



Wisconsin Elections Commission

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May 10, 2020

Meagan Wolfe
Administrator
Wisconsin Elections Commission
212 East Washington Avenue, Third Floor
Madison, WI 53707-7984

Dear Meagan:

As we have discussed, I am tendering my resignation as Staff Counsel effective June 1, 2020 in order to accept a new position as City Attorney for the City of Madison. My last day in the office will be May 15, 2020.

I began working for the Government Accountability Board in October 2008 and I consider my time at that agency and the Wisconsin Elections Commission to be a highlight of my professional career. The work has been important, inspiring and challenging, and I am a better attorney, manager and person for having been involved in all that has transpired in the world of Wisconsin elections over the past twelve years.

Because of the uniqueness of Wisconsin's elections administration structure, political events and role as a crucial swing state, I have had unique opportunities to experience a sort of Forrest Gump-type role. I have had a front row seat and chance to participate in events such as three Presidential elections and 35 regular elections; a statewide recall election and two statewide recounts; the implementation of and litigation surrounding significant legislative changes such as the Impartial Justice Act and Photo ID Law; the agency transition first to the Government Accountability Board and then to the Wisconsin Elections Commission; the emergence of both technology and election security as crucial aspects of our work; and the administration of elections in the midst of a worldwide pandemic.

As important as such highlights, I have witnessed and I appreciate the routine and daily effort that goes into the mission of ensuring fair, transparent and secure elections. One of the results of recent events is to shine a light on the incredible work of Wisconsin's 1,850 municipal clerks, 72 county clerks, and tens of thousands of poll workers. Their commitment to administering elections in a nonpartisan manner and to adjust to constantly changing circumstances and election laws has been an inspiration to me.

And words cannot do justice to the appreciation I feel for our colleagues at the WEC as well as current and former members of both the Commission and the G.A.B. I was honored to serve as the first Interim Administrator of the WEC and the State's Chief Election Official for a brief but

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significant period of time, and I am proud of all that we have accomplished together. I have worked with excellent models of the type of public servants and mentors that thrive as problem solvers in the elections world but also throughout state and local government in Wisconsin. In an environment of constant change and resource challenges, our relatively small agency has shown that it can accomplish great things, and often it has done great things because it is a small agency that deploys flexibility, ingenuity and a smart, dedicated staff.

I will always be grateful for the personal relationships I have developed not only with our staff but partners such as elected officials, other state, federal and local agencies, and organizations like the National Association of State Election Directors. I also appreciate and am proud of the way you have handled your transition to WEC Administrator and not only continued but enhanced Wisconsin's position as a leader at the forefront of election administration in the nation.

Finally, I would like to thank Wisconsin residents, taxpayers and voters. I know I speak for our entire staff by saying that all of our agency's initiatives and efforts are aimed ultimately at improving the individual voting experience and the opportunity to participate in our democracy. We focus on developing and implementing training, IT projects, legislative changes, and candidate support, but our common and primary purpose is to serve Wisconsin's voters who do their part by being informed, passionate and resilient. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served the State of Wisconsin and to enjoy the trust of its residents.

I feel blessed and fortunate to have held some fulfilling jobs throughout my professional career and now I am excited for a new chapter, opportunity and challenge. I am looking forward to returning to the arena of municipal law, which was a primary focus of my legal practice prior to joining State service. Certainly, local government has a great impact on the daily lives of Wisconsinites and working for a complex and high-performing organization like the City of Madison promises to be another fulfilling and all-encompassing experience. Of course, I look forward to continuing to work as a partner with the WEC as one of the many functions performed by the City Attorney's Office.

Thank you for your support of my work and this new step in my career. I wish you and the Wisconsin Elections Commission the best in your future endeavors. Please feel free to call on me if I can be of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Haas". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Haas
Staff Counsel
Wisconsin Elections Commission