



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION**

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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

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May 12, 2016

Honorable Alberta Darling, Senate Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 317 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Honorable John Nygren, Assembly Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Finance
Room 309 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

Earlier this year, Governor Walker signed Assembly Bill 388 into law as 2015 Wisconsin Act 118. This legislation eliminated the Government Accountability Board (GAB) and created the Ethics Commission to oversee campaign finance laws, lobbying and ethics, and the Elections Commission to oversee the administration of elections. The legislation further required the Department of Administration (DOA) to work with the Government Accountability Board on an implementation plan that must be submitted by June 1, 2016 and approved by the Joint Committee on Finance under section 13.10 of the statutes.

This plan was crafted through the hard work of numerous employees at DOA and GAB in order to ensure the new commissions would be able to function seamlessly when they take effect. The plan addresses the expenditure authority of the new commissions and the funding source of all FTE positions. Further, the plan addresses the transfer of the GAB's assets and liabilities; employees; tangible personal property; contracts; rules, orders and formal opinions; pending matters; and transitions and initial terms to the Ethics Commission and Elections Commission.

The Department will be available to meet with members of the Joint Committee on Finance prior to the next s.13.10 meeting to discuss the implementation plan. In the interim, please do not hesitate to ask me any questions you may have.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this implementation plan regarding the transition from the Government Accountability Board to the Ethics Commission and Elections Commission to the Joint Committee on Finance.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Neitzel
Secretary

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance
Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau
Attachment: Ethics and Elections Commission Implementation Plan