

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE GORDON MYSE
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

December 13, 2010

Paul Malischke
4825 Bayfield Terrace
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Mr. Malischke:

Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the SVRS Facilitated Mail-in Voter Registration initiative currently being developed by the Government Accountability Board. The system will allow voters with a current and valid Wisconsin driver's license, or department of transportation issued identification card to enter their registration information online, print, sign and mail a voter registration form (G.A.B. 131). This addition to the Voter Public Access website takes one small step beyond the printable fillable PDF form that is currently available to voters on the G.A.B. website. The new system would collect and transfer the voter entered information to the Statewide Voter Registration system and create a pending application for municipal clerks to review and process. As you pointed out in your letter, the expectation is to obtain more accurate registrations and reduce the data entry time clerks spend processing new voter registrations and voter registration updates.

Registration by mail is available to any eligible elector on a form prescribed by the board. Wis. Stat. Sec. 6.30 (4). Any eligible elector may register by mail using the fillable form available on the G.A.B. website. Eligible voters who will use SVRS Facilitated Mail-in Registration will still be required to print, sign and mail their registration form. The process for the voter is the same whether he or she uses the fillable PDF form or uses SVRS Facilitated Mail-in Registration to generate the form that he or she prints and signs. Registration by mail is still registration by mail whether the voter uses SVRS Facilitated Mail-in Registration or a different form; the process is uniform and available to all eligible applicants. SVRS Facilitated Mail-in Registration is simply a more efficient way to process a particular type of mail-in registration form. It is our opinion that limiting SVRS Facilitated Mail-in Registration to voters with Wisconsin driver's licenses or government issued identification cards is neither discriminatory nor a violation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

We support your efforts to improve the voter registration process for all eligible applicants and assure you that the G.A.B. is committed to using technology to simplify the voter registration process, improve the accuracy of voter registration data, and prevent voter fraud. We continue to pursue true online voter registration, a paperless system that validates voter identification information with information maintained by Department of Transportation.

Mr. Malischke, we value your comments, and appreciate your suggestions. You are welcomed to contact me for further discussion at (608) 267-0715, or Nat.Robinson@wi.gov. Thank you.

Best wishes and kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Robinson', written in a cursive style.

NATHANIEL E. ROBINSON
Elections Division Administrator
Government Accountability Board

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