

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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Michael Haas Appointed Elections Division Administrator

MADISON – After an intensive nationwide search, Staff Counsel Michael Haas has been appointed Elections Division Administrator of the Government Accountability Board, effective January 1, 2013.

“Since he joined the G.A.B. in 2008, Mike has earned the respect of the Board and his colleagues, as well as Wisconsin’s local election officials,” said Kevin J. Kennedy, director and general counsel of the G.A.B. “We had several excellent candidates, but in the end I decided – and the Board agreed – that Mike is the right person to lead our Elections Division into the future.”

The six members of the G.A.B. approved the appointment of Haas during the closed session of their meeting December 18. The G.A.B.’s two Division Administrators serve at the pleasure of the Director and with the approval of the six Government Accountability Board members.

“I appreciate the opportunity to serve the people of Wisconsin in ensuring the integrity of the electoral process, and I look forward to working with the Board, the staff and Wisconsin’s local election officials,” Haas said.

Haas joined the G.A.B. in 2008 as one of the two staff attorneys who advise the Board on legal matters. During his time at the agency, Haas’ legal advice and management skills were instrumental in the agency’s successful processing of nearly 2 million recall petition signatures in 2012, Kennedy said. Most recently, Haas is overseeing preparation of the staff’s study to determine the cost and administrative impact on elections in Wisconsin if Election Day Registration is eliminated.

Haas is a native of Sun Prairie and currently resides in Fitchburg. He graduated from Sun Prairie High School in 1982 and Harvard University in 1987. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1994. From 1995 to 2008, he practiced law as part of a general practice law firm in Rock and Dane counties, serving as lead city attorney for Stoughton, Edgerton and Milton.

Haas succeeds Nat Robinson as Elections Division Administrator.

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The Government Accountability Board (G.A.B.) is responsible for administration and enforcement of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying laws in Wisconsin. The G.A.B. is made up of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.