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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**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

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 Coalition for Advocacy Physical Accessibility Summary for Dane County Polling Sites (excluding polling places in the City of Madison)¹

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 jurisdiction². 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 eleven (11) surveys were completed in the Dane County (excluding City of Madison polling sites). Below is a listing of the polling sites that were surveyed including the municipality where the polling site is located.

Town Hall, Blooming Grove
Town Hall, Cottage Grove
Fire Station, Cross Plains
Ridgewood Country Club, Fitchburg
Village Hall, Maple Bluff
St. Bernard's Church, Middleton
Public Library, Sun Prairie
Patrick Marsh Middle School, Sun Prairie
Peace Lutheran Church, Waunakee (location is no longer used as a polling site)
Waunakee Village Hall, Waunakee (location is no longer used as a polling site)

¹ For information on the City of Madison, see "Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy Physical Accessibility Summary for the City of Madison."

² 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.

Kennedy Administration Building, Westport

Assessment of Individual Polling Sites

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

- Fire Station, Cross Plains
- Patrick Marsh Middle School, Sun Prairie
- Peace Lutheran Church, Waunakee (location is no longer used as a polling site)

Town Hall, Blooming Grove:

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

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that there was not a curb-cut or a proper curb-cut connecting the accessible parking spaces to an accessible walkway to the entrance of the building.

Town Hall, Cottage Grove:

WCA found a total of four (4) 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 too heavy and it was not equipped with an automatic opener or other accommodation to get into the building.

Problems with traveling within the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there was a high door threshold in the doorway to enter the building, that the route to the voting area was not clearly marked, and that there was at least one door on the way to the voting area that were not propped open and hard to open.

Ridgewood Country Club, Fitchburg:

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. We found that there was not at least one van accessible space and more than one standard accessible space in the parking lot.

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. The corridors in the hallway to the voting had obstacles or protrusions that extended more than 4 inches from the wall.

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

Village Hall, Maple Bluff:

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

Problems with parking: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We did not find more than one standard-sized accessible parking space.

Saint Bernard's Church, Middleton:

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. We found that the walkways on the way to the entrance of the building were not well lit.

Problems with traveling within the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the voting area was not directly inside of the building and the route to the voting area was not marked. Also, the rugs/mats were not securely fastened or removed on Election Day.

Public Library, Sun Prairie:

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

Problems with traveling within the building: One (1) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the route to the voting area was not free of obstacles or protrusions. Specifically there was a phone booth and chairs that were blocking the doorway.

Village Hall, Waunakee:

* The Village Hall is no longer used as a polling site in Waunakee

WCA found a total of nine (9) 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 accessible parking space, and that there was not a curb-cut connecting the accessible parking spaces to the walkway.

Problems with the pathways to the building: Two (2) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that there were no curb-cuts from the parking lot to the walkway to the building and that there were large gaps and edges in the walkway.

Problems with the entrance to the building: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that the entrance doors may be too narrow.

Problems with traveling within the building: Three (3) accessibility problems were identified in this section of the survey. We found that the elevator was too small and that the corridors were narrow and were not free of obstacles or protrusions. The surveyor commented that there was a poll worker positioned to direct voters to the voting area.

Problems within the voting area: One (1) accessibility problem was identified in this section of the survey. We found that there was not enough room to provide reasonable movement for voters who use a mobility device within the voting area.

Kennedy Administration Building, Westport:

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. We found that not all the accessible parking spaces were clearly marked with signs bearing the symbol of accessibility.

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

Additional Assessment Information

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

- Middleton High School – The surveyor mentioned that the automatic door opener did not work for the accessible entrance. There were two sets of doors each with one automatic door opener, but the opener for the interior door did not work, either coming in or going out.
- St. Bernard's Church – The surveyor found that the polling site was accessible, except for the accessible entrance was not well marked. He mentioned there were signs posted outside, but that they may be confusing for some voters. He mentioned that the accessible parking was around the back of the building, and that the door nearest to the parking was not marked.

If you have questions about this report, please contact:

Alicia Sidman

Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy

16 N. Carroll Street, Suite 400

Madison, WI 53703

608/267-0214 (voice/tty)

800/928-8778 (toll free)

608/267-0368 (fax)

alicias@w-c-a.org

Attachment A

WISCONSIN STATE ELECTIONS BOARD POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY FORM

This form can be completed online by going to the State Elections Board web site <http://elections.state.wi.us> and clicking on the link Polling Place Accessibility Survey

Municipality:
(Circle one) Town Village City

County:

Date Conducted:

HINDI Number:
(five digit number on your mailing label)

Person(s) conducting survey:

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Name of Polling Place:

Ward(s):

Address of Polling Place:

Is it a government building? (Circle one) yes no

Description of location: (type of building: rural, urban, historic, county building, church, school, etc.)

Description of voting area: (gym, community room, etc.)

Instructions:

1. Please complete one survey for each Polling Place
2. Each of the following questions should be answered with a check mark for a YES, NO or NOT APPLICABLE answer. NOT APPLICABLE is an appropriate answer where the question asked does not apply to a feature of your polling place. For example, if the polling place does not require a ramp, mark N/A for questions regarding ramps. Please answer all questions.

Questions should be directed to the Elections Board at (608) 266-8005 or email: seb@seb.state.wi.us

I. Parking			
	Yes	No	N/A
1. Are there permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking?			
2. Is there at least one van accessible space, defined as at least 8 feet wide with an 8 foot adjacent aisle? Note: Two spaces can share one aisle and two standard spaces will make one van accessible space			

	Yes	No	N/A
3. Are any other accessible spaces at least 12 feet wide or standard size with an accessible aisle?			
4. Are the spaces on level and paved ground?			
5. If there is a curb, is there a ramp or curb-cut connecting these parking spaces to an accessible walkway or directly to the building entrance?			
6. Are the parking spaces designated by clearly visible signs bearing the symbol of accessibility? (Signs may be erected especially for election day)			
7. Are the parking spaces located nearest the accessible entrance?			
8. Is there an accessible passenger drop-off area if off-street parking is unavailable?			
Is the parking accessible (answer "No" if any "No" responses)? Circle one.	Yes	No	

Comments:

II. Pathways to the building	Yes	No	N/A
1. Are the curbs from the parking lot to the path to the building cut or ramped with 48 inches clear width and slopes of no more than 1:12 feet (one foot high for every twelve feet in length)?			
2. Is the pathway to the building at least 48 inches wide and free from any protrusions or obstacles that would narrow the passage to less than 36 inches?			
3. Is the pathway free of any overhanging object (such as a tree branch, signs, etc.) lower than 80 inches? (objects can be tied back or removed during election to provide clearance for a person with visual disabilities)			
4. Is the surface of the pathway free of breaks or edges where the difference in height is over 1/2 inches?			
5. Is the pathway from the parking area to the building paved?			
6. Is the rest of the path free of inclines greater than 1:20 feet?			

	Yes	No	N/A
7. Are any stairs along the pathway ramped with a non-slip surface and a slope of no more than 1:12 feet or provided with an alternative means of access? (please describe)			
8. If the ramp is higher than 6 inches, does it have a handrail that is between 32 and 36 inches from the ramp surface?			
9. If the accessible route to the building is different from the primary route to the building, is that route well marked by large print signs?			
10. Are walkways well-lit?			
11. On Election Day, are provisions made to ensure paths are free of hazards such as ice, snow, leaves and other such debris?			
Is the pathway accessible? (answer "No" if any "No" responses) Circle one.	Yes	No	

Comments:

III. Entrance to the Building	Yes	No	N/A
1. Does the entrance to the building have a ramp or an elevator or is it free of any stairs or steps, such that a person in a wheelchair could enter unassisted?			
2. Do all ramps have a slope no greater than 1:12 feet?			
3. Are ramps and landing areas with drop-offs provided with a curb of 2 inches or greater to prevent anyone from slipping off the ramp?			
4. If there is a door at the top of a ramp, is there a level space of at least 5 x 5 feet where a wheelchair can maneuver to open the door or rest while the door is opened?			
5. Are entrance doors and all other doors along the accessible route to the voting area at least 36 inches wide?			
6. Exterior doors are often too heavy for some people with disabilities to open. Can the doors be opened without excessive force or are they equipped with automatic openers (such as a push button) or are provisions made for a poll worker to assist those who require assistance?			
Is the entrance accessible? (answer "No" if any "No" responses) Circle one.	Yes	No	

If doors cannot be readily opened, please describe how the poll worker will know when to assist people: (i.e. poll worker posted at door or door bell that rings within the polling place etc.)

Comments:

IV. Travel within the building	Yes	No	N/A
1. If the voting area is not directly inside the building, is the route to the voting area indicated and if necessary, is an alternative accessible route clearly marked?			
2. Are all doors along the accessible route unlocked for election day?			
3. Are door thresholds less than 1/2 inches high or if greater than 1/2 inches are they beveled?			
4. Can all doors to the voting area be opened with a closed fist or do they have automatic openers that keep the door open for 8 seconds? (Test this by making one hand into a fist and try to open doors using only that fist) or if doors do not pass the "closed fist test", can they be propped open all day for the election?			
5. Is the path of travel free of stairs or steps. If not, is there some means of access for a person in a wheel chair such as a chair lift or an elevator?			
6. If elevators provide the only accessible route, is the cab at least 4 x 5 feet wide?			
7. Are elevator doors at least 36 inches wide?			
8. Are elevator controls less than 56 inches high and are the controls marked with raised lettering?			
9. Is the elevator close to the accessible entrance to the building?			
10. Are stairways well-lit and free of obstacles?			
11. Are all corridors along the accessible route at least 48 inches wide and never narrower than 36 inches?			

12. Are corridors free of obstacles or protrusions (such as boxes or water fountains) which extend more than 4 inches from the wall?			
	Yes	No	N/A
13. Is the route to the voting area free of any hanging objects or overhangs lower than 80 inches from the floor? (a person who is blind cannot detect something that hangs or protrudes without a base)			
14. Are all rugs and mats securely fastened or removed? (Mats can be fastened with duct tape for Election Day)			
15. Do all rugs, mats and carpet on the accessible route or in the voting area have a low-pile?			
Is the path of travel within the building accessible? (answer "No" if any "No" responses) Circle one.	Yes	No	
Comments:			
V. Within the Voting Area			
	Yes	No	N/A
1. Are instructions for voting printed in 18 point font or larger in simple language and plainly displayed?			
2. Is there sufficient unobstructed space for the reasonable movement of voters in wheelchairs (minimum of 5x5 feet)?			
3. Is the entrance to the accessible voting booth at least 36 inches wide?			
4. Is there at least one voting area where a person in a wheelchair can reach all necessary parts of the voting equipment?			
5. If the voter casts the ballot at a table or a counter, is the table top between 28 and 34 inches high in at least one station?			
Is the voting area accessible? (answer "No" if any "No" responses) Circle one.	Yes	No	
Comments:			

Please tally all No responses. Number of boxes checked "No" _____

A "No" response indicates an inaccessible aspect of the polling place.

Though the polling place may be inaccessible by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, poll workers and clerks can find simple solutions to get voters in to the voting area on election day. Sensitivity and an open mind are the most essential tools for making the voting process accessible for all voters.

Here are several suggestions that are not required by law but will make the voting process easier for elderly people and people with disabilities.

- Having adequate lighting in the voting area
- Providing magnifying devices and straight edges to those who request them
- Having at least one pad of paper and a pen to communicate with voters who are hard of hearing
- Making seating available for elderly and disabled voters waiting their turn to vote

If your Polling place is inaccessible, please use this space to note the specifics of the problems (such as the number of un-ramped stairs or the width and design of a narrow door). Then develop a plan to make the polling place accessible. This can include moving the polling site to a different, accessible location. If you don't know exactly how to solve an issue or wish to have help and advice in coming up with affordable solutions, contact the Coalition of Independent Living Centers or the State Elections Board for advice (contact info below). Attach a separate page if necessary.

Accessibility problems and solutions: (attach additional pages if necessary)

Please return surveys to:
State Elections Board
Attn: Polling Place Accessibility
P.O. Box 2973
Madison, WI 53701-2973

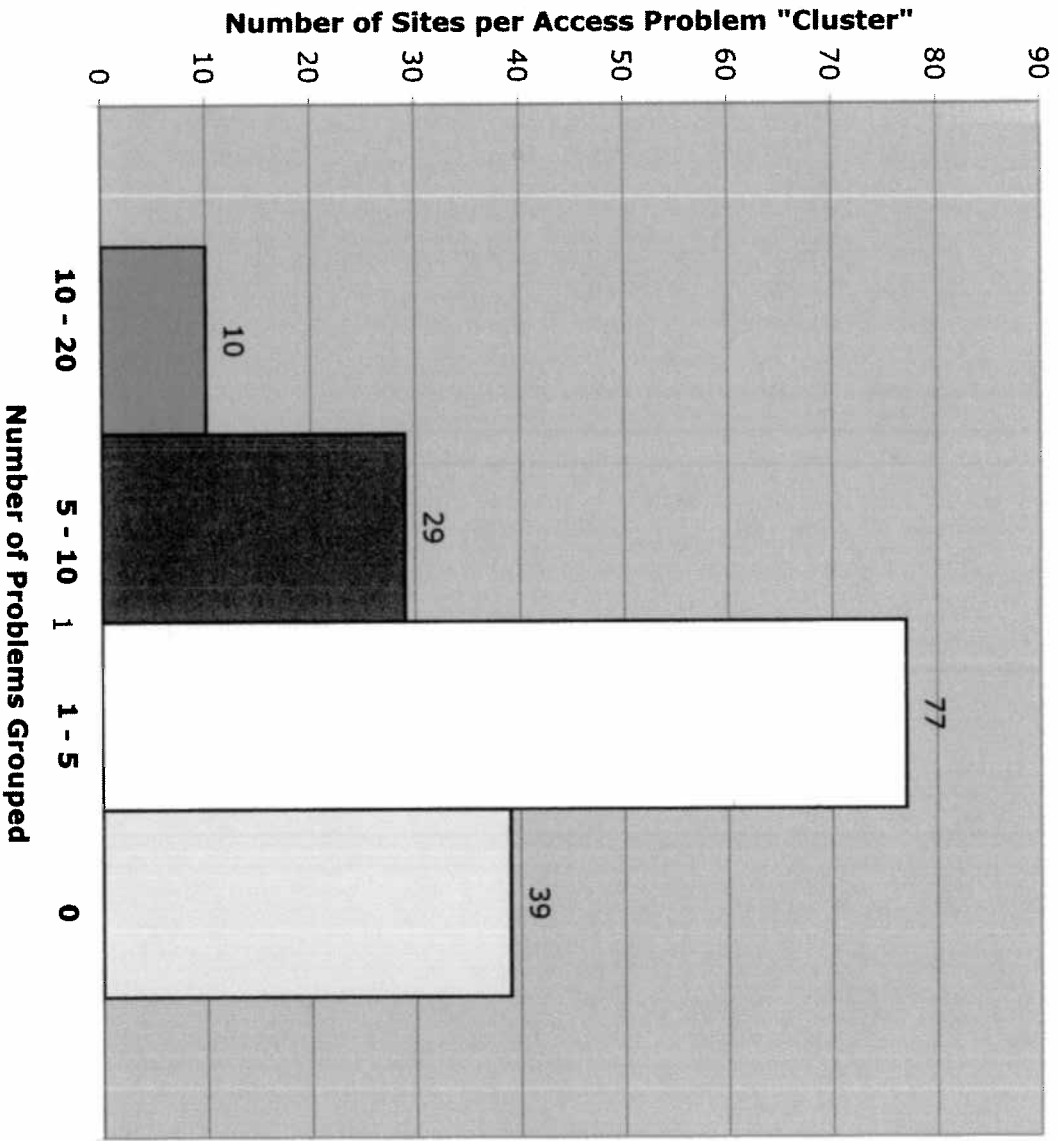
Or complete online at <http://elections.state.wi.us> and click on the Polling Place Accessibility Survey link. Feel free to call the State Elections Board at 608-266-8005 with any additional questions.

Even if the building is compliant according to this survey which is based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, this should not be taken to indicate full ADA compliance. This survey is for use by the State Elections Board only and only assesses accessibility for the purposes of voting. If you would like advice or assistance on making your polling place accessible, please contact Maureen Ryan of the Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers at (608) 819-1300 (voice/TTY). If you want more information on accessibility check the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) Manual, which is available from the Access Board at <http://www.access-board.gov/index.htm>, or by writing to:

The Access Board
1331 F Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004-1111

Thank you for your help on this valuable project.

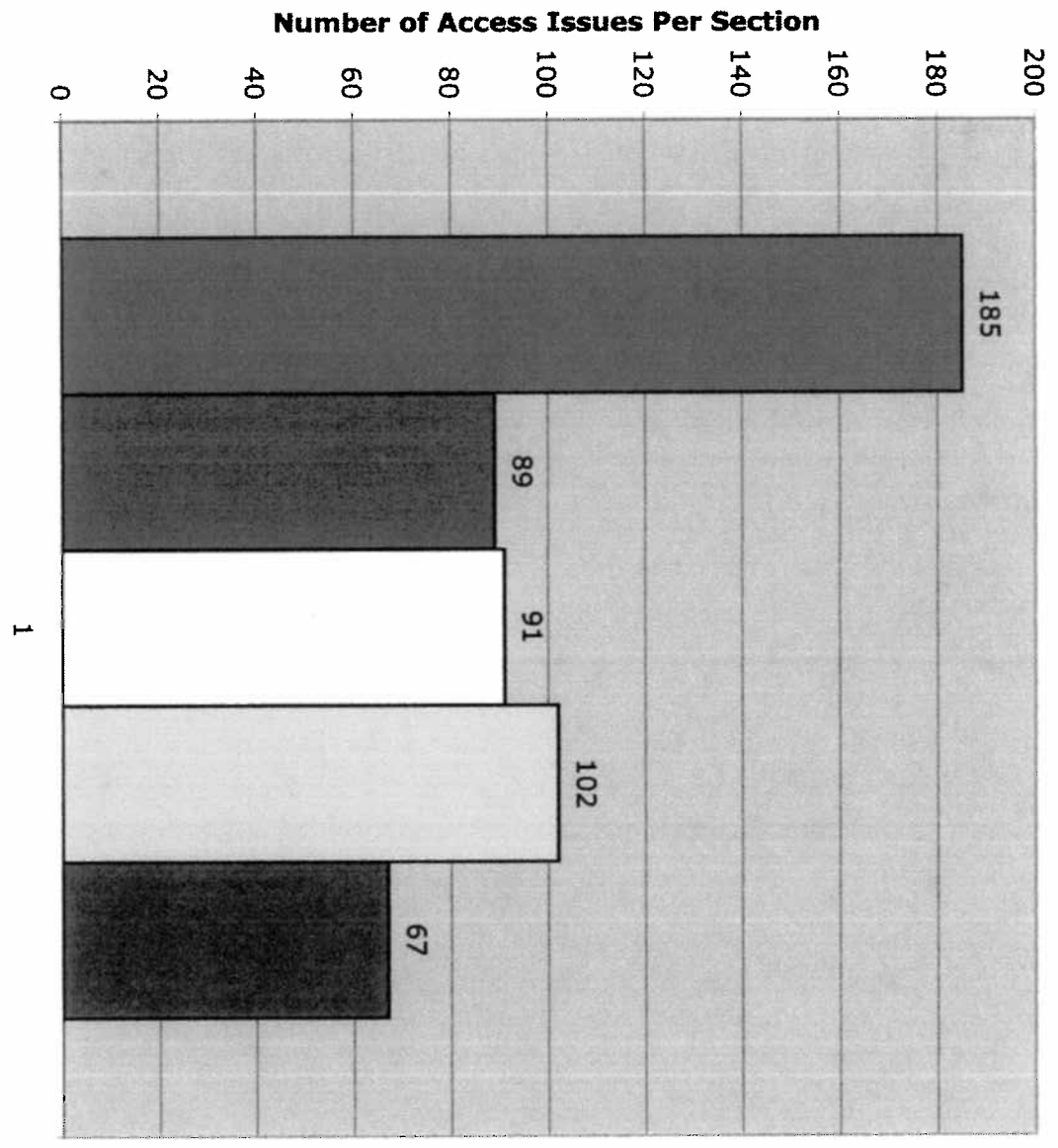
Percentage Table



- 6.41% of Sites had 10 or more problems.
- 18.59% of Sites had 5-10 problems
- 49.36% of Sites had 1-5 problems
- 25% of Sites had 0 problems

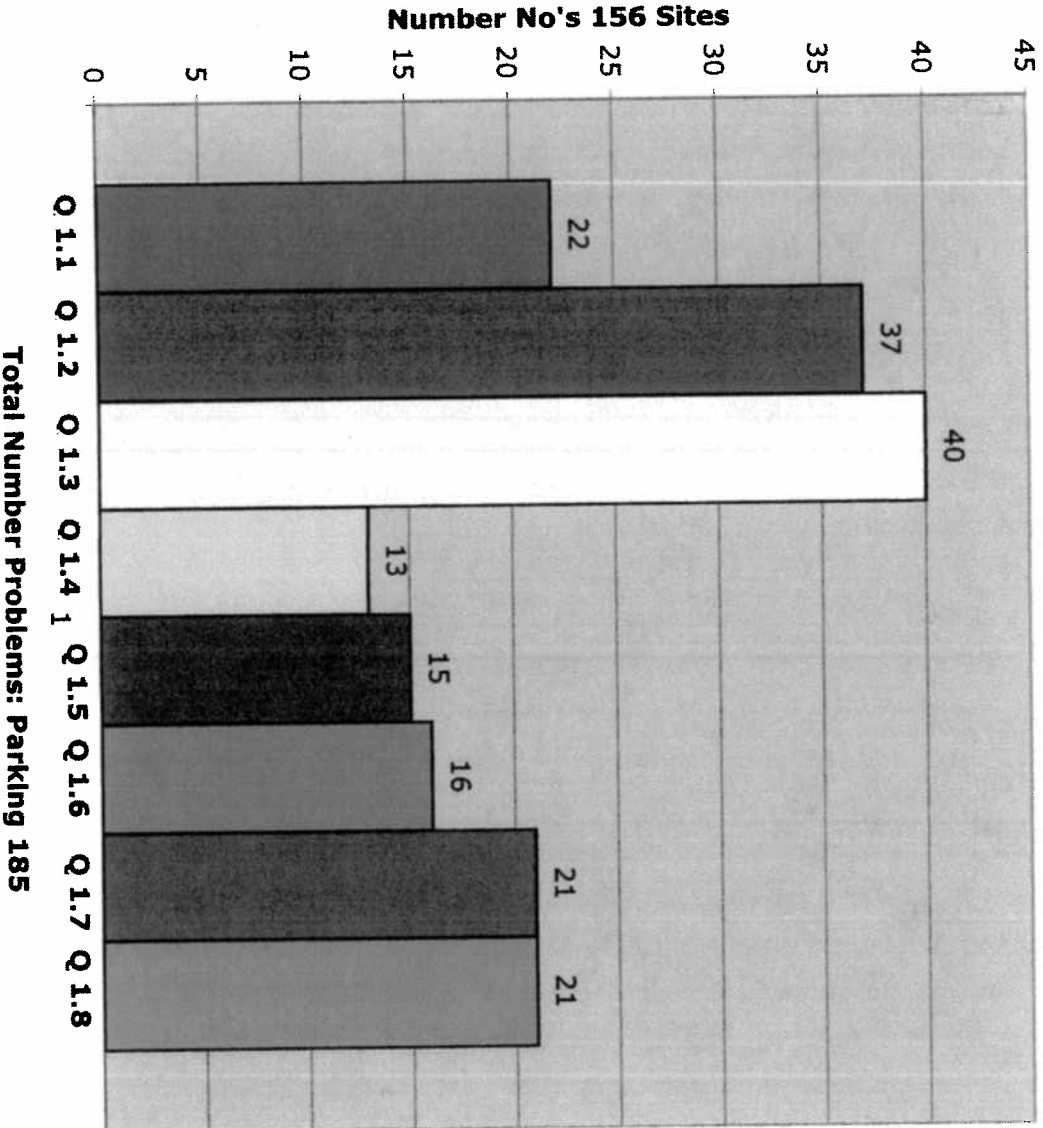
*Cumulative Data from
 Surveys completed in 2004
 by Wisconsin Parsanality
 community volunteers.*

Overview of Access Issues (No's) Sections: 1-5



- Section I Problems: Parking
- Section II Total Problems: Path to Building
- Section III Total Problems: Building Entrance
- Section IV Total Problems: Travel within Building
- Section V Total Problems: Voting Area

Section 1: Parking



■ Q: I.1 Question 11 Are there permanent or temporary off-street parking spaces designated as accessible parking?

■ Q: I.2 Question 12 Is there at least one van accessible space, defined as at least 8 feet wide with an 8 foot adjacent aisle?

□ Q:I.3 Question 13 Are any other accessible spaces at least 12 feet wide or standard size with an accessible aisle?

□ Q: I.4 Question 14 Are the spaces on level, paved ground?

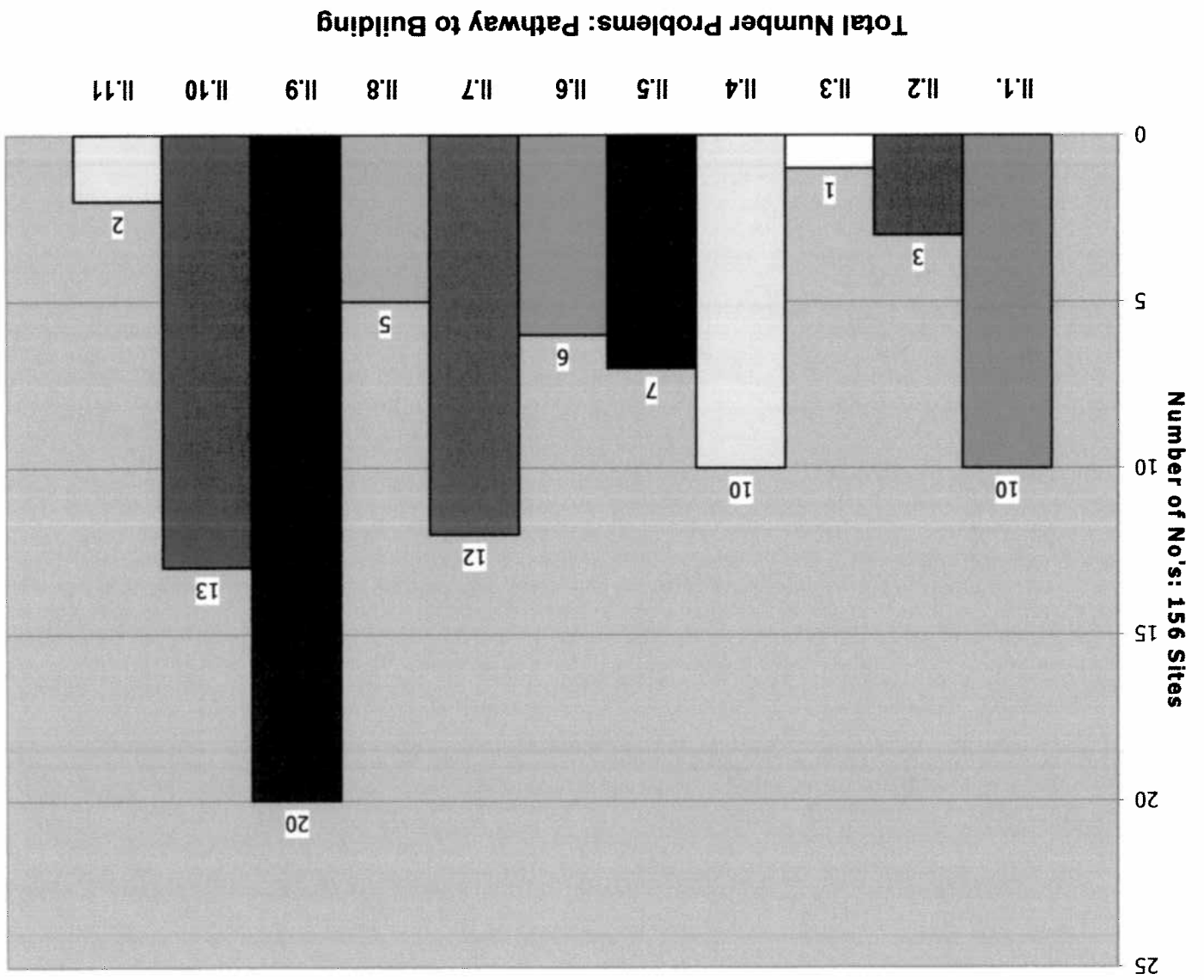
■ Q: I.5 Question 15 If there is a curb, is there a ramp or curb-cut connecting these parking spaces to an accessible walkway or directly to the building entrance?

■ Q: I.6 Question 16 Are the parking spaces designated by clearly visible signs bearing the symbol of accessibility?

■ Q: I.7 Question 17 Are the Spaces nearest the accessible entrance

■ Q I.8 -- Question 17: Is there an accessible passenger drop-off area if off-street parking is unavailable?

Sec. II: Pathways to Building

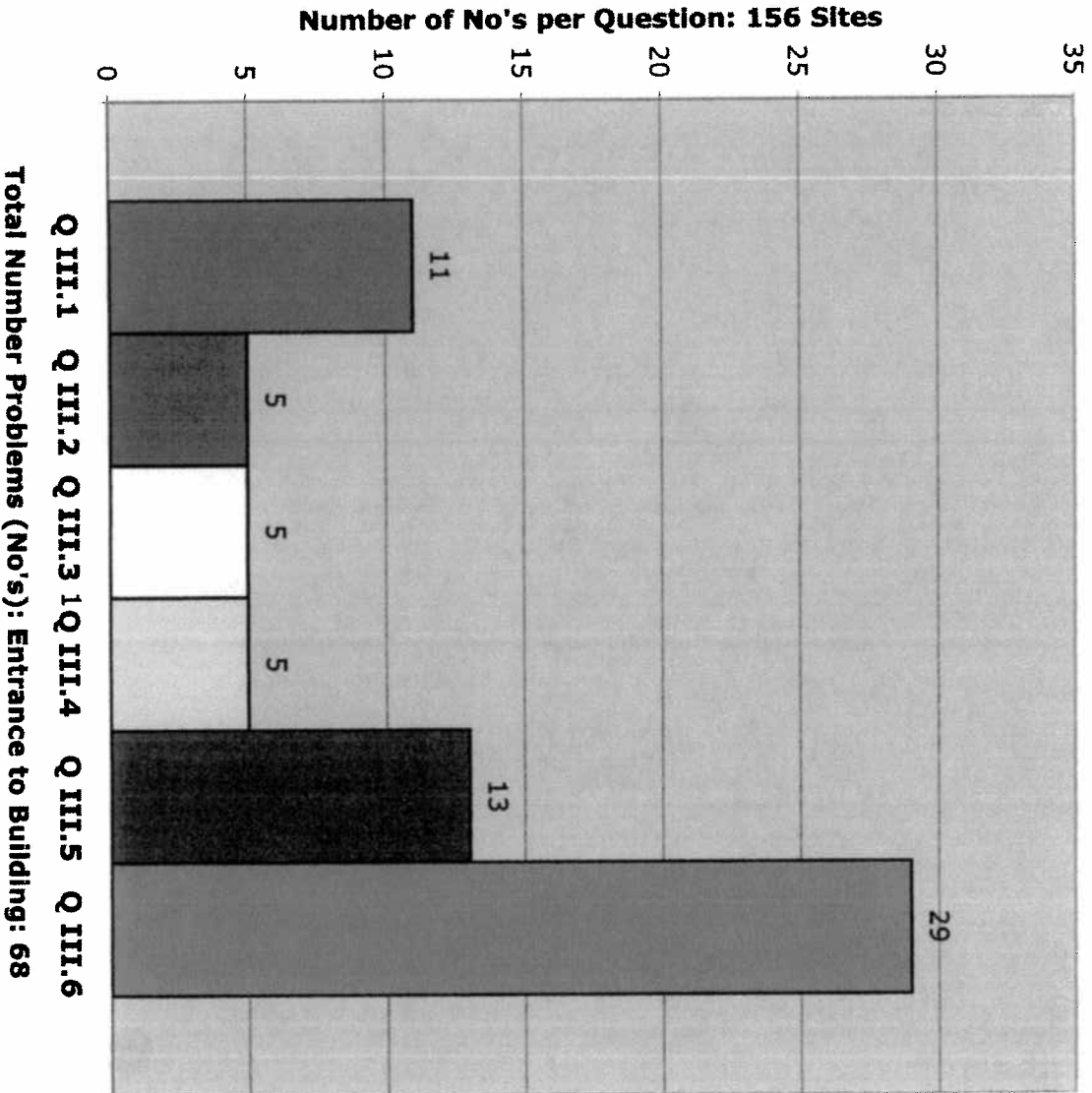


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SEC. II: Pathways to Building

- Q.II.1 Are the curbs from the parking lot to the path to the building cut or ramped with 48 inches clear width and slopes of no more than 1:12 feet (one foot high for every twelve feet in length)?
- Q.II.2 Is the pathway to the building at least 48 inches wide and free from any protrusions or obstacles that would narrow the passage to less than 36 inches?
- Q.II.3 Is the pathway free of any overhanging object (such as a tree branch, signs, etc.) lower than 80 inches? (Objects can be tied back or removed during election to provide clearance for a person with visual disabilities.)
- Q.II.4 Is the surface of the pathway free of breaks or edges where the difference in height is over 1/2 inches?
- Q.II.5 Is the pathway from the parking area to the building paved?
- Q.II.6 Is the rest of the path free of inclines greater than 1:20 feet?
- Q.II.7 Are any stairs along the pathway ramped with a non-slip surface and a slope of no more than 1:12 feet or provided with an alternative means of access?
- Q.II.8 If the ramp is higher than 6 inches; does it have a handrail that is between 32 and 36 inches from the ramp surface?
- Q.II.9 If the accessible route to the building is different from the primary route to the building, is that route well marked by large print signs?
- Q.II.10 Are walkways well-lit?
- Q.II.11 On Election Day, are provisions made to ensure paths are free of hazards such as ice, snow, leaves and other such debris?

Sec III: Entrance to Building.



■ Q: III.1, Question 29: Does entrance to building have a ramp or an elevator or is free of stairs or steps, such that a person in a wheelchair could enter unassisted?

■ Q: III.2, Question 30: Do ramps have slope no greater than 1:12 ft?

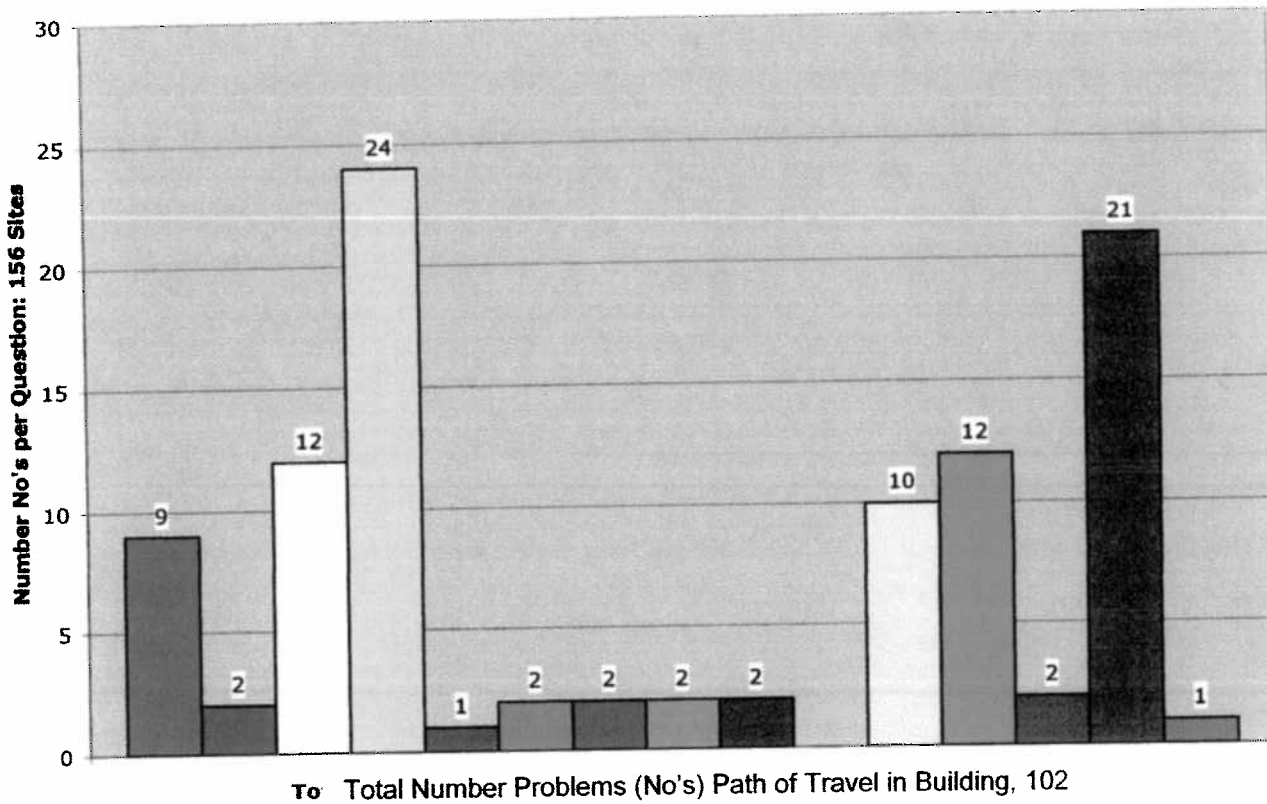
□ Q: III.3, Question 31: Are ramps and landing areas with drop-offs provided with a curb of 2 in. or greater to prevent one from slipping off ramp?

□ Q: III.4, Question 32: If there's a door at top of ramp, is there a level space at least 5x5 ft where a wheelchair can maneuver to open the door or rest while door is opened?

■ Q: III.5, Question 33: Are entrance doors and other doors along accessible route to voting area at least 36 in. wide?

■ Q: III.6, Question 34: Exterior doors are often too heavy for some people with disabilities to open. Can doors be opened without excessive force or are they

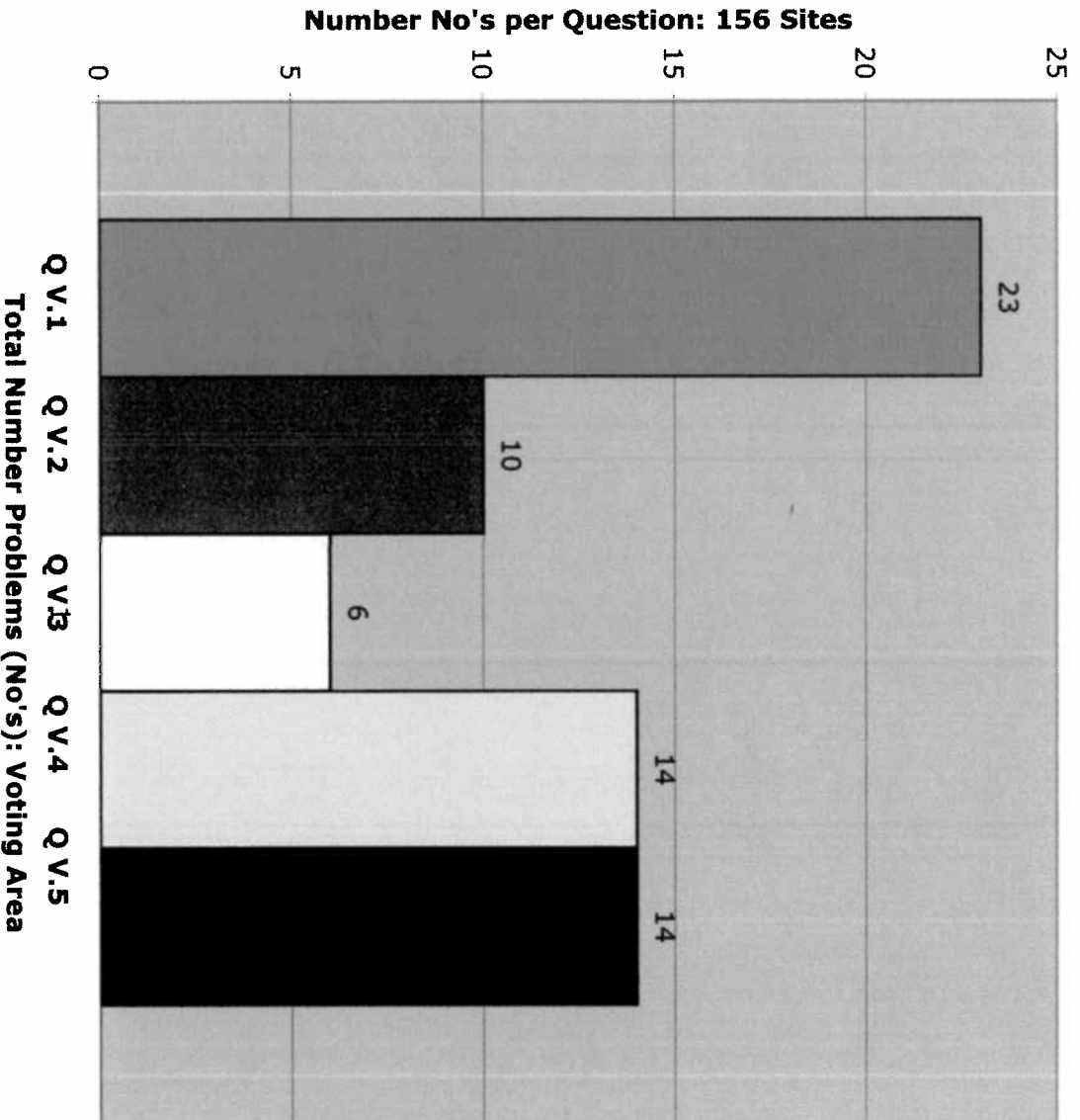
Sec. IV: TRAVEL IN BUILDING



- If the voting area is not directly inside the building, is the route to the voting area indicated and if necessary, is an alternative accessible route clearly marked?
- Are all doors along the accessible route unlocked for election day?
- Are door thresholds less than 1/2 inches high or if greater than 1/2 inches are they beveled?
- Can all doors to the voting area be opened with a closed fist or do they have automatic openers that keep the door open for 8 seconds? (Test this by making one hand into a fist and try to open doors using only that fist) or if doors do not pass the "closed fist test", can they be propped open all day for the election?
- Is the path of travel free of stairs or steps. If not, is there some means of access for a person in a wheel chair such as a chair lift or an elevator?
- If elevators provide the only accessible route, is the cab at least 4 x 5 feet wide?
- Are elevator doors at least 36 inches wide?

- Are elevator controls less than 56 inches high and are the controls marked with raised lettering?
- Is the elevator close to the accessible entrance to the building?
- Are stairways well-lit and free of obstacles?
- Are all corridors along the accessible route at least 48 inches wide and never narrower than 36 inches?
- Are corridors free of obstacles or protrusions (such as boxes or water fountains) which extend more than 4 inches from the wall?
- Is the route to the voting area free of any hanging objects or overhangs lower than 80 inches from the floor? (a person who is blind cannot detect something that hangs or protrudes without a base)
- Are all rugs and mats securely fastened or removed? (Mats can be fastened with duct tape for Election Day)
- Do all rugs, mats and carpet on the accessible route or in the voting area have a low-pile?

Sec V: Voting Area



- Q: V.1, Question 50: Are instructions for voting printed in 18 point font or larger in simple language and plainly displayed?
- Q: V.2, Question 51: Is there sufficient unobstructed space for the reasonable movement of voters in wheelchairs (minimum of 5X5 feet)?
- Q: V.3, Question 52: Is the entrance to the accessible voting booth at least 36 inches wide?
- Q: V.4, Question 53: Is there at least one voting area where a person in a wheelchair can reach all necessary parts of the voting equipment?
- Q: V.5, Question 54: If the voter casts the ballot at a table or a counter, is the table top between 28 and 34 inches high in at least one station?

Accessibility Survey Summary

In November 2006 and April 2007, Disability Rights of Wisconsin and other volunteers conducted surveys to assess how accessible voting sites in the City of Milwaukee are for individuals with disabilities. A total of 145 sites had been surveyed, 72 in November and 73 in April.

In recent years the City has made a significant effort to move polling places from sites that could not be made accessible due to stairs or other obstructions. In addition numerous curb-cuts have been added. Disability advocates applaud these changes,

However, there remains much work to be done in terms of creating physical accessibility and perhaps more significantly in changing attitudinal problems that limit or inhibit voters with disabilities from using their local polling site,

The survey tool used asked basic questions in the areas of parking, pathway to building, entrance to building, traveling within the building, and the voting area. The voting area survey included the electronic voting equipment as well as low tech assistance such as magnifiers, large print, and signature guides or rulers. It also included the availability of extra seating and lowered voting counters.

The following is a summary listing of the major problems areas found through these surveys, and the number of sites which had these problems. While no two sites had identical problems certain concerns were noted in numerous areas.

Parking

- Lots with no accessible spaces marked; out of the 66 sites surveyed, 17 were found to be problematic.
- Accessible spaces not located near entrance; out of the 66 sites surveyed, 18 were found to be problematic.
- No designated drop off area for individuals with disabilities if the site had no parking lot; out of the 65 sites surveyed, 34 were found to be problematic.
 - In addition, of those sites which do have designated drop off areas most do not have signs indicating where the area is located or nearby curb cuts/ramps.

Path to Building

- The path from parking lot or drop off area is not marked; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 70 were found to be problematic.
- The path does not have necessary ramps or curb cuts; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 46 were found to be problematic.

Entrance to Building

- The entrance to the building is not free of steps; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 19 were found to be problematic.
- The door to the building does not have a call button or alternative way to enter (i.e. someone stationed at the door.); out of the 145 sites surveyed, 71 were found to be problematic.
 - Some sites had call buttons, but no one answered or they were purposely disconnected during voting.

Travel Within Building

- The route from accessible entrance to voting area was not marked; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 39 were found to be problematic.
- Sites require voters to use stairs and did not have an elevator; out of the 59 sites surveyed, 35 were found to be problematic.
- Sites had cluttered or too narrow hallways, rugs on floor, or interior doors blocking voting area; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 49 were found to be problematic.

Voting Area

- Sites without a curbside voting plan or the plan required someone to come in and request curbside; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 82 were found to be problematic.
- Sites in which voting equipment had not been set up, not working, or completely missing from site; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 71 were found to be problematic.
- Sites in which poll workers had not been aware of voters needs regarding accessibility; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 42 were found to be problematic.
- Sites in which the following had been missing
 - Large print instructions; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 54 were found to be problematic.
 - Signature guide or ruler; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 113 were found to be problematic.
 - Communication cards or pen/paper; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 101 were found to be problematic.
 - Magnifying glass; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 135 were found to be problematic.
 - Extra seating; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 50 were found to be problematic.
 - Extra wide table; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 54 were found to be problematic.
- Poll workers had not been trained in using voter equipment; out of the 145 sites surveyed, 60 were found to be problematic.
 - At least 7 sites had workers with some training, but workers specifically said they desired more.

See attached chart for more detail regarding problem areas at each site.

Other Issues:

A significant barrier to accessible voting that was frequently observed but not easily quantifiable was an attitudinal one.

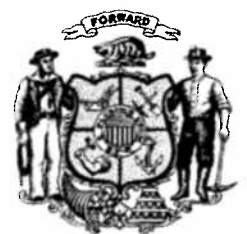
-Although not an issue on the accessibility checklist several surveyors noted a reluctance on the part of poll workers to have the accessible machine ready to go. They felt there was no point setting it up until someone came in and asked to use it. There was no thought that it should be ready and set up. They expressed concern about using the ink cartridge.

-Additionally some poll workers expressed hostility at the suggestion that the accessible machine be turned in such a manner as to insure voter privacy. While many were quite willing to turn the machine, others felt it was unnecessary.

-Many polling place had no plan to identify voters requiring curb side voting. There was a belief that the person who brought them would come in and tell the poll workers. They did not consider the possibility that the voter might drive himself to the polling place. Some poll captains bristled at the suggestion they send someone out to check at regular intervals contending that they did not have enough poll workers.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Legal Counsel

January 24, 2008

The Honorable Mark Miller
State Senator
ATTN: Liz Stephens
State Capitol, Room 409 South
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Miller:

On behalf of Kevin J. Kennedy, Legal Counsel for the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board (GAB), I am pleased to respond to your requests for: 1) Information regarding a plan detailing the benchmarks that the GAB expects to meet and achieve related to ensure that our Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) is fully compliant with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) by September 2008, without the use of new state funds, and 2) a copy of the revised draft disabled accessibility survey that will be distributed to clerks.

Information responding to questions about what Accenture has been asked to do and what they are actually doing from the time of the December 27, 2007, settlement until February 28, 2008, and what we have to do to achieve HAVA compliance and when, is summarized in the attachment.

A first rough draft of the revised draft disabled accessibility survey will be hand-delivered to you on Friday, January 25. Please note the staff person assigned this task left our agency and this initiative is now a priority for me, the new (nine days on the job today!) Administrator of our Elections Division. I am meeting with representatives of the Disability Community (our Advisory Committee), on Thursday, January 31. Our plans are to solicit their input, revise the survey and have it in the hands of county and municipal clerks in time to use for the February 19 Presidential Preference Primary and the April Spring Election. We welcome your comments.

Liz, just let me know if I can provide additional assistance. I may be reached at 608 267 0715 and at Nat.Robinson@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

NATHANIEL E. ROBINSON
Administrator, Elections Division
WI Government Accountability Board

cc: Kevin J. Kennedy, Legal Counsel
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board
Elections Division

DATE: January 24, 2008

TO: Nathaniel E. Robinson, Administrator
Elections Division, WI Government Accountability Board

FROM: Barbara A. Hansen, Director
Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) Project

SUBJECT: SVRS benchmarks to achieve during Accenture Agreement support period

You have asked that I summarize the plan detailing the benchmarks that the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board (GAB) expects to achieve related to ensuring that the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) is fully compliant with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) by September 2008, without the use of new state funds. This memorandum is intended to explain what is expected to happen (or has happened) between January 8 (date that Kevin Kennedy provided testimony to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Audit) and March 31, 2008 (the date the GAB will again appear before the Joint Audit Committee). This summary includes what we have asked Accenture to do, and what they are doing.

Background

There are currently 2 obstacles to full HAVA compliance of the SVRS:

- Interface functionality
- Ability to check status of provisional ballots online

Interfaces

GAB staff has determined that in order for SVRS to be HAVA compliant the Interface functionality for matches with Department of Transportation/Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) data, Department of Corrections (DOC) felon data and Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) death records must be reliably functioning and be practical for the municipal and county clerks to use. For many months, the staff has worked with Department of Administration/Division of Enterprise Technology (DET) and Accenture staff to identify the problems and repair the defects.

Provisional Ballots Status

In addition to the Interfaces, an independent method for voters to obtain the status of their provisional ballot cast on Election Day is required. Currently after repairs to defects, the Voter Public Access (VPA) portion of the application provides that functionality. However, the VPA has been displaying the voter registration number that is confidential under current law.

What Accenture is Doing/Scope of Accenture Engagement

Following the agreement signed with Accenture LLC on December 26, 2007, the agency staff determined that several items needed attention while Accenture was still supporting the application.

1. Support to DET for the installation of SVRS version 6.4 code

Memorandum to Robinson

Subject: SVRS benchmarks to achieve during Accenture Agreement support period

January 24, 2008

2. Provide Transition support activities
3. Provide 12 report-stored procedure patches (fixes)
4. Make requested changes to the DMV ping mailing letter
5. Make changes to VPA to suppress the voter registration number
6. Create new provider/reliar reports to support Interface processing
7. Develop "how to" instructions for creating/changing municipalities
8. Troubleshoot and repair defects in the Felon and Death matching process
9. Create a "go to" function for Felon and Death matching process

Benchmarks for HAVA Compliance

The following Accenture support items are directly relevant to the information requested by the Joint Committee on Audit.

Item	Description	Delivery Date	Status
4) Make requested changes to the DMV ping mailing letter	The text of the letter that is sent by clerks to voters who cannot be matched in the DMV check requires updates based on recent court cases.	1/18/08	In Testing
5) Make changes to VPA to suppress the voter registration number	The VPA screen needs to be updated to no longer show the confidential voter registration number. VPA is the website used to check provisional ballot status.	1/11/08	Complete; Ready be rolled out
6) Create new provider/reliar reports to support Interface processing	Two reports relating to Interface matching need to be created for communication between those clerks providing SVRS data services to clerks relying on them. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Listing of voters failing the DMV match. b) Listing of potential death, felon and duplicate matches. 	2/8/08	Prototype report format reviewed by GAB
8) Troubleshoot and repair defects in the Felon and Death matching process	Two issues were discovered in the application functionality that prohibits the completion of the matching process. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) When multiple users searched for death matches at the same time, the application would generate an error. b) When new voters were added into the system, they were not being correctly matched against the list of felons stored in SVRS. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) 1/8/08 b) 1/23/08 	In Testing
(9) Create a "go to" function for Felon and Death matching process	When clerks confirm a potential match between a voter and a felon or death record, the application currently requires the clerk to go through a complicated multi-step process in order to inactivate that voter record. The	2/1/08	Specifications have been agreed to by GAB

Memorandum to Robinson

Subject: SVRS benchmarks to achieve during Accenture Agreement support period

January 24, 2008

Item	Description	Delivery Date	Status
	requested "go-to" function will streamline the process to be more practical and efficient for clerks.		

Other Considerations

Interfaces

All functionality that will be delivered must be thoroughly tested by GAB staff before it can be implemented into the Production version of the application that is used by clerks. It is expected that if defects in the functionality are discovered early enough, Accenture may be able to address the issues. GAB is prepared to address any defects that cannot be corrected by Accenture during the support period.

The Interfaces will not be rolled out to clerks until all defects around the Interfaces have been addressed. Training is anticipated to be delivered after the Spring Election. Electronic methods of training such as webcasts are being considered.

Provisional Ballots Status

In order for this functionality to work, clerks must enter all provisional ballot information into SVRS on election night or shortly thereafter. Business processes have been developed but clerks still need to be trained. GAB staff is in the process of finalizing training materials that can be distributed via email and on the agency website. Staff plans to have this functionality used in the February primary.

Timeline

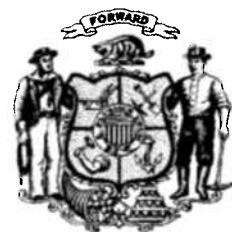
Put Interfaces into Production for Clerks Use	Summer 2008
Turn on VPA for Voters Use	February 2008 primary

Summary/Conclusion

Wisconsin is expected to be fully HAVA compliant by September 2008. No new state funds are expected to be requested.



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KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

February 28, 2008

The Honorable Mark Miller, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 409 South, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Kitty Rhoades, Assembly Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 309 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53707-8953

Dear Senator Miller and Representative Rhoades:

In accordance with your request, I am pleased to provide you and your committee members with our monthly update of the status of the Wisconsin Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS). This information brings you up-to-date through February of 2008, on how we are meeting SVRS' benchmarks, status of the Accenture contract, and communication with the Federal government representatives regarding the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) compliance.

Benchmarks

SVRS Application: Please note at the end of Thursday, February 28, the Accenture contracted support of the SVRS will conclude. Therefore, commencing on Friday morning, February 29, the Elections Division will be responsible for maintenance and improvement of the SVRS. Since the State's agreement with Accenture – announced December 26, 2007 – to end the vendor's involvement with the SVRS, several improvements have been added to the application. Please refer to Attachment #1 to review a table that outlines the most recent improvements.

Maintenance and Improvement of the SVRS: The Elections Division is in the process of hiring three Project positions to assist with continued improvements to the SVRS. In the interim, two temporary contract positions, scheduled to run through August 2008, have been filled.

Interfaces: The Ineligible Voter List is a list of all felons who are currently under the Department of Correction's (DOC) supervision. These individuals are on probation, parole, or extended supervision. The voting rights of these individuals have not been restored and will not be restored until respective terms and conditions of sentencing are completed. The information on this list is provided by the Department of Corrections. The 2007 Wisconsin Deaths document is a list of Wisconsin deaths provided by the Department of Health and Family Services, Vital Records Office.

These lists were provided to 1,851 municipal and 72 county clerks to assist in identifying persons who are ineligible to vote under Wisconsin state statutes. The clerks use the lists to maintain current registration records. The Ineligible Voter List is used during the late registration process and when issuing absentee ballots in the clerk's office. Poll workers also use the Ineligible Voter List when registering voters at the polling place on Election Day. These lists were prepared and distributed by January 25 with the assistance of the Department of Administration/Division of Enterprise Technology.

Other SVRS-related Accomplishments: Since our last communication with the Committee, we have launched the SVRS Voter Public Access (VPA) function. The VPA allows voters to find polling place information for state addresses, and personal voter registration information, online through the GAB website. The Elections Division announced VPA by statewide news release on February 7, and on primary Election Day (February 19), the VPA page had 18,615 hits. It continues to function without error, however, all information may not be available to every voter depending on the individual data provided by specific municipalities.

Finally, the Elections Division announced in February the Web-Based Electronic Training System (WBETS) for Wisconsin's elections officials, which provides SVRS application training online for clerks and their staff members across Wisconsin. WBETS is paid for with federal HAVA funds, was developed through collaboration with municipal and county clerks and UW Learning Innovations, and will include more election administration curriculum as it is developed further.

Contracts

A payment of \$4 million from Accenture was received by the Government Accountability Board on January 22, 2008. As previously reported and according to the December agreement, the Board's business with Accenture ended at the conclusion of the work day on Thursday, February 28.

Federal Communication

During the first week in February, Nat Robinson, the new Elections Division Administrator, and I attended the National Association of State Elections Directors meeting in Washington, D.C. During that trip, I spoke informally with attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice and apprised them of Wisconsin's progress with the SVRS and the end of our work with Accenture.

Additional SVRS Information: For your additional information on what kinds of documents and information the SVRS is capable of producing, please refer to Attachment #2.

Sincerely,



Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Government Accountability Board

cc: Co-Chairs, Joint Legislative Committee on Audit
Senator Spencer Coggs
Representative Sheryl Albers
Secretary Michael Morgan, Department of Administration
Robert Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau Director
Cynthia Dombrowski, State Budget Office Analyst
Nathaniel E. Robinson, Elections Division Administrator
Barbara A. Hansen, SVRS Project Director

ATTACHMENT #1

A summary of improvements in the Wisconsin's SVRS

Note that on Friday, February 29, 2008, the GAB will assume full responsibility for the maintenance and improvement of the SVRS.

Item	Description	Date Delivered	Date Testing Began	Date in Production	Comments
SVRS 6.3 Patch 2	This patch fixes a time-out error that occurred when searching for death matches (part of the HAVA-required interfaces)	1/8/08	1/18/08	after April election	Testing successful. Will be put into production along with the HAVA interfaces.
SVRS 6.3 Patch 3	This patch removes the voter registration # from the Voter Public Access (VPA) website	1/11/08	1/4/08	1/22/08	Testing successful. Fully implemented.
SVRS 6.4	This is the latest code release of the SVRS application, upgraded the database and operating system to SQL 2005.	10/26/07	1/4/08	after April election	Currently being tested.
SVRS 6.4 Patch 1	This patch fixes defects in several reports, including the DMV ping letter (part of the HAVA-required interfaces).	1/18/08	1/22/08	after April election	Currently being tested.
SVRS 6.4 Patch 2	This patch fixes the felon matching so that when a new voter is registered, they are compared against a list of existing felons (part of the HAVA-required interfaces).	1/23/08	1/28/08	after April election	Testing successful. Will be put into production after AESM version 6.4.
SVRS 6.4 Patch 3	This patch provides a new functionality so that when you confirm a death or felon match, it makes the voter inactive (part of the HAVA-required interfaces).	2/1/08	2/6/08	after April election	Currently being tested.
SVRS 6.4 Patch 4	This patch provides 2 new reports (Part of the HAVA-required interfaces).	2/8/08	2/14/08	after April election	Currently being tested.

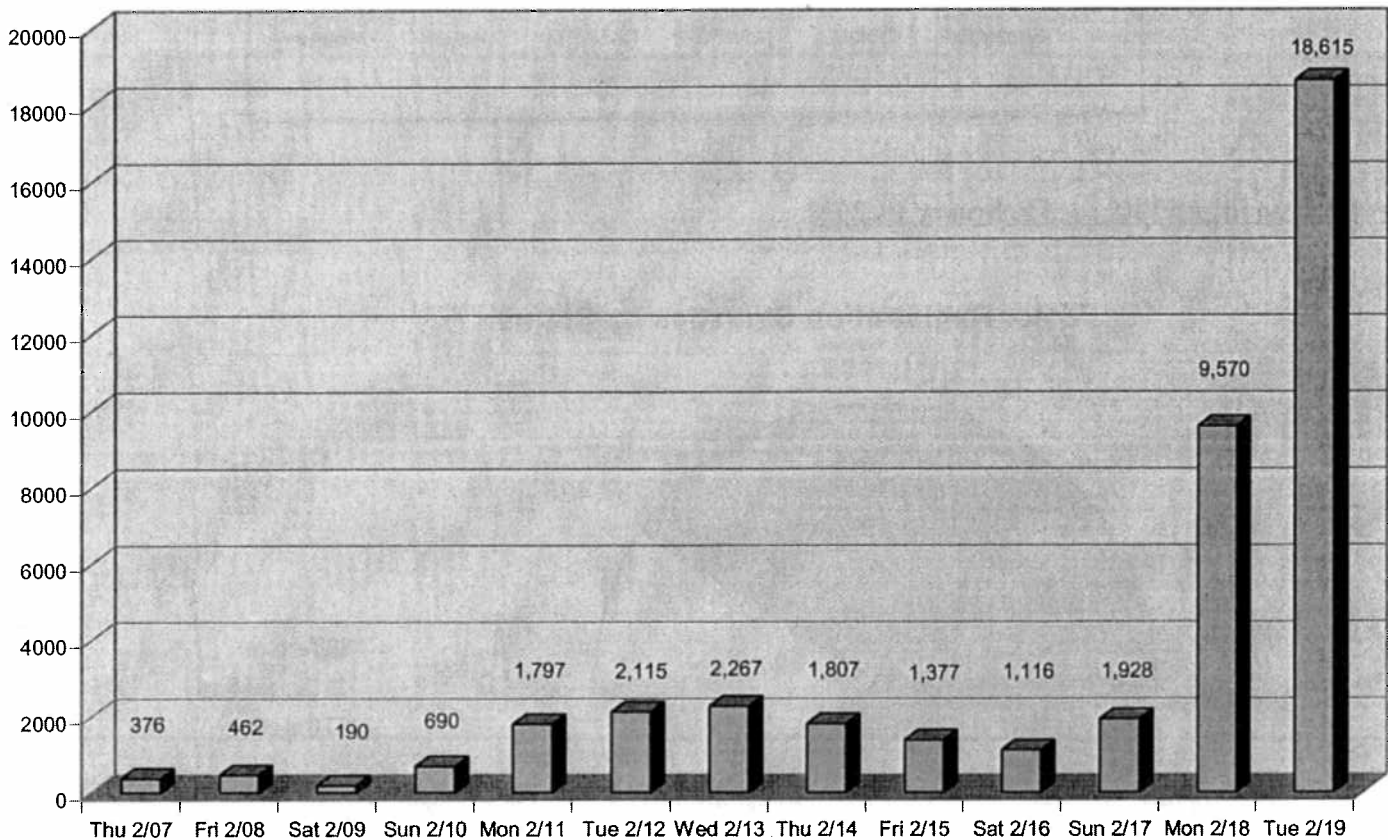
ATTACHMENT #2
Additional SVRS Information

Voter Public Access Goes “Live”

On Thursday, February 7, 2008, the Government Accountability Board announced that voters can look up their polling place and other election-related information on the Internet using a new function of the state’s voter registration system. It is available under “Voter Information” on the Elections Division page at <http://gab.wi.gov>, the Government Accountability Board’s website. Voter Public Access (VPA) gives the public a new means of getting information about voter registration, voting history, normal polling place locations, current office holders, and sample ballots for upcoming elections.

The information provided on VPA pages comes directly from the SVRS and is maintained by local clerks. In rare cases, a voter may vote on a provisional ballot, and the VPA page will also allow that voter to check the status of her/his provisional ballot provided the clerk enters the information into SVRS. The following graph depicts usage of the website (February 7 – February 19) since it was activated.

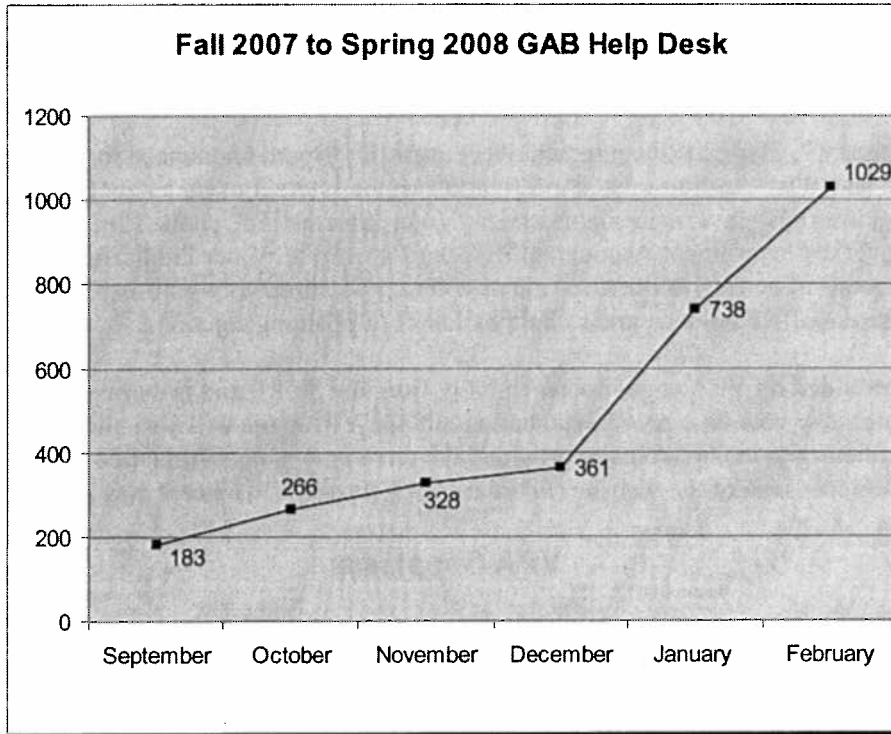
VPA Sessions



GAB Help Desk

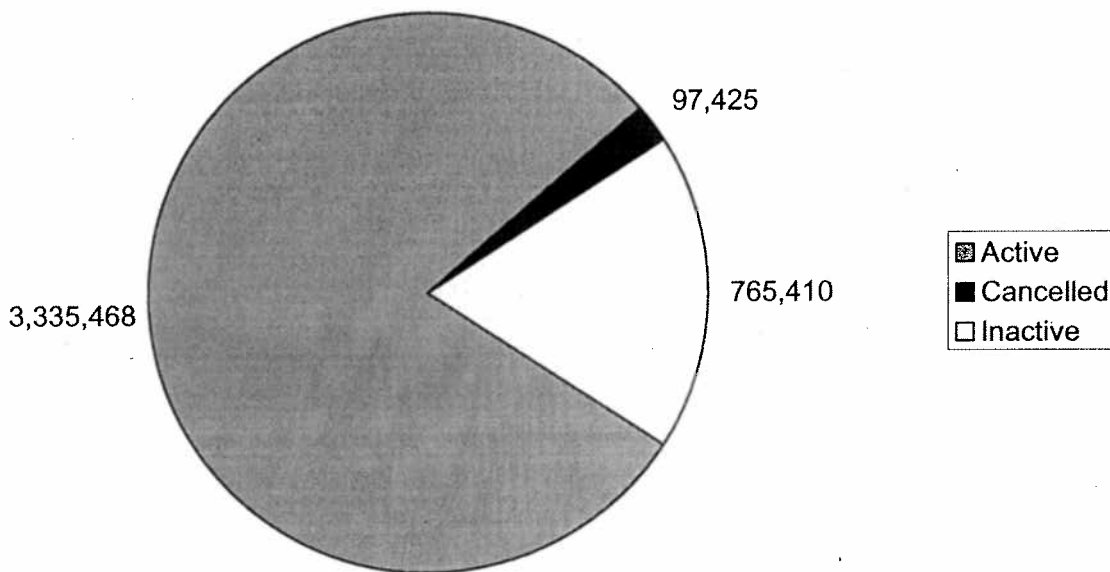
The GAB Help Desk had extended hours the day before, during Primary Election Day and the day after in order to field all calls coming into the Elections Division of GAB.

The graph at the top of the next page illustrates the call volume to the GAB Help Desk leading up to the 2008 Presidential Preference and Spring Primary. The last number is for the 30 days prior to February 18, 2008.



Voter Data from SVRS as of February 18, 2008

Voter Registration Statistics by Status



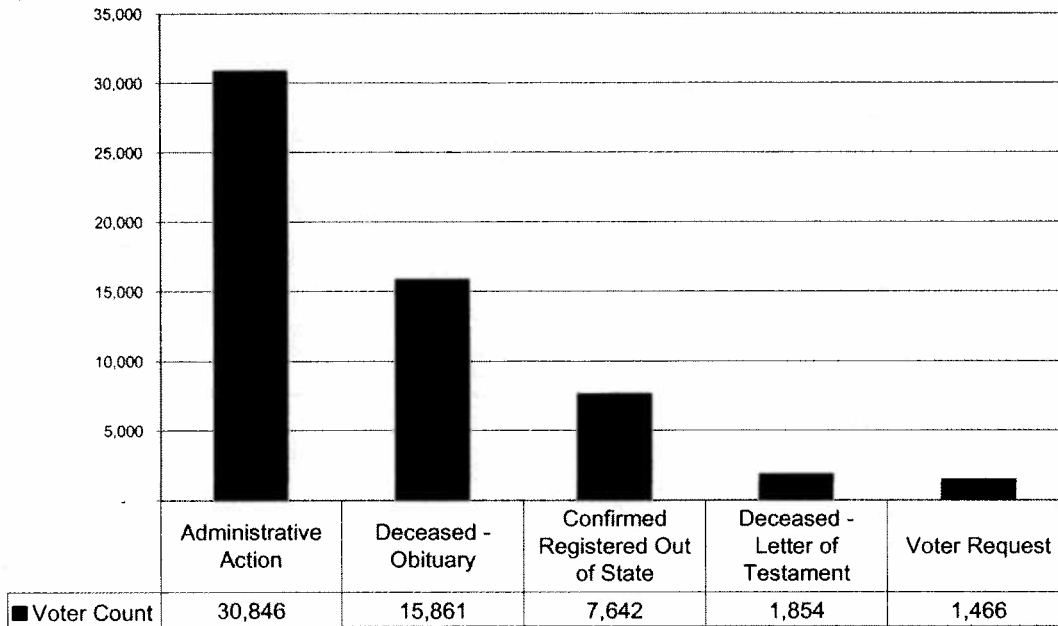
Total Number of Voter Records in SVRS: 4,198,303

Note: An Active Voter is one whose name will appear on the poll list.

A Cancelled Voter is one who will not become active again, e.g. deceased person.

An Inactive Voter is one who may become active again, e.g. convicted felon.

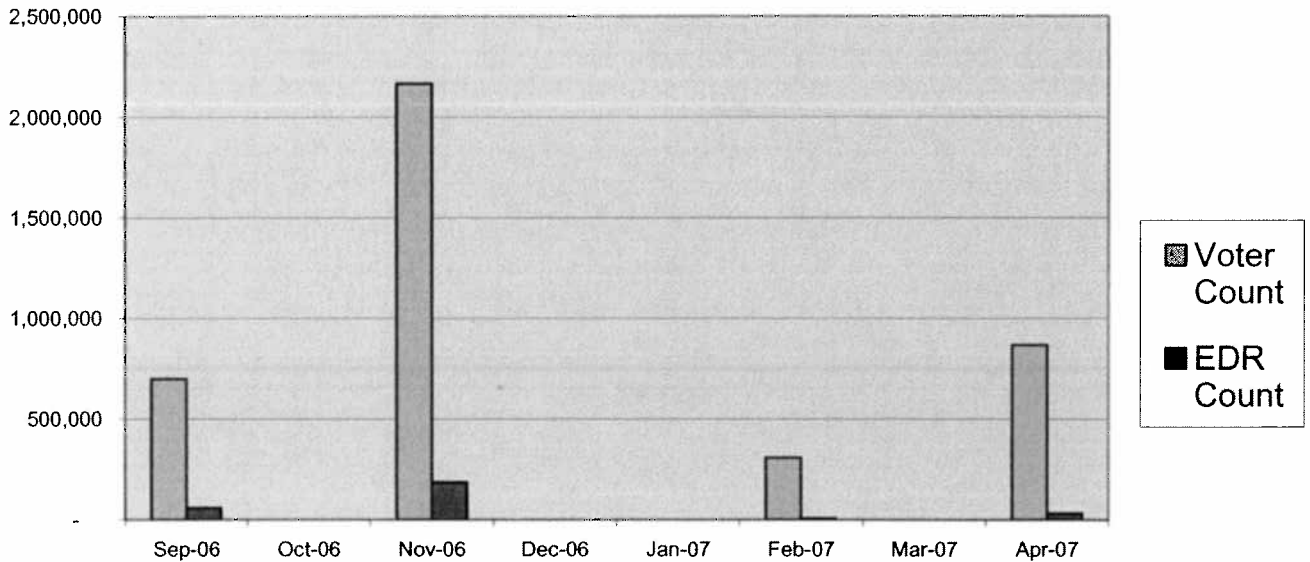
Cancelled Voter Counts



The chart above depicts the reason a voter record is cancelled in SVRS.

The chart below compares the number of voters with voter history and the number of voters who registered at the polls on Election Day for a specific election.

Voter Count and Election Day Registrations (EDR)

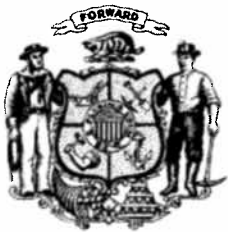


	September 12, 2006	November 7, 2006	February 20, 2007	April 3, 2007
■ Voter Count	699,210	2,166,730	308,965	868,427
■ EDR Count	58,788	185,285	6,130	31,513

Elections



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



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JUDGE DAVID DEININGER
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

DATE: March 12, 2008

TO: Mr. Matthew Swentkofske
Office of Senator Jim Sullivan, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Audit
State Capitol, Room 118 South

✓ Ms. Pam Matthews
Office of Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Audit
State Capitol, Room 314 North

FROM: Kyle R. Richmond, Public Information Officer *KRR*

SUBJECT: February 2008 SVRS Expenditures Summary

Please find attached twelve copies of the Government Accountability Board's February 2008 SVRS Expenditures Summary for the Joint Committee on Audit.

If I can provide additional information, please contact me at kyle.richmond@wisconsin.gov or 267-7887. Thank you.

CC: Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel

Nathaniel E. Robinson
Elections Division Administrator

Wisconsin Government Accountability Board - Elections Division

February 2008 SVRS Expenditures

TYPES OF EXPENDITURES	Expenditures	Year to Date Expenditures
RENT RISSER	\$0.00	\$16,443.88
RENT COMMERCE	\$5,578.83	\$50,209.47
INTERFACES		
Agency Partner Interface Expenses with DHFS	\$0.00	\$1,063.62
Agency Partner Interface Expenses with AAMVA/SSA	\$2,311.45	\$4,146.74
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (HEARTLAND)	\$0.00	\$24,998.25
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (UW-Learning Innovations)	\$47,500.00	\$62,500.00
IT - SERVICES (DET)		
SASI Agency User & Computer File Space Charges	\$3,067.72	\$23,500.11
TELEPHONE EXPENSES		
AT&T Phone Charges	\$403.72	\$2,803.88
WISLINE	\$219.67	\$1,724.87
Cell Phone Charges	\$519.09	\$3,258.90
SOFTWARE LICENSES (Captivate)	\$0.00	\$4,207.69
FAX/PHOTOCOPIER	\$0.00	\$2,477.31
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$185.00
Office Supplies	\$262.96	\$337.69
Purchasing Card (Misc.)	\$1,355.71	\$3,156.68
SVRS APPLICATION TRAINING TRAVEL	\$3,178.67	\$15,752.81
USER ACCEPTANCE TRAINING TRAVEL	\$0.00	\$955.04
ADMIN TRAVEL	\$307.00	\$382.16
GENERAL SERVICES BILL		
Fleet Services	\$0.00	\$44,130.00
State Telecom System (STS) - Long Distance Usage	\$0.00	\$224.48
Postage	\$1,340.12	\$5,030.68
UPS /Federal Express	\$732.05	\$1,962.94
Printing	\$0.00	\$6,246.72
Consolidated Data Network (T-1 Line)	\$320.00	\$2,240.00
DOA CHARGE BACKS		
Liability Insurance	\$0.00	\$287.88
Workers Comp Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,143.45
Property Insurance	\$0.00	\$257.36
Financial Services	\$0.00	\$4,417.50
Job Postings	\$0.00	\$250.91
FY-08 Childcare Assessment	\$0.00	\$880.69
TOTAL SUPPLIES & SERVICES	\$67,096.99	\$285,176.71
SALARIES & BENEFITS		
Salary Expenses - Staff (16.0 FTE)	\$43,493.23	\$421,213.32
Limited Term Employees (5.0 LTE)	\$11,605.80	\$118,424.74
Fringe Benefits Cost	\$22,890.28	\$211,360.27
TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS	\$77,989.31	\$750,998.33
TOTAL SPENDING	\$145,086.30	\$1,036,175.04

Wisconsin Government Accountability Board - Elections Division

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Wisconsin Government Accountability Board - Elections Division

February 2008 SVRS Expenditures

TYPES OF EXPENDITURES	Expenditures	Year to Date Expenditures
RENT RISSER	\$0.00	\$16,443.88
RENT COMMERCE	\$5,578.83	\$50,209.47
INTERFACES		
Agency Partner Interface Expenses with DHFS	\$0.00	\$1,063.62
Agency Partner Interface Expenses with AAMVA/SSA	\$2,311.45	\$4,146.74
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (HEARTLAND)	\$0.00	\$24,998.25
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (UW-Learning Innovations)	\$47,500.00	\$62,500.00
IT - SERVICES (DET)		
SASI Agency User & Computer File Space Charges	\$3,067.72	\$23,500.11
TELEPHONE EXPENSES		
AT&T Phone Charges	\$403.72	\$2,803.88
WISLINE	\$219.67	\$1,724.87
Cell Phone Charges	\$519.09	\$3,258.90
SOFTWARE LICENSES (Captivate)	\$0.00	\$4,207.69
FAX/PHOTOCOPIER	\$0.00	\$2,477.31
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$185.00
Office Supplies	\$262.96	\$337.69
Purchasing Card (Misc.)	\$1,355.71	\$3,156.68
SVRS APPLICATION TRAINING TRAVEL	\$3,178.67	\$15,752.81
USER ACCEPTANCE TRAINING TRAVEL	\$0.00	\$955.04
ADMIN TRAVEL	\$307.00	\$382.16
GENERAL SERVICES BILL		
Fleet Services	\$0.00	\$44,130.00
State Telecom System (STS) - Long Distance Usage	\$0.00	\$224.48
Postage	\$1,340.12	\$5,030.68
UPS /Federal Express	\$732.05	\$1,962.94
Printing	\$0.00	\$6,246.72
Consolidated Data Network (T-1 Line)	\$320.00	\$2,240.00
DOA CHARGE BACKS		
Liability Insurance	\$0.00	\$287.88
Workers Comp Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,143.45
Property Insurance	\$0.00	\$257.36
Financial Services	\$0.00	\$4,417.50
Job Postings	\$0.00	\$250.91
FY-08 Childcare Assessment	\$0.00	\$880.69
TOTAL SUPPLIES & SERVICES	\$67,096.99	\$285,176.71
SALARIES & BENEFITS		
Salary Expenses - Staff (16.0 FTE)	\$43,493.23	\$421,213.32
Limited Term Employees (5.0 LTE)	\$11,605.80	\$118,424.74
Fringe Benefits Cost	\$22,890.28	\$211,360.27
TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS	\$77,989.31	\$750,998.33
TOTAL SPENDING	\$145,086.30	\$1,036,175.04

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