

State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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THANK YOU TO THE TOWN OF KOSSUTH

The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.), the state's election agency, would like to thank the Town of Kossuth for its part in advancing election administration in the State of Wisconsin by using the Prime III for its Spring Election. On April 1, 2014, the Town of Kossuth (along with the Town of Newton) will become one of the first communities in Wisconsin to try a new voting technology that could change the way elections are conducted throughout the country. The State of Oregon was the first to use Prime III in the 2012 presidential primaries.

The G.A.B., which approves all voting equipment used in the state, recently approved using Prime III in a pilot program for the April 1, 2014 nonpartisan Spring Election only in the Towns of Kossuth and Newton. Prime III, which is short for Premier Third Generation Voting System, was developed by Professor Juan Gilbert at Clemson University as part of a federal grant program. It has been in development for 10 years and is the first known voting system to make full use of speech capabilities, allowing hands- and eyes-free interaction.

Unlike any other type of electronic voting technology on the market, Prime III is an open source software voting system and can be used on various computers and tablets. Because the Prime III can be run on standard devices, this type of voting technology holds the promise to make voting easier, save a significant amount of time for election administrators, and save a substantial amount of money for local governments.

Prime III is a universally designed system with accessible features that can be used by all voters. The system allows voters to cast ballots by tapping a touchscreen or speaking into a microphone. The system also includes a set of headphones and audio instructions for voters who have trouble reading or seeing the screen.

The G.A.B would like to express its gratitude to Manitowoc County Clerk Jamie Aulik, and municipal clerks Jolyn Schuh and Barb Pankratz (Town of Newton) who worked with researchers from Clemson University to develop and customize Prime III for the April election in Manitowoc County. G.A.B. staff will be in the Town of Kossuth for a demonstration of Prime III from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 28 at the Kossuth Town Hall.