

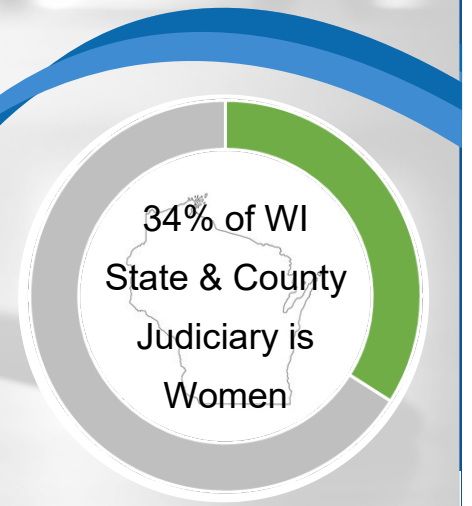
Women in Elected Office | Wisconsin 2021

JUDICIARY

2021 was a Year of Record Growth* for Women across the Wisconsin Judiciary.

The percentage of judicial seats held by women **doubled** from 2010 to 2021, largely due to the increasing numbers of women **Circuit Court judges**.

*Based on reports issued in 2005, 2010, 2015.



DID YOU KNOW...

Only nine women have served on the Supreme Court since Wisconsin became a state in 1848.³

Shirley Abrahamson*
1976—2019

Janine Geske
1993—1998

Ann Walsh Bradley
1995—

Diane Sykes
1999—2004

Patience Roggensack*
2003—

Annette Ziegler*
2007—

Rebecca Bradley
2015—

Rebecca Dallet
2018—

Jill Karofsky
2020—

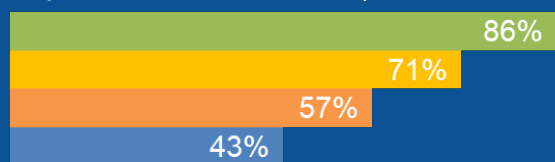
*Chief Justice

Women as a Percentage of Seats in Wisconsin's Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Courts, 2005-2021

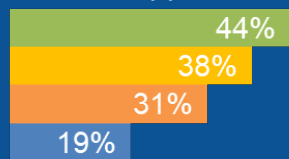
Women in the WI Judiciary—Combined (276)



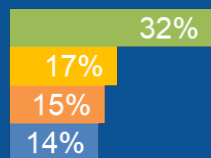
Supreme Court Justices (6 of 7 in 2021)



Court of Appeals Judges (7 of 16)



Circuit Court Judges (80 of 253)



Women Hold One-third of Judicial Seats

Women account for 1-out-of-3 judges* in the Wisconsin Judiciary (Supreme, Appellate, and Circuit Courts combined), up from 1-out-of-6 judges in 2010.

*Includes Supreme Court Justices.

Circuit Court Increases Driving Growth

Percentage of women holding Circuit Court judicial seats has doubled over the past decade—from 15% in 2010 to 32% in 2021.

Nationally

Wisconsin leads the nation for the percentage of state supreme court seats held by women.¹

Seats held by women, nationally:

- Supreme Courts: 39%¹ (vs. WI 86%)
- Appellate Courts: 41%² (vs. WI 44%)
- General State Courts (e.g. Circuit Court): 35%² (vs. WI 32%)

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>



Local Government Education
women in government

FOOTNOTES

1. Brennan Center for Justice (April 2021), *State Supreme Court Diversity*. <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/state-supreme-court-diversity-april-2021-update>
2. National Association of Women Justices, Forster-Long's Gender Diversity Survey, *The American Bench: 2020 and 2021 Data*, <https://www.nawj.org/statistics>
3. Wisconsin Court System Website, Supreme Court, About, "Justices" and "Former Justices," <https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/supreme/justices/> and <https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/supreme/justices/retired/>. Women's Council analysis.

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.

Patty Cadorin Christine Lidbury
Chair Executive Director

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Local
Government
Education
women in government

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.

Lindsey Harness, Ph.D.
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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.