

Election Update



September 2008

WISCONSIN GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Every voter counts.



GAB Discusses 'HAVA Check' and Makes No Changes to Policy

The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) meeting on August 27 and 28 included an extended discussion of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) data interfaces with other state agencies and whether local election officials should be required to retroactively cross-check voter data with Department of Transportation (DOT) data back to January 1, 2006. The Board also discussed whether voters whose SVRS data fails to match with other state data should be required to voter on a provisional ballot for fall elections if unable to provide proof of residence at the polling place.

After receiving a staff report, a letter from the Republican Party of Wisconsin, and testimony from several other sources, the Board ultimately decided to maintain the position set at its July meeting which does not require clerks to perform retroactive checks with DOT data or require voters whose data does not match DOT records to vote on a provisional ballot. Three clerks testified to the Board in support of that position: Walworth County Clerk Kim Bushey, Dane County Clerk Bob Ohlsen, and Waunakee Village Clerk Julie Helt.

After the G.A.B. meeting, Elections Division staff cross-checked data for the six Board members through the 'HAVA Check' in the SVRS and found that four of the six had data that did not match DOT records. Three did not match on the name, and one on the birth date. After the Board members' SVRS information was corrected using personal information provided by each member, all six records matched the DOT information and "passed" the HAVA Check. The agency issued a news release explaining the results of that initial cross-check to the public. Local election officials should continue to ask voters to register using information that *matches* the data given to the DOT.

Poll Worker Recruitment Help Offered by the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund has created the Wisconsin Poll Worker Recruitment Project, which aims to address the ongoing need for poll workers and to build a younger, more diverse Election Day workforce qualified to work with new voting technologies and an increasingly diverse electorate.

Several League of Women Voters (LWV) chapters are participating in the Poll Worker Recruitment Project and are working directly with their municipal clerks. Partnering with an intermediary organization can be a useful way for city clerks to recruit new poll workers. The League gathered information from successful models from around the U.S. for recruiting poll workers from high schools, colleges, community organizations, local businesses and government employees, and created sample outreach materials. The materials are available to any municipal or county clerk. Contact Mary Hughes at (608) 256-0827 or email at mhughes@lwvwi.org for more information.

Wisconsin Elections Division Sets Its Autumn Training Schedule

Local election officials in Wisconsin will soon be surveyed about their needs for Chief Inspector training this fall, and, depending on their needs before the November 4, 2008, election, the Elections Division will add CIT classes in October. Municipal clerks may also be asked about their own Municipal Clerk Training needs and more of those classes may also be scheduled.

Special Registration Deputy classes will resume in various locations around the state after the September 9 primary, until the week prior to the close of registration October 15. Additional beginning and advanced SVRS application training classes will be scheduled as needed between the two elections.

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