

II. G.A.B.'s First Year: Accomplishments, hurdles and an agenda for year two.

A. Accomplishments

1. As of November 11, 2008:
 - Issued 8 formal opinions.
 - Opened 38 investigations
 - Resolved 28 cases.
2. Put together a management and legal team to carry out the administrative, advisory and enforcement responsibilities of the agency.
3. Established a schedule and completed review of all the administrative rules, formal opinions, guidelines and orders of the former State Elections and State Ethics Boards.
4. Directed the promulgation of an amendment to current administrative rule governing the scope of campaign finance regulation to address certain political communications often described as issue ads. GAB 1.28, Wis Admin. Code
5. Designed, developed and implemented a new electronic filing process for campaign finance reports.
6. Upgraded the functionality of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS).
7. Implemented a procedure for matching voter registration data with drivers license and social security records to bring state in to compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).
8. Adopted administrative rules establishing voter registration procedures for voters, local election officials and special registration deputies. GAB Chapter 3 Wis Admin. Code.
9. Adopted administrative rules establishing procedures for regulating the activity of observers at the polling place and other voting and tabulation venues. GAB Chapter 4 Wis Admin. Code.
10. Adopted administrative rules ensuring the security of ballots and electronic voting equipment. GAB Chapter 5 Wis Admin. Code.
11. Adopted administrative rules governing the training of local election officials. GAB Chapters 11, 12 Wis Admin. Code

B. Hurdles

1. Attorney General Opinion addressing the eligibility of certain Board members whose judicial terms for which last elected had not expired before beginning service on the G.A.B. (OAG 04-08)
2. Establishing credibility and public confidence in new agency.
3. Attorney General lawsuit challenging G.A.B. policy for matching voter registration data with drivers license and social security records. *Van Hollen v. Government Accountability Board et al*, Dane County Circuit Court Case No. 08-CV-4085

C. Year two agenda

1. Complete transition to new location bringing current activities and staff in 3 locations under one roof. 212 East Washington Avenue, Third Floor, Madison
2. Continue and enhance core agency responsibilities for administration of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobby laws including provision of information and advice on the application of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobby laws.
3. Vigorously carryout agency responsibilities for enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobby laws.
4. Develop and implement a forward looking legislative agenda to improve core agency responsibilities.
5. Provide increased training opportunities for agency clientele.
6. Continue to upgrade the SVRS software application and begin process for upgrading Eye on Lobbying software application.
7. Implement mandatory budget efficiency measures.

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

Post Office Box 2973
17 West Main Street, Suite 310
Madison, WI 53701-2973
Voice (608) 266-8005
Fax (608) 267-0500
E-mail: gab@wisconsin.gov
<http://gab.wi.gov>



JUDGE THOMAS CANE
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

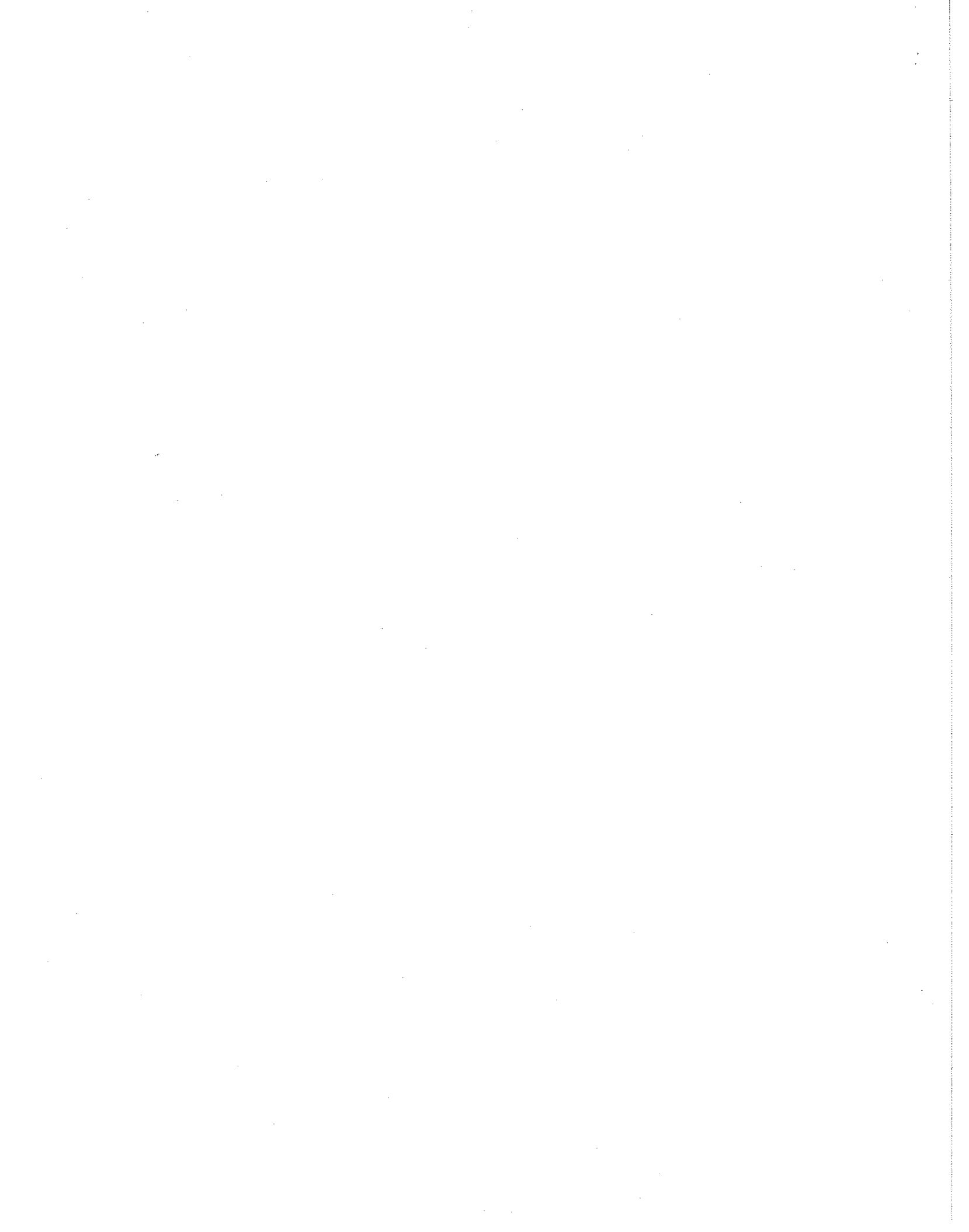
Wisconsin Elections Division Government Accountability Board Significant 2008 Accomplishments and Major Policy Initiatives

Benefits of a Fully Functioning/Quality-Based Statewide Voter Registration System

1. Enhanced the personal satisfaction of the voting experience for Wisconsin's individual electors by carrying out four successful statewide elections – two with high voter turnout – with the help of Wisconsin's county and municipal clerks. The lack of any major problems or glitches for voters reinforced the state's reputation for fair, transparent, efficient elections.
2. Achieved compliance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) by beginning the cross-checking of voter data with state Department of Transportation and federal Social Security Administration data since August 6, 2008. This has allowed local election officials to more efficiently "clean up" voter records to ensure the quality of the database.
3. Launched and promoted the Voter Public Access (VPA) function of the SVRS, allowing the public to check polling place locations and voter registration status online prior to every election. The implementation of VPA provided basic election information to thousands of voters and others who otherwise would need to contact their county or municipal clerk, or G.A.B.'s Help Desk for the same information.
4. Staff assumed responsibility for maintenance and support of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) following the termination of a contract with system vendor, Accenture LLP. The G.A.B. has not only kept the system running but also made improvements, including the ability to track absentee ballots and to interface with other State agency databases to perform "HAVA Checks" (see above).

Training and Technical Assistance

5. Trained more than 1500 Special Registration Deputies before the November election of 2008. This effort enabled more than 137,000 new voters to register easily and conveniently to ensure their names would be on the poll list on Election Day, November 4.
6. Launched the Web-Based Election Training System (WBETS) for local election officials, a secure online education site for Wisconsin's 1923 county and municipal clerks. This has permitted clerks and their staff members to conveniently receive training and refresher lessons about various election administration topics at their desks.
7. Launched a three-hour training course for Wisconsin's municipal clerks, as now required by state law, on basic elections administration topics. More than 1800 local election officials and their staff members took the class in 2008.
8. Trained more than 1000 new chief election inspectors – who manage Wisconsin's polling places and its 30,000 poll workers – in 60 three-hour classes across the state. Chief election inspectors



are the “backbone” of the Election Day administration process, and must be recertified every two years according to state law.

Election Day Best Practices

9. Implemented new measures to ensure the accessibility of Wisconsin polling places to all voters, including older residents and those with disabilities. This effort has included the development of a new polling place accessibility survey and staff visits to nearly 300 polling places (at least one in every county, or 10% of Wisconsin’s 2,822 Polling Places) during five elections, four statewide elections and one special school district election held June 24, 2008.
10. Promulgated and implemented a new state administrative rule regarding election observers and their conduct at Wisconsin polling places. The G.A.B. distributed copies of the new rule and a brochure to educate observers and poll workers to all polling places in the State.
11. Assisted local election officials in recruiting 30,000 poll workers for the November 4 General Election by contacting private businesses, state workers and community groups through direct appeal, letters, the Governor’s Office and news releases. The promotion of the need for poll workers was broadcast across the state and helped some local clerks to ensure their polling places were properly staffed.

Post Election Day Activities

12. Conducted regular voting equipment audits to ensure the integrity of Wisconsin election results. The audit calendar and procedures allow local election officials to double-check the process of tabulation of votes after Election Day, and generally promote confidence in the system and in the State’s electoral process.
13. Revised Wisconsin’s procedures for conducting a recount of an election. With the assistance and consultation of local election officials, the G.A.B. studied and changed the way election recounts must be carried out, making the process clearer and fairer.

Renewed the Core Covenant with Local Election Partners, and the Public, our Customers

14. Improved Wisconsin’s partnership with local election officials by increased collaboration and communication, offering more training opportunities, and continuing to directly consult about Elections Administration laws, policies and procedures.
15. Increased and improved information, education and services to the public including the Voter Public Access site (see above), creation of model news releases for local election officials, and timely briefings for the news media.
16. Expanded efforts to solicit input from a broader variety of constituents, stakeholders, community groups, political parties, organized labor, advocacy groups and other customers.

Major Legislative/Administrative Rule/Policy Development Initiatives

17. Improved G.A.B. Ch. 5 Ballot and Electronic Voting System Security.
18. Formalized G.A.B. Ch. 3 Voter Registration Guidance.
19. Implemented G.A.B. §§3.10-3.13 Special Registration Deputies.
20. Developed Emergency G.A.B. Ch. 4 Observer Rules/Regulations.

21. Revised the Recount Manual.
22. Developed and Clarified Guidance for Maintaining Electronic Voting Equipment Records.
23. Developed Protocol for Conducting On-Site Monitoring of Electronic Voting System Security.
24. Developed Protocol for Conducting Statewide Four-Year Maintenance of Voter Records.
25. Developed Protocol for Conducting Statewide Retroactive HAVA Checks of Voter Records.

Other Elections Administration Achievements

26. Received a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to improve elections data collection throughout Wisconsin. The G.A.B. staff completed the grant project, the results of which will enhance the State's ability to report more accurate and complete election data. Best practices will be shared with other states.
27. Updated and promoted Wisconsin non-English forms for voter registration application and absentee ballot application. Spanish and Hmong versions of the forms are available on the G.A.B. website, as well as election/voting glossaries in five other languages provided by the federal Election Assistance Commission.

Looking Ahead

As we begin to focus on 2009, we will continue to closely collaborate with our local election partners and the public as we review and develop the following program, policy, and legislative areas:

1. Review elections business processes, practices, policies, and procedures, for the purpose of continued improvement of elections administration in Wisconsin.
2. Examine "Early Voting."
3. Review deadlines for post-election activities.
4. Address differences in registration requirements due to date of registration.
5. Review implementation of the new administrative rule for election observers, revise as necessary, and promulgate a final rule.
6. Consider expanding the central count absentee model.
7. Examine the state of Special Registration Deputies.

Elections Division 2009 Agenda

The above "Looking Ahead" enumeration of items is only a preliminary and incomplete list. The Elections Division is in the process of developing its 2009 Program, Policy, Administrative and Legislative Agenda. G.A.B. staff, local elections partners (county and municipal clerks), and customers (the public, "good government" community and advocacy groups, and interested residents) are invited to submit ideas for a "post-mortem" about the 2008 election cycle, and what the G.A.B. can do to look ahead for further improvement of elections administration policy, processes, procedures and practices in Wisconsin. We would appreciate input by **Friday, January 16, 2009**. Note the original due date for recommendations was Monday, January 5, 2009.

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

Post Office Box 2973
17 West Main Street, Suite 310
Madison, WI 53701-2973
Voice (608) 266-8005
Fax (608) 267-0500
E-mail: gab@wisconsin.gov
<http://gab.wi.gov>



JUDGE THOMAS CANE
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

Government Accountability Board's Draft Protocols Examination of Early Voting Implementation

Guiding Principles and Values For the Protocol Development Process

Any proposed transition to early voting in Wisconsin must include at least the following four core policy principals and values:

1. An Improvement of the Wisconsin Voting Experience
 - An effort to reduce the time required for citizens to early vote.
 - An outline of clear and uniform early vote standards, processes, procedures and guidelines.
2. Voting Integrity
 - A commitment to protect the accuracy, security, and secrecy of the early vote count process.
3. Administrative Efficiency
 - An effort to reduce administrative burdens on local election officials and workers.
 - An effort to control costs so that expenditures are justified by benefits to voters and election officials.
 - A plan for implementation which includes a clear timeline and accurate cost analysis.
4. A Balance of Local and State Interests
 - A commitment to respect self-determination and control of elections at the municipal level while making early voting accessible and consistent statewide.
 - A commitment to consult, to collaborate with, and seek advice and counsel from local election officials (county and municipal clerks), members of the state legislature, voters, and other concerned and interested parties, elected officials, or advocacy

