

**STATEMENT OF JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
CHAIR OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD
MAY 23, 2011**

I have signed the official certification of the results for the election of Supreme Court Justice at the 2011 Spring Election including the recount of all votes cast. After most elections, this step in the process receives little attention. However the review and certification of the official results from each county is always completed by the Board Chair or his designee in an open meeting after the canvass has been approved by the Board's staff.

The certification reflects that Justice David T. Prosser won re-election by receiving 752,694 votes, over JoAnne F. Kloppenburg, who received 745,690 votes. That is a difference of 7,004 votes, or 0.46%. A total of 1,729 write-in votes were also cast for other individuals.

Elections in Wisconsin are conducted at the local level, and we appreciate the dedication of local election officials and volunteers who conducted this meticulous task. They have provided an invaluable service not only to the candidates involved, but to the voters and the public who are entitled to a great degree of confidence in the election process and results. The Board thanks all of the county clerks and boards of canvassers, and all of the municipal clerks, poll workers and other individuals who served as tabulators during the recount.

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While the recount did not result in a dramatic change in the vote totals, it did allow us to identify errors that were made in the original processing and counting of ballots. It was not a surprise that minor mistakes were discovered, investigated, and corrected. We can be proud of the accuracy of the original results as well as the fact that the recount served its purpose to verify and correct vote totals.

The administration of elections benefits from public participation and from public observation. The spotlight that has been put on election procedures and election officials has been healthy. We will apply lessons learned from this election to improve our training and the administration of future elections.

I also wish to publicly acknowledge the work of the G.A.B. staff in organizing and supervising this effort. The Board staff has been committed to the greatest possible transparency in developing uniform procedures, providing and documenting directions given to the counties, and making information available to the public as quickly as possible. The staff has been unusually busy with extra duties this spring and the Board appreciates its professionalism and efficiency.