



Profile of the 2025 Wisconsin Legislature

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In 1925, Representatives Mildred Barber, Helen M. Brooks, and Helen F. Thompson became the first women elected to serve in the Wisconsin Legislature. This session, on the 100th anniversary of this momentous first, the most women ever to serve the state took their seats in the legislature. A total of 44 women were sworn in on January 6, 2025—34 in the assembly, the highest number ever to be inaugurated in the house, and 10 in the senate. This report profiles the members of the Wisconsin Legislature as of January 31, 2025.

Senate profile

The Wisconsin Senate has 33 members, including 18 Republicans and 15 Democrats. This session, 10 senators are women.

Legislative experience. Of the 16 seats up for election in 2024, eleven members of the 2023 senate were reelected and five new members were elected.¹ All five of the new senators are Democrats. Four of the five new senators have no previous legislative experience. Seventeen members are senators in the middle of their terms.

Twenty senators have served previously in the assembly. Three senators in the 2025 Wisconsin Senate have served ten or more legislative sessions; fourteen have served between five and nine legislative sessions; and the remaining sixteen have served fewer than five legislative sessions.² The longest-serving member of the senate is Senator Robert Wirsch (D–Senate District 22), who has served since 1997. Senator Tim Carpenter (D–Senate District 3) is the longest-serving member of the legislature, having served in the assembly 1985–2003 and in the senate since 2003.

Two senators have had experience in a legislative staff position. One senator worked as a communications director for a state representative and one worked as a staff member for a U.S. representative and a U.S. senator.

Local government experience. Fourteen senators have experience in local government as elected public officials. Eight have been elected to county board positions, four have served on city councils, one has served on a village board, one has served on a town board, and two have served on school boards. Two of these senators have served in positions at both the county and municipal levels. One senator has served as a both city mayor and member of city council.

Age. As of January 31, 2025, the average age of a senator is 53. The youngest senator is 31 and the oldest is 81.

Occupation. Sixteen senators list themselves as full-time legislators. Two list themselves as attorneys, and one lists himself as a farmer. Most others are small-business owners

1. Senator Dora Drake (D–Senate District 4) was elected in a July 2024 special election and sworn in on December 19, 2024, to fulfill the remainder of the 2023–24 legislative term. As such, she is counted under “reelected.”

2. These counts include sessions served in the assembly.

in a variety of fields, ranging from insurance to printing and advertising. Several senators work in health and human services, including as a nurse practitioner, a social worker, and a mental health counselor.

Education. Thirty-one senators continued their formal education beyond high school. Twenty-six earned a bachelor's degree or associate degree, and five attended either a technical school or a college or university. Ten senators continued on to earn a law degree or advanced degree in fields ranging from education to nursing to public administration.

Military service. Four senators have served in the nation's armed forces, including the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and the Air National Guard. Two senators are Persian Gulf War veterans.

Assembly profile

The Wisconsin Assembly has 99 representatives, including 54 Republicans and 45 Democrats. There are 34 women serving in the assembly, one more than served in the 2023 legislative session and the highest number of women in the assembly since statehood.

Legislative experience. Sixty-eight representatives were reelected from the 2023 session, and there are 31 new members of the assembly, including three members who served the chamber in a prior but not immediately preceding session.³ There are twenty-three new Democratic representatives and eight new Republican representatives.

Seventy-two representatives have served for fewer than five sessions, twenty-three have served between five and nine sessions, and four have served for ten or more sessions. One representative has also served in the senate. The longest-serving member is Representative Christine Sinicki (D–Assembly District 20), who has served in the assembly since 1999.

Ten representatives have had previous experience in a legislative staff position. Three worked for members of the U.S. Congress, four worked in the state legislature, and three worked in both Congress and the state legislature.

Local government experience. Fifty-three representatives have had experience in local government as elected officials. Of these representatives, 12 have held office at both the county and municipal levels, 16 have held only county offices, and 25 have held only municipal offices.

Twenty-eight representatives have served as county board supervisors. Eighteen representatives have served as city council members, six have served as town board members, and six have served as village trustees. Six have served as school board members, and five have served as city mayors.

Age. As of January 31, 2025, the average age of a representative is 51. The two youngest representatives are 25, and the oldest is 71.

3. Representatives Dean Kaufert (R–Assembly District 53), Daniel Knodl (R–Assembly District 25), and Rob Kreibich (R–Assembly District 28) returned to the assembly. Representative Kaufert previously served 1991–2015, Representative Knodl served 2009–2023 in the assembly and 2023–25 in the senate, and Representative Kreibich served 1993–2007.

Occupation. Forty-three representatives list themselves as full-time legislators. Thirty-one list themselves as business owners, six list themselves as attorneys, and six list themselves as farmers. Other current occupations include chef, gig worker, nutritionist, police officer, professor, realtor, tavern owner, and teacher.

Education. Ninety-four representatives have continued their formal education beyond high school. Seventy-six hold a bachelor's or associate degree, and eighteen have attended college, university, or agricultural, business, technical, or trade school after high school graduation. Twenty-six representatives have continued on to earn a law degree or an advanced degree—including two doctorate degrees—in fields ranging from biochemistry to education to international journalism.

Military service. Eleven representatives have served in the nation's armed forces, including the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Air Force Reserve. One representative is a Persian Gulf War veteran, and one is a veteran of both the Persian Gulf and Iraq Wars. One representative served in the Wisconsin National Guard. ■

Personal data on Wisconsin legislators, 2015–25 sessions

	2015 ¹		2017 ¹		2019 ²		2021 ²		2023 ²		2025 ²	
	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.	Sen.	Rep.
Party affiliation												
Democrat	14	36	13	35	15	35	12	38	11	35	15	45
Republican	19	63	20	64	18	64	20	60	21	64	18	54
Previous legislative service												
Senate	27	0	30	0	28	0	24	0	25	0	28	1
Assembly	24	74	24	83	26	82	23	82	23	75	20	71
Most prior sessions in the same house												
Same house	26	14	27	12	28	10	17	11	18	12	14	13
Education												
High school only.	1	4	0	5	0	8	1	5	2	5	2	5
Beyond high school.	32	95	33	94	33	91	31	93	30	94	31	94
Bachelor's or associate degree	28	69	28	74	26	72	26	65	26	72	26	76
Advanced degree	9	24	10	26	9	25	9	27	9	26	10	26
Experience on local governing body												
County board.	9	19	9	26	7	19	5	21	8	24	8	28
Municipal board	9	29	16	49	14	41	6	35	8	35	8	37
Age (years)												
Oldest	87	76	89	78	91	80	77	82	79	77	81	71
Youngest.	34	24	36	26	31	19	32	21	32	23	31	25
Average	57	48	58	49	58	49	56	51	54	50	53	51
Military Service	3	7	7	10	7	9	6	9	4	10	4	11
Women.	11	22	9	22	8	28	10	31	8	33	10	34

Sen.—Senators; Rep.—Representatives.

1. As of inauguration day. 2. As of January 31.

Source: Data collected from legislative surveys by Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, March 2025.