

MICHAEL R. HAAS

WORK EXPERIENCE

June 2016 – Present Interim Administrator, Wisconsin Elections Commission

- Serve as Wisconsin's Chief Election Official
- Manage staff of 26 positions and annual budget of approximately \$4.8 million, including federal grant funds and state appropriations
- Overall supervision of all agency programs and initiatives
- Coordinate staff recommendations to and facilitate discussion of bipartisan oversight Commission, and implement Commission directives
- Represent agency before Wisconsin Legislature and U.S. Congress regarding development and implementation of election-related legislation
- Key agency accomplishments include:
 - Administration of 2016 Presidential and General Election cycle, including public information campaign for Photo ID requirement
 - Successful completion of nation's only statewide recount of 2016 Presidential contest
 - Complete post-election voting equipment audit and two testing campaigns for voting equipment approval
 - Development of 2017 – 2019 agency budget
 - Restructuring agency positions due to staffing reductions and create new supervisory structure
 - Development and launch of new online voter registration system
 - Completing data matching and mass mailings required by State's new membership in the Electronic Registration Information Center
 - Complete ballot access review process for state candidates in 2017 Spring Election and assist local clerks with ballot qualification processes and ballot preparation
 - Updates to agency IT applications, including WisVote, Canvass Reporting System, and BADGER Voters.
 - Improvements to content and delivery of training for local election officials

2013 – June 2016 Elections Division Administrator, Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

- Managed staff of 25 positions to administer and enforce election and voting laws. Oversaw development and implementation of all Division program initiatives, including:
 - preparations for all regular and special elections

- major re-launch of statewide voter registration system and voter-focused website, and ongoing development and maintenance of Division's IT applications
- training and customer support program for clerks and other local election officials, and publishing regular clerk communications
- review of candidate ballot access documents and determination of candidate eligibility
- voting equipment testing, approval and auditing process
- polling place accessibility audit program and other accessibility initiatives
- voter education, outreach and problem resolution
- creation and updating of election forms sample ballots and election notices, and review of ballot formats for local clerks
- election results certification and data collection, compilation and reporting
- election complaint processing, resolution and tracking
- Worked with legislative representatives and other state agencies to develop legislative proposals, prepare and present agency testimony and input regarding legislation, produce fiscal estimates, analyze enacted legislation and prepare implementation guidance for agency staff and local election officials.
- Managed Division's budget priorities, including use of various federal and state funding sources, ensure compliance with federal grant use and reporting requirements, lead weekly Division staff meetings, and handle personnel tasks such as hiring decisions and annual performance reviews.
- Represented the agency in public presentations and with the media, and represent the State of Wisconsin on the Executive Board of the National Association of State Election Directors, and on the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission's Standards Board.

2008 - 2012

Staff Counsel, Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

- Provided legal advice and representation regarding a wide variety of agency priorities and programs, primarily matters related to the administration of laws concerning elections, campaign finance, lobbying and ethics for public officials.
- Served as part of agency's leadership team to implement agency policies and procedures, including significant efforts such as administration of the Impartial Justice Act, Voter Photo ID Law, statewide recount, recall elections, and agency personnel matters.
- Represented agency management and recommendations to agency Board, other state agencies, elected officials, legislative committees, local election officials, media representatives and the public.

- Analyzed legislative proposals and worked with bill drafters and legislative staff to make revisions; assisted agency staff in implementing new legislation.
- Reviewed and resolved complaints filed with agency, conducted investigations, drafted advisory opinions and administrative rule documents.

1995 – 2008

Attorney, Roethe Krohn Pope LLP

- Partner in general practice law firm in Rock and Dane Counties.
- Served as lead City Attorney for the Cities of Stoughton, Edgerton and Milton.
- Other practice areas focused on real estate, business law, estate planning and contracts.

EDUCATION

- University of Wisconsin Law School, 1994, J.D. degree
- Harvard College, 1987, Bachelor of Arts degree – Government

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Legislative Liaison, National Association of State Election Directors
- Member, State Bar of Wisconsin
- Admitted to practice law in federal court (Western District of Wisconsin).
- Have assisted with instruction of Skills Training Unit of UW Law School General Practice Skills Course.
- Experienced in making presentations at legal conferences and other venues regarding election laws and election-related topics.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

- Previously served as a member and in leadership positions of several civic organizations, including Milton Area Chamber of Commerce, Milton Kiwanis Club, Milton Community Fund, and Edgerton Economic Development Corporation Board.