

# Government Accountability Board

## State of Wisconsin

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## New G.A.B. Board Member Applications Due April 6

MADISON, WI – Applications to serve on the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board are due April 6, said Judge Gerald C. Nichol, chair of the G.A.B.

Each year, the Governor appoints one member of the G.A.B. from names of former state judges approved by a nominating committee of sitting Court of Appeals judges.

“Serving the public on the G.A.B. is a unique and challenging experience,” said Judge Nichol, an original member of the Board who was appointed by Governor Doyle in 2007 and reappointed by Governor Walker in 2012. “Coming from the bench, it puts you in a position to serve the public in a nonpartisan way. I have been on the G.A.B. for seven years now, and I have enjoyed it very much.”

Judge Thomas H. Barland of Eau Claire, whose term ends May 1, is not seeking reappointment.

The G.A.B. is made up of six members who are all former state judges and who must be nonpartisan, which means they may not be a member of a political party or make political donations for a year prior to appointment and during their service. The Board holds six regular meetings a year in Madison, as well as several special teleconference meetings as needed. Members serve staggered, six-year terms. The agency’s nonpartisan structure, and the process for selecting its board members, is unique in the United States.

The Wisconsin Court System has mailed a packet of information to eligible judges about how to apply to serve on the G.A.B. Any former judge who did not receive a mailing may request a packet directly from the G.A.B. Applications are due to the G.A.B. by Monday, April 6.

Applications will be reviewed by the Government Accountability Candidate Committee, whose members are Judge Joan F. Kessler of District I in Milwaukee, Judge Paul F. Reilly of District II in Waukesha, Judge Lisa K. Stark of District III in Wausau, and Judge JoAnne F. Kloppenburg of District IV in Madison. The candidate committee must unanimously agree on each nominee. For each vacancy, the committee forwards at least two names to the Governor. The Governor’s appointment to the G.A.B. must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the State Senate.

The committee’s meetings are open, and public notice will be provided prior to the meeting.

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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.