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## Doyle names co-chairs for his transition team

Governor-Elect Jim Doyle named four co-chairs Thursday to head his transition to state government in the next three months. Doyle named:

- David G. Walsh, Madison, a partner in the law firm of Foley and Lardner.
- Eileen Connolly-Keesler, Neenah, executive director of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation.
- The Rev. Rolan L. Womack Jr., Milwaukee, pastor of the Progressive Baptist Church.
- Charles R. Pruitt, Shorewood, a partner of the A. B. Data Group, a direct marketing and data processing firm.

“There is a tremendous amount of work to be done in a short timeframe,” Doyle said in making the announcement. “The people of Wisconsin and I are fortunate that this team of high quality people are willing to take on the challenge and make this commitment to public service.”

The first step is to put a transition staff in place that will work to prepare for Doyle’s assumption of office on Jan. 6. The work will continue beyond that, Doyle said, with a goal of having major positions filled and major policy initiatives outlined by the time Doyle presents his state budget in February.

The co-chairs will serve as overall advisors and as a working group that directs the transition, with a transition director and staff responsible for operations.

Thad Nation will serve as communications director for the transition and can be reached at 414-412-7814 until the transition office opens and telephone numbers are assigned next week. At that time, details on the transition office, staff, structure, and process for applying for positions in the Doyle administration will be announced.

The co-chairs named on Thursday “bring a diverse set of accomplishments and skills to the transition team,” Doyle said.

Walsh, former partner-in-charge of the Foley and Lardner Madison office, serves on the boards of University of Wisconsin HealthStar, Future Madison and on the UW Athletic Advisory board. Walsh represents cable television and telephone companies, is general counsel to the Wisconsin Cable Communications Assn., and owns several cable systems in the state. He is an owner of the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team. He is a 1965 graduate of UW-Madison and a 1970 graduate of Harvard Law School.

Connolly-Keesler was the executive director of Winnebago County Regional Domestic Abuse Services from 1984-1999, and started the first domestic abuse shelter in the county. She has served on the Governor's Council on Domestic Abuse since 1989, and has been co-chair since 1998. Since 1999 she has been executive director of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. She is a 1982 graduate of UW-Green Bay in social work, and earned a Masters of Public Administration this year from UW-Oshkosh.

Rev. Womack is the founding pastor of Milwaukee's Progressive Baptist Church, which was organized in 1988. He is past president of the Wisconsin Baptist Pastors Conference and a director of the Minority Ministers Alliance. He is an outspoken advocate of public education, and has spoken across the county on education and social justice issues. A native of Houston, Tex., he is a graduate of Texas Southern University, earned a Masters of Divinity degree at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Ill., and a Doctor of Ministry degree at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

Pruitt joined A.B. Data in 1983. The firm specializes in direct mail and on-line fundraising, membership, and constituency development for public interest, charitable and educational organizations. Pruitt chaired the last two re-election campaigns of Senator Herb Kohl and was chairman of Doyle's 2002 campaign. He is a board member of Children's Outing Assn. and the Herb Kohl Educational Foundation. He earned an undergraduate degree from Macalester College, a doctorate from Harvard University and taught political science before joining A.B. Data.