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☛ Details: Public Hearing: Audit Report 07-16: An Evaluation: Compliance with Election Laws,
Elections Board

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2007-08

(session year)

Joint

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Audit...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
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INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (October 2012)



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Committee Co-Chairs:
State Senator Jim Sullivan
State Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz

January 3, 2008

Mr. Kevin Kennedy, Legal Counsel
Government Accountability Board
17 West Main Street, Suite 310
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

As indicated on the enclosed hearing notice, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee will hold a public hearing on the Legislative Audit Bureau's evaluation of *Compliance with Elections Laws* (report 07-16), on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 411 South of the State Capitol.

As this report relates to the activities of your agency, we ask you, and the appropriate members of your staff, to be present at the hearing to offer testimony in response to the audit findings and to respond to questions from committee members. Please plan to provide each committee member with a written copy of your testimony at the hearing.

Please contact Ms. Pam Matthews in the office of Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz at 266-3796 to confirm your participation in the hearing. Thank you for your cooperation and we look forward to seeing you on January 8th.

Sincerely,

Senator Jim Sullivan, Co-chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Enclosure

cc: Janice Mueller
State Auditor

PUBLIC HEARING

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

The committee will hold a public hearing on the following items at the time specified below:


Tuesday, January 8, 2008
10:00 AM
411 South
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Audit Report 07-16,

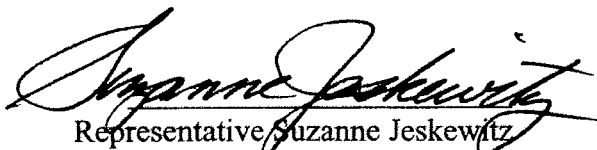
An Evaluation: Compliance with Election Laws, Elections Board

An Executive Session may be held on the above item.

Note: Interested persons may listen to a live broadcast of the audio portion of the hearing on the Internet while the Committee is in session. It can be accessed at the Legislative Audit Bureau's website by clicking the Legislative Audit Committee link or entering the following URL: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/JCAHearing.htm>.



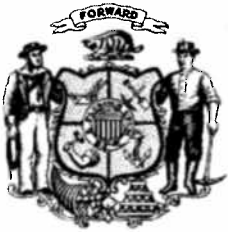
Senator Jim Sullivan
Senate Chair



Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz
Assembly Chair



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



4825 Bayfield Terrace
Madison WI 53705
January 6, 2008

Dear Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

It's obvious that we have not yet completed the efforts to bring our voting system up to proper standards. The Legislative Audit Bureau should continue to evaluate the election process.

This audit and the one from 2005 have concentrated mostly on what happens before 8 p.m. on election night. In the next audit, please direct the Bureau to include what happens **after** 8 p.m. on election night. This includes such issues as ballot security, recounts, and audits of the accuracy of voting systems.

Please direct the LAB to conduct an audit of the 2008 elections, including evaluating compliance in these areas:

- **Security of voted ballots and voting machine memory cards**, per Election Board Rule Chapter 5 (enhancements to the rule are in the promulgation process). This also includes the post-election delivery of voted ballots per statute 7.51(5)
- **Pre-recount testing of voting machines** that are used in the recount per statute 5.90
- **Audits of the accuracy of voting systems** conducted per statute 7.08(6)

Election administrators have been routinely violating the rule regarding security of voted ballots. I made a presentation on this issue at the State Elections Board (SEB) meeting of September 12, 2007. The Board agreed to add to the rule my suggestions for specific details and a checking mechanism to promote compliance. It will be important for the Legislative Audit Bureau to examine this effort at improving adherence to the rule. For a recount or an audit, there must be assurances that the recount is being conducted using the ballots that the voters actually filled out.

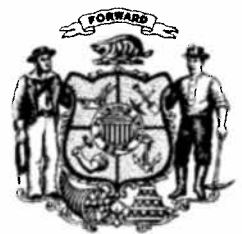
There is another vital area where election administrators are routinely violating the law. For recounts, statute 5.90 requires a public test of the tabulator conducted by the Board of Canvassers. In four of five recent recounts that I have witnessed, the Boards of Canvassers completely skipped this vital test of the voting machine. Voters deserve to know that in a recount their ballots will be counted correctly.

During your January 8 meeting, please direct the LAB to initiate another audit, so that the evaluation can start with the April election. This will help lead to corrections in time for the November election.

Sincerely,
Paul Malischke malischke@yahoo.com



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Record of Committee Proceedings

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Audit Report 07-16

An Evaluation: Compliance with Election Laws, Elections Board

January 8, 2008

PUBLIC HEARING HELD

- Present: (8) Senators Sullivan, Miller, A. Lasee and Cowles; Representatives Jeskewitz, Rhoades, Cullen and Parisi.
- Absent: (2) Senator Lassa; Representative Kerkman.

Appearances For

- Alicia Boehme, Madison — Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- Janice Mueller, Madison — State Auditor, Legislative Audit Bureau
- Paul Stuibler, Madison — Legislative Audit Bureau
- Jodi Hanna, Madison — Disability Rights Wisconsin

Registrations For


- None.

Registrations Against

- None.

Registrations for Information Only

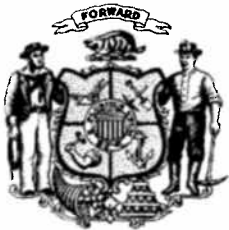
- None.



Pam Matthews
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Compliance with Election Laws

Legislative Audit Bureau

January 2008

1

Overview

- ◆ The Elections Board:
 - administers and enforces election laws; and
 - trains municipal clerks who register voters, administer elections, and train poll workers.

- ◆ The Government Accountability Board is replacing the Elections Board.

2

Staffing and Expenditures

- ◆ The Elections Board's:
 - expenditures increased from \$1.5 million in FY 2003-04 to an estimated \$24.4 million in FY 2006-07; and
 - authorized staffing increased from 16 FTE positions in July 2004 to 41 FTE positions in January 2007.

3

Individuals Ineligible to Vote

- ◆ Available information indicates few problems with ineligible individuals voting in November 2006.
- ◆ Ongoing problems with the statewide voter registration system make it difficult to identify individuals ineligible to vote.

4

Address Verification Cards

- ◆ In October 2006, the Elections Board mailed 106,620 address verification cards.
- ◆ Municipal clerks received undeliverable cards too late to review them before the election.
- ◆ The 16 clerks we contacted processed undeliverable cards in different ways.

5

Concerns with the Statewide Voter Registration System

- ◆ Municipal clerks raised concerns with the system's slow operating speed, cumbersome nature, and ability to:
 - track provisional ballots;
 - process absentee ballots; and
 - suspend voter registrations.

6

Polling Place Accessibility

- ◆ Federal law requires each polling place to have an accessible voting machine.
- ◆ On Election Day in November 2006, we visited 36 polling places and found:
 - at 15 polling places, machines were situated where individuals using them could be observed; and
 - at 7 polling places, machines were not operational.

7

Polling Place Accessibility

- ◆ We found other accessibility problems at the 36 polling places we visited:
 - 13 had problems with parking;
 - 8 had problems with the pathways to the building;
 - 17 had problems with building entrances; and
 - 15 had problems with the voting area.

8

Election-Related Concerns

- ◆ We surveyed all municipal and county clerks statewide about concerns related to the November 2006 election.
- ◆ A total of 191 concerns were reported by 92 municipalities.
- ◆ 126 concerns pertained to election administration.

9

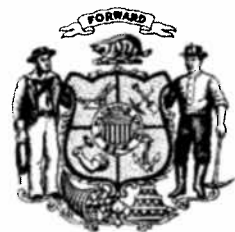
Training Issues

- ◆ Additional efforts are needed to ensure local election officials receive the statutorily required training.
- ◆ The Elections Board has not promulgated many of the administrative rules required by statutes or recommended by us in 2005.

10



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



**Joint Legislative Audit Committee
State of Wisconsin**

Testimony of Kevin J. Kennedy
Legal Counsel
Government Accountability Board
January 8, 2008

Chairpersons Sullivan and Jeskewitz, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Audit Committee to address the report and recommendations of the Legislative Audit Bureau in Audit Report 07-16 describing Wisconsin's compliance with state and federal election laws.

Background Information

The report was required as part of the legislation implementing the Help America Vote Act in Wisconsin (2003 Wisconsin Act 265).

The LAB report provides a valuable benchmark for evaluating state and local governments' compliance with election laws following the significant changes required by 2003 Wisconsin Act 265, 2005 Wisconsin Acts 92, 303 and 451 as well as the Help America Vote Act of 2002. These extensive changes have presented a challenge to state and local election officials.

The changes reflect a legislative intent to make the administration of elections more transparent and to hold state and local election officials accountable. The implementation of the LAB recommendations by the Government Accountability Board will further these objectives.

The report identifies several areas for improvement. However, it does not measure the highly successful accomplishments of state and local election officials in implementing significant and wide-reaching changes in a very short period of time to improve the administration of elections in Wisconsin.

In 2006, the agency established the first ever statewide list of registered voters. The list was successfully used to run the six statewide elections in 2006 and 2007 along with several special elections in 2007. Uniform voter lists were generated by the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) for use in every polling place in the state.

The agency is able to monitor the use of the voter list and quality of the data in all 1,851 municipalities and 72 counties. Using the SVRS, the state was able to identify potential violations related to double voting and voting by individuals who had not completed the terms of their felony convictions.

The agency tested and approved several new voting systems for use in the state. All mechanical lever voting machines were replaced with electronic voting equipment. Every polling place was equipped with an accessible voting component including more than 900 polling places where paper ballots had been hand counted. The agency conducted a post-election audit on all electronic voting systems following the November 2006 general election.

Several thousand chief election inspectors have been trained by the agency staff along with several thousand more by local election official trainers certified by the agency. Beginning in the fall of 2007 more than 2000 municipal and deputy clerks have received a comprehensive training provided by the agency staff.

Uniform voting hours were established for all polling places in the state. The agency reimbursed several hundred municipalities for costs related to opening the polls earlier in 2006 and 2007.

All of this was done while agency staff worked to implement the SVRS with a vendor who failed to meet critical software delivery deadlines. Agency staff spent countless hours testing and retesting upgrades and fixes to the application to ensure local election officials had an essential tool to administer elections in 2006 and 2007.

In December, the Elections Board negotiated a resolution to its dispute with Accenture. As a result, the agency will be receiving a payment of \$4 million. In addition, the state will have perpetual use of the application, and will possess the source code and supporting documentation.

Key agency personnel were diverted from administrative tasks to work U. S. Department of Justice attorneys to resolve HAVA implementation issues. In addition, the agency was embroiled in several time-consuming lawsuits related to the SVRS and enforcement of campaign finance laws.

State and local election officials significantly improved the administration of elections in Wisconsin. The audit report sets out a road map for further change that will be embraced by the Government Accountability Board.

Report Recommendations

The LAB report made eight recommendations, which we addressed in our response letter dated November 19, 2007. I will address each of those recommendations in detail now.

The first recommendation was that the Elections Board – soon to be the GAB's Elections Division – request that all municipal clerks obtain accurate dates of birth for voters whose birth dates had defaulted in the SVRS. Our staff did so in the fall of 2006, and has continued to remind local election officials about the importance of data cleansing to the proper functioning of the SVRS. In November of 2006, almost 500,000 default dates of

birth were in the system. As of last Friday, January 4, there remained 153,529 default DOBs in the system.

We are continuing the clean-up. We are seeing a reduction of 2,000-3,000 default dates of birth every week.

Our staff will again direct local election officials to help us correct the voter data before February 19, by sending individualized lists of voters to affected clerks so the affected voters can be noted on the poll books, and poll workers alerted to the need for more information. We will do the same before the April election, and then evaluate the results in the system. The marked change in the number of default dates of birth since last spring is evidence that clerks have been doing their work.

The Bureau's second suggestion was to report to the Audit Committee by the end of March about our efforts to get data interfaces with the departments of Transportation, Health & Family Services, and Corrections functioning. Those interfaces are our top priority for the SVRS, and we are working with the Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) and Accenture to achieve that goal first. It is our highest priority. We intend to ensure that the SVRS can make matches between data for the fall elections, and development should be complete by the end of February.

On January 3, 2008, our staff had a design session with Accenture focusing on interface reports and a shortcut button to speed up local election officials' review of potential felon and deceased voter matches. On January 4, 2008 Accenture delivered sample DMV letter output for approval. In addition, we have requested that Accenture continue to test to discover why new voters can not be matched against the Department of Corrections felon data.

Before February 28th, our last scheduled day of work with Accenture, we have also requested that Accenture respond to the Elections Board's immediate need for the "HAVA check," and felon and death report requirements. We also expect Accenture to explore the best method to streamline felon and deceased voter matching process. Once interface functionality has been tested by SVRS staff and it functions, our employees will conduct several interactive on-line training sessions to teach local election officials how to carry out the matches.

The third LAB recommendation was address verification cards mailed from the SVRS should include the reason for their issuance: Registration by mail, special registration deputy, or on Election Day. In November, our response to the Audit Bureau report was that altering the source code would consume too much time and money, while color-coding the cards would be a better short-term option. We now believe the third solution – pulling data from the system and coding the cards – is the best solution and have asked DET for help to accomplish that this spring. We have requested a schedule for completion of this work from DET.

With respect to the process of mailing verification cards, the Elections Board now sends these cards each week. The late delivery of cards in November of 2006 occurred because the database only became operational on September 1, and our staff had to create processes for mailing cards. Also related to that is the fact that the time between September 1 and the November election was most intense because of canvassing and certification, and the additional work created due to the defect in the SVRS' absentee function.

The fourth recommendation was to report to the Committee about whether or not Wisconsin's 30-day statutory deadline for entering Election Day information into the SVRS should be extended. The challenges for local election officials in entering post-election information pre-date the existence of the SVRS. Larger municipalities, such as the cities of Milwaukee and Madison, often have been tested by their post-election responsibilities due to the volume of voter participation. However, entry of Election Day registrations and scanning of poll books to update voter records must occur before the next election so that proper cross-checking of voter records can take place in the interim.

With the exception of Minnesota, no other state with Election Day Registration currently has a deadline and/or process in place to require entry of Election Day data. Our staff contacted state election officials in Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire and Wyoming, and only Wyoming is set to put in place a requirement that all Election Day information be entered into its system within 10 days of the election.

Recommendation five is that the agency report to the Audit Committee by March 31, 2008 about three points in voter registration system's status:

- System processing time
- Processing absentee ballots
- Suspending voters

We will provide that information, but here is a status report.

After a long wait, SVRS version 6.4 is now being tested. It should provide an upgrade to the operating system which runs underneath the SVRS itself, thereby helping to improve system performance. The SVRS is not yet working as we had intended, however Accenture has made some repairs that we believe will make things move more quickly for local election officials.

With regard to the absentee ballot function, we expect many municipalities to be processing absentee ballots through the SVRS this spring. Our staff is supporting all municipalities that will use it, including Milwaukee and Madison, and despite all corrections to the software not yet being made, we know that absentee ballots can be properly cancelled and absentee ballot reports can be issued from the system. Smaller municipalities should have no problem using the SVRS; larger municipalities have received specific training and workarounds to deal with the remaining challenges.

Suspension of voter registrations is not an issue across the state of Wisconsin. Although the SVRS is not currently able to carry out an automated suspension of voter registrations, SVRS staff has supported several municipalities in conducting a purge of voter lists on an individual basis, including the City of Madison which suspended more than 11,000 registrations last year. Purges of voter data consistent with our four-year requirement also have taken place in Eau Claire, Menomonie, Milwaukee, River Falls and Waukesha. Appleton will learn to suspend voters this week.

Please remember that two-thirds of state municipalities did not have voter registration until 2006, and so do not have four years of voter history to compare against. In addition, another group of municipalities did not keep voter histories electronically or did not convert their data into the new system. We expect to see some improvements in the automated suspension of registrations with the incorporation of SVRS version 6.4, which is now being tested.

The sixth recommendation was that the Elections Board modify its accessibility survey for municipalities, require them to complete the survey and verify the accuracy of their responses by randomly auditing polling places during elections. We accepted those recommendations. The updated survey is now being modified after consultation with disability groups and will be completed this month. It will be distributed to local election officials with a directive that it be completed on site – either during the February 19 or April 1 election – and returned by April 30.

Our random audits of polling places will begin informally for the February 19 primary, and take place again for the spring election on April 1. In the autumn, the Elections Division will expand its on-site Election Day evaluation using contracted resources.

Recommendation number seven was that we establish written policies for resolving complaints in a timely manner. The Government Accountability Board will review staff recommendations at its next meeting about new investigation policies that reflect the statutory changes mandated by 2007 Wisconsin Act 1.

Since only election administration complaints are now subject to public inspection, the focus will be on providing specific timelines for resolving complaints that include acknowledgement of receipt, description of investigation timeline with reporting provisions that parallel the requirements for district attorneys to report to the Government Accountability Board.

Please note that the three complaints cited for extended resolution had unique qualities:

- 1) The complaint about several thousand improperly registered votes in Milwaukee before the November 2004 election was addressed through extensive negotiations between the Milwaukee City Attorney's office and attorneys for the complainants that resulted in a solution implemented on Election Day. It did not require additional follow up because the city converted its voter registration data into SVRS.

- 2) The complaint about the absentee ballot was moot because the local election official resigned and the City of Milwaukee implemented internal procedures to obviate the problem.
- 3) The State Elections Board resolved the complaint about three municipalities' failure to follow proper reconciliation procedures at its September 12, 2007 meeting. It was delayed because much of the required material was held by the Milwaukee Joint Law Enforcement Task Force.

The eighth and final recommendation of the Audit Bureau was that the Elections Board report on its progress in promulgation of administrative rules for training local election officials and clarifying their responsibilities in registering voters. Here is an update on our progress: The voter registration rules (EIBd Chapter 3, Wis. Adm. Code) which include training of special registration deputies will be effective upon publication on February 1, 2008. In addition, the State Elections Board gave final approval to proposed administrative rules for training municipal clerks and other local election officials. These rules (EIBd Chapter 13, Wis. Adm. Code) are now being finished for submission to the Legislature for final review and approval.

Finally, the agency staff has been directed to draft detailed rules that reflect the responsibilities of local election officials with respect to voter registration and the use of SVRS described in existing manuals and bulletins provided to SVRS users and municipal clerks.

Conclusion

As a result of the creation of the Government Accountability Board, the agency will be better equipped to implement the recommendations set out in the audit report. The new Division Administrator for Elections, Nat Robinson begins work on January 10th and the implementation of the audit recommendations is his top priority. As a result, the members of the Government Accountability Board and I expect the administration of elections by state and local officials will be even better than the exemplary job that has been done in the past.

I will answer any questions you may have at this time.

Thank you.

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To: Jim Sullivan, Co-chairperson, Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-chairperson, and
Committee Members of the Joint Committee on Audit

From: Alicia Boehme on behalf of Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Board
for People with Developmental Disabilities

Date: January 8, 2008

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) submit joint testimony. DRW is the protection and advocacy organization people with disabilities in Wisconsin. BPDD, formally known as the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities, advocates for individuals diagnosed with developmental disabilities statewide.

DRW and BPDD have worked closely with the State Election Board (SEB) staff since the passage of HAVA in 2002. We have also worked across the state over the course of many years on voting rights and non-partisan Get Out the Vote efforts for people with disabilities. We have advised the SEB on accessible voting machines, poll worker training, polling site accessibility, and other issues. To date, the State Elections Board has made some effort to address the pervasive and wide-spread accessibility problems for voters with disabilities, but as the report illustrates, there is a long way to go.

We believe the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) did an outstanding job of highlighting the extensive barriers that people with disabilities face at the polls. We were especially pleased that LAB took the time to survey the accessibility of 36 of Wisconsin's 2,750 polling sites. We are outraged by the results, but not surprised, as they are consistent with the extent of accessibility barriers we have found for voters with disabilities¹.

To quickly summarize a few of the LAB's results, they found that:

- ❖ 15 polling sites (42%) did not set up the voting machines in a manner that a voter could vote privately;
- ❖ 13 polling sites (36%) had inaccessible parking;
- ❖ 17 polling sites (47%) had inaccessible entrances; and
- ❖ 15 polling sites (42%) had inaccessible voting areas.

All in all, the LAB identified 79 barriers for people with disabilities at only 36 polling sites.

Although it would not pass muster from a scientific standpoint, stop to consider for a moment what would happen if we extrapolate these percentages to the 2,750 polling sites

¹ For example, in 2004, Disability Rights Wisconsin organized a group of 88 volunteers from the disability community and surveyed 156 polling sites across the state using the State Election Board survey. We found that 75% of the polling sites had at least one accessibility barrier. We compared a sample of our results with the self-report surveys completed by the municipalities, and found that our results varied radically.

across the state. We might find, for example, that 1,155 polling sites would not have the voting machine set up so that someone could vote privately; 990 polling sites would have inaccessible parking; 1,293 polling sites would have inaccessible entrances; and 1,155 polling sites would not have accessible voting areas.

These results are unacceptable. HAVA guarantees voters with disabilities the right to vote privately and independently. The LAB Report and accessibility surveys point to accessibility barriers for voters with disabilities as the most pervasive election related problem facing the State of Wisconsin. We must do better for the voters of our state.

We agree with the three recommendations that the LAB offered in the report. The survey will be made better by forcing a municipality to answer affirmatively or negatively to the questions on the survey. And it is critical for municipalities to survey their sites on an ongoing basis to ensure that they comply with accessibility requirements.

We would like to underscore the importance of the third recommendation -- to "take steps to verify the accuracy of the completed accessibility surveys, such as annually visiting a sample of polling places." We believe that the self-report aspect of the survey is problematic, and the only way for the Government Accountability Board (formerly the State Elections Board) to verify of the accessibility of a polling site is to have an entity independent from the municipality assess the accessibility of the polling place. This could be accomplished by involving the Independent Living Centers across the state that are already experts in identifying accessibility barriers. Sampling polling sites may have the added benefit of educating municipalities on how to properly identify (and rectify) accessibility barriers in the future. It would also encourage the hire of poll workers with disabilities who can provide election-day, on-site expertise on accessibility.

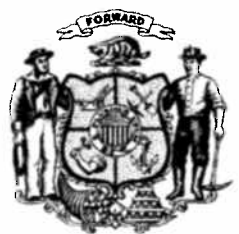
Under Section 261, the Government Accountability Board receives Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds annually to address accessibility barriers for people with disabilities. A significant amount of funds, approximately 400,000 dollars, have not been spent over the years the state has received the funds. 2008 is a big election year, and the Government Accountability Board has the responsibility to use the funds now to take significant steps towards decreasing barriers for voters with disabilities. We think one of the best uses for these funds is to spot-check accessibility barriers.

In addition, an entity such as the Government Accountability Board needs to have the ability to enforce non-compliance with accessibility standards for polling sites on Election Day. The ability to enforce these standards would raise awareness of and the importance of providing a voting environment where everyone has equal access.

Increasing accessibility for voters with disabilities is an ongoing process. Enabling voters with disabilities to exercise their right to vote equitably is a fundamental part of our democracy and is a vital part of ensuring election integrity. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



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Alicia Boehme
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January 18, 2008

Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz
Co-chairperson
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Room 314 North
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Jeskewitz,

You requested that I provide you with data regarding the accessibility of polling sites in Wisconsin when I testified during the Joint Audit Committee hearing this month. I am happy to provide you with the information collected by Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW) over the past number of years.

The majority of the data was collected in 2004 when a group of volunteers conducted an accessibility survey on polling sites during the September primary and November elections. Approximately 156 sites were surveyed. From these results, we wrote reports for the City of Madison, City of Milwaukee and Dane County. Please note that a copy of the survey used is attached to each of the reports. It is important to remember that since DRW collected the data in 2004, some of the barriers have been rectified. The State Elections Board should have a record of the barriers that each polling site addressed.

Listed below are the enclosed reports compiled from this data. Please note that the previous name of our agency was Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy.

- Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy Physical Accessibility Summary for the City of Milwaukee Election Commission (2004)
- Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy Physical Accessibility Summary for the City of Madison (2004)
- Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy Physical Accessibility Summary for Dane County Polling Sites (excluding polling places in the city of Madison) (2004)


DRW has a database that includes the results of all the surveys we conducted across the state in 2004. If you would like additional information from that database, please let me know. I thought you would be interested in seeing the results from the surveys completed in your district in 2004. Two polling sites were surveyed in your district —The First Alliance Church in the Village of Germantown, and the Menomonee Falls Fire Department in the City of Menomonee Falls.

I have also enclosed a series of graphs that depict the overarching results from all data collected in the 2004. Significantly, we found that 75% of the 156 polling sites we surveyed had one or more accessibility barriers.

Finally, DRW surveyed the City of Milwaukee in 2006 and 2007. I have enclosed the results from this effort. DRW has worked with the Milwaukee Election Commission over the years in their efforts to address polling site barriers.

Thank you for your interest and concern in this matter. Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy and it must be accessible to all voters. If you have any questions about the information I have enclosed or about access barriers for voters with disabilities, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Boehme", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Alicia Boehme

Cc: Senator Jim Sullivan
Co-chairperson
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Room 15 South
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy Physical Accessibility Summary for the City of Milwaukee Election Commission

On September 14 and November 2, 2004 a group of volunteers conducted a total of 158 physical accessibility surveys at polling sites in cities, towns and villages throughout Wisconsin. The survey used was created by the Wisconsin State Elections Board in 2004, and municipal clerks were required to survey all polling sites in their jurisdiction. WCA decided to utilize the same survey in order to be able to directly compare the data (Attachment A).

It is important to note that the survey does not identify non-physical barriers to voting. The State Elections Board created this survey based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines, and according to the State Elections Board, should not be taken to indicate full compliance with the ADA.

The Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy (WCA) surveyed a total of nine (9) polling sites in the City of Milwaukee. These sites included:

- Franklin Pierce School
- Hi Mount Boulevard School
- Fairview Elementary School
- Milwaukee French Immersion School
- Neeskara School
- West Side Academy
- Washington Park Senior Center
- Milwaukee School Board
- Locust Court Polling Place

WCA recruited surveyors from the disability community across Wisconsin. Surveyors were given written instructions to the survey. Below is a summary of the accessibility problems found at each of the locations according to our volunteer surveyors.

In addition, three of the polling sites listed below were also surveyed by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission for the State Elections Board. These polling sites were Fairview Elementary School, Neeskara School and Locust Court. We have also identified below additional problems identified by the surveyors.

Franklin Pierce School:

WCA found a total of 12 accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. Although there was a van accessible space, there were not additional accessible spaces that were at least 12 feet wide. We also found that the accessible spaces were not nearest to the accessible entrance. The surveyor noted

that the parking spaces were located nearest the entrance that s/he was told was the "accessible" entrance, but the entrance was locked, not marked, and had no doorbell.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the accessible route to the building was different from the primary route to the building and that the accessible entrance was not well marked. We also found that the walkways were not well-lit.

Problems with the entrance to the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the entrance to the building was not free stairs or steps, that the entrance to the doors were not at least 36 inches wide, and that the exterior doors were too heavy.

Problems with traveling within the building: Five (5) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the route or accessible route to the voting area was not clearly marked, all the doors along the accessible route were not unlocked on Election Day, and that the elevator was not close to that accessible entrance of the building. We also found that the doors along the route could not be opened by individuals with limited dexterity, and that the corridors were not free of obstacles or protrusions.

Hi Mount Boulevard School

WCA found a total of 9 accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Six (6) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there were no permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated for individuals with disabilities and that there was no accessible passenger drop-off area.

Problems with traveling within the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The doors along the route could not be opened by individuals with limited dexterity, there were obstacles or protrusions in the corridors, and the path of travel was not free of stairs or steps, and there was no elevator for an individual to travel to the polling room.

In addition, the surveyor mentioned that the only way for an individual with mobility impairment to vote at this location is to vote curbside. The main entrance of the building was not designated with a "Vote Here" sign, and it was unclear as to where to enter the building. Three other entrances were locked.

Fairview Elementary School

WCA found a total of 8 accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the accessible route to the building was different from the main route and that it was not clearly marked. We also found that the pathway to the building was not well lit.

Problems with the entrance to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the entrance doors were not wide enough, and that the exterior doors were too heavy.

Problems with traveling within the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We also found that all the doors along the accessible route were not unlocked and that the corridors were not free of obstacles and that the rugs and mats were not securely fastened.

Problems within the voting area: When assessing the voting booth, the surveyor found that it was not at least 36 inches wide.

The survey submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission also identified that the accessible spaces are not nearest to the accessible entrance, and that exterior ramps did not have a curb to prevent someone from slipping off the ramp.

Milwaukee French Immersion School

Two separate surveyors assessed this site for accessibility for WCA. There were variations in their reporting. A total of twelve (12) accessibility problems were found between the two surveyors at this site.

Problems with parking: A total of eight (8) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey by the surveyors. One surveyor identified that there was no permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking, that there were no van accessible spaces, there were no accessible parking spaces near to the accessible entrance, and that there was no accessible passenger drop-off area. The other surveyor found that that the curbs did not have a ramp or cur-cut connecting the parking spaces to an accessible walkway, that the parking spaces were not designated with the symbol of accessibility, and that the parking spaces were not located nearest to the accessible entrance.

Problems with the pathways to the building: A total of one (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. They found that the paths of travel were not free of any hazards such as ice, snow, leaves, or other debris.

Problems with the entrance to the building: A total of one (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The surveyor found that the doors to the entrance of the building were too heavy.

Problems with traveling within the building: A total of two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. They found that the rugs and mats were not securely fastened or removed. It was also identified that the voting area was not directly inside the building or that the main route or accessible route to the voting area was marked.

Neeskara School

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the entrance to the building does not have a ramp or an elevator and is not free of stairs and steps.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the rugs and mats were not securely fastened or removed.

The survey submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission also identified that there was no accessible off street parking and no assessable passenger drop off area. In addition, the pathways to the building were not ramped or if there were ramps they were not constructed properly, the threshold to the doors on the interior pathway to the voting area were too high, and there were low hanging objects or an overhang that obstructed the interior pathway to the voting area.

West Side Academy

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. Although there was a van accessible space, there were not additional accessible spaces that were at least 12 feet wide.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the elevator controls were not less than 56 inches high and/or marked with raised lettering.

Washington Park Senior Center

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. Although there was a van accessible space, there were not additional accessible spaces that were at least 12 feet wide.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the mats were not securely fastened or removed.

Milwaukee School Board

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We also found that the doors along the route could not be opened by individuals with limited dexterity and that the rugs were not securely fastened and could be hazardous.

Locust Court Polling Place

WCA found total of one (1) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the accessible parking spaces were not nearest to the accessible entrance of the building.

The survey submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission also identified that the stairs along the pathways to the building were not ramped or if there were ramps they were not constructed properly.

Additional Information on Milwaukee Polling Sites

The city of Milwaukee has over 200 polling places. From the data submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission, 80 of the polling sites were surveyed¹.

Of the 80 surveys conducted, 71% of the polling sites had one or more problems, and 36% had five or more problems. The polling sites with the highest number of problems as identified by the City of Milwaukee Election Commission were LaFollette School (31 problems), Doerfler Elementary (16 problems), Pulaski Park (16 problems), Story School (12 problems), Townsend (11 problems), Lyons Park (11 problems), and Tiefenthaler (10 problems)².

Analysis of the Most Serious Problems

To further assist Milwaukee to identify which polling sites have the most serious problems, we identified the questions on the survey that we feel are the most likely to prevent an individual with mobility impairments from being able to vote (see Attachment A). The questions that are most critical on the survey are questions that identify if there is off-street accessible parking available (including van accessible spaces); if the parking lot is paved; if there are proper curb cuts and ramps connecting pathways and stairs and steps are ramped; if all necessary doors are unlocked and able to be opened without assistance or if personal assistance is provided, and if the voting equipment and surfaces are low enough to vote for individuals to use³.

The polling sites listed below all have critical physical accessibility problems. It should not be inferred, however, that the other surveyed sites do not also have critical problems

¹ Two separate surveys were completed for Edison Middle School. The data for both surveys was analyzed below; however, it was counted once for the purpose of calculating percentages.

² There were inconsistencies with the survey data that was submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners. For example, there were data fields in the database that were not filled in, implying that the questions were not answered by the surveyors. In addition, there were instances when the surveyor answered "not applicable," when an answer to this question should intuitively make sense. It is therefore recommended that the surveys be reviewed for accuracy and inconsistencies.

³ The questions on the State Elections Board Accessibility Survey used in this analysis were Section I, question numbers 1, 2, and 5; Section II question numbers 1, 5, and 7; Section III question numbers 1, 4, and 6; Section IV question numbers 2, 4, and 5; and Section V question numbers 4 and 5.

that seriously limit or preclude access to the polling site. This list is meant to identify what polling locations are *most likely* to have serious problems.

We found that 50 of the 80 polling sites surveyed by the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners had one or more potentially critical problems. These sites are:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 55+ Center | Madison University H. S. |
| 81 st Street School | Manitoba School |
| 95 th Street School | Marshall High School |
| Academy of Accelerated Learning | Morse Middle School |
| Arlington Court | Neeskara |
| Audubon Middle School | O.W. Holmes |
| Auer Ave | Old Browning (aka Congress-ECC) |
| Bryant Elementary | Palmer Elementary School |
| Burbank School | Phillis Wheatley Elementary School |
| Byron Kilbourn School | Pulaski Park Pavilion |
| Cannon Park | Riverside High School |
| Craig Montessori | Rufus King High School |
| Doerfler Elementary | Samuel Clemens |
| Edison Middle School | Shepherd of the Ridge Lutheran |
| Emerson School | Spanish Immersion School |
| Enderis Playground | St. James U.M.C |
| Garfield | Starms Discovery |
| Grantosa Drive School | Story School |
| Hopkins Street School | Thoreau School |
| Kagel Elementary | Tiefenthaler Park Pavilion |
| Keenan Health Center | Townsend |
| LaFollette School | West Side Academy |
| Lancaster Elementary | Wisconsin African American |
| Locust Court Housing | Women's Center |
| Lyons Park Pavilion | Zablocki School |

We applied the same criteria to the data collected by WCA surveyors and found that 5 polling sites had one or more potentially critical problems. The polling sites include Hi Mount, Milwaukee French Immersion School, Franklin Pierce, Neeskara, and the Milwaukee School Board.

Milwaukee Public Schools Data

The Milwaukee Public Schools identified forty schools that they have chosen not to make accessible. We found that twenty-five of these schools are also polling sites. These polling sites include:

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Auer Avenue | Humbolt Park |
| Burdick | Kagel |
| Carleton | Keefe |
| Cass Street | LaFollette |

Doerfler
Fernwood
Franklin
Garfield
Garden Homes
Green Bay Avenue
Hampton
Hartford Avenue
Hopkins

Maryland Avenue
Morgandale
Riley
Thirty-Eighth Street⁴
Townsend
Trowbridge
Vieau
Zablocki

Milwaukee Public Schools also identified twelve schools that are not currently accessible, but that they plan to make accessible in the future. Of this list, three of the schools are polling sites. These polling sites include Edison, Eighty-First Street, and Grant.

Analysis of Low Cost and Easily Correctible Problems

Many of the problems identified by the City of Milwaukee surveyors are problems that are typically low cost and/or easy to fix. We chose the questions from the survey that we felt met this criterion⁵. Based on our analysis, the following polling sites had problems that could be addressed quickly and easily. We used both the data submitted to the State Elections Board by the City of Milwaukee Election Commissioners and the WCA data completed by volunteer surveyors.

1. Polling sites that need the designated assessable spaces clearly and visibly marked:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| LaFollette School | Madison University H.S. |
| Doerfler Elementary School | Phillis Wheatley Elementary |
| Pulaski Park Pavilion | Auer Avenue |
| Townsend | Byron Kilbourn |
| Tiefenthaler Park Pavilion | Bell Middle School |
| Old Browning (aka Congress ECC) | Wisconsin African American |
| Neeskara | Women's Center |
| Milwaukee French Immersion School* ⁶ | Hi Mount Boulevard* |

⁴ As you are aware, WCA has a client who votes at the Thirty-Eighth Street School. In our letter to Lisa Artison, Executive Director of the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners dated October 11, 2004, we identified significant problems faced by our client at this polling site. Specifically, according to our client's informal survey, the building requires voters to climb several marble stairs once in the building. The voting equipment is located on a stage in the auditorium, and an individual must descend a step ramp in the auditorium and climb stairs to get on the stage where the voting takes place.

⁵ The questions on the State Elections Board Accessibility Survey used in this analysis were Section I, question number 6; Section II, question numbers 3, 9, 10, and 11; Section III, question number 6; Section IV question numbers 1, 2, 10, 12,13,14, and 15; Section V, question numbers 1,2,4, and 5.

⁶ An asterisk sign (*) designates a polling site that was identified by a WCA volunteer surveyor as having the problem.

2. Polling sites where the pathways to the building are not free of overhanging objects:
 - LaFollette School
 - 55+ Center

3. Polling sites where the accessible route to the building is different from the primary route and is not clearly marked:

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LaFollette School Doerfler Elementary School Pulaski Park Pavilion Story School Tiefenthaler Park Pavilion Old Browning (aka Congress ECC) Burbank School Franklin Pierce School* Fairview Elementary* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edison Middle School Kagel Elementary School Auer Avenue Spanish Immersion School Rufus King High School Bryant Elementary Wisconsin African American Women's Center |
|--|--|

4. Polling sites where the walkways are not well lit:
 - Emerson School
 - Kagel Elementary School
 - 55+ Center
 - Holler Park Pavilion
 - Franklin Pierce*
 - Fairview Elementary*

5. Polling sites where the pathways to the building were not free of hazards such as ice, snow, leaves, and other debris:
 - LaFollette School
 - Holler Park Pavilion
 - Milwaukee French Immersion School*

6. Polling sites where the entrance doors are too heavy, do not have automatic openers, and where there are no provisions made for a poll worker to assist people who require assistance:

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LaFollette School Doerfler Elementary School Pulaski Park Pavilion Story School Lyons Park Pavilion Morse Middle School Burbank School Edison Middle School Emerson School Ninety-Fifth Street School Kagel Elementary Manitoba School | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phillis Wheatley Elementary Auer Avenue Eighty-First Street School Enderis Spanish Immersion School Audubon Middle School Shepard of the Ridge Hopkins Street School Riverside High School Craig Montessori Starms Discovery Thoreau School |
|---|--|

Madison University High School
Milwaukee French Immersion*

Fairview Elementary*
Franklin Pierce*

7. Polling sites where the route to the voting area is not directly inside the building and the accessible route is not marked:
 - LaFollette School
 - Kagel Elementary
 - Marshall High School
 - Franklin Pierce*
 - Milwaukee French Immersion School*

8. Polling sites where the doors along the accessible route were locked on election day:
 - Morse Middle School
 - Burbank School
 - Franklin Pierce*
 - Fairview Elementary*

9. Polling sites where the corridors were not free of obstacles or protrusions:
 - Doerfler Elementary School
 - Story School
 - Lyons Park Pavilion
 - Morse Middle School
 - Edison Middle School
 - Audubon Middle School
 - Franklin Pierce*
 - Hi Mount Boulevard*
 - Fairview Elementary*

10. Polling sites where the interior route to the voting area were not free of hanging objects or overhangs lower than 80 inches from the floor:
 - Morse Middle School
 - Neeskara
 - Arlington Court
 - Stuart Elementary

11. Polling sites where the rugs and mats were not securely fastened or removed:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Story School | Byron Kilbourn School |
| Ninety-Fifth Street School | Audubon Middle School |
| Zablocki School | Holler Park Pavilion |
| Academy of Accelerated Learning | Shepard of the Ridge |
| Eighty-First Street School | Bryant Elementary |
| Milwaukee French Immersion* | Neeskara* |
| Washington Park Senior Center* | Fairview Elementary* |
| Milwaukee School Board* | |

12. Polling sites where the instructions for voting were not posted in printed 18 point font:
 - Old Browning (aka Congress-ECC)
 - Neeskara

13. Polling sites where there was not sufficient unobstructed space in the polling area for reasonable movement of voters in wheelchairs:
 - Lyons Park Pavilion
 - Endres

14. Polling sites where there was not a voting area where an individual in a wheelchair could reach all the necessary parts of the voting equipment:
 - Pulaski Park Pavilion
 - Lyons Park Pavilion
 - Palmer Elementary School
 - Enderis

15. Polling sites where the voting tables or counters were not low enough for an individual who uses a wheelchair:
 - Pulaski Park Pavilion
 - Lyons Park Pavilion

Plan for Compliance

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Wisconsin law (Wis. Stat. § 5.25(4)(a)) require that polling sites must be accessible to people with disabilities. In order to meet these requirements, we propose that the following plan be formally adopted and followed by the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners.

1. On February 15, 2005, all of the polling sites that have not already been surveyed in the City of Milwaukee and reported to the State Elections Board, be assessed for accessibility using the State Elections Board Accessibility Survey. In addition, the results of the surveys must be reported to the State Elections Board by March 5, 2005.
2. By April 5, 2005 all of the items listed under "Analysis of Low Cost and Easily Fixable Problems" should be corrected. In addition, all of the low cost and easily correctible items on the surveys completed by the City of Milwaukee Board of Election Commissioners on February 15, 2004 should also be corrected.
3. A plan should be created to address all of the accessibility problems identified by the surveys for every polling site in the City of Milwaukee with the deadline that **all polling site problems will be corrected by April 2006.**

Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy Physical Accessibility Summary for the City of Madison

On September 14 and November 2, 2004 a group of volunteers conducted a total of 158 physical accessibility surveys at polling sites in cities, towns and villages throughout Wisconsin. The survey used was created by the Wisconsin State Elections Board in 2004, and municipal clerks were required to survey all polling sites in their jurisdiction¹. WCA decided to utilize the same survey that the State Elections Board created so that municipal clerks could compare our responses to the survey with their own assessments (Attachment A). This report does not compare the data collected by the State Elections Board with the data collected by the Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy (WCA).

It is important to note that the survey does not identify non-physical barriers to voting and that addressing physical barriers listed below is not an indication of full accessibility or compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

WCA recruited surveyors from the disability community and other interested state residents across Wisconsin. Surveyors were not formally trained on conducting an accessibility review, but were given written instructions to the survey. Below is a summary of the accessibility problems found at each of the locations according to our volunteer surveyors.

A total of 48 surveys were completed in the City of Madison, however, a few sites were surveyed more than once. Below is a listing of the sites that were surveyed. If there was more than one survey conducted at a polling site, the total number of surveys completed is listed in parentheses next to the name of the location.

- Blessed Sacrament School
- Boys and Girls Club on Taft Street (2)
- Brittingham Apts (2)
- Capitoland Christian Center
- Crestwood Elementary School
- Dane Co. Neighborhood Intervention
- Doyle Administrative Building
- East High School
- Fire Station at 16 W. Dayton
- First Congregational Church
- Gates of Heaven (2)
- Georgia O'Keefe Middle School (2)

¹ Since the State Elections Board created the physical accessibility survey in 2004, they have made some substantive revisions, including measurement changes. Our survey results do not take into consideration these changes.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Hawthorne Branch Library
Henry David Thoreau Elementary School
Hill Farms
Lapham Elementary School (2)
Leopold School
Lowell Elementary School
Madison Public Library (2)
MATC
Memorial Union
Midvale Elementary School
No. 6 Firehouse on Badger Road
Odana Hills Country Club
Olbrich Gardens (3)
Porchlight on N. Brooks St
Pyle Center
Romnes Apartments
Sherman School
Tenney Park Apartments (3)
Toki Middle School
Villas Zoo
Warner Park Community Center (2)
West High School
Westside Police Station
Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center

Assessment of Individual Polling Sites

Based on the survey results the volunteers found no accessibility problems at the following sites:

Blessed Sacrament School

The surveyor mentioned that the walk from the parking lot may be long for some, and suggested that temporary accessible spots in the front of the building would be helpful.

Brittingham Apartments

The surveyor mentioned that this location has great accessibility features, and was one of the best polling sites that they surveyed.

East High School

First Congregational Church

Hawthorne Library

Hill Farms

Leopold Elementary School

The surveyor mentioned that it was a long way to the polling entrance behind the building.

Odana Hills Country Club

Sherman School

Warner Park
Westside Police Station

Boys and Girls Club:

WCA found a total of eight (8) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. Although there was a van accessible space, there were not additional accessible standard spaces that were at least 12 feet wide. A surveyor suggested that there should be parking spaces closer to the entrance of the polling site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Four (4) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. All curbs from the parking lot and the path to the building were not cut or ramped properly. The stairs along the pathway to the building were not properly ramped. The ramp does not have a proper handrail. The accessible route to the building was not properly marked.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy and there was not an automatic opener or other means to identify that someone needs help to open the door.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. All doors within the interior of the building were not propped open and are heavy. There were obstacles in the corridors which extended more than 4 inches from the wall.

Capitoland Christian Center:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The pathway to the building was too steep.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The rugs or mats were not securely fastened or removed on Election Day.

Problems within the voting area: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no voting instructions posted, and the entrance to the voting booth was too narrow.

Crestwood Elementary School:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The curb cut from the parking lot to the path to the building was problematic. The surveyor mentioned that the current curb cut is wide, but only runs along one of the accessible parking spots. If that parking spot were in use and the vehicle was parked close to the sidewalk, the curb-cut would be unavailable to be used by anyone else.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The route to the voting area was not

directly inside the building and was not clearly marked. The rugs were not all securely fastened.

Problems within the voting area: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. There was not sufficient unobstructed space for the reasonable movement of voters in wheelchairs in the voting area.

Dane County Neighborhood Intervention:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy and did not have an automatic door opener or other accommodation to get into the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. At least one door inside the building was heavy and was not propped open.

Doyle Administrative Building:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. On Election Day, the accessible parking isle was blocked by dumpsters, and the accessible parking spot was temporarily removed. There were no parking spaces clearly marked near the accessible entrance, and there was no passenger drop off area.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The rugs or mats were not securely fastened.

Fire Station on 16 W. Dayton:

WCA found a total of nine (9) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Seven (7) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There was no temporary off street parking spaces designated as accessible (including no van accessible space). There was no paved parking or signage of any kind.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy, but there may be a button to alert the poll worker that assistance was needed. If so, this should be clearly marked, and poll workers should be trained to respond to the bell.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. At least one door inside the building was heavy and was not propped open.

Gates of Heaven:

WCA found a total of fourteen (14) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Five (5) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There was no van accessible parking space or extra

accessible spaces. The accessible parking space was not located nearest to the accessible entrance, and there was no accessible passenger drop-off area. We also found that the one standard accessible space was not clearly marked.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Four (4) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the pathway to the building was not smooth and was also too steep. Also, the pathway was not properly ramped and the accessible route to the building was not properly marked.

Problems with the entrance to the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The exterior door was too heavy to open and there is no automatic door or other accommodation to get in the building. We also found that that the ramp at the entrance of the building was too steep and that there was no protection on the edge of the ramp to prevent someone from slipping off the ramp.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the door thresholds too high and that the doors along the interior route were not propped open and were too heavy.

Georgia O'Keefe Middle School:

WCA found a total of three (3) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The surveyor mentioned that at least one of the doors to the polling room should be propped open.

Problems within the voting area: Two (2) problems were found in this section of the survey. We found that there was a portion of the voting instructions, which informed the voter that they can get a new ballot if they make an error that was not in 18 point font. The entrance to the voting booth was too narrow.

Good Shepard Lutheran Church:

WCA found a total of three (3) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. There were no signs to mark the route to the accessible entrance.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The route to the voting area was not clearly marked and the rugs were not securely fastened. The surveyor also mentioned that there was a food donation barrel that was in the way and that the voting area was cluttered.

Henry David Thoreau Elementary:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There was no permanent or temporary off street parking spaces designated as accessible parking and there was not at least one van accessible space.

Lapham Elementary School:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There was not a van accessible space and the parking spaces were not located nearest to the entrance.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The stairs along the pathway were not ramped or were not ramped properly. The accessible route to the building was different from the primary route and was not properly marked.

Lowell Elementary School:

WCA found a total of eight (8) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Five (5) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no permanent or temporary off street accessible spaces (including van accessible spaces). Therefore, the parking was not near to the accessible entrance to the building. And there was not an accessible passenger drop-off area.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The curbs from the parking lot to the path of the building are not cut or ramped properly, and the accessible route to the building is different from the primary route and is not properly marked.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy for many to open, and there was not an automatic opener or other accommodation to get into the building.

Madison Public Library:

WCA found a total of five (5) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Four (4) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no permanent or temporary off street accessible spaces (including van accessible spaces), and there was not an accessible passenger drop-off area.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. All rugs and mats were not securely fastened or removed.

MATC:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking (including van accessible spaces).

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The accessible route to the building was different from the primary route and it was not properly marked.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The exterior doors were too heavy and

there was not an automatic door opener or other accommodation to get into the building.

Memorial Union:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The accessible route to the building was different from the primary route and it was not properly marked.

Problems within the voting area: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. There were no instructions for voting printed in 18 point font or larger displayed in the voting area.

Midvale Elementary School:

WCA found a total of ten (10) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The accessible parking spaces were located on the opposite end of the building from the nearest accessible entrance.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Five (5) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the curbs were not properly ramped, that the pathway to the building was not smooth and was too steep. We also found that there was not proper ramping, or proper signage designating the accessible route into the building.

Problems with the entrance to the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. The entrance to the building had stairs and steps, and was not properly ramped. The doors to the entrance of the building were narrow, and they were heavy and did not have an automatic opener or other accommodation for access into the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The voting area was not directly inside the building and the route or accessible route was not properly marked.

The surveyor commented that the "accessible entrance to polling place was around the side of bldg. No signs in front of bldg. directing people to accessible entrance. Fairly steep, paved, incline to get to accessible entrance; a metal floor grate on inside of door might impede wheelchair. Accessible parking space is irrelevant since it's so far from polling place. Most people would park on street or get dropped off. There are curb cuts in front of polling place. No sign in front how to get to accessible entrance. Doors marked as accessible were closed, heavy and opened onto a grate. Once inside polling place was basically okay."

No. 6 Fire Department:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the exterior door was heavy and did not have an automatic door or other accommodation to get into the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. At least one door inside the building was heavy and was not propped open.

Olbrich Gardens:

WCA found a total of one (1) accessibility problem at this site.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The surveyor found that not all rugs or mats were securely fastened.

Porchlight:

WCA found a total of three (3) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The accessible parking spaces are not located nearest to the accessible entrance.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the curbs from the parking lot to the path of the building were not cut properly. We also found that the accessible route to the building was different than the primary route and was not properly marked.

Pyle Center:

WCA found a total of four (4) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Four (4) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. There were no permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking (including van accessible spaces). We also found there was not an accessible passenger drop-off area.

Romnes Apartments:

WCA found a total of two (2) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there were no van accessible spaces or additional standard accessible spaces.

Tenney Park Apartments:

WCA found a total of seven (7) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there was not more than one standard and one van accessible space, and that there was not a proper curb-cut connecting the parking spaces to the accessible walkway.

Problems with the pathways to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the walkways into the building were not well lit.

Problems with the entrance to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the doors to the

entrance of the building were narrow and that they are heavy and not equipped with an automatic opener or other accommodation to get into the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that not all of the doors along the accessible route were unlocked on Election Day.

Problems within the voting area: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We did not find voting instructions displayed in the voting area that were printed in 18 point font or larger.

One surveyor commented that the Chief Poll Worker was very responsive to their accessibility questions and concerns.

Toki Middle School:

WCA found one (1) accessibility problem at this site.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the exterior door was too heavy and that there was no automatic door or other accommodation to get into the building.

Vilas Zoo:

WCA found a total of seven (7) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with parking: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there is no curb-cut connecting the parking spaces to an accessible walkway, and that the accessible spaces are not located near the accessible entrance.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We identified that the accessible route to the building is not properly marked, the walkways are not well lit, and that the path of travel was not free of hazards such as ice, snow, leaves, and other debris on Election Day.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the exterior doors are too heavy and that there is no automatic door or other accommodation to get in the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that at least one interior door was not propped open and was heavy.

West High School:

WCA found a total of one (1) accessibility problem at this site.

Problems within the voting area: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We did not find voting instructions printed in 18 point font or large displayed in the voting area.

Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center:

WCA found a total of three (3) accessibility problems at this site.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there were steep inclines on the path to the building, and that the ramp does not have proper handrails. We also found that the accessible route was not properly marked.

Additional Assessment Information

A volunteer surveyor conducted two accessibility surveys in the City of Madison on October 11, 2005. WCA was provided with a written summary of the surveyors findings. The surveyor documented the following:

- Highpoint Church: The surveyor found one accessibility problem at this site. The automatic opener for the exterior door was not working.
- Elver Park Shelter: The surveyor found no accessibility problems at this site.

If you have questions about this report, please contact:

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