

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 16, 2012

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Recall Petition Update 10: Impact of Sen. Galloway's Announced Resignation on Recall Election

Madison, WI – The Government Accountability Board issued the following statement today regarding news that State Senator Pam Galloway (SD 29) plans to resign her seat soon:

Senator Galloway's impending resignation does not stop the recall process, and a recall election to fill her seat will be held without her name on the ballot.

State statutes say that:

The official against whom the recall petition is filed shall be a candidate at the recall election without nomination unless the official resigns within 10 days after the original filing of the petition. §9.10(3)(c)

Also, the former State Elections Board issued an opinion, which was reaffirmed by the G.A.B., that an official cannot short-circuit the recall process by resigning once recall petitions have been delivered to the G.A.B.

G.A.B. Director Kevin Kennedy offered his best wishes to Senator Galloway and her family as they deal with their health issues. Moving ahead with the planned election is the quickest, most efficient way to fill the seat.

On March 12, the G.A.B. determined that the recall petitions against Senator Galloway had a sufficient number of valid signatures to order a recall, though the Board stopped short of actually ordering the recall election. The Board has scheduled a special meeting for 9 a.m. Friday, March 30, in Room 412E of the State Capitol to consider the recall petitions for the Governor and Lt. Governor. At that meeting, the Board will order the Senate recall elections for May 8, and if that becomes a primary election, the general election date would be June 5.

Under this schedule, candidates in the recall election will have from March 30 until 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 10 to circulate and file nomination petitions and declaration of candidacy papers with the G.A.B. State Senate candidates need a minimum of 400 signatures. A primary election will be held only for any political party and offices for which more than one candidate qualifies for the ballot.

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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.