



Contact: Zachary Kurz
202-653-7200
TDD/Videophone Users:
Please Call Via Relay

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2026

James J. Woodruff II Confirmed as Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Senate has voted to confirm James J. Woodruff II as Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB).

Chairman Woodruff's confirmation marks an important step for the Board as it continues its work to provide timely, fair, and efficient adjudications of federal employee appeals. MSPB is a quasi-judicial agency that ensures federal employment decisions are based on merit, and that federal employees and agencies alike receive due process consistent with the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978.

"I am deeply honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board," Woodruff said. "The Board's mission is central to maintaining public trust in a professional, accountable, merit-based civil service. I want to thank President Donald J. Trump for selecting me for this important role and the U.S. Senate for advancing my nomination. I look forward to working closely with Vice Chairman Henry J. Kerner and MSPB's dedicated employees to strengthen efficiency, transparency, and confidence in the Board's processes."

Woodruff brings more than two decades of legal experience across government and private practice, including civil, national security, military justice, federal acquisitions, and employment law matters. During the first Trump Administration, he served as Chief Counsel to the Chairman at the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. He has also served as a Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force, advising military commanders on

employment disputes and litigating matters before MSPB and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

In addition to Mr. Woodruff's 15 years of military service, he has dedicated more than a decade to teaching and mentoring future lawyers as a law professor. Mr. Woodruff was educated at Texas A&M University, South Texas College of Law, Air Command and Staff College, and Harvard Extension School.

###

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is a quasi-judicial agency whose mission is to protect the Merit System Principles and promote an effective Federal workforce free of Prohibited Personnel Practices.