

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

ID# 10059
Agenda # 77

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JUDGE THOMAS CANE
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

May 2, 2008

The Honorable David J. Cieslewicz, Mayor
City of Madison
210 Martin Luther King Jr., Boulevard
Room 403
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mayor Cieslewicz,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board (formerly, the State Elections Board), I am pleased to express our support for Resolution 10059, which would provide funding for a deputy clerk in the City of Madison commencing July 1, 2008. We assign our staff to assist the Madison Clerk's office with election activities relating to our Statewide Voter Registration System before, during and after elections. Therefore, we know first hand the need for the deputy clerk's vacancy to be filled.

The City of Madison (and the rest of Wisconsin) had a higher than normal voter turnout for the February 19, 2008, Presidential Preference Primary. By all indications, record numbers of Wisconsinites are expected to vote this fall. Preparing for the Presidential Election requires additional administrative oversight for core activities such as voter registration drives, poll worker recruitment, and conduction of numerous training sessions, all which requires time-consuming hand-on involvement by the clerk's office.

It is our understanding that about 2,000 citizens will be needed to serve as election officials for the City of Madison this fall. The quality of training and support provided to these poll workers by the clerk's office will ensure fair, accessible, secure, and transparent elections. Additionally, a well trained election team will provide a positive experience for both new and seasoned voters at the polls on election day; thereby, increasing voter confidence and ensuring Wisconsin's traditional high continuous participation in the electoral process.

For these reasons Mayor Cieslewicz, I urge you and the City of Madison Common Council to permanently fund the deputy clerk position. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Government Accountability Board