

Subject: Voter ID Update - Your Advocacy Help is Needed
Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2011 12:40:10 PM CT
From: WI Technical College District Boards Association
To: sara.mackey@wtcsystem.edu

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Wisconsin's Technical Colleges' Advocacy Update

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Voter ID Update

Your Advocacy Help is Needed to Assure Technical College IDs Can be Used for Voting

Wisconsin Technical College System vice presidents Jim Zylstra and Kathy Cullen met yesterday to urge the Government Accountability Board (GAB) to reconsider its recent action prohibiting the use of technical college student IDs for voting. As reported in detail [HERE](#), the GAB interpreted new Wisconsin statutes to allow UW and most private college IDs to be used for voting, but not technical college IDs. We believe this incorrectly interprets the new statute and that the Legislature in no way intended to exclude technical college IDs.

The WTCS and Boards Association will formally request the GAB reconsider its ruling when it meets next on November 9th. Our focus is on having the GAB change its interpretation without the need for additional

legislation. In other words, the statute is already clear and already includes technical college IDs. It just needs the GAB to correctly interpret the new law.

What we need between now and Wednesday, October 5th:

- College leaders request legislator contacts with the GAB director confirming that the Legislature never intended to exclude technical college IDs as voter IDs.
- All WTCS advocates making contacts with the GAB director respectfully challenging the current interpretation and asking the GAB's reconsideration.

All of these contacts should be directed as follows:

Kevin J. Kennedy
Director and General Counsel
Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

kevin.kennedy@wi.gov

Email is preferred. If you send a contact by regular mail, Mr. Kennedy's mailing address is:

P.O. Box 7984
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7984

For each advocate contact, please request in your own words that the GAB:

- Place this item on its next agenda;
- Reconsider its current interpretation excluding technical college student IDs for voting because:
 - The plain language of the new statute includes technical colleges,

- Wisconsin technical colleges are fully accredited colleges offering associate degrees,
- Technical colleges offer transfer credits to all UW institutions and to many other colleges and universities, and
- The Legislature did not intend to exclude technical colleges.

Please request that your communication be shared with the GAB's board members.

We believe there is a distinct opportunity to have this interpretation changed by the GAB. The quality and number of contacts made over the next two weeks will greatly influence this outcome. Thank you for your assistance!

The report was prepared by Paul Gabriel, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association, 608 266-9430, pgabriel@districtboards.org, who may be contacted for assistance or additional information. Any analysis or opinion is the author's.

As always, feel free to contact Paul Gabriel of the WI District Boards Association at 608-266-9430 or [email him](mailto:pgabriel@districtboards.org) for more information. As author of this update, he is responsible for its contents. Thanks for your support of Wisconsin's Technical Colleges. Find more on advocacy: BuildingtheNextGeneration.org.

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