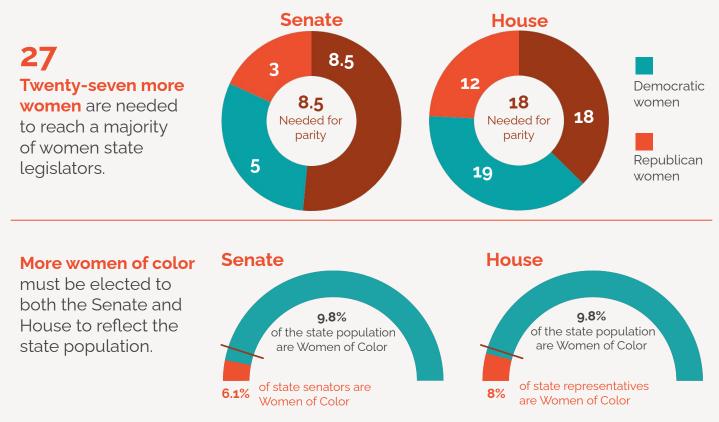
# Wisconsin

# **WOMENCOUNT**

Electing more women, and especially women of color, to state legislatures will create a more representative government and accelerate social progress. State legislatures create **real change** for communities and serve as a **training ground** for higher office.



# How representative is Wisconsin's state legislature today?



Source: Vote Run Lead's State of My Democracy state report cards, from the Center for American Women and Politics

# **2024 Electoral dynamics**

Wisconsin is a presidential battleground state and state legislative districts have recently been redrawn which put several incumbents in the same districts. Resulting from recruitment, 19 key districts have women running. There are three likely **gains** for women in the state legislature, two of which are women of color. Five seats are either likely or confirmed holds for women, three of which are women of color.

All members of the State House and half of the State Senate seats will be on the ballot.

Legislative districts are fully nested with one senator and three house members.

The primary election is on August 6, 2024.

WomenCount is an online giving platform that raises funds for women candidates and simplifies the giving process. WomenCount and Electing Women Alliance, a national network of giving groups, work together to close the political gender giving gap as a pathway to electing more women.

# **Campaign finance** considerations

**Donation limit - Per combined** primary and general election:

**\$2,000** for State Senate

for state assembly candidates \$1,000

The average cost of a state legislative race:

\$25,000 for the House \$80,000

for the Senate

- LLCs can contribute directly to candidates. The contribution is allocated to individual limits.
- There are no unique disclosure requirements for independent expenditures.

All donors are advised to consult an accountant and/or legal counsel to determine the limits and reporting requirements that apply.

### Urgent: Candidates in need of primary support before August 6



#### Rep. Melissa Ratcliff for State Senate

Senate District 16 (x County)

Rep. Ratcliff is a Democratic candidate for the new Wisconsin Senate District 16. A working mom and the only woman in the race, she has a proven record as an effective leader who gets results. In the State Assembly, she has championed reproductive freedom, fair maps, expanding broadband, rights and safety for LGBTQIA+ communities, and services for veterans and seniors. She is a strong voice for the people she represents and the communities she serves. Rep. Ratcliff worked third-shift in a warehouse before earning her paralegal degree (2000). She worked for 24 years at the same law firm ending her career there in 2024 to become a full-time legislator.

#### Karen DeSanto for State Assembly

Assembly District 40 (x County)

DeSanto has worked on behalf of children and adults for the past 12 years as the CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of West Central Wisconsin, growing the organization from 2 to 4 sites and creating and managing a budget of 2.1 million. Serving as the first female President of the State Alliance of Wisconsin Clubs, she helped to secure 26 million in state and federal support for kids and families during her term in 2020-2022. Her legislative priorities are on ensuring access to health care, investing in education, safeguarding public parks and waterways, improving opportunities for small businesses, and building availability for mental health care.





#### Angela Stroud for State Assembly

Assembly District 73 (x County)

Stroud is an educator and is an associate professor of sociology and social justice at Northland College. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Texas, and she moved to Northern Wisconsin with her wife a few years ago. Her legislative priorities include protecting natural habitats, supporting teachers and improving public education, advocating for affordable housing, and fighting for access to health care.



#### Renuka Mayadev for State Assembly

Assembly District 77 (x County)

Mayadev works at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in the Wisconsin Partnership Program as the Program Advisor for Maternal and Child Health. She works with community organizations, public health officials, academics, and providers to reduce the stark health inequities we see in maternal and birth outcomes across Wisconsin, disproportionately affecting our communities of color. She previously worked as a nonprofit executive and she holds a law degree from Northwestern. Her legislative priorities include defending democracy and fair elections, advocating for access to health care, climate justice, ending gun violence, and expanding health care coverage.

# Women candidates without primaries, where early investment could make a difference



#### Jodi Habush Sinykin for State Senate

Senate District 8 (x County)

A former attorney and business owner of a textile mill, Habush Sinykin is a Harvard Law School graduate, who is an active volunteer in her community, particularly around the environment and wildlife conservation. Habush has owned and run a local business and raised her four children in the district. Habush's priorities include strengthening our democracy, protecting access to health care, public safety, growing the economy, and protecting the environment.

#### Kristin Alfheim for State Senate

Senate District 18 (x County)

Alfheim is a lifelong resident of Wisconsin. Growing up on her small family farm, she learned early on the values of hard work and solving problems together. Kristin owns a small business helping people navigate the challenges of retirement and mentors women who want to advance in their careers. She currently serves on Appleton's Common Council and resides in the Historic Old Third Ward. Her legislative priorities include protecting access to health care, expanding health care for workers, and improving public education.







#### Sara Keyeski for State Senate Senate District 14

(Richland and Sauk counties)

Keyeski has worked as a licensed professional counsel for the last 24 years. She became a community organizer in her small town during COVID, when she organized a nonprofit to provide an annual day of service for those in need. A mom of six, her legislative priorities include improving public education, protecting women's access to health care, supporting rural communities, improving mental health support, and improving cost and access to childcare.

#### Allison Page for State Assembly Assembly District 30

(St. Croix and Pierce counties)

Page is running for State Assembly to make Western Wisconsin a great place to live, work, and raise a family. She was born and raised in Western Wisconsin and spent her career in health care, first as a nurse and later rising to leadership as CEO of Western Wisconsin Health. Page's focus is on better health care, protecting women's access to health care, and lowering costs for child care, housing, and the overall cost of living.

#### **Elizabeth Grabe for State Assembly**

Assembly District 51 (x County)

Grabe is an engaged community member, serving as a coach, rotary board member, and advocate for land stewardship. A proud conservationist, Grabe knows how important it is to be good stewards of our environment. Her passion for conservation led her to serve on the Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee. Elizabeth's work in the community has led her to run for the Assembly to ensure that everyone in her community has reliable internet, clean air and water, and quality public schools.







#### Assm. Lee Snodgrass for State Assembly

Assembly District 52 (Outagamie County)

Assemblywoman Snodgrass has served in the Wisconsin State Assembly since 2021. She advocates for child care as a workforce issue, affordable housing, safe communities, voting rights & democracy, abortion rights, strong public schools, family supporting jobs & labor rights, business growth, and LGBTQ+ equality. She was elected to caucus leadership as the Sergeant At Arms and is the ranking member on the Campaigns & Elections and Forestry, Parks & Outdoor Recreation committees.



#### LuAnn Bird for State Assembly

Assembly District 61 (Milwaukee County)

Bird is a community organizer and former school board member and member of her county's sanitary commission. As Executive Director and Lobbyist for the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, LuAnn went toe-to-toe with the NRA to pass gun control legislation. She is a full-time caregiver for her husband, who is a Vietnam veteran who was paralyzed in a work accident. Her focus is on gun safety, protecting access to health care, education, protecting families' ability to afford living in the state.



#### **Christy Welch for State Assembly**

Assembly District 88 (x County)

Welch has served as the Chair of the Democratic Party of Brown County since January 2023, and she is running in a redrawn district. Before leading the local party, Welch worked as the Chief Systems Officer and Human Resources executive for a manufacturing company. She brings a robust background in business management. Her legislative priorities include restoring women's access to full health care, fully funding public education, supporting Medicaid expansion, raising the minimum wage, expanding access to childcare, and fighting for clean air and clean water.



#### Assm. Jodi Emerson for State Assembly

Assembly District 91 (Eau Claire and Chippewa counties)

Assemblywoman Emerson was first elected to her seat in 2018. Before that she was a legal assistant in a law office and worked as the Director of Public Policy and Community Relations for Fierce Freedom, a nonprofit advocacy organization that worked to address human trafficking. Emerson has been an anti-trafficking advocate and author of a number of successful bipartisan pieces of legislation. Her focus is on protecting public education, ensuring access to affordable health care, supporting small businesses and the environment.