The Wisconsin Women’s Council is governed by a 15-member board. Members are appointed by the Governor and leaders in the State Senate and Assembly. Most members serve a two-year term beginning July 1st.

**Board Members** (serving as of June 30, 2021)

**GOVERNOR’S APPOINTMENTS (7)**

- **Chair**
  - Vacant

- **Interim Chair & Governor’s Designee**
  - Ze Zang
  - Madison, WI

- **Dr. Jolene Bowman**
  - Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians
  - Bowler, WI

- **Rachel Fernandez**
  - Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
  - Neopit, WI

- **Denise Gaumer**
  - Hutchison
  - Franklin, WI

- **Dr. Rosalyn McFarland**
  - Brown Deer, WI

- **Nerissa Nelson**
  - Stevens Point, WI

**SENATE APPOINTMENTS (4)**

- **Senator**
  - designate legislative seat
  - Vacant

- **Senator Janis Ringhand**
  - 15th Senate District
  - Evansville

- **Alicia Dorsett**
  - Waupaca, WI

- **Amanda Roddy**
  - Brookfield, WI

**ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS (4)**

- **Representative Rachel Cabral-Guevara**
  - 55th Assembly District
  - Appleton

- **Representative Jodi Emerson**
  - 91st Assembly District
  - Eau Claire

- **Public Member**
  - Vacant

- **Carrie Richard**
  - Mazomanie, WI

Former Board Members: Patty Cadorin (past Chair), Lisa Armaganian, Cindy Block, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Kim Nickel, Senator Luther Olsen, and Shelby Schmudlach. Served during the biennium between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021.
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WWC WEBINAR SERIES
Budget, Policy and Innovation
Helping Wisconsin Women Thrive

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 • 12:00 PM CST

Ruth Schmidt
Director
weca Wisconsin
Early Childhood Association
wisconsinearlychildhood.org

Sarah Diedrick-Kasdorf
Assistant Director of Government Affairs
WCA Wisconsin Counties Association
wicounties.org

Nina Hutton
Director
The Clubhouse
Amery School District
amerysd.k12.wi.us/district/dist_clubhouse.cfm

FAMILY CAREGIVING & CAREGIVER WORKFORCE
Tuesday, June 1, 2021 • 12:00 PM CST

Lisa Pugh
Executive Director
The Arc Wisconsin
arcwi.org

Helen Marks Dicks
State Issues Advocacy Director
AARP Wisconsin
aarp.org/wisconsin

Janet Zander
Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator
gwaar Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources
gwaar.org
See the full report for sources and notes on the data. The pandemic disrupted data collection processes for many data sources, including the US Census Bureau. Even so, typical lag times between data collection and reporting fail to address the current need for real-time data on the effects of pandemic-related shutdowns and job loss, that are both unprecedented in recent times, and changing rapidly. This is particularly true for women in areas such as paid and unpaid work, childcare, caregiving, mental health, and the challenges of potential return to work, as well as different subgroups of women (race, ethnicity, mothers, low-wage workers, etc.). This report has compiled the most currently available data on these topics from public databases and leading researchers.
Women Who Inspire was designed to use the Wisconsin 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration Committee’s website to highlight the diversity of women and girls across the state who are working today to carry forward the ongoing work of social change to increase parity for women and girls.

With the message WHO INSPIRES YOU?, members of the Centennial Committee were invited to nominate one woman from their community (district, area of the state, professional field, etc.), working today for social change to increase parity for women and girls. Nominees were featured on the website to more diversity - race, ethnicity, age, geography, etc., to the conversation about suffrage and social change.

As 2020 progressed and the COVID-19 shut down kept us in our homes and put a stop to events and gatherings, planning for an in-person celebration also stopped. The Committee decided instead on a statewide celebratory bell-ringing, to take place at noon on August 26, 2020.

The Women Who Inspire made a video with First Lady Kathy Evers to advertise the event. In the clever video, each woman was given a script, a handbell, and directions to create their own video. At the end of their remarks they appeared to pass the handbell off camera to the next speaker. The individual segments were stitched together to create a fun short PSA inviting the public to join in the statewide bell-ringing on August 26th. Groups and individuals subsequently submitted videos of their home-based or local bell ringings, which were then posted on the website.


Did you know: On Aug. 26, 1920, when then-US Secretary of State Colby announced the successful passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Carrie Chapman Catt asked that whistles and bells be sounded at noon. On Aug. 26, and the days that followed, cities across the United States celebrated by ringing bells and whistles at noon.
Wisconsin Hearts – Barriers, Challenges and Opportunities for Women’s Health project developed by the Wisconsin Department of Health Service, Chronic Disease Prevention Program, and the Wisconsin Community Health Fund, Inc., which invited the Women’s Council to develop a distribution arm to collect data from women, as part of their upcoming Healthy Hearts Survey. The purpose was to enhance data and understanding of health disparities in female populations at risk for hypertension and cardiovascular disease with a focus on improving heart health.

The distribution schedule for the survey was February and March 2020. The subsequent rise of the pandemic and shut downs that ensured disrupted the survey schedule. In the months that followed, the Council continued to seek out community partners to assist with survey distribution, but the crisis that was unfolding made it difficult to get the assistance needed and anticipated for a successful survey response outcome. In addition, planning anticipated paper copy on-site survey work as target groups from underserved and lower-income communities that may not have access or be receptive to an online request. WWC had the survey translated into Hmong and Spanish, for distribution as appropriate to community partners.

DHS supplemented survey responses with Focus Groups to increase the quality of the data and use it as a centerpiece of the DHS Healthy Hearts Virtual Symposium. Survey responses were used for discussion with experts in the field of chronic disease prevention and other practitioners.

The Council also developed a Know Your Risks heart health tri-fold brochure, in English and Spanish, for use at conferences and events, and display on the website.
Women in Elected Office
State & Local Government
2021 Updates

Women in Elected Office | Wisconsin 2021

COUNTIES
2021 was a Year of Record Growth for Women Serving on County Boards.
Women hold 24% of seats (199) in 2021, up from 19% in 2020.

Women in Elected Office | Wisconsin 2021

CITY GOVERNMENT
2021 was a Year of Record Growth for Women Serving on City Councils.
Women hold 22% of seats (150) in 2021, up from 21% in 2019.

Women in Elected Office | Wisconsin 2021

VILLAGE BOARDS
2021 was a Year of Record Growth for Women Serving on Village Boards.
Women hold 27% of seats (150) in 2021, up from 25% in 2020.

Women in Elected Office | Wisconsin 2021

JUDICIARY
2021 was a Year of Record Growth for Women Serving on the Wisconsin Judiciary.
Women hold 24% of seats (150) in 2021, up from 25% in 2020.

Women in Elected Office | Wisconsin 2021

State & Tribal
Women's representation is increasing.

Nationally
Women hold 22% of seats (150) in 2021, up from 21% in 2019, and continue to increase representation.

Women's Tribal Councils & Legatures
Nationally, women hold 20% of seats (150) in 2021, and continue to increase representation.

Women's representation is increasing.

1919
Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association forms.

1921
Women's Equal Rights Amendment is passed by the Wisconsin legislature.

1998
State Senator Margaret Farrow is appointed as Wisconsin's first female Lieutenant Governor.

2001
Tammy Baldwin becomes Wisconsin's first female U.S. House Representative.

2002
Barbara Lawton becomes Wisconsin's first female state attorney general.

2003
Sara Petersen (top) becomes the first female mayor of the City of Milwaukee.

100 Years
Wisconsin becomes the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote.

The 19th Amendment, adopted in 1921, states: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."
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PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

Women’s Fund of Greater Milwaukee

The Council served as a sponsor for the Women’s Fund’s Flash Grants program, to provide small grants to area non-profits working to support women’s mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Flash grants are designed to provide small amounts of immediate finding to address critical needs and support community response, outside an annual grants-making cycle. The effort supports the community response to COVID’s impact on mental health and the well-being of women in underserved neighborhoods. The Women’s Fund managed the grant-making aspects of the initiative. As a sponsor, the Council had a seat on the grant review subcommittee and will have the opportunity to follow up with the grant recipients on their work and outcomes. The Women’s Fund awarded grants to:

- Cathedral Center: “This grant supports the purchase of the “Beyond Trauma” curriculum, as well as additional supplies to support this expanded clinical support.
- Core El Centro: “This grant increases our use of the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association (NADA) auricular acupuncture protocol for women experiencing trauma associated with domestic violence and sexual assault, behavioral / mental health issues, chronic pain, and addictions.”
- Foundations for Freedom, Inc.: “This grant expands services our clients with increased mental health indicators. The helps cover the cost of facilitating yoga sessions, art therapy, financial planning and a licensed counselor for urgent needs.”
- Hmong American Women’s Association: “This grant supports a two-hour mental wellness virtual gathering with 15-20 Hmong women domestic and sexual violence survivors in Milwaukee. The session will also include a self-care art kit that the group will do together.”
- Ma’ruf Center for Youth Innovation: This grant funds a partnership with the Milwaukee Wellness Collective to help bring unique wellness activities to the neighborhood. There is a stigma around receiving help with one’s mental health in the brown and black communities. Maruf has been diligently working to remove this stigma and raise awareness. (Ma’ruf expanded to a broader family and community center focus during the pandemic.)

Milwaukee Women inc

The Women’s Council continued its long-standing relationship as a MWi’s research partner for its annual report on gender diversity in the leadership for Wisconsin’s largest public and private companies. Representatives of the Women’s Council serve on its steering and research committees. The Council collected and analyzed data for two reports released during the biennium: Building Momentum: 2019 Research Project (Oct 2019) and Moving the Needle: 2020 Research Report (Oct 2020).

Formed in 2002, MWi is a collaboration of executive and professional women working to change the face and quality of leadership through the advancement of women. MWi researches and publishes annual reports benchmarking women in leadership roles (executives and board directors) in Wisconsin’s largest public and private companies. MWi also works to accelerate the advancement of women in key leadership positions.

https://milwaukeewomeninc.org

Child Support

The Women’s Council was invited again to serve on the WI Department of Children & Families (DCF) 2020 Wisconsin’s Percentage of Income Standard Guidelines Review Committee of the Wisconsin Child Support Quadrennial Review Project. Originally scheduled to begin in June 2020, the Committee’s work was suspended due to COVID. The Committee was reconvened and virtual meetings held in August and September 2021, with the final report submitted in November. Topics reviewed included: Income Imputation/ Evidence of Income; Equivalent Care; Serial Family Payor; and Health Insurance. Details can be found at:

https://dcf.wisconsin.gov/cs/orders/guidelines

Patty Cadorin and Christine Lidbury, Members
IWL Pay Equity Conference Steering Committee
Institute for Women’s Leadership (IWL), Marquette University
Christine Lidbury, Member, Research Committee
Women in Public Life Survey & Report
Alverno College, Center for Research for Women & Girls
Women’s Council Staff and Office

The Women’s Council contracts with the WI Department of Administration for office space and support services, including information technology, procurement, personnel, and finance.

Christine Lidbury, Executive Director

The Women’s Council has one permanent full-time position. This is periodically supplemented by interns and LTE staff for special projects.

Interns

Daniel Fitch, Shelby Foss, Amanda Gonzalez, Madelyn Adler & Hayley Jasinski

The Council benefited from over 300 hours of staff time through the use of student interns. Interns are often able to gain academic credit for their work, along with valuable job experience.

The Women’s Council follows the WI Department of Administration’s policies and procedures related to Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunities.

ON THE MOVE! The Women’s Council, housed in the Wisconsin Department of Administration Building, relocated to the 5th Floor with new space that offers intern working stations and a small meeting.

Boards and Committees

Women’s Council Board Meetings

September 4, 2019 • December 4, 2019
March 4, 2020 • June 3, 2020 • September 9, 2020
December 2, 2020 • March 3, 2021 • June 2, 2021

Women’s Council Committees

MMIW Awareness Day Planning
Rachel Fernandez, Chair

Hmong Story Quilt Project, Mental Health Struggles, Strategies & Resiliency
Ze Yang, Chair with Christine Lidbury

Untold Stories of Wisconsin Women
Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Chair

In addition, Women’s Council staff and Board Members may attend/participate in a variety of events and programs by, for, and about Wisconsin women, including meetings, award programs, seminars and conferences.

Presentations to the Board

Martina Gollin Graves, President/CEO, Mental Health America of WI & Shaheen Saiyed, Program Director MA’RUF (Milwaukee)
Women & Mental Health & Wellness in underserved communities, in the context of COVID

Gina Green-Harris, HEC Chair, & Director, Center for Community Engagement and Health Partnerships, UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Governor’s Health Equities Council (HEC)

Diara Parker Vice President of Operations + EQT Consultant EQT By Design (DHS Project Consultant)
DHS Chronic Disease Prevention Unit’s Healthy Hearts Survey Plan & WWC Partnership

Rebecca W. Cohen, MS, Health Systems Coordinator, WI DHS, Div. of Public Health, Chronic Disease Prevention Unit & Rebecca Thompson, MPH, Executive Director, Wisconsin Community Health Fund
Women & Heart Disease—Possible Partnership Opportunity with Healthy Hearts Project