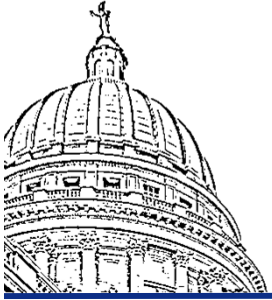


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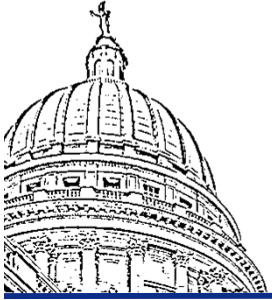
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GAB Responsibilities

GAB is statutorily responsible for:

- helping local election officials to administer elections;
- overseeing election, campaign finance, lobbying, and code of ethics laws; and
- appointing a Director and General Counsel, who serves as the agency's head.

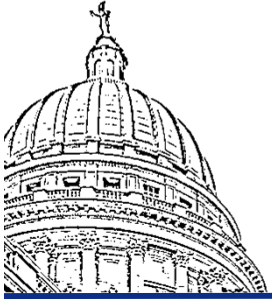


Expenditures and Staffing

GAB's expenditures totaled \$5.6 million in FY 2013-14.

In July 2014, GAB was authorized 48.75 FTE staff positions, including 31.0 FTE project positions, most of which were federally funded.

Authorization for all 31.0 FTE project positions will expire in June 2015, but the Legislature could renew authorization through June 2016.

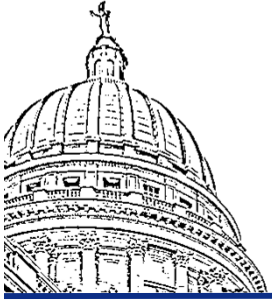


Election-Related Duties

Staff fulfilled many statutory responsibilities, including:

- conducting training throughout the state for municipal clerks; and
- improving the accessibility of polling places.

Not until October 2013 did staff did complete the statutorily required audits of electronic voting equipment used in the November 2008, 2010, and 2012 elections.

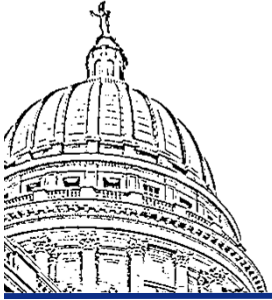


Voter Registration Records

Clerks did not resolve information indicating that in FY 2012-13:

- 1,624 registered voters may have been deceased; and
- 303 registered voters may have had ongoing felony sentences.

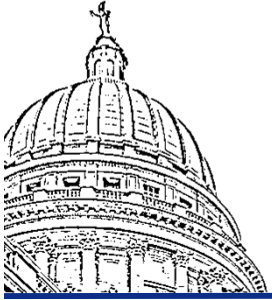
Voter registration records for these individuals remained active.



Post-Election Reviews

Not until May 2014 was GAB informed in an open meeting that staff had not completed 16 statutorily required reviews to determine if individuals with ongoing felony sentences may have voted in elections from February 2010 through April 2014.

In July 2014, staff indicated that the 16 reviews had been completed.

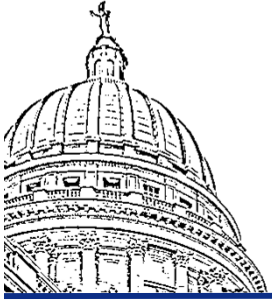


Assessing Penalties

GAB approved a schedule indicating penalty amounts staff are to assess for various statutory violations and directed staff four times to promulgate rules incorporating an updated schedule. The rules were not promulgated.

Staff developed manuals specifying penalty amounts differing from those in GAB's schedule.

Staff typically did not follow GAB's schedule and did not always follow their own manuals when assessing penalties.

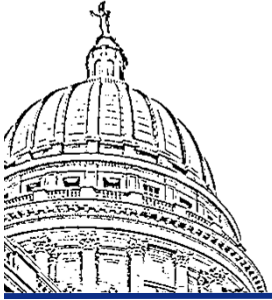


Enforcement Efforts

Staff did not regularly update GAB with complete information on efforts they took to enforce campaign finance, lobbying, and code of ethics laws.

Staff were unable to provide us with complete information on their enforcement efforts.

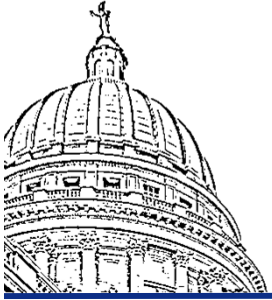
Not all summaries of advisory opinions that GAB provided in recent years were published.



Complaints

GAB's staff:

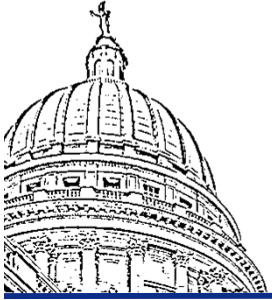
- did not have written procedures for considering complaints;
- did not track all complaints received or how complaints were resolved; and
- did not report regularly to GAB with complete information on the status and resolution of all complaints.



Administrative Rules

Through September 2014, GAB did not promulgate seven statutorily required rules, including one rule that we had recommended in report 07-16 be promulgated.

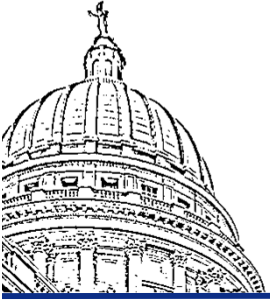
Eight rules remain in the Administrative Code even though they are no longer in effect.



Recommendations

We provide recommendations for:

- promulgating rules;
- improving how voter registration records are maintained;
- improving the oversight of campaign finance, lobbying, and code of ethics laws; and
- improving how complaints are considered.



Issues for Legislative Consideration

The Legislature could consider modifying statutes to:

- affirm the Legislative Audit Bureau's broad access to records;
- require GAB to determine whether any votes were cast in the names of individuals who died before Election Day;
- transfer to GAB additional election-related tasks; and
- reflect recent court decisions related to campaign finance.

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