



State of Wisconsin  
2023 - 2024 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5145/1  
CMH:emw

## 2023 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 96

January 5, 2024 - Introduced by Senators HUTTON, JAGLER, JACQUE, SPREITZER, BRADLEY, KAPENGA, NASS, CARPENTER, FELZKOWSKI, MARKLEIN, WIRCH, COWLES, AGARD, FEYEN, BALLWEG, ROYS and TESTIN, cosponsored by Representatives MICHALSKI, ALLEN, AUGUST, BALDEH, CONLEY, DITTRICH, DRAKE, DUCHOW, EDMING, EMERSON, HURD, JACOBSON, KITCHENS, MACCO, MAGNAFICI, MAXEY, MELOTIK, MURPHY, MURSAU, O'CONNOR, OHNSTAD, PENTERMAN, RETTINGER, ROZAR, SCHUTT, SINICKI, SPIROS, STUBBS, SUBECK, TITTL and TRANEL. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** honoring the life and public service of Lieutenant Governor Margaret  
2         Farrow.

3         Whereas, former Lieutenant Governor Margaret Farrow passed away on  
4     March 8, 2022, at the age of 87, surrounded by her loved ones at her home in  
5     Pewaukee, Wisconsin; and

6         Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow dedicated her life to serving the great  
7     state and people of Wisconsin and was a trailblazer for women in Wisconsin politics,  
8     being the first woman to serve as lieutenant governor in Wisconsin; and

9         Whereas, Margaret Farrow was born to William and Margaret Nemitz in  
10    Kenosha, Wisconsin, on November 28, 1934; and

11        Whereas, Margaret Farrow was raised in Kenosha and attended Dominican  
12    Sisters of St. Catherine High School in Racine; and

13        Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow attended Rosary College in Illinois and  
14    earned a bachelor's degree in political science and education from Marquette  
15    University; and

1           Whereas, prior to her political career, Lieutenant Governor Farrow worked as  
2 a school teacher and real estate agent; and

3           Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow began her career in public service in  
4 municipal government, first serving on the Village of Elm Grove Board of Appeals  
5 from 1972 to 1974; and

6           Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow was elected as a member of the Elm  
7 Grove Village Board in 1976, which she served on until 1987, and served as village  
8 president from 1981 to 1987—becoming the first woman to serve as village president;  
9 and

10          Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow served the state in multiple capacities:  
11 as a representative in the state assembly, as state senator, and eventually as  
12 lieutenant governor; and

13          Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow was first elected to the Wisconsin  
14 Assembly in 1986, representing a district covering most of Waukesha County and  
15 portions of western Milwaukee County; and

16          Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow was elected to the Wisconsin Senate in  
17 a special election in 1989 and served in that seat for over a decade until 1999; and

18          Whereas, during Lieutenant Governor Farrow's tenure in the state legislature,  
19 she served in several leadership roles, including senate assistant minority leader  
20 and senate assistant majority leader, served as chair of the Wisconsin Women's  
21 Council for over a decade, and served on the Joint Committee on Finance for three  
22 sessions; and

23          Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow was sworn in as the 42nd lieutenant  
24 governor on May 9, 2001, becoming the first woman to hold that position in Wisconsin  
25 history; and

1           Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow continued her life of public service even  
2           after her tenure as lieutenant governor had ended, serving on numerous committees  
3           and boards through 2021, including the University of Wisconsin System Board of  
4           Regents from 2013 to 2017; and

5           Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow was a tireless leader, and one of her  
6           proudest legislative achievements was to democratize access to meetings and  
7           activities of the legislature through the creation of WisconsinEye, on whose Board  
8           of Directors she served since its creation in 2001; and

9           Whereas, her life of service was not limited to public work, and Lieutenant  
10          Governor Farrow was very active in her church and community, notably serving the  
11          Archdiocese of Milwaukee for decades on numerous committees while enjoying  
12          fishing and sailing with her family and quilting with her friends, and always  
13          appreciated an opportunity to enjoy and share a beautiful sunset; and

14          Whereas, Margaret especially enjoyed muskie fishing with her sons,  
15          daughters-in-law, and grandchildren, often participating in muskie tournaments  
16          around the state. Her love of her home state of Wisconsin was evident in everything  
17          she did and communicated proudly to all through her license plate, "WI A 10," which  
18          she had for over 30 years; and

19          Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow was a loving wife of 65 years to her  
20          husband, John, and a mother to five sons: John, Bill, Peter, Paul, and Mark; and

21          Whereas, Lieutenant Governor Farrow is remembered fondly for her work  
22          ethic, kindness, and service to the state and as a mentor and trailblazer; now,  
23          therefore, be it

