

Government Accountability Board

State of Wisconsin

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Judge Grants Recall Review Period Extension

MADISON, WI – At a hearing today, Dane County Circuit Court Judge John W. Markson approved the Government Accountability Board’s request for an extension of the time to review eight recall petitions that have been filed with the Board.

As a result, the Board’s plan is to order recall elections to be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, for any of the eight petitions that are found to be sufficient. Decisions on sufficiency will be made by the Board at special meetings scheduled for May 23 and May 31.

“Our goal was to have enough time to give the petitions careful examination for the people who signed them, and for officeholders to know that we have carefully considered their challenges,” said Kevin Kennedy, director and general counsel of the G.A.B.

Under state law, the G.A.B. normally has 31 days after a recall petition is offered for filing to determine its sufficiency. The G. A.B. asked for an extension due to the unprecedented number of petitions which have been offered for filing, and to make it possible to hold many of the recall elections on the same day. If there are legal challenges to the Board’s decisions on petition sufficiency, that could delay when recall elections are held. A ninth petition filed April 28, and any future petitions offered for filing, are not covered by the court order, and will be reviewed on their own schedule.

Information about which recall committees have filed petitions, as well as due dates for the remaining committees, is available at the G.A.B. website: <http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/recall>. Click on a committee’s for more detailed information.

A copy of the Board’s motion and supporting affidavits for the motion are also available on the website: <http://gab.wi.gov/news>.

The G.A.B. was represented in court by Assistant Attorney General Lewis W. Beilin of the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

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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.