

GAB Talking Points

What does the new structure look like?

- There will be two commissions, with 6 members each. Democrats and Republicans will have an equal number of appointments on each commission.
- **The elections commission** will have 4 citizen members, appointed by legislative leaders. The Governor will appoint two former county/municipal clerks, from a list submitted by both parties.
- **The ethics commission** will have 6 citizen members, appointed in the same fashion.

Why change the GAB at all?

When the agency was created in 2007, it was a well-intentioned experiment. However, eight years later, this experiment has proved to be a failure. Zero states have followed our example. Concentrating power has led to staff run amok, investigations with an unlimited budget that turned into partisan witch hunts, and serious lapses in the oversight of our elections. The GAB has failed to do its assigned job.

An audit by the non-partisan LAB turned up the following major issues:

- The board is statutorily required to regularly audit the voter rolls to remove any felons. **They failed to conduct this review between February 2010 and April 2014—a span of 16 elections.**
- They are also required to audit electronic voting equipment. **They failed to do so for the 2008, 2010, and 2012 general elections.** Even after these audits were completed in October 2013, the LAB notes staff did not follow proper procedure when auditing the machines.
- The board regularly failed to promulgate rules as statutorily required
- There was no formal procedure for processing complaints brought to the board
- Board staff regularly went outside the approved fee schedule when assigning fines.

How is this not a partisan power grab?

- Each party has equal representation on each commission.
- There are few restrictions on who can be a board member: They may not be a lobbyist, or a current elected official. Nothing prevents nominees from being retired judges or other ostensibly non-partisan roles.
- Far from creating a non-partisan environment, the GAB structure has been such that partisan behavior has run rampant, unrecognized, and unchecked. Partisan advocates on both sides will ensure closer monitoring of staff activity and prevent this in the future.

Won't this mess with the upcoming election year?

- No. The bill is not implemented until June 30, 2016. This gives the current board the ability to administer the spring elections, and to handle ballot access for November 2016.
- Additionally, the bill allows for new commissioners and administrators to be appointed prior to the implementation date, so that they can work with current members to ensure a smooth transition.