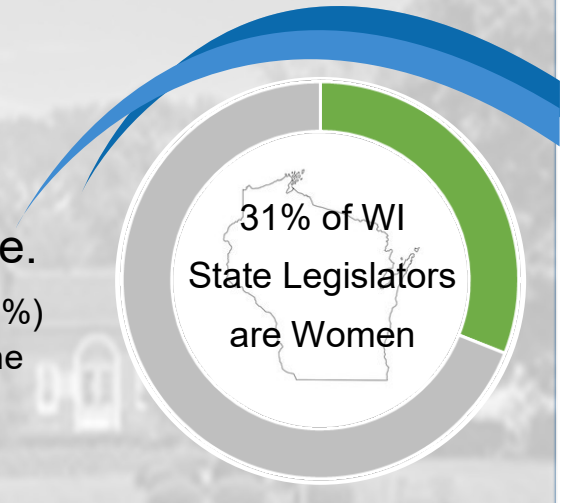


Women in Elected Office | Wisconsin 2021

STATE & TRIBAL

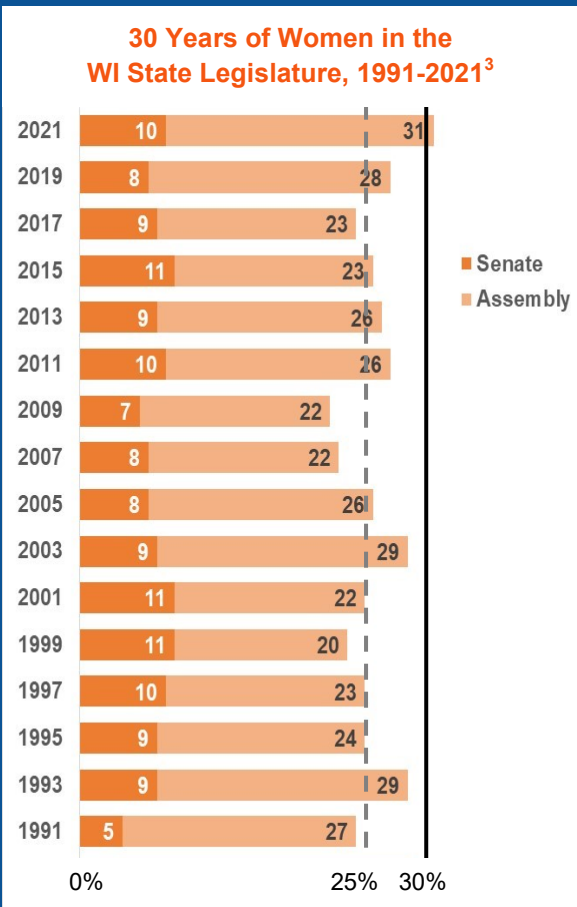
2021 was a Record-Setting Year for Women in the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Women hold 41 of the 132 seats (31%),¹ up from 36 seats (27%) in 2019. Seats held in 2021 breaks a 30-year stretch when the percentage of seats held by women hovered around 25%, with highest being 29% decades ago, in 1993 and 2003.



Nationally

Wisconsin caught up with the nation. Women make up 30.6% of all state legislators nationwide,² versus 31.1% in WI.



Timeline of Firsts for Women in the WI State Legislature⁴

1921 Wisconsin Equal Rights Act affirms women's right to hold public 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 Coggs

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

There has never been a Native American woman serving in the WI Legislature.

Wisconsin's Tribal Councils & Legislatures

Wisconsin is home to 11 federally recognized Native Nations. Each Nation is led by a Tribal Council or Legislature.

In 2021, women hold 32 (36%) of seats,⁵ down from 38 (42%) in 2015, and continue to outpace representation by women in the state legislature (31%).

One woman currently serves as Tribal chair or president, Shannon Halsey, President, Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians; four serve as a Vice Chair/President.

More factsheets in this series are available at:
<https://womenscouncil.wi.gov/publications>

What women need to know about running for office at:
<https://localgovernment.extension.wisc.edu/elections/>

Wisconsin Women in Public Life Report
<https://www.alverno.edu/Research>



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SOURCES

1. Following the results of the November 2, 2020, General Election, and certified and published by the Wisconsin Elections Commission, December 1, 2020.
2. National Conference of State Legislatures, Women's Legislative Network, "Women in State Legislatures 2021," <https://www.ncsl.org/legislators-staff/legislators/womens-legislative-network/women-in-state-legislatures-for-2021.aspx>
3. Wisconsin Women's Council analysis of biennial election results.
4. Timeline of Women in State & Federal Elected Office (poster), 2021, <https://womenscouncil.wi.gov/Pages/Publications.aspx>
5. Wisconsin Department of Administration, "WISCONSIN TRIBAL HEAD OFFICIALS," December 1, 2021, <http://witribes.wi.gov/> (Tribal Leader Contacts)

DATA DISCLAIMER

<https://womenscouncil.wi.gov/Pages/Disclaimer.aspx>

Who Represents You?

Visit the official websites of state and local governments in your area to find your elected officials.



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

The Wisconsin Women's Council is the state's statutory commission on the status of women and girls. Founded in 1983, the 15-member Board is appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership.

Since 2005, the Women's Council has tracked and published statistics on women elected officials in state and local government in Wisconsin.

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For over 20 years UW-Extension's Local Government Education has been helping local government officials build their capacity to govern.

We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting local governments with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

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Founded in 1970, the Research Center for Women and Girls (RCWG) generates and applies research, develops curricula, prepares evaluation tools, facilitates programming and conversations, and conducts outreach for the purpose of supporting and inspiring community initiatives to improve the lives of women and girls locally and nationally.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the following organizations for their ongoing assistance and support with compiling data on women in local elected office:

Wisconsin Association of School Boards; Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Courts Association; Wisconsin Counties Association; Wisconsin County Clerks Association; Wisconsin County Treasurers Association; Wisconsin League of Municipalities; Wisconsin Register of Deeds Association; Wisconsin Sheriffs & Deputy Sheriffs Association; and Wisconsin Towns Association.

Madelyn Adler, Research Assistant

Statements of fact and opinion are made on the responsibility of the authors alone and do not necessarily represent the views of other listed organizations. No endorsement by such organizations is given or implied.

Questions? Contact the Women's Council at womenscouncil@wisconsin.gov.