



Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>

Qs related to PERB appointments

Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
To: "Murphy, Alex [IGOV]" <alex.murphy@governor.iowa.gov>

Mon, Jan 3, 2022 at 8:45 AM

Hello Alex,

I'm circling back on these questions as well. Does Governor Reynolds plan to allow PERB to operate indefinitely with two Republican members? Are there plans to fill the vacancy in time for the Iowa Senate to consider a nominee during this year's session?

Why has Governor Reynolds set the pay for her Republican appointees to PERB higher than what the previous Democratic member was earning?

Thanks,

Laura

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 29, 2021 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Fwd: Qs related to PERB appointments
To: Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <alex.murphy@governor.iowa.gov>

Hello Alex,

Has Governor Reynolds appointed a third member to the Public Employment Relations Board?

If not, why not? Are there any plans to fill that position in time for the Iowa Senate to consider a nominee during the 2022 legislative session? Has the governor received legal advice about this vacancy, and the fact that there are only Republicans serving now on a board that is supposed to have partisan balance?

In addition, why has Governor Reynolds made sure her Republican appointees to that board were earning more than the previous Democratic member, Mary Gannon? Did they have superior qualifications for the position, and if so, what were those?

Yours,

Laura

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From: **Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 15, 2021 at 4:35 PM
Subject: Fwd: Qs related to PERB appointments
To: Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <alex.murphy@governor.iowa.gov>

Hello Alex,

Circling back on these questions as well. Has Governor Reynolds received any legal advice about leaving one of the

three PERB positions vacant indefinitely, and having two Republicans serve on a board that is not supposed to be staffed solely with members of one political party?

Laura

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From: **Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 5, 2021 at 9:30 AM
Subject: Fwd: Qs related to PERB appointments
To: Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <alex.murphy@governor.iowa.gov>

Alex, I'm still seeking answers to these questions, and now I have a few additional questions.

I have learned that both Erik Helland and Jane Dufoe began working at PERB at the top of the pay scale allowed under state law. Immediately after his appointment by Governor Reynolds, Helland was earning more than board member Mary Gannon, who had four years of experience.

Immediately after her appointment this fall, Jane Dufoe was also earning more than Mary Gannon did after five years in that job.

Why did Governor Reynolds favor Republican appointees in this way? What qualifications did Erik Helland and Jane Dufoe bring to PERB to justify a higher salary than a board member with years of service?

Yours,

Laura

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From: **Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Tue, Oct 12, 2021 at 1:13 PM
Subject: Fwd: Qs related to PERB appointments
To: Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <alex.murphy@governor.iowa.gov>

Hello Alex,

Does Governor Reynolds intend to keep one board position on PERB vacant indefinitely? If so, what's the reason, and has the governor sought legal advice about keeping just two Republican members on a board that is supposed to have three people working full-time?

Laura

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From: **Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 8, 2021 at 12:51 PM
Subject: Fwd: Qs related to PERB appointments
To: Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <alex.murphy@governor.iowa.gov>

Checking in on these questions again.

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From: **Laura Belin** <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Date: Mon, Oct 4, 2021 at 2:44 PM
Subject: Re: Qs related to PERB appointments
To: Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <Alex.Murphy@governor.iowa.gov>

Hello Alex,

I'm circling back on this question. Iowa Code Chapter 20.5 indicates that PERB "shall consist of three members appointed by the governor," and that "Any vacancy occurring shall be filled in the same manner as regular appointments are made."

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/20.5.pdf>

Governor Reynolds has left one of the PERB positions vacant for some time.

What is the thinking behind this?

Did Governor Reynolds receive a legal opinion stating that she doesn't need to appoint a third member of PERB?

The statute also says no more than two PERB members "shall be of the same political affiliation." Currently both PERB members are Republicans. Can you confirm what Mary Gannon's party affiliation was, and Cheryl Arnold's?

The General Assembly and governor who enacted this law clearly intended that PERB would not be a body filled with people from one political party only. Why hasn't Governor Reynolds named a third board member with a different political affiliation?

Thank you in advance.

Yours,

Laura

On Fri, Sep 24, 2021 at 3:04 PM Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com> wrote:

Thanks, Alex.

Does Governor Reynolds intend to leave the third position on PERB vacant indefinitely? If so, what is the thought process behind not filling the third position? Iowa Code Chapter 20.5 envisions a board with three members.

I believe it's been years since that board had three members. Would appreciate confirmation on when the board last had a full contingent.

Yours,

Laura

On Fri, Sep 24, 2021 at 2:58 PM Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <Alex.Murphy@governor.iowa.gov> wrote:

Hi Laura,

Jane Dufoe's appointment to PERB is effective October 1 and she is replacing Mary Gannon. Ms. Dufoe's party affiliation is Republican.

Thanks and have a good weekend!

AM

Alex Murphy | Communications Director
Office of the Governor, State of Iowa
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From: Laura Belin <laurarbelin@bleedingheartland.com>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 2:13 PM
To: Murphy, Alex [IGOV] <Alex.Murphy@governor.iowa.gov>; Boal, Michael [IGOV] <Michael.Boal@governor.iowa.gov>
Subject: Qs related to PERB appointments

Hello Alex and Michael,

I have received the attached letter as part of records provided by the Public Employment Relations Board. It refers to Governor Reynolds appointing someone else to the position in which Mary Gannon has been holding over, effective October 1.

A September 10 news release listed Jane Dufoe of Linn County as a new appointee to PERB. Is that the appointment that will be effective on October 1?

Or is Jane Dufoe filling the position on PERB that became vacant when Erik Helland was appointed board chair this summer?

If the latter, who is the governor's appointee who will begin working on October 1?

Finally, what is Jane Dufoe's party affiliation?

Thanks in advance for clarifying.

Yours,

Laura

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