

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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Governor Receives Nominees to Government Accountability Board

MADISON, WI – The Government Accountability Candidate Committee today nominated four former Wisconsin judges to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Government Accountability Board due to an expiring term.

The committee selected the following nominees from a field of five applicants:

- The Honorable Michael Brennan, an original member of the G.A.B. who served as a Clark County Circuit Court Judge from 1971 to 2001. He reapplied for a second term.
- The Honorable John Franke, who served as a Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge from 1987 to 2008.
- The Honorable Victor Manian, an original member of the G.A.B. who resigned in 2009. He served as a Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge from 1975 to 2004.
- The Honorable Michael Nowakowski, who served as a Dane County Circuit Court Judge from 1985 to 2009.

The names of the four nominees were sent today to Governor Scott Walker. By law, the Governor must appoint one of the four judges to serve on the Government Accountability Board for a six-year term. The appointment must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the State Senate.

Judge Brennan's term will end May 1, or when the Governor appoints a successor, whichever is later. The six G.A.B. members serve staggered six-year terms, and Judge Brennan's term is the sixth to end since the G.A.B. was created in 2007.

The Candidate Committee is made up of four sitting Wisconsin Court of Appeals judges: Judge Ralph Adam Fine of District I in Milwaukee, Judge Paul F. Reilly of District II in Waukesha, Deputy Chief Judge Michael W. Hoover of District III in Wausau, and Judge Paul Lundsten of District IV in Madison. They are required to submit a minimum of two names to the Governor for each vacancy, but may submit more. The committee met by teleconference today in open session to discuss the applicants before reaching unanimous agreement on the four nominees.

Candidate Committee members were selected at random on February 12, 2013, by the Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court for a two-year term. They are charged with nominating individuals to serve on the G.A.B. from a list of applicants, all of whom must be former elected judges.

For more information about current members of the Board, visit <http://gab.wi.gov/about/members>.

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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.