

# WISCONSIN ELECTIONS COMMISSION

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COMMISSIONERS

BEVERLY R. GILL  
JULIE M. GLANCEY  
ANN S. JACOBS  
JODI JENSEN  
DEAN KNUDSON  
MARK L. THOMSEN, CHAIR

INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR MEAGAN WOLFE

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**Wisconsin Elections Commission**  
Wisconsin Elections Commission Offices  
212 East Washington Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin  
3:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 24, 2018

## Open Session Minutes

Present: Commissioner Mark Thomsen, Commissioner Ann Jacobs (in person), Commissioner Beverly Gill, Commissioner Julie Glancey, Commissioner Jodi Jensen and Commissioner Dean Knudson (by telephone)

Staff present: Michael Haas, Nathan Judnic, Sharrie Hauge, Richard Rydecki and Reid Magney

### **A. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Mark Thomsen called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

### **B. Administrator's Report of Appropriate Meeting Notice**

Interim Administrator Michael Haas informed the Commissioners that proper notice was given for the meeting.

### **C. Senate Administrator Confirmation Vote and Appointment of Interim Administrator**

Chair Thomsen said the meeting was called to discuss the Senate's vote not to confirm Michael Haas as administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission and what it means. He noted that Commissioner Knudson had distributed a motion to Commissioners earlier, and suggested that each Commissioner share his or her thoughts about the Senate's decision.

Chair Thomsen discussed his reasons for supporting the Commission reappointing Mr. Haas as interim administrator.

Commissioner Gill said the Commission unanimously supported Mr. Haas, and as a voter and taxpayer she wonders why the Senate did not vote to retain him.

Commissioner Jacobs reviewed a memorandum distributed to Commissioners and the public analyzing the statutes regarding the Commission's ability to appoint an administrator of its

choice. She said her review of the law disagrees entirely with the memo from Legislative Council.

Commissioner Knudson said the Commission's top priority should be to ensure continuity and competence in elections. He noted he was the chief author of the bill that created the Elections and Ethics Commissions, and said the intent of the law was that if the Senate rejected an administrator nominee it creates a vacancy.

Commissioner Glancey spoke in support of Mr. Haas as administrator and questioned how the Senate could get rid of someone based on a perception they had done something wrong.

Commissioner Jensen said she disagrees with Chair Thomsen and Commissioner Jacobs' interpretation of the statute. She said Senate confirmation has a purpose, and a person who is rejected cannot serve. She said she agrees with Commissioner Knudson that it is time to move on and appoint a new interim administrator.

Commissioners continued to discuss their positions on the administrator appointment.

**MOTION:** That the Wisconsin Elections Commission retain or appoint, depending on the condition of the law, Mike Haas as interim administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Commissioner Gill suggested placing a time limit on the appointment of 30 to 60 days.

Commissioner Jacobs said she would want the period to extend through the February and April elections and the subsequent canvass, possibly April 30.

Commissioner Gill agreed to April 30, and Commissioner Jacobs said she would accept Commissioner Gill's suggestion as a friendly amendment to the motion. Commissioner Glancey seconded the amendment. The amended motion reads:

That the Wisconsin Elections Commission retain or appoint, depending on the condition of the law, Mike Haas as interim administrator of the Wisconsin Elections Commission through April 30, 2018.

Further discussion.

Roll call vote: Gill:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Jensen:	No
Knudson:	No	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 4-2.

Commissioner Knudson said he would like to make a motion based on the materials he distributed, with some changes.

**MOTION:** 1) Direct the chairman to advertise the administrator position for 60 days, followed by a Commission meeting to narrow the field to three applicants. Schedule a Commission meeting to interview applicants not more than 90 days from today. 2) Direct the chairman to inform the Senate that Michael Haas has been named Interim Administrator pending a nationwide search for the next Administrator. His name will be submitted for confirmation as required by law, however the Commission's intention will be to replace him with the individual chosen during the search process. Moved by Commissioner Knudson, seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

Commissioner Knudson said he made his motion because Mr. Haas cannot be confirmed and he believes the commission needs someone who has never been accused of partisanship.

**MOTION:** Table the motion until the Commission's next meeting January 31. Moved by Chair Thomsen, seconded by Commissioner Jacobs.

Roll call vote: Gill:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
Jacobs:	Aye	Jensen:	No
Knudson:	No	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried 4-2. Motion is tabled.

#### **D. Closed Session**

Adjourn to closed session as required by statutes to confer with counsel concerning pending and potential litigation, and to discuss a personnel matter.

**MOTION:** Move to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 19.85(1)(g) to confer with counsel concerning pending and potential litigation and 19.85(1)(c) to consider the employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Moved by Commissioner Jacobs, seconded by Commissioner Glancey.

Roll call vote: Gill:	Aye	Glancey:	Aye
Jensen:	Aye	Jacobs:	Aye
Knudson:	Aye	Thomsen:	Aye

Motion carried unanimously. The Commission convened in closed session at 4:02 p.m.


#### **E. Adjourn**

The Commission adjourned in closed session at 4:16 p.m.

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The next regular meeting of the Wisconsin Elections Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at the Commission's offices in Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Commission is scheduled to hold a special meeting by teleconference on January 31, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

January 24, 2018 Wisconsin Elections Commission meeting minutes prepared by:

  
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Reid Magney, Public Information Officer

February 6, 2018

January 24, 2018 Wisconsin Elections Commission meeting minutes certified by:

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Beverly Gill, Commission Secretary

March 13, 2018