008, it's quite impressive. We, in the Clerk's office, and our Election Inspectors and Chief Inspectors are much better informed and educated then ever before. I know the GAB will continue in that vein if allowed.

The GAB has initiated many inclusive web based services for the voter, most recently the MyVote and Badger Voters systems. It has also helped municipalities implement accessibility solutions and monitors polling places to assure all electors the ability to cast a ballot as required by the Help America Vote Act. We are proud to be a part of the election process and know that, in spite of what people are led to believe, Wisconsin conducts open and transparent elections with extremely few incidents of " voter fraud".

We ask that you assist in strengthening and improving the GAB where necessary rather than eradicate an excellent and responsive board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sue Polyock ,Clerk/Treasurer CMC,WCMC



Mama Akerley, Deputy Clerk

James Weiss
Chairman

Sue Polyock, CMC/WCMC
Clerk/Treasurer



TOWN OF LINN

WALWORTH COUNTY

Supervisors:
Christine Jones
Craig DeYoung
Roy White
Alex Palmer

January 13, 2015

The Honorable Samantha Kerkman
State Representative
P O Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov

RE: Public Hearing on GAB Performance

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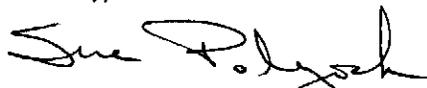
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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sue Polyock , Clerk/Treasurer CMC, WCMC



Marna Akerley, Deputy Clerk

Subject: Government Accountability Board

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:

This letter is to comment on the Government Accountability Board. I have only been a clerk for four years but in those years I have found the Government Accountability Board extremely helpful in guiding me in learning the proper election process.

The GAB is invaluable to us as clerks, especially new clerks, for the manuals, forms, education and training they provide for elections; but most of all for the support they offer to us in answering any questions we have to keeping us up to date on any last minute changes in legislation concerning the election process. This in turn helps to keep our elections uniform, unbiased and fair.

With this in mind, I strongly encourage you to please support the continuance of the Government Accountability Board, not disband them.
They truly help to make our jobs as clerks much easier when it comes to elections.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my feelings on the value of the GAB.

Sincerely,
Darla Pittman, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Maiden Rock

Town of Medford
Office of the Clerk

January 14, 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 for almost 20 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!

Town of Medford
Office of the Clerk

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.

Sincerely,

Diane Maar, CMC
Town of Medford Clerk

Town of Meteor
1544N Cole Lane
Exeland, WI 54835-2123

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

RE: Public Hearing re: GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

Thank you for the providing me with the opportunity to give feedback on the Government Accountability Board. As a Clerk with 30 years of experience over elections I have seen a lot of good changes. When I started there really was no coordination between different units of government. With the guidance of the Government Accountability Board, there has been a direction for all to proceed and in so developing a system that works and is very accountable to Clerks who administer the election and the Legislature that makes the laws. We now have training and a state wide voter base for tracking registered voters for accountability. The staff works hard to interpret the law and how we can work to make it work for all municipalities. Instead of disbanding or cutting them in numbers, they should be given more money and help improving our process in the needed areas. The loss of the Government Accountability Board would put the Clerk and the election process back 30 years.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Town of Meteor

Clarence E Frey,
Town Clerk

TOWN OF MIDDLETON
7555 W. OLD SAUK ROAD
VERONA, WI 53593

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 regarding GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to give you feedback on the Government Accountability Board (GAB). Any proposed legislation that would affect the GAB, could have a major impact on my municipality.

In as little as ten years ago, election management was handled with little to no oversight from anyone. There was a lack of coordination, no comprehensive training, methods and procedures were generally county generated and there was little to no consistency between processes from one municipality to another and from one county to another. There was no statewide database, no audits, little technology and frankly, not much accountability.

In recent years, the GAB has proven to be an excellent resource for the improvement of election management across the state. The election process has evolved quite a bit over the last several 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 give municipalities the ability to detect voter fraud and abuse across municipal borders much earlier; voter experience is consistent no matter what municipality 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 regarding 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 to assess what went well and work towards the betterment in those areas that it 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.

Sincerely,



David Shaw
Town Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

cc: Rep. Samantha Kerkman
Sen. Mary Lazich
Rep. John Macco
Sen. Alberta Darling
Rep. John Nygren
Sen. Kathleen Vinehout
Rep. Melissa Sargent
Sen. Janet Bewley
Rep. Terese Berceau



Town of Newbold
Oneida County, Wisconsin

Kim Gauthier, Clerk
6105 Point Drive
Rhineland, WI 54501
Phone: 715-362-1092
kgauthier@newboldtown.com

January 13, 2015

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

RE: Elections and the G.A.B.

Dear Honorable Robert Cowles:

This letter is sent to express my deepest appreciation for the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board.

I am a four year, municipal clerk in the rural Northwood's of Wisconsin. Election training opportunities have been made available to me due to the ingenuity of the G.A.B. Election laws have seen a vast amount of legislative changes in the past four years and if it were not for G.A.B. to provide quick implementation, many clerks would be left to venture out on their own. The G.A.B provides consistency through out the State, prompt service, counsel and up-to-date training that is imperative for accurate election implementation!

Please continue to support their efforts for the sake of our great State and the integrity of elections!

Respectfully,

Kim Gauthier, Clerk
Town of Newbold, Oneida County

Hi my name is Senta Hall; I am the Town Clerk from the Town of Norway in Racine County. I have held this position since January 1, 2013. However, previous to this, I have worked for over 20 years in the court systems of Wisconsin in some capacity, including as the Clerk of Courts of Geneva Township for over 10 years and for the Walworth County Clerk Office for 9 years.

During this time, I have had the opportunity to work with many private and public agencies – both the good and the inefficient. In my opinion, it is rare to find a board of any type that is as thorough, accurate, reliable, and efficient as the Government Accountability Board (GAB). The work that they have accomplished in connection with the state's election process has been remarkable for its efficiency in conformity and streamlining of processes.

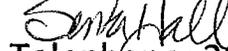
Without the GAB in place, it would be impossible to maintain consistency in the enactment of the state's rules and regulations governing election policies. This is not only destructive to the process from the election personnel side, it is also very damaging from the general public's point of view. There is such a negative perception of government and the election process now, without a governing board in place public opinion could get far worse.

For example, the GAB has had to be very involved in the ongoing battle regarding the Wisconsin Voter ID issue for over a year. During this time, the legislators and court system have been going back and forth regarding the constitutionality of requiring a photo ID to vote. The GAB has kept the election personnel of the entire state updated regarding requirements, laws and regulations, and upcoming issues. Because of major issues like the recall election, the Voter ID laws, and other projects similar to this, it is no surprise that the GAB could not complete certain statutorily required duties in a timely manner.

In recent years, expenditures and staff at the GAB have been found to be inconsistent. But with the current political environment, is anyone really surprised that government boards of any type are having a rough time keeping up with all the different factions they have to answer to and satisfy.

At this time, I would strongly advise you and the rest of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to support the GAB, and work to strengthen this board, and not to abolish it. The positive aspects of the GAB definitely outweigh the perceived negatives.

Senta Hall: Township of Norway Clerk


Telephone: 262/895-6335

TOWN OF NORWAY

RACINE COUNTY, WI
6419 HEG PARK ROAD
WIND LAKE, WI 53185

Town Clerk 262-895-6335
Treasurer 262-895-2463
Bldg. Insp. 262-895-2732
Fax # 262-895-6601

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:

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my feedback regarding the Government Accountability Board. I will be celebrating 24 years this year as the deputy clerk for the Town of Norway and I feel privileged to have taken part in many elections during these years and look forward to those to come.

I have seen dramatic changes made to the election process over the years, due to more and more legislation and with that much scrutiny and criticism. I feel that the Government Accountability Board has taken many steps in providing support, guidance, training and education for not only municipal clerks but for voters and candidates, as well, to maintain a high level of structure and accountability.

Education is key to conducting a fair and accurate election. The GAB training webinars are a great educational tool and helpful in maintaining certification training for clerks and election officials. Updated training materials, including election manuals and calendar of events are a much needed resource.

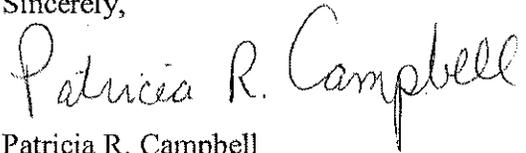
The Statewide Voter Registration System has come a long way from its beginning and I cannot say enough for the excellent support and guidance provided by the staff members at the GAB. They are well informed, professional and educated on the latest legislative changes. Updates/changes to SVRS give municipalities the ability to monitor more closely to detect voter fraud and abuse.

I understand there are areas for improvement within the Government Accountability Board. With that being said, I feel the constant changes being made by legislators, creates challenges for those who are required to fulfill statutory duties. The Government Accountability Board has done a tremendous job carrying out this purpose while remaining non-partisan.

During your review of the Government Accountability Board, I would hope that you take into consideration those, such as myself, who benefit greatly from the functions and duties the GAB provides. I encourage that instead of disbanding the GAB and eliminating staff members, you would provide the support necessary for more staffing and funds for improvement in those areas that need it.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia R. Campbell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Patricia R. Campbell
Deputy Clerk
Town of Norway

TOWN OF NORWAY

RACINE COUNTY, WI
6419 HEG PARK ROAD
WIND LAKE, WI 53185

Town Clerk 262-895-6335
Treasurer 262-895-2463
Bldg. Insp. 262-895-2732
Fax # 262-895-6601

JAN 16 2015

January 12, 2015

The Honorable Samantha Kerkman
Representative
Room 315 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin

RE: Public Hearing re: GAB Performance

Dear Representative Kerkman:

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Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia R. Campbell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Patricia R. Campbell
Deputy Clerk
Town of Norway



TOWN OF OXFORD

Office of the Clerk
N2873 County Road A
Oxford, WI 53952

608-586-4366
oxfordtownship@maqs.net

January 12, 2015

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

RE: Public Hearing on GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

Thank you for providing me with an opportunity to give you my insight on the Government Accountability Board. As a town clerk with over 36 years of experience, I can assure you I am extremely interested when legislation impacting municipalities is considered. This being one of those times, I feel I must let you know how I feel.

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

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

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 this great state.

With regard to the Legislative Audit Bureau's exceptions report, this is a great tool for self-improvement! Respectfully, who among us, be it individual, business, government agency or legislator can say they have no room for improvement? We all should strive daily for that improvement by assessing what

went well, and working towards improvement in those areas that did not. The Legislative Audit Bureau's audit is meant for that purpose and using it for any other agenda is terribly wrong.

Instead of considering to disband the GAB, 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 any areas that need it.

Thank you again for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Mary P. Walters
Clerk, Town of Oxford



TOWN OF OXFORD

Office of the Clerk
N2873 County Road A
Oxford, WI 53952

608-586-4366
oxfordtownship@maqs.net

January 12, 2015

Representative Samantha Kerkman
Assembly District 61
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov

RE: Public Hearing on GAB Performance

Dear Representative Kerkman:

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Thank you again for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Mary P. Walters
Clerk, Town of Oxford



Town of Pine Lake

Cindy Skinner, Clerk

4305 Highlander Road

Rhineland, Wisconsin 54501

715.362.6071 Phone

715.369.0963 Fax

website; www.townofpinelake.com

email: clerk@townofpinelake.com

January 12, 2015

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

The Honorable Robert Cowles
State Senator
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Sen.Cowles@legis.wi.gov

Dear Representative Kerkman and Senator Cowles:

I apologize for emailing a letter to both of you instead of mailing. However, I needed time to make sure I could convey my message in a shorter form than I would like to have done because I could go on for pages on what the Government Accountability Board means to me as a town clerk who is appointed and works part-time from my home office. And I want to make sure that you receive this in time for Wednesday's public hearing.

As a short background, I was appointed as town clerk for the Town of Pine Lake 10 ½ years ago when the clerk died of a heart attack. Our town currently has an estimated population of 2,757, so I have over 1,900 registered voters and I'm not sure how many more eligible voters reside in our town. We are adjacent to the City of Rhineland in Oneida County. I started in June of 2004 with a special school referendum within a couple of weeks and a Presidential Election in November of that year. And no one to really guide me except my election workers and a few of the adjacent town clerks who were willing to help me out. Believe me when I tell you that I had no idea what went into running an election. I always voted and never truly appreciated what went on to allow me the privilege of voting. There was no one I could call in Madison, no manual, no guidance of any sort that I could find. But we made it through.

Without GAB to get us through all of the legislative changes and elections over the last several years, we would be a state in chaos instead of a state that we can be proud to know handles our elections professionally and fairly. They provide us with all the necessary updated forms, education to know how to use those forms as well as deal with all the other issues involving elections, manuals that we can follow and they are only a phone call or email away if we are confused and/or frustrated with a legislation that has not a clue what problems are created by the changing and implementing of so many laws in such a short period of time, which happens a lot. Do you have any idea how many clerks and election workers quit because of those changes?

How many more would quit without GAB backing us up. Being a clerk north of Highway 64, and we all know that means we are practically non-existent to Madison, but GAB doesn't even know where the Highway 64 boundary lies. They have made numerous in-person visits with clerks "up north" for input and education. They care how we do our jobs and are there for us even though we aren't the "city" influentials. They never hesitate to compliment us on our hard work and co-operation. They provide us with all the tools needed to do our jobs. And that relieves so much stress in our lives. They take on that stress for us. And for that I say "Thank you, GAB".

I read the audit summary and most of what I read was negative. Of course, any agency can have areas that need improvement. I would hope the full report would show many more positives, as they sure have them. It's always amazing to me when the year-end recap is done by GAB and shows everything that we all accomplished together as a team. I would request that any action to disband the Government Accountability Board not be supported. Please give them the credit they deserve and all the support they need to continue doing their outstanding work, be it in funding, staffing and encouragement.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments since I won't be able to attend the hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Skinner".

Cindy Skinner, Clerk
Town of Pine Lake

Town of Presque Isle

PO Box 130

Presque Isle, WI 54557

phone: 715-686-2473

fax: 715-686-2588

www.piwi.us

Jack Harrison, Chairman
Karen Swenson, Supervisor
Adam Johnson, Supervisor

Lorine Walters, Clerk
Kathy Sitkiewitz, Treasurer
Robert Berdan, Municipal
Judge

January 10, 2015

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

Dear Senator Cowles,

I'm writing you regarding the findings of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee as reported in the summary of the GAB audit. From my perspective, they are doing an excellent job providing local officials with the tools that we need to do what can only be described as an increasingly difficult job over the past several years.

I was particularly troubled about the comments in the Enforcement section stating that fines had not been assessed in most of the cases where they should have been. As a clerk trying to do the best she can to comply with all the regulations that have come out in the past several years, I appreciate an agency that guides me to compliance, not one that strictly enforces penalties without exception. As those who make the rules, I'm not sure that legislators understand how difficult it is to comply with those rules, especially when they change so often. The GAB does a great job of informing us of what we have to do to comply, sometimes with very short notice.

I support the recommendation to investigate the voting records of individuals who died before election day.

I certainly hope that your audit of the Governmental Accountability Board will result in suggestions for improvement, not budget cuts that will reduce their effectiveness in providing services to those who need it most. Please make my comments available to the rest of your committee.

Sincerely,



Lorine M. Walters
Town Clerk

Wisconsin's Last Wilderness

From: Barb Ceas [<mailto:ceasb@idcnet.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 12, 2015 11:32 AM
To: Rep.Loudenbeck
Subject: GAB Public Hearing

Dear Representative Loudenbeck:

Thank you for allowing me to give you feedback on the Government Accountability Board. As a municipal clerk with over 21 years of experience, I believe I am qualified when legislation impacting municipalities is considered. This being one of those times, I feel I must speak up.

When I first began my duties as a Town Clerk, 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.

Especially for small municipalities such as mine, 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 give municipalities the ability to detect voter fraud and abuse across municipal borders; voter experience is consistent no matter what community an elector lives in; and translating legislation into process and procedures is done extremely well!

The educated, well informed, professional, and supportive staff at the GAB are non-partisan in carrying out their function. 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.

The Legislative Audit Bureau's exceptions report is a great tool for self improvement. There is no individual, business, government agency or legislator who can say they have no room for improvement. We all should strive to improve daily by assessing what went well and working towards the betterment of 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 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 your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Barb Ceas

Barbara Ceas, WCMC, Town Clerk
Town of Richmond, Walworth County, WI
W8776 Territorial Road
Whitewater, WI 53190
608-883-2017 Phone/Fax
608-312-9674 Cellphone
Website: www.town.richmond.wi.us
Population 1889

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail message is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message. If you are the intended recipient but do not wish to receive communications through this medium, please so advise the sender immediately.

TOWN OF SCOTT

24265 Shady Lane
Boscobel, Wisconsin 53805
January 12, 2015

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

Dear Senator Cowles:

I serve as Clerk of the Town of Scott, a rural township in Crawford County. We have 301 registered voters. We are required to comply with the same frequent changes in election laws that other municipalities many times our size have dealt with. The assistance provided us by the Government Accountability Board has been invaluable. We especially appreciated it, since we were aware that the GAB had some real timeline challenges of their own.

The trainings offered municipal clerks and election inspectors by the GAB is available in varied formats, which has made it readily accessible. In addition, when I have called for guidance, my calls have been answered immediately, and knowledgeable staff have provided me with the information I needed.

In the Town of Scott, we are very familiar with the term "non-partisan." Our local officials are elected in non-partisan elections. I believe that it is crucial that the important work of the GAB be administered by a completely non-partisan board. That is an essential strength of the oversight function that the GAB is required to perform. We are aware that the Wisconsin GAB is a standard by which other states with similar agencies are judged. We are proud of the work they do and the example they have set. I urge you to not consider making any changes in that structure.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Margaret Mezera
Clerk, Town of Scott
Crawford County, Wisconsin

cc. Government Accountability Board
212 E. Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7984

TOWN OF SCOTT

JAN 15 2015

24265 Shady Lane
Boscobel, Wisconsin 53805
January 12, 2015

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

Dear Representative Kerkman:

I serve as Clerk of the Town of Scott, a rural township in Crawford County. We have 301 registered voters. We are required to comply with the same frequent changes in election laws that other municipalities many times our size have dealt with. The assistance provided us by the Government Accountability Board has been invaluable. We especially appreciated it, since we were aware that the GAB had some real timeline challenges of their own.

The trainings offered municipal clerks and election inspectors by the GAB is available in varied formats, which has made it readily accessible. In addition, when I have called for guidance, my calls have been answered immediately, and knowledgeable staff have provided me with the information I needed.

In the Town of Scott, we are very familiar with the term "non-partisan." Our local officials are elected in non-partisan elections. I believe that it is crucial that the important work of the GAB be administered by a completely non-partisan board. That is an essential strength of the oversight function that the GAB is required to perform. We are aware that the Wisconsin GAB is a standard by which other states with similar agencies are judged. We are proud of the work they do and the example they have set. I urge you to not consider making any changes in that structure.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Margaret Mezera
Clerk, Town of Scott
Crawford County, Wisconsin

cc. Government Accountability Board
212 E. Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 7984
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7984

TOWN OF SHERRY
WOOD COUNTY WISCONSIN
Visit our Website: townofsherry.com

January 12, 2015

The Honorable Robert L. Cowles
State Senator
Room 118 South
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Sen.Cowles@legis.wisconsin.gov

Subject: Public Hearing Regarding GAB Performance

Dear Senator Cowles:

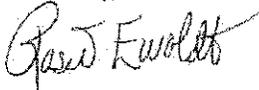
Thank you for taking time to consider input from municipal clerks from large and small municipalities throughout the State of Wisconsin. The Government Accountability Board's influence on the consistency of the election process has been a tremendous asset to ensure that our elections are meeting the intent of the law and represent the voters' choices.

I am a relatively new Town Clerk, with a little less than four years of experience in my elected position. The Town of Sherry is a rural town in Wood County, with a population of approximately 800 residents.

I rely on my County Clerk for election related questions, but GAB's training was paramount in taking me from a newbie to a confident election administrator. Their website, webinars, manuals, "train the trainer", and easy access allow clerks to be well informed stewards of the election process. They prepare the municipal clerks to educate the election officials with changes that will impact their duties during each election. GAB's unbiased interpretation and implementation guidelines of new legislation give all clerks access to the same information in a timely and efficient method. Their guidance has been invaluable.

I've always said that the smartest people I know don't know all of the answers, but they know where to find the answers. The GAB staff has been our "go to" people to find the answers. I would certainly hate to lose this valuable resource.

Sincerely,



ROSIE EWOLDT
Sherry Town Clerk

TOWN OF SHERRY
WOOD COUNTY WISCONSIN
Visit our Website: townofsherry.com

January 12, 2015

The Honorable Samantha Kerkman
State Representative
Room 315 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Rep.Kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov

Subject: Public Hearing Regarding GAB Performance

Dear Representative Kerkman:

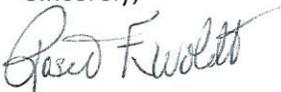
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Sincerely,



ROSIE EWOLDT
Sherry Town Clerk

To the Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Regarding Audit Report 14-14 Government Accountability Board

From Roger Anclam, Chairperson Town of Turtle

In the most recent past there has been a considerable amount of attention given in the medias to the conduct and future of the Government Accountability Board (GAB). It is to that end that I am writing for your consideration.

Being a small Town with a population of approximately twenty five hundred, we have limited resources and limited staff to manage our business. In this, conducting an election with the use of part time staff, utilizing poll workers from among our constituents, relying on a small measure of training, we have the task of conducting elections inside the scope of the law and rules on elections. Multiply the magnitude of that task with all of the changes and challenges and further changes to the law and the rules often pending days before an election and what has been created is an environment beyond our ability to reckon.

Therefore we have become reliant on the GAB as a ready, reliable source to provide us with support and direction to deliver a well-managed, responsible election. There have been many occasions when we have needed to contact the GAB on issues and they have always been very responsive with an answer, if not immediately, within a very short time frame either by phone or e-mail or both.

To change the GAB structure from a nonpartisan structure would reduce or eliminate its effectiveness and create an undue burden on our already limited resources by requiring us to seek counsel. Ours is not an isolated case; there are over twelve hundred Towns that are all similarly situated.

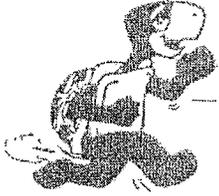
It has been written of the GAB that it is "America's Top Model" for managing fair, open, transparent elections that our electors demand and deserve. It is also been written that GAB has been ranked as being in the top five models in the nation over the past half a dozen years in election administration.

As chairperson of my Town Board I encourage you to consider the impact to the towns and to the election process as a whole when considering the future of the GAB. As a voter I demand the fair, open, and reliable conduct of elections and I believe to reduce or eliminate the basis on which the GAB operates is to put the election process at risk.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Roger Anclam

Chairperson Town of Turtle



TOWN OF TURTLE

6916 South Cty Road J • Beloit, WI 53511 • Phone 608-362-0655 • Fax 608-364-1151

January 12, 2015

RE: GAB Performance

I have been a clerk for 22 years in one municipality and 10 years in another as well. When I first started elections were not handled anywhere near how they are today. With all of the ongoing changes to the laws, we as clerks need the support of GAB. They have made education/training readily available to us. The staff at GAB is very knowledgeable. You get an answer to any question/concern today and not have to wait until tomorrow. This enables clerks to move forward with the election process.

I encourage you to leave GAB in place to continue overseeing elections in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Bennett".

Deborah Bennett-WCMC
Clerk/Treasurer-Town of Turtle
Clerk/Treasurer-Town of Rock

Subject: GAB - very important

Dear Senator Cowles:

As a newer Town Clerk, I have greatly utilized the information that the GAB has provided us. Whether it is their detailed Calendar to keep us on track with deadlines and records destruction, to the training to keep us up-to-date with the latest law changes. I feel I would be lost without them and their availability. Whenever I have needed to call them with questions, it has always been a prompt answer and a friendly person. Please keep the GAB as a tool for the Clerks and to assist with the election security and procedures.

Thank you!

Jenny Sonnleitner, Clerk
Town of Utica, Winnebago County

From: Ed Sypek <sypeked@yahoo.com>

To: "sen.cowles@legis.wisconsin.gov" <sen.cowles@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "sen.lazich@legis.wisconsin.gov" <sen.lazich@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "sen.darling@legis.wisconsin.gov" <sen.darling@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "sen.vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov" <sen.vinehout@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "sen.bewley@legis.wisconsin.gov" <sen.bewley@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "rep.kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov" <rep.kerkman@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "rep.macco@legis.wisconsin.gov" <rep.macco@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "rep.nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov" <rep.nygren@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "rep.sargent@legis.wisconsin.gov" <rep.sargent@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "rep.berceau@legis.wisconsin.gov" <rep.berceau@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "rep.murphy@legis.wisconsin.gov" <rep.murphy@legis.wisconsin.gov>; "sen.roth@legis.wisconsin.gov" <sen.roth@legis.wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 2:39 PM

Subject: Government Accountability Board

Senators and Represtatives,

I support a non partisan, non political GAB, but ask that caution is used if any changes to the make up of this board is made for any reason.

The Town of Vinland relies on the GAB for a number of election related services and it would not be in Vinland's best interests to eliminate or disrupt those services. Thank you

Ed Sypek
Supervisor
Town of Vinland
6085 Couty Road T
Oshkosh, Wi 54904
920 -235-6953

From: Jackie Vold [<mailto:vold@townofwashington.org>]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 4:29 PM
To: Sen.Cowles
Subject: Public Hearing on Audit of Government Accountability Board

Senator Cowles:

I would like to express my appreciation for the work of the G.A.B. The expertise and availability for training webinars for elections and working in the Statewide Voter Registration System is invaluable to my work during elections.

This past year with the many, many election law changes would have been extremely difficult without their assistance. I would highly recommend that their staff and work is funded and remains in place for all of us throughout Wisconsin who rely on their help.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jackie Vold

Deputy Clerk
Town of Washington
5750 Old Town Hall Rd.
Eau Claire WI 54701
Pop. 7,205
www.townofwashington.org
715-834-3257

From: Jackie Vold [mailto:vold@townofwashington.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 4:29 PM
To: Rep.Kerkman
Subject:

Honorable Samantha Kerkman:

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Thank you for your consideration,

Jackie Vold

Deputy Clerk
Town of Washington
5750 Old Town Hall Rd.
Eau Claire WI 54701
Pop. 7,205
www.townofwashington.org
715-834-3257

From: Jay and Cindi Haag [<mailto:chaag@centurytel.net>]

Sent: Thursday, January 08, 2015 5:44 PM

To: Sen.Cowles

Subject: hearing on GAB

As a municipal clerk of almost thirty years, I feel compelled to submit my brief thoughts to you regarding the GAB. There is absolutely no reason to make changes to the GAB as it currently exists. Any proposed changes would seem to be politically motivated. During the last few years, we have seen many legislative changes in the voting process. In my opinion those changes have been too many and have required far too rapid response/action by the GAB and local election officials. The GAB and local election officials have attempted, quite successfully, to comply with those legislative changes. Let's all take a rest and allow the people to vote and the system to work. The GAB has done a fine job maintaining its lack of bias and has done a fine job in enforcing new legislative mandates. Let's try to keep partisan politics out of this issue. Cindi Haag, Clerk, Town of Wilson, Eau Claire County, WI.