

# Women in the WI Legislature, 2021

Wisconsin Women's Council  
December 2020

## Record Setting Year

When the Wisconsin State Legislature convenes in January 2021, women will hold 41 of the 132 total legislative seats—31% of the all seats—setting a new Wisconsin record. This surpasses the previous record of 38 women in the Legislature set in 1989, and again in 2003, and breaks through a 30-year stretch where the percentage of seats held by women hovered around 25% (see chart). Individually, the percentage of seats held by women in 2021—10 Senate seats and 31 Assembly seats—still remains below records of 11 women in the Senate (1999, 2001, 2015), and 33 in the Assembly (1989).

**A new First** Representative Francesca Hong (Madison) is Wisconsin's first Asian American state legislator.

# 31%

Women will make up a record 30% of members of the Wisconsin State Legislature in 2021, following the November 2, 2020 General Election. Results certified and published by the Wisconsin Elections Commission, December 1, 2020.

# 30% Senate

Women will hold 10 of 33 seats (30%) in the State Senate, up from 8 seats in 2019.

# 31% Assembly

Women will hold 31 of 99 seats (31%) in the State Assembly, up from 28 seats in 2019.

## Newly-Elected to the Senate & Assembly

<b>State Assembly</b>	Kristina Shelton
Deb Andraca	Lee Snodgrass
Rachael Cabral-Guevara	<b>State Senate</b>
Sue Conley	Joan Ballweg*
Dora Drake	Mary Czaja-Felzkowski*
Francesca Hong	Kelda Roys
Sylvia Ortiz-Velez	Melissa Agard
Sara Rodriguez	Sargent*
Donna Rozar	

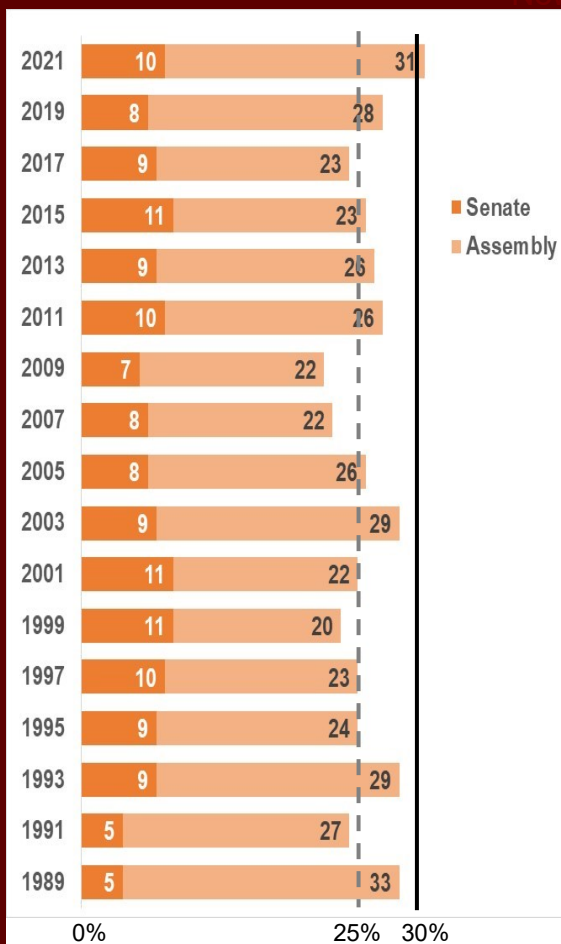
*\*moved to Senate from the Assembly*

## Timeline of Firsts for Women in the WI State Legislature

- 1921 Wisconsin women gain right to hold elected office
- 1925 Elected to the Assembly  
Mildred Barber  
Helen Brooks  
Helen Thompson
- fast forward 50 years*
- 1975 Elected to the Senate  
Kathryn Morrison
- 1977 African American Woman  
Marcia Cogg

## *fast forward another 25 years*

- 2003 Senate Majority Leader  
Mary Panzer
- 2011 Latina Woman  
JoCasta Zamarippa
- 2014 Assembly Majority Leader  
Pat Strachota
- 2015 Senate President  
Mary Lazich
- 2020 Asian American Woman  
Francesca Hong



Since 2005, the Women's Council has tracked and published statistics on women in state and local elected offices in Wisconsin, including post-election fact sheets updating data on Women in the Wisconsin Legislature. Reports and Factsheets are available on the Council's website at <https://womenscouncil.wi.gov>.

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

### Moving Wisconsin Forward, 2015

An analysis of women in elected office in Wisconsin's state and local governments, with updated statistics and 10-year trends.

### Wisconsin Women's Political Firsts Timeline, 2015

Timeline of women in elected office in Wisconsin state government, including the first women elected to the State Legislature (1925), first female Lieutenant Governor (2001), and first Latina elected to the Legislature (2011). Printed copies available by request (while supplies last).

### Moving Wisconsin Forward, 2010

An analysis of Wisconsin Women in Elected Office, with updated statistics.

### Women and Elected Office, 2005

Wisconsin's first statewide benchmark report on women holding elected office in state and local government, including elected seats in Wisconsin's counties, cities, towns, villages, and school districts.

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Sources: November 2020 General Election Results were certified and published by the Wisconsin Elections Commission, December 1, 2020, [elections.wi.gov](https://elections.wi.gov). Historical data: Legislative Reference Bureau, *Wisconsin Women Legislators—A Historical List*, Wisconsin Brief, January 2017. "Wisconsin Women's Political Firsts Timeline, 2015," poster, Wisconsin Women's Council.



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### About Us

The Wisconsin Women's Council is the state's statutory commission on the status of women and girls. Founded in 1983, the 15-member Women's Council is appointed by the Offices of the Governor, Senate President, Senate Majority Leader and Assembly Speaker.

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