

# State of Wisconsin\Government Accountability Board

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JUDGE TIMOTHY L. VOCKE  
Chair

KEVIN J. KENNEDY  
Director and General Counsel

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## Wisconsin Government Accountability Board New Member Orientation

212 East Washington Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin  
November 19, 2013  
10:00 a.m.

### Open Session Minutes

Present: Judge Timothy L. Vocke, Judge Harold Froehlich and Judge Elsa Lamelas

Staff present: Kevin Kennedy, Jonathan Becker, Michael Haas, Shane Falk, Nathan Judnic, Sharrie Hauge, Ross Hein and Reid Magney

#### **A. Call to Order**

Judge Vocke called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. and welcomed Judge Froehlich and Judge Lamelas to the Government Accountability Board.

#### **B. Director's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice**

Director and General Counsel Kevin Kennedy informed the Board that proper notice was given for the meeting. While a quorum would not be present, staff felt it important to give public notice of the meeting. No members of the public were in attendance.

#### **C. New Board Member Orientation**

Director Kennedy asked staff members in attendance to introduce themselves to Judge Froehlich and Judge Lamelas.

Staff briefed the new members on several topics, including voting equipment, post-election audits and recounts.

Judge Vocke explained the statutory process for selecting a Board Chair and other officers each January by lot.

Director Kennedy discussed the contents of a briefing binder to the new members, which included meeting dates, Board Member contact information, and a staff organizational chart. There was a discussion of the reports on Election Day Registration and the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program and its potential use for

determining citizenship of voters. Judge Lamelas asked questions regarding the integrity of the Statewide Voter Registration System list, and staff explained the monthly matching program to remove convicted felons and deceased individuals from the list.

Judge Lamelas raised the issue of the delay in Senate confirmation of four Board Members, and said she has communicated to the Governor's office her desire for an up-or-down vote by the Senate. Board Members and staff discussed opportunities to communicate with the Senate regarding confirmation and possible timetables.

Director Kennedy continued discussing the contents of the briefing binder, including the PEW Center on the States Election Performance Index which rated Wisconsin the best of all 50 states in 2008 and eighth overall in 2010. He also referred to the article by Professor Tokaji of Ohio State University calling the G.A.B. "America's Top Model" for non-partisan election administration.

Judge Lamelas asked Director Kennedy if staff could provide a handbook of recent court decisions on election law. He said staff would compile one for Board Members.

Judge Vocke reviewed when Board Members receive their meeting materials and how meetings typically proceed. Judge Lamelas asked whether the number of scheduled meetings in 2014 would be sufficient to handle all the issues that may arise during an election year. Judge Vocke explained that the Board typically holds a number of additional special meetings each year as needed.

#### **D. Closed Session**

At 11:38 a.m., Judge Vocke said the meeting would move into closed session so new members could be briefed on matters that are required by statutes §§5.05(6a), 19.85(1)(h), 19.85(1)(g), and 19.85(1)(c) to be discussed by the Board in closed session: requests for advice under the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Employees, lobbying law, and campaign finance law; investigation of possible violations of Wisconsin's lobbying law, campaign finance law, and Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Employees; pending litigation; and performance evaluation data of a public employee over which it exercises responsibility.

#### **E. Adjourn**

The Board adjourned in closed session at 2:45 p.m.

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The next regular meeting of the Government Accountability Board is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17 2013. The meeting will be held the Government Accountability Board offices in Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 9:00 a.m.

November 19, 2013 Government Accountability Board New Member Orientation meeting minutes prepared by:

/s/

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Reid Magney, Public Information Officer

November 8, 2013

November 19, 2013 Government Accountability Board New Member Orientation meeting minutes certified by:

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Judge Michael Brennan, Board Secretary

December 17, 2013