

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE MICHAEL BRENNAN  
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY  
Director and General Counsel

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**DATE:** July 29, 2009

**TO:** The Honorable Jim Doyle, Governor  
Honorable Members, Wisconsin Senate and Assembly

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

**SUBJECT:** Update on State's Retroactive HAVA Check Process

I am writing to provide you with an update on the Government Accountability Board's ongoing efforts to improve voter data quality. We will be communicating with voters who registered between January 1, 2006, and August 6, 2008, but whose voting records do not match with Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) driver license files or Social Security Administration (SSA) files.

The checking and matching process is required by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. The HAVA Check matches voter registration information with DOT driver license files or SSA files. The goal of the HAVA Check is to improve voter data quality. Inaccurate voter records can confuse local election officials, their staff and poll workers, and make it more difficult for Wisconsinites to vote.

On July 31, a letter is being mailed to approximately 85,000 electors whose voter registration information resulted in a non-match when paired with DOT or SSA databases. Those voters will be asked to contact the Government Accountability Board within 10 days to verify their information. Electors will not lose any voting rights as a result of this process. Contacting the Board however, will help ensure the accuracy of their voter records.

Additionally, municipal clerks in about 600 municipalities have partnered with the Board, and will be making their own efforts to contact about 20,000 electors to clear up any discrepancies between voter registration data and driver license data. Electors for whom the municipal clerks are unable to resolve discrepancies will be receiving a similar letter from the Board in September.

When voters contact the Board, staff will validate their information and re-run the HAVA Check. For your information, attached is a copy of the letter that voters will receive. When constituents call your office, we would appreciate it if you would confirm that the letter

received from us is a legitimate request and not a scam. We request that you encourage your constituents to respond to us as quickly as possible. As we have done in the past when we have launched similar data quality initiatives, upon request, we will be happy to provide legislators with a list of voters in their respective Assembly and Senate districts who will receive the letter.

Should you have questions, or if you wish a list of constituents in your districts who will receive our letter, you may direct requests to Nat Robinson, Elections Division Administrator, at (608) 267-0715, or [Nat.Robinson@wi.gov](mailto:Nat.Robinson@wi.gov).

Please let me know if we can provide additional information or assistance. Thank you.

cc: Members, Government Accountability Board

Secretary Michael L. Morgan  
Department of Administration

Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen  
Wisconsin Department of Justice

Nathaniel E. Robinson  
Elections Division Administrator  
Government Accountability Board