



Women's Council  
· Wisconsin ·

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Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 11:30 AM  
State Capitol, Room 328 NW, Madison, WI  
Mary Jo Baas, Chair

AGENDA

11:30 – 11:45	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Welcome /Introductions</li><li>2. Board Business: Approval of the Minutes of 3/2/16</li></ol>
11:45 – 12:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Why Don't More Women Run? (see summary below) Presentation by: Dan Hill, Local Government Specialist Local Government Center, University of Wisconsin-Extension Jenny Erickson, Community Development Educator Sauk County University of Wisconsin-Extension</li></ol>
12:30 – 1:00	Continued discussion with other expert invited guests
1:00 – 1:15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. Update: 2016 Trailblazer Awards Ceremony &amp; Lunch June 22, 2016, Governor's Conference Room</li><li>5. Update: Bought &amp; Sold - Human Trafficking Public Education &amp; Awareness Traveling Art Exhibit (Women's Council is a sponsor)</li></ol>
1:15 – 1:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>6. Board Comments and Announcements</li><li>7. Public Comments and Announcements</li></ol> <p>Adjourn</p>

## Research Summary

### Political Ambition: Why Don't More Women Run?

Jenny Erickson, Sauk County, UWEX Community Development Educator  
Dan Hill, UWEX Local Government Center, Local Government Specialist  
Victoria Solomon, Green County, UWEX Community Development Educator

A number of well documented studies have highlighted the disproportionately low number of women holding state and federal elective offices. This is also true of local elective offices in Wisconsin. These studies have also shown that women are less likely than men to run for elective office, and that their reasons for running often vary from those cited by men. The researchers investigated whether these findings held true for women running for local office in Wisconsin.

Armed with an understanding of the barriers that discourage Wisconsin women from participation in the local electoral process and knowledge of ways to reduce the barriers, community leaders and activists will be in a better position to provide targeted educational programs designed to increase the number of women running for local elected office. Besides the obvious fairness issue, the identification and reduction of systemic barriers to women's holding public office holds the potential for improving democracy in Wisconsin by including heretofore unheard voices in the deliberative governance process.

The research is based off of two surveys developed by the authors and distributed during the summer of 2015 with the help of the University of Wisconsin River Falls Survey Center. One survey was sent to current county board supervisors and one survey was sent to potential local elected officials (PLEOs). The two surveys asked participants to respond to similar questions identifying barriers to running for office. When completing the surveys, current county board supervisors were asked to reflect back on their perspectives and experiences prior to running for elected office for the first time. PLEOs were asked to respond with their current perspectives. This approach provided a comparison of perspectives of the barriers faced prior to running for office for both groups.

For more information, see: Erickson, Hill and Solomon, "Political Ambition: Why Don't More Women Run?," *The Municipality*, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, February 2016, Vol III, No. 2  
Online at: <http://lwm-info.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/117>