



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 148
[2013 Senate Bill 377]

**Statistics Regarding Audits of
Same-Day Voter Registrations**

2013 Wisconsin Act 148 relates to the reporting of statistics regarding postcard audits of voter registrations made at the polling place on Election Day, commonly referred to as “same-day voter registrations.”

Reporting Same-Day Registration Audit Statistics

Act 148 requires municipal clerks and boards of election commissioners (“local clerks”) to report information regarding audits of same-day voter registration information. Local clerks are required to conduct a postcard audit of all voters who register to vote at the polling place, unless the Government Accountability Board (GAB) notifies the clerk that the agency will conduct the audit. As part of the audit, the local clerk or GAB verifies the addresses provided by voters during same-day voter registration by mailing postcards to those addresses. If a postcard is returned undeliverable, or if the clerk or GAB is informed that the address was improper, then the voter’s status is changed from eligible to ineligible on the registration list and the voter’s name is given to the local district attorney. Local clerks were not required to report same-day voter registration audit statistics under prior law.

Act 148 requires local clerks to report information regarding same-day voter audits to the county clerk or county board of election commissioners (“county clerk”) and to GAB at the earliest practicable time after, but no later than 90 days after, each primary and election at which a state or national office is filled or a statewide referendum is held. Local clerks must report this information in addition to election-related statistics they were previously required to submit. The Act requires local clerks to report the following same-day voter registration information: (a) the total number of audit postcards mailed to voters; (b) the total number of postcards returned because the voter did not reside at the given address; (c) the total number of voters whose status was changed from eligible to ineligible as a result of the audit; and (d)

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

the number of voters referred to the district attorney. The Act also requires local clerks to update this information on a monthly basis and submit the updated information to the county clerk and GAB.

Electronic Reporting of Election Statistics

Act 148 requires local clerks to report election-related statistics via an electronic report to the county clerk and directly to GAB. Under prior law, local clerks reported to the county clerk who forwarded a written statement to GAB. The Act directs GAB to report all such information on its website within seven days and to update the information on a monthly basis.

Reporting Election Fraud and Irregularities to the Legislature

Act 148 requires GAB to submit an annual report to the Legislature regarding election fraud, irregularities, or violations reported to it by the local clerks. Local clerks were required to report such information to the district attorney and to GAB under previously existing law. Act 148 continues this requirement but provides that reporting is done in the manner prescribed by GAB.

Effective date: January 1, 2016.¹

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¹ The Act requires local clerks to report information regarding postcard audits of same-day voter registrations no later than 90 days after the 2014 general election and requires GAB to publish the information on its website. All other provisions take effect on January 1, 2016.