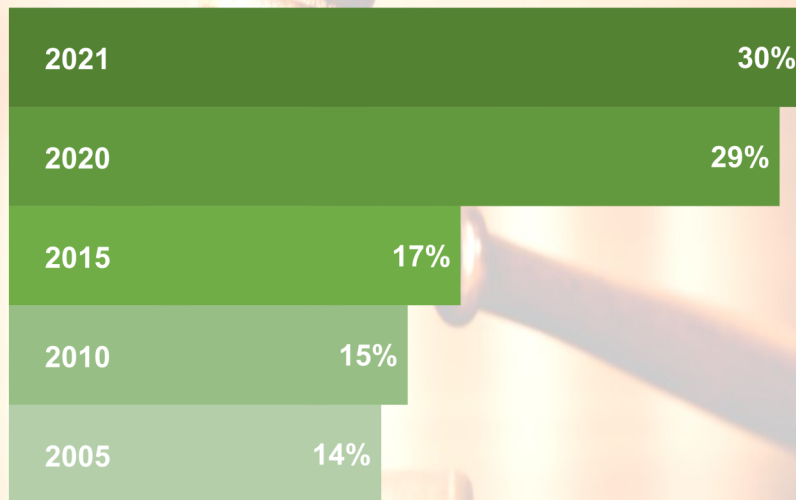


Women in the Judiciary Circuit Courts, 2021

Wisconsin Women's Council
January 26, 2021



Women as a Percentage of Judicial Seats on the Wisconsin Circuit Courts, 2005-2021



30%

Women hold 30% of judicial seats (74 out of 249 total seats) on the Wisconsin Circuit Courts—doubling over the past decade.

The large increase in the percentage of female office holders between 2015 and 2021 puts Circuit Court Judges among the state's fastest growing elected offices for women. Even so, Wisconsin lags the national average of 33% for comparable state court systems (National Association of Women Judges).

51%

 Have No Female Judges

Despite the higher percentage of judicial seats filled by women, just over half of Wisconsin's 69 County Circuit Courts* (35, or 51%) have no female Judges, down from nearly three-quarters (52, or 73%) in 2015.

44%

 of Chief Judges are Female

4 of the 9 Chief Judge positions are currently held by women, compared to only one in 2010 and none in 2015. The Supreme Court appoints a Chief Judge for each of the state's nine judicial administrative districts.

*Each of Wisconsin's 72 counties has at least one branch of the circuit courts, except six that are paired and share judges, for a total of 69 circuits. Of these, 26 circuits have a single judge, the rest have 2 or more, with the largest being Milwaukee with 47.

TIMELINE

Number of Female Circuit Court Judges, 2005-2021



Wisconsin's 4 Largest Circuit Courts Have Nearly Half of the Courts' Female Judges

County/Circuit	Total Judges	Female Judges
Milwaukee	47	22
Dane	17	8
Waukesha	12	3
Racine	10	2
4 Largest Circuits	84	35
Rest of State	165	39
Total	249	74

Sources: Women's Council analysis of Wisconsin Court System, "Circuit court judges, & court websites" database, www.wicourts.gov/courts/circuit/judges.htm, accessed January 26, 2021; National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ), www.nawj.org/statistics/2019-us-state-court-women-judges, accessed December 13, 2020.

Wisconsin County Circuit Courts
with One or More Female Judges

County	Total Judges	Female Judges
Milwaukee	47	22
Dane	17	8
Waukesha	12	3
Kenosha	8	3
Winnebago	6	3
Racine	10	2
Outagamie	7	2
Eau Claire	5	2
La Crosse	5	2
Sheboygan	5	2
Sauk	3	2
Brown	8	1
Rock	7	1
Fond du Lac	5	1
Marathon	5	1
Dodge	4	1
Walworth	4	1
Washington	4	1
Barron	3	1
Manitowoc	3	1
Ozaukee	3	1
Portage	3	1
Waupaca	3	1
Marinette	2	1
Menominee/ Shawano*	2	1
Burnette	1	1
Clark	1	1
Crawford	1	1
Iowa	1	1
Jackson	1	1
Pierce	1	1
Taylor	1	1
Vernon	1	1
Washburn	1	1
Circuits: 34	190	74

Wisconsin County circuit Courts
with No Female Judges

County	Total Judges	Female Judges
Jefferson	4	0
St Croix	4	0
Chippewa	3	0
Columbia	3	0
Monroe	3	0
Wood	3	0
Door	2	0
Douglas	2	0
Dunn	2	0
Grant	2	0
Green	2	0
Juneau	2	0
Lincoln	2	0
Oconto	2	0
Oneida	2	0
Polk	2	0
Adams	1	0
Ashland	1	0
Bayfield	1	0
Buffalo/Pepin*	1	0
Calumet	1	0
Florence/Forest*	1	0
Green Lake	1	0
Iron	1	0
Kewaunee	1	0
Lafayette	1	0
Langlade	1	0
Marquette	1	0
Price	1	0
Richland	1	0
Rusk	1	0
Sawyer	1	0
Trempealeau	1	0
Vilas	1	0
Waushara	1	0
Circuits: 35	59	0



Women's Council
-Wisconsin-

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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Learn more about the history and
role of the circuit courts at:
www.wicourts.gov/courts/circuit

Disclaimer. Statements of fact and opinion are made on the responsibility of the authors alone and do not necessarily represent the views of organizations listed or referenced in the report. No endorsement by such organizations is given or implied. The State of Wisconsin and the Women's Council provide this information on an "as is" basis. Statistics and analyses provided represent a point in time and subject to change, and have been produced and processed with methods and sources believed to be reliable. Questions or concerns? Contact the Women's Council at womenscouncil@wisconsin.gov.

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