

# Government Accountability Board

## State of Wisconsin

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### **Kevin Kennedy Announces Retirement Plans**

MADISON, WI – Kevin J. Kennedy, Wisconsin’s chief election official since 1982, has informed Government Accountability Board members of his plans to retire on June 29, 2016.

“It has been an honor beyond measure to serve the people of the State of Wisconsin,” Kennedy wrote in the letter delivered Sunday. “Thank you for entrusting me with the opportunity to serve as Director and General Counsel for the Government Accountability Board since its inception in 2007 through its dissolution.”

Kennedy, 64, joined state service in April 1979 as staff counsel to the former State Elections Board. He has served at the pleasure of independent, citizen boards since becoming acting executive director of the State Elections Board in December 1982, a position which became permanent in August 1983. On November 5, 2007, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board chose Kennedy to continue as Wisconsin’s chief election official when the G.A.B. succeeded the State Elections Board. In December 2015, the Governor and Legislature approved a plan to replace the independent G.A.B. with bipartisan elections and ethics commissions under Legislative control, effective June 30, 2016. Kennedy retires as Wisconsin’s longest-serving chief election official.

“For the past 37 years and three months I have been privileged to work with a cadre of exceptionally dedicated and knowledgeable co-workers,” Kennedy wrote. “The quality of their endeavors is reflected in the high degree of public confidence in the programs administered by the agency as well as the national reputation the agency has earned as a leader and model in the areas of campaign finance, elections, ethics and lobbying. Simply put, I could not have done my job without their exemplary work.”

A copy of Kennedy’s retirement letter is attached.

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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. consists of six non-partisan, former judges and is supported by an agency of non-partisan staff members.