

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

September 8, 2011

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

Dear Representative Vos:

This letter is in response to your telephone request received on August 10, 2011. You requested that the Government Accountability Board provide an estimate of costs spent on the administration and conduct of the 2011 Primary Recall Elections for State Senate Districts 2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18, 22 and 32 and the Recall Elections for 2, 8, 10, 12, 14, 18, 22, 30 and 32.

On August 11, 2011, the Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) staff solicited election costs from the 40 county clerks in which Recall Elections were held. Response were requested in late August and this morning. The decision to send the request to the 40 County Clerks rather than to the 594 involved municipal clerks was made in order to facilitate a faster response time. We asked the county clerks to provide data on the cost of conducting elections including:

- Cost of printing ballots
- Cost of programming electronic voting equipment
- Cost of printing and publishing notices
- Cost of absentee ballot preparation, including postage
- Cost of wages for Poll Workers, other Election Inspectors and the Board of Canvassers

The G.A.B. staff also gathered fiscal impact data on the administration (review and analysis) of petitions, copying costs, etc., of the 2011 Recall Elections, and that information is also included in the enclosed summary. The total estimated combined costs of the 40 involved counties, their respective municipalities for conducting the 2010 Recall Elections, and the costs for G.A.B.'s election administration come to approximately \$2,144,998.69.

It is important to note that the cost information submitted by the counties especially, is an estimate. Not all municipalities within the reporting counties responded and not all respondents (county or municipalities) included cost data on all five requested areas. Rather than interpreting these data as comprehensive and complete, at best, they should be considered only as a preliminary and estimated snapshot of the full costs of administering and conducting the 2011 Recall Elections.

Please let me know if you wish to further discuss this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

Government Accountability Board

Summary Report of Cost Estimates Received from County Clerks (Clerks in Counties in which 2011 Recall Elections were Conducted)

The information summarized below is a snapshot of the Recall Elections cost data provided by counties on behalf of themselves and their respective municipalities.

➤ Background

Wisconsin has:

| | |
|-------|--|
| 3.2 | Million active registered voters in SVRS as of August 31, 2011 |
| 1,850 | Municipalities (cities, towns and villages) |
| 1,850 | Municipal Clerks |
| 72 | County Clerks |
| 2,658 | Polling places were opened to Wisconsin electors for the April 5, 2011 statewide spring election |

➤ Counties and Municipalities' Estimated Expenses

- 40 counties impacted; All 40 provided responses to the G.A.B.
- 594 municipalities impacted
- 1,674 polling places were staffed* during the Recall Primaries and Recall Elections.
- 692,849 votes were cast during the Recall Primaries and Recall Elections.
- \$ 2,056,336.69 is the estimated cost compiled from the responses of 39 of the 40 counties.

* The number of local election official staffing polling places may vary from a minimum of three, normally up to seven (the number of election inspectors may exceed seven as long as the polling place has an odd number of election officials, including the chief election inspector) depending on actions taken by the respective municipal governing boards. Also, note that some polling places were combined for the 2011 Recall election in order to reduce administrative and operating costs.

➤ Government Accountability Board's Estimated Expenses

- Nine (s) Recall petitions were certified for an election by the G.A.B.
- 29,672 petition pages were reviewed by the G.A.B. staff.
- 215,972 signatures were reviewed by G.A.B. staff.
- 16 G.A.B. program staff persons were dedicated to the review/analysis of Recall Petitions.
- 5,475.75 hours of program staff time* were spent on administration of Recall Petitions.
- 17 contract staff personnel were hired to assist with this project to meet deadlines.
- 578.5 hours were spent on the Recall project by contract staff.
- The Government Accountability Board conducted three special meetings to review petition sufficiency and changes.
- \$88,662.00 is the estimated fiscal impact incurred by G.A.B.

Recall Project Period: February 2011 through first week in June 2011.

* Estimated G.A.B. staff costs do not include time spent on the Recall Project by staff counsel or by agency Director and General Counsel.

Combined Estimated Cost of Administering and Conducting the 2011 Recall Elections:

\$ 2,144,998.69