

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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**DATE:** For the December 17, 2008, Meeting

**TO:** Members, Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

**FROM:** Kevin J. Kennedy  
Director and General Counsel  
Government Accountability Board

Prepared and Presented by:  
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Government Accountability Board

**SUBJECT:** Recount Manual Review Committee Feedback

At the August 27, 2008, Board meeting, you the Board approved the Recount Manual for use in the fall elections subject to further technical revisions upon review by our stakeholders: municipal and county clerks, political party representatives and other interested persons. The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with a status update on the Recount Manual review process. Staff will return to the Board at another meeting in the near future with a revised Recount Manual and other recommendations for Board approval.

Staff convened an ad hoc review committee on December 3, 2008. The feedback provided can largely be categorized into three types: policy suggestions, legislative suggestions, and technical clarifications.

#### Policy Suggestions:

1. Reduce the level of detail required for poll book reconciliation.
2. Remove absentee application review from the recount process until § 9.01(1)(b)4 can be revised to allow draw down as a remedy.
3. Permit multiple reporting units to be recounted simultaneously if resources permit.

#### Legislative Suggestions:

1. Amend § 9.01(1)(ar)3. to allow clerks more time between when the recount petition is filed and when they must begin the recount.
2. Amend § 9.01(1)(b)4. to allow for draw down of probable absentee ballots in the event of a valid absentee certificate not having a valid absentee application.
3. Amend § 9.01(1)(b)4.d. to allow the board of canvass to draw down from ballots completely lacking proper initials before drawing down from ballots that were only partially lacking proper initials.

The attachment summarizes the policy, legislative and technical feedback provided by the ad-hoc Recount Committee.