



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
STAFF MEMORANDUM**

Memo No. 4

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AIRPORT AUTHORITIES

FROM: Ronald Sklansky, Senior Staff Attorney, and Scott Grosz, Staff Attorney

RE: Members of Airport Authority Boards

DATE: December 1, 2006

Memo No. 3 to the committee compared various aspects of the governance structure of the Columbus Regional Airport Authority (Columbus, Ohio), the Minnesota Metropolitan Airports Commission, the San Diego Regional Airport Authority, and the Wayne County Airport Authority (Michigan). This Memo describes the number and backgrounds of the members of the various airport authority boards.

In the State of Ohio, members of a board of directors of a port authority consist of the number of members considered necessary by the municipal corporation, township, county, or combination of political subdivisions that create the authority. A majority of directors must be electors of, or must have had their businesses or places of employment in, one or more political subdivisions within the area of the jurisdiction of the port authority, for a period of at least three years next preceding their appointment.

1. For an authority created by a municipal corporation, board members are appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the council.
2. For an authority created by a township, board members are appointed by the township trustees.
3. For an authority created by a county, board members are appointed by the county commissioners.
4. For an authority created by a combination of political subdivisions, board membership and appointment is determined by agreement of the political subdivisions.

The Columbus Regional Airport Authority consists of the following nine individuals:

1. Four members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Columbus with the advice and consent of the City Council.
2. Four members appointed by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.
3. One member appointed jointly by the Mayor and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners.

The Minnesota Metropolitan Airports Commission consists of the following 15 individuals:

1. The Mayor of Minneapolis and the Mayor of St. Paul.
2. Eight individuals who reside in eight distinct city areas, each of which are made up of two council districts. These members are appointed by the Governor after consultation with each member of the Legislature from the district for which the member is to be appointed.
3. Four members, appointed by the Governor, from outside of the metropolitan area to reflect fairly the various regions and interests throughout the state that are affected by the operation of the commission's major airport and airport system. Two of these members must be residents of statutory or home-rule charter cities, towns, or counties containing an airport designated by the Commissioner of Transportation as a key airport. The other two must be residents of statutory or home-rule charter cities, towns, or counties containing an airport designated by the Commissioner of Transportation as an intermediate airport.
4. A board chair appointed by the Governor.

The San Diego Regional Airport Authority consists of the following nine individuals:

1. The Mayor of San Diego or a member of the City Council designated by the Mayor to be an alternate.
2. A member of the public appointed by the Mayor of San Diego.
3. An individual selected by the mayors of the north coastal cities. The appointment of this individual must alternate between a mayor and a member of the public from these cities.
4. An individual selected by the mayors of the north inland area cities. The appointment of this individual must alternate between a mayor and a member of the public from these cities.
5. An individual selected by the mayors of the south area cities. The appointment of this individual must alternate between a mayor and a member of the public from these cities.
6. An individual selected by the mayors of the east area cities. The appointment of this individual must alternate between a mayor and a member of the public from these cities.
7. A member of the public, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate, who resides in the County of San Diego, but not within the City of San Diego.

8. A member of the public appointed by the sheriff of the County of San Diego, and confirmed by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, who is a resident of an unincorporated area of the county.
9. A member of the public appointed by the Mayor of San Diego, and confirmed by a majority vote of the San Diego City Council, who must be a resident of that city.

In Michigan, the board membership of an airport authority depends on whether the authority is mandatory or permissive under Michigan law. Board members must be residents of the local government that owns the airport. A mandatory authority, such as the Wayne County Airport Authority, consists of the following seven individuals:

1. Two members appointed by the Governor.
2. One member appointed by the legislative body of the local government that owns the airport.
3. Four members appointed by the local chief executive officer of the local government that owns the airport.

A permissive authority in Michigan consists of seven members appointed by the local chief executive officer, with the consent of the legislative body of the local government if the chief executive officer is not elected.

RS:SG:jal