

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE MICHAEL BRENNAN
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

DATE: April 21, 2009

TO: Municipal and County Clerks
State Legislators
Election Officials
Community Partners
Other Interested Parties

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

SUBJECT: An Examination of Early Voting in Wisconsin

On behalf of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board, I am pleased to enclose an agency prepared report on the examination of implementing true early voting in Wisconsin.

Background

Since the 2008 Presidential Election, the Government Accountability Board's (G.A.B.) staff has begun to study the feasibility of implementing true early voting in Wisconsin. True early voting would allow a qualified elector to complete and cast a ballot immediately in a voting tabulation machine at an early voting location before Election Day. On March 31, 2009, the G.A.B. accepted its agency staff prepared report on implementing true early voting in Wisconsin. At that time, the G.A.B. also directed staff to seek public comments and solicit feedback from voters, election officials, legislators, community partners, and other interested parties.

The Report

The G.A.B.'s prepared report on the examination of implementing true early voting discusses the objectives, challenges and opportunities for accomplishing early voting in Wisconsin. Additionally, the report highlights best practices gathered from states that offer true early voting. The report also recommends three viable options for discussion and debate for adapting early voting to Wisconsin. Finally, the report proposes a pilot program to collect data and identify challenges around implementing early voting.

It is our hope that the report will inform and inspire a meaningful dialogue along with a healthy debate about the opportunity to implement true early voting in Wisconsin, and also improve Wisconsin election administration.