

# Government Accountability Board

## State of Wisconsin

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## Kennedy Returns from Observing South Korean Elections

MADISON, WI – Kevin J. Kennedy, director and general counsel of the Government Accountability Board, returned to Madison today from South Korea, where he served as an international observer of the country’s elections on June 4.

Kennedy was invited to South Korea by the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB), an international organization formed in 2012 with a mission to “identify the latest trends, challenges and developments in democratic electoral management and related processes and facilitate appropriate exchange of experience and expertise among members with the objective of strengthening electoral democracy worldwide.”

South Korea’s June 4 elections were held for nearly 4,000 local officials, but were viewed as a national referendum on President Park Geun-hye’s government’s response to a deadly passenger ferry accident that claimed the lives of hundreds of school children less than two months ago.

In addition to observing the elections, Kennedy was invited to give a speech June 3 at A-WEB’s annual meeting. The speech, titled “Independence of Election Management Bodies,” discussed America’s tradition of bipartisan checks and balances, as well as Wisconsin’s history of independent election management, starting with the State Elections Board in the 1970s and continuing in 2007 with creation of the Government Accountability Board.

Kennedy’s travel and accommodations were paid for by A-WEB, and his trip was approved by the G.A.B.

Kennedy will be attending a Wisconsin Department of Justice training session Friday, and will be back in the G.A.B. office on Monday, where he will be preparing for Tuesday’s meeting of the G.A.B.

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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.