



# LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

## Women in the Wisconsin Legislature, 2021— A Summary and Historical List

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When the 2021 Wisconsin State Legislature convened on January 4, 2021, 41 women took their seats as members. This was the largest class of women legislators in state history. Women now hold 31 percent of the seats in the legislature. Previously, the largest number of women to serve in a session was 37, a number reached in the 1989 and 2003 sessions. Including those serving in the senate and the assembly today, a total of 152 women have now been seated in the Wisconsin Legislature. Among all states, Wisconsin currently has the 22nd-highest proportion of women serving in its legislature.<sup>1</sup> This paper celebrates the service, achievements, and leadership of Wisconsin women legislators.

### **Women in the assembly**

When Mildred Barber, Helen Brooks, and Helen Thompson took office in January 1925 as “assemblymen”—members of the assembly were formally renamed “representatives” in 1969<sup>2</sup>—they became the first women to serve in the Wisconsin Legislature. Until the 1970s, no more than three women at a time served in the assembly, and during some sessions, no women served in the assembly at all.<sup>3</sup> Of the 31 women elected to serve in 2021–22, 10 are in their first session. This is the highest number of newly elected women representatives to serve in a session. The previous record for newly elected women serving in the assembly, set in the 1993 session, was nine. The highest number of women ever to serve together in the assembly is 33, a record reached during the 1989 biennium.

Representative Christine Sinicki, in her 12th term, has served longer than any other woman in the assembly. Representative Annette Polly Williams, who served 15 sessions, from 1981 to 2009, served longer than any woman legislator in Wisconsin history. When Representative Susan Engeleiter took office in January 1975, she was the youngest woman ever elected to the Wisconsin Legislature; she was 22 years old.

### **Women in the senate**

In 1975, Senator Kathryn Morrison became the first woman to serve in the Wisconsin Senate. When Senators Melissa Agard, Joan Ballweg, Mary Felzkowski, and Kelda Helen Roys took their seats in January 2021, the total number of women who have served in the senate increased to 35. Of those 35 women, 25 had legislative experience in the assembly.

Each of the 10 women serving in the 2021 Senate previously served in the assembly. Senator Alberta Darling, beginning her 15th session, is the longest-serving woman senator in Wisconsin history. During the 1999, 2001, and 2015 legislative sessions, 11 women were seated in the senate, the highest number ever to serve there together.

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1. “[Women in State Legislatures 2021](https://cawp.rutgers.edu),” CAWP (Center for American Women in Politics), accessed January 13, 2021, <https://cawp.rutgers.edu>.

2. [Ch. 199, Laws of 1969](#).

3. “Wisconsin Women Legislators—A Historical List,” *Wisconsin Briefs* 15, no. 3 (Madison, WI: Legislative Reference Bureau, January 2015).

## Women in legislative leadership

After winning more seats in the assembly and the senate in the 1970s, women began making gains in legislative leadership. Representative Louise Tesmer served as deputy speaker in 1981. In 1985, Senator Susan Engeleiter was the first woman to serve as senate minority leader; she served in that capacity for two sessions. In the assembly, in 1987, Representative Betty Jo Nelsen became the first woman to serve as minority leader. In 1998, Representative Shirley Krug became the second woman elected to serve as assembly minority leader. In the 2003 session, after serving as minority leader since January 2000, Senator Mary Panzer became the first woman to serve as senate majority leader. Senator Judith Robson became the third woman to serve as senate minority leader after she was elected to that position in November 2004. In 2007, Robson became the second woman to serve as senate majority leader. In March 2014, Representative Pat Strachota was the first woman to serve as assembly majority leader. In 2015, Senator Mary Lazich served as senate president, becoming the first woman to serve as presiding officer of either legislative house, and Senator Jennifer Shilling became senate minority leader. After Senator Shilling resigned from the legislature in June 2020, Senator Janet Bewley was selected to replace her as senate minority leader. Senator Bewley was selected again to serve as senate minority leader in the 2021 session.

As their ranks grew in the legislature, women also gained more seats on influential committees. In 1976, Senator Kathryn Morrison became the first woman appointed to serve on the Joint Committee on Finance, considered one of the most powerful committees in the legislature. In the 1983 session, Representative Mary Lou Munts became the first woman to co-chair the Joint Committee on Finance. And since then, four other women have co-chaired the committee: Representative Barbara Linton, Representative Kitty Rhoades, Senator Alberta Darling, and Senator Lena Taylor. Senator Darling served as co-chair of the committee during the 2003, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019 sessions, longer than any other woman legislator. The Joint Committee on Finance currently has seven female members: Senators Joan Ballweg, Kathleen Bernier, Mary Felzkowski, and LaTonya Johnson and Representatives Amy Loudenberg, Greta Neubauer, and Jessie Rodriguez. Since 2011, Representative Samantha Kerkman has served as co-chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

The following tables compile the names of all women who have served in the Wisconsin Legislature. Table 1 lists the leadership roles of women currently seated in the legislature. Tables 2 and 3 list all women members alphabetically by house and indicate each member's party, district, occupational background, and sessions of service. Table 4 lists the members serving in each session. ■

For more information on the legislative careers and backgrounds of women in Wisconsin, see "[Knocking on the Door: Women in the Wisconsin Legislature](#)," *Wisconsin Blue Book 2017–18* (Madison, WI: Legislative Reference Bureau, 2017), 298.

**Table 1. Women in leadership roles, 2021–2022**

Name	Party	House	Leadership positions
Agard, Melissa	Dem.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Senate Committee on Housing, Commerce and Trade, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Joint Legislative Audit Committee, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Minority caucus vice-chair</li> </ul>
Ballweg, Joan <sup>1</sup>	Rep.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Senate Committee on Agriculture and Tourism, chair</li> <li>· Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families, vice-chair</li> <li>· Joint Committee on Finance, member</li> </ul>
Bernier, Kathleen	Rep.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Senate Committee on Education, vice-chair</li> <li>· Senate Committee on Elections, Election Process Reform and Ethics, chair</li> <li>· Joint Committee on Finance, member</li> <li>· Majority caucus vice-chair</li> </ul>
Bewley, Janet	Dem.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Minority leader</li> </ul>
Billings, Jill	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Children and Families, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Substance Abuse and Prevention, ranking minority member</li> </ul>
Brandtjen, Janel	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, chair</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Government Accountability and Oversight, vice-chair</li> </ul>
Cabral-Guevara, Rachael	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Mental Health, vice-chair</li> </ul>
Cabrera, Marisabel	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Judiciary, ranking minority member</li> </ul>
Darling, Alberta	Rep.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Senate Committee on Education, chair</li> <li>· Senate Committee on Elections, Election Process Reform and Ethics, vice-chair</li> </ul>
Dittrich, Barbara	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection, chair</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Workforce Development, vice-chair</li> </ul>
Duchow, Cindi	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Financial Institutions, chair</li> <li>· Majority caucus vice-chair</li> </ul>
Emerson, Jodi	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Government Accountability and Oversight, ranking minority member</li> </ul>
Felzkowski, Mary	Rep.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Senate Committee on Government Operations, Legal Review and Consumer Protection, vice-chair</li> <li>· Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry, chair</li> <li>· Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy, vice-chair</li> <li>· Joint Committee on Finance, member</li> </ul>
Hesselbein, Dianne	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Insurance, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Joint Legislative Audit Committee, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Assistant minority leader</li> </ul>
Johnson, LaTonya	Dem.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Senate Committee on Human Services, Children and Families, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Joint Committee on Finance, member</li> </ul>

Table 1. **Women in leadership roles, 2021–2022**, continued

Name	Party	House	Leadership positions
Kerkman, Samantha	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Audit, chair</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Judiciary, vice-chair</li> <li>· Joint Legislative Audit Committee, co-chair</li> <li>· Majority caucus sergeant at arms</li> </ul>
Loudenbeck, Amy	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Finance, vice-chair</li> <li>· Joint Committee on Information Policy and Technology, co-chair</li> <li>· Joint Committee on Finance, member</li> </ul>
Magnafici, Gae	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Family Law, chair</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Substance Abuse and Prevention, vice-chair</li> </ul>
Meyers, Beth	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Energy and Utilities, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Minority caucus secretary</li> </ul>
Myers, LaKeshia	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Public Benefit Reform, ranking minority member</li> </ul>
Neubauer, Greta	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Joint Committee on Finance, member</li> </ul>
Pope, Sondy	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Consumer Protection, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Education, ranking minority member</li> </ul>
Ringhand, Janis	Dem.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Senate Committee on Economic and Workforce Development, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Senate Committee on Financial Institutions and Revenue, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Assistant minority leader</li> </ul>
Rodriguez, Jessie	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Joint Committee on Finance, member</li> </ul>
Roys, Kelda Helen	Dem.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Senate Committee on Government Operations, Legal Review and Consumer Protection, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, ranking minority member</li> </ul>
Rozar, Donna	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Small Business Development, vice-chair</li> </ul>
Shankland, Katrina	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Workforce Development, ranking minority member</li> </ul>
Sinicki, Christine	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Labor and Integrated Employment, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on State Affairs, ranking minority member</li> </ul>
Stubbs, Shelia	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Tourism, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities, co-chair</li> <li>· Assembly Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards, co-chair</li> </ul>
Subeck, Lisa	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Health, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Minority caucus vice-chair</li> </ul>

Table 1. **Women in leadership roles, 2021–2022**, continued

Name	Party	House	Leadership positions
Taylor, Lena	Dem.	Senate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions, ranking minority member</li> </ul>
VanderMeer, Nancy	Rep.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Labor and Integrated Employment, vice-chair</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Rural Development, chair</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, vice-chair</li> </ul>
Vining, Robyn	Dem.	Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assembly Committee on Mental Health, ranking minority member</li> <li>· Assembly Committee on Small Business Development, ranking minority member</li> </ul>

Dem.—Democrat; Rep.—Republican

1. Senator Ballweg currently serves as national chair of the Council of State Governments.

Table 2. **Alphabetical list of women senators, 1925–2021**

Name	Party	District	Occupations	Sessions served
Agard, Melissa † <sup>1</sup>	Dem.	16	Small business owner	2021
Ballweg, Joan †	Rep.	14	Farm equipment dealer	2021
Bernier, Kathy †	Rep.	23	Chippewa County Clerk	2019, 21
Bewley, Janet †	Dem.	25	Community relations officer	2015, 17, 19, 21
Buettner—see Roessler				
Clausing, Alice	Dem.	10	Teacher, guidance counselor	1993, 95, 97, 99
Darling, Alberta †	Rep.	8	Teacher, marketing director	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21
Engleiter, Susan Shannont †	Rep.	33	Attorney, teacher	1979*, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89 <sup>2</sup>
Farrow, Margaret †	Rep.	33	Teacher, real estate agent	1989*, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001 <sup>3</sup>
Felzkowski, Mary †	Rep.	12	Insurance agency owner	2021
Galloway, Pam	Rep.	29	Surgeon	2011 <sup>4</sup>
Harris Dodd, Nikiya	Dem.	6	Fundraiser and event planner	2013, 15
Harsdorf, Sheila E. †	Rep.	10	Dairy farmer	2001, 03, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15, 17 <sup>5</sup>

Table 2. **Alphabetical list of women senators, 1925–2021**, continued

Name	Party	District	Occupations	Sessions served
Huelsman, Joanne B. †	Rep.	11	Attorney	1991, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Johnson, LaTonya †	Dem.	6	Family child care provider/ owner, insurance agent, financial employment planner	2017, 19, 21
King, Jessica	Dem.	18	Attorney	2011*
Lassa, Julie †	Dem.	24	Legislative aide	2003*, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15
Lazich, Mary A. †	Rep.	28	County board supervisor and city council member	1997*, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15
Lorman, Barbara	Rep.	13	President of recycling firm	1979*, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93
Moore, Gwendolynne † <sup>6</sup>	Dem.	4	Housing and economic development analyst	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03
Morrison, Kathryn M.	Dem.	17	Assistant professor	1975, 77
Panzer, Mary †	Rep.	20	Bank employee, legislative aide	1993*, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03
Plache, Kimberly M. †	Dem.	21	Legislative aide	1995*, 97, 99, 2001
Radosevich, Michele G.	Dem.	10	Business publication editor	1977, 79
Ringhand, Janis †	Dem.	15	Accountant, ex-director of nonprofit	2015, 17, 19, 21
Robson, Judith †	Dem.	15	Registered nurse, teacher	1999, 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09
Roessler, Carol A. †	Rep.	18	Nutrition program administrator	1987*, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07
Rosenzweig, Peggy A. †	Rep.	5	Medical center community relations director	1993*, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Roys, Kelda Helen †	Dem.	26	Attorney	2021
Schachtner, Patty	Dem.	10	Chief medical examiner	2017*, 19
Shilling, Jennifer †	Dem.	31	Congressional and legislative aide	2011*, 13, 15, 17, 19 <sup>7</sup>
Stepp, Cathy	Rep.	21	Homebuilder	2003, 05
Taylor, Lena C. †	Dem.	4	Attorney	2005, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21
Ulichny, Barbara L. †	Dem.	4	YWCA program director	1985, 87, 89, 91
Vinehout, Kathleen	Dem.	31	Farmer	2007, 09, 11, 13, 15, 17
Vukmir, Leah †	Rep.	5	Registered nurse	2011, 13, 15, 17

†Served in both houses.

\*Elected in special election.

Dem.—Democrat; Rep.—Republican

1. Served previously in the assembly as Melissa Sargent.

2. Resigned April 20, 1989, to become administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

3. Resigned May 9, 2001, to become lieutenant governor; Farrow was the first woman to serve as lieutenant governor in Wisconsin.

4. Resigned March 17, 2012.

5. Resigned November 10, 2017, to become secretary of agriculture, trade and consumer protection.

6. One of two women serving in Congress who served in the state legislature previously, Gwen Moore now represents Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

7. Resigned May 15, 2020.



**Table 3. Alphabetical list of women representatives, 1925–2021**

Name	Party	District	Occupations	Sessions served
Albers, Sheryl K.	Rep.	50	Dairy farmer	1991*, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07
Allen, Carolyn Blanchard	Rep.	Rock 2	Homemaker	1963*, 65, 67, 69
Andraca, Deb	Dem.	23	Teacher, communications executive	2021
Baldwin, Tammy <sup>1</sup>	Dem.	78	Attorney	1993, 95, 97
Ballweg, Joan	Rep.	41	Farm equipment dealer	2005, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19
Barber, Mildred	Rep.	Marathon 1	Teacher	1925
Beal, Polly W.	Rep.	22	Fundraiser, public affairs consultant	1993
Bell, Jeannette	Dem.	16, 22, 15	Nursing home activity aide	1983, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95
Berceau, Terese	Dem.	76, 77	Career services coordinator	1999, 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15, 17
Bernard Schaber, Penny	Dem.	57	Physical therapist	2009, 11, 13
Bernier, Kathy †	Rep.	68	Chippewa county clerk	2011, 13, 15, 17
Bewley, Janet †	Dem.	74	Community relations officer	2011, 13
Billings, Jill	Dem.	95	Teacher	2011*, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21
Blanchard—see Allen				
Brandtjen, Janel	Rep.	22	Business executive	2015, 17, 19, 21
Brooks, Helen M.	Rep.	Green Lake & Waushara	Teacher	1925
Buettner—see Roessler				
Cabral-Guevara, Rachael	Rep.	55	Family nurse practitioner, business owner	2021
Cabrera, Marisabel	Dem.	9	Attorney, fire and police commissioner	2019, 21
Charbonneau, Agnes	Rep.	Douglas 1	Homemaker	1931
Coggs, Elizabeth	Dem.	10		2011
Coggs, Marcia P.	Dem.	18, 12, 18	Legislator	1977, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91
Conley, Sue	Dem.	44	Banker, YWCA executive director, city council member	2021
Czaja—see Felzkowski				
Darling, Alberta †	Rep.	10	Teacher, marketing director	1989*, 91
Dexter, Kristen	Dem.	68		2009
Dittrich, Barbara	Rep.	38	Nonprofit director	2019, 21

Table 3. **Alphabetical list of women representatives, 1925–2021**, continued

Name	Party	District	Occupations	Sessions served
Donoghue, Sheehan	Rep.	35, 61, 35	Management analyst	1973, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83
Doughty – see Luckhardt				
Doyle, Ruth Bachhuber	Dem.	Dane 1	Teacher, homemaker	1949, 51
Drake, Dora	Dem.	11	Response training facilitator for criminal justice professionals, sales representative	2021
Duchow, Cindi	Rep.	99	Manager for national retailers	2015*, 17, 19, 21
Duren, Joanne M.	Dem.	Iowa-Richland, 50	Secretarial service owner	1971, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81
Emerson, Jodi	Dem.	91	Anti-human trafficking advocate	2019, 21
Engeleiter, Susan Shannon †	Rep.	99	Legislator	1975, 77
Farrow, Margaret †	Rep.	99	Teacher, real estate agent	1987, 89
Felzkowski, Mary (Czaja) †	Rep.	35	Insurance agency owner	2013, 15, 17, 19
Goodrich, Patricia A.	Rep.	72, 86, 41	Homemaker	1975, 77, 79, 81, 83
Grigsby, Tamara	Dem.	18	Social worker	2005, 07, 09, 11
Gronemus, Barbara	Dem.	43, 91	Nursing home activity director	1983, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07
Hanson, Doris J.	Dem.	48	Business manager	1993, 95, 97
Harsdorf, Sheila E. †	Rep.	30	Dairy farmer	1989, 91, 93, 95, 97
Hesselbein, Dianne	Dem.	79	Legislator	2013, 15, 17, 19, 21
Hinkfuss, Rosemary	Dem.	6, 88	Teacher	1989, 91, 93
Hough, Maxine	Dem.	83	Teacher, school administrator	1991
Hong, Francesca	Dem.	76	Restaurant owner, chef	2021
Hraychuck, Ann	Dem.	28	Sheriff	2007, 09
Hubler, Mary	Dem.	75	Attorney	1985, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09
Huelsman, Joanne B. †	Rep.	65, 31	Attorney	1983, 85, 87, 89
Hundertmark, Jean L.	Rep.	40	Restaurant owner	1999, 2001, 03, 05
Jaronitzky, June	Rep.	74, 50, 74	Retail cheese business	1981, 83
Jeskewitz, Suzanne	Rep.	24	Public relations representative	1997, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07
Johnson, LaTonya †	Dem.	17	Family child care provider/owner, insurance agent, financial employment planner	2013, 15

Table 3. **Alphabetical list of women representatives, 1925–2021**, continued

Name	Party	District	Occupations	Sessions served
Kelso, Carol	Rep.	88	Vice president, Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce	1995, 97, 99
Kerkman, Samantha (Starzyk)	Rep.	66	Legislative aide	2001, 03, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21
Klusman, Judith	Rep.	56	Dairy farmer	1989, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99
Kolste, Debra	Dem.	44	Medical technologist	2013, 15, 17, 19
Krawczyk, Judy	Rep.	88	Supper club owner	2001, 03, 05
Krosnicki, Kathleen A.	Rep.	83	Human services supervisor in alcohol and drug services	1993
Krug, Shirley	Dem.	15, 12	Adjunct professor of economics	1985, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03
Krusick, Peggy	Dem.	17, 24, 97, 7	Assembly aide	1983*, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09, 11
Kryszak, Mary O.	Dem.	Milwaukee 8, 5	Teacher, bookkeeper, homemaker	1929, 33, 35, 37, 41, 43, 45
Ladwig, Bonnie L.	Rep.	63	Arts and crafts store owner	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03
Lahn, Jacquelyn J.	Rep.	93	Real estate appraiser	1989
Lassa, Julie †	Dem.	71	Legislative aide	1999, 2001, 03
Lautenschlager, Peggy A.	Dem.	52	Attorney	1989, 91
Lazich, Mary A. †	Rep.	84	Marketing representative	1993, 95, 97
Lewis, Margaret S.	Rep.	38	Public affairs consultant	1985, 87, 89
Linton, Barbara J.	Dem.	74	Farmer	1987, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97
Lippert, MaryAnn	Rep.	70	Health educator	2001
Litjens, Michelle	Rep.	56	Real estate manager	2011
Loudenbeck, Amy	Rep.	45, 31	Investment property owner	2011, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21
Luckhardt, Esther S. Doughty	Rep.	Dodge 1, 54, 88, 59	Insurance and real estate	1963, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83
Magnafici, Gae	Rep.	28	Small business owner, registered nurse	2019, 21
Magnuson—see Rohan				
Manders, Verna M.	Dem.	Milwaukee 8	Bookkeeper, salesperson	1967*

Table 3. **Alphabetical list of women representatives, 1925–2021**, continued

Name	Party	District	Occupations	Sessions served
McCormick, Terri	Rep.	56	Education consultant	2001, 03, 05
Metz, Sharon K.	Dem.	90, 84, 90	Salesperson, administrative assistant	1975, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85
Meyers, Beth	Dem.	74	Executive director CORE community resources	2015, 17, 19, 21
Mielke, Janet Soergel	Dem.	Rock 2, 47	Homemaker, secretary	1971, 73
Miller, Marjorie	Dem.	Dane 3, 77, 95, 77	U.W. assistant dean, YWCA program director	1971, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83
Moore, Gwendolynne †	Dem.	7	Mortgage company manager	1989, 91
Morris, Johnnie (Morris-Tatum)	Dem.	11	Executive director, community organization	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03
Munts, Mary Lou	Dem.	76, 94, 76	Economist	1973, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83
Myers, LaKeshia N.	Dem.	12	Educator	2019, 21
Nelsen, Betty Jo	Rep.	10, 5, 10	Voluntary action agency manager	1979, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89 <sup>2</sup>
Neubauer, Greta	Dem.	66	Legislative aide	2017*, 19, 21
Nischke, Ann M.	Rep.	97	Real estate marketer	2003, 05
Notestein, Barbara	Dem.	12, 19	Executive director, Hunger Task Force	1985, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97
Ortiz-Velez, Sylvia	Dem.	8	County board supervisor	2021
Owens, Carol	Rep.	53	Dairy farmer	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07
Panzer, Mary †	Rep.	53, 72, 53	Bank employee, legislative aide	1979*, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93
Pasch, Sandy	Dem.	22, 10	Assistant professor of nursing	2009, 11, 13
Plache, Kimberly M. †	Dem.	62	Legislative aide	1989, 91, 93, 95
Plous, Lois	Dem.	15, 8, 15	Learning disabilities supervisor	1979*, 81, 83
Pope, SONDY (Pope-Roberts)	Dem.	79, 80	Associate Director, Foundation for Madison's Public Schools	2003, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21
Potter, Rosemary	Dem.	19, 20	Teacher	1989*, 91, 93, 95, 97
Raihle, Sylvia Havre	Rep.	Chippewa	Teacher, homemaker	1949, 51, 53, 55
Rhoades, Kitty	Rep.	30	Consultant	1999, 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09
Ringhand, Janis †	Dem.	81, 45	Accountant, executive director of nonprofit	2011, 13
Robson, Judith †	Dem.	45	Registered nurse, teacher	1987*, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97

**Table 3. Alphabetical list of women representatives, 1925–2021, continued**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Occupations</b>	<b>Sessions served</b>
Rodriguez, Jessie	Rep.	21	Analyst for supermarket company	2013*, 15, 17, 19, 21
Rodriguez, Sara	Dem.	13	Health care consulting company owner	2021
Roessler, Carol A. (Buettner) †	Rep.	81, 54	Nutrition program administrator	1983, 85, 87
Rohan, Sue (Magnuson)	Dem.	48	Educational diagnostician	1985, 87, 89, 91
Rosenzweig, Peggy A. †	Rep.	67, 98, 14	Medical center community relations director	1983, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93
Roys, Kelda Helen†	Dem.	81	Attorney	2009, 11
Rozar, Donna	Rep.	69	Registered nurse, small business owner	2021
Sargent, Melissa †	Dem.	48	Small business owner	2013, 15, 17, 19
Schneiders, Lolita	Rep.	97, 69, 97	Salesperson	1981, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95
Seidel, Donna J.	Dem.	85	Clerk of courts	2005, 07, 09, 11
Seratti, Lorraine M.	Rep.	36	Small business owner	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03
Shankland, Katrina	Dem.	71	Field organizer for nonprofit	2013, 15, 17, 19, 21
Shannon—see Engeleiter				
Shelton, Kristina	Dem.	90	Health and physical education teacher, nonprofit director	2021
Shilling, Jennifer † <sup>3</sup>	Dem.	95	Congressional and legislative aide	2001, 03, 05, 07, 09, 11
Sinicki, Christine	Dem.	20	Small business manager	1999, 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21
Smith, Patricia Spafford	Dem.	75, 51, 75	School bus contractor	1979, 81, 83
Snodgrass, Lee	Dem.	57	Girl Scouts communications director, sales manager for a paper company	2021
Spillner—see Wade				
Starzyk—see Kerkman				
Strachota, Pat	Rep.	58	Personnel/Safety analyst	2005, 07, 09, 11, 13
Stubbs, Shelia	Dem.	77	Advocate, County board supervisor, probation and parole officer	2019, 21
Stuck, Amanda	Dem.	57	Housing specialist	2015, 17, 19
Subeck, Lisa	Dem.	78	Early childhood education specialist	2015, 17, 19, 21
Taylor, Chris	Dem.	48, 76	Attorney, policy director	2011*, 13, 15, 17, 19
Taylor, Lena C. †	Dem.	18	Attorney	2003*

Table 3. **Alphabetical list of women representatives, 1925–2021**, continued

Name	Party	District	Occupations	Sessions served
Tesmer, Louise M.	Dem.	19, 1, 19	Attorney	1973, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89 <sup>4</sup>
Thompson, Helen F.	Rep.	Price	Teacher, hotel keeper	1925, 27
Toles, Barbara	Dem.	17	Community outreach coordinator	2003*, 05, 07, 09, 11
Towns, Debi	Rep.	43	Dairy farm owner	2003, 05
Ulichny, Barbara L. †	Dem.	25, 4, 12	YWCA program director	1979, 81, 83
Van Dreel, Mary Lou	Dem.	90	Insurance agent, resort owner	1987, 89, 91
VanderMeer, Nancy Lynn	Rep.	70	Automobile dealer	2015, 17, 19, 21
Varda, Margaret P.	Prog.	Iron & Vilas	Attorney	1943
Vergeront, Susan B.	Rep.	60	Public relations consultant	1985, 87, 89, 91, 93
Vining, Robyn	Dem.	14	Entrepreneur, small business owner	2019, 21
Vruwink, Amy Sue	Dem.	70	Congressional aide	2003, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13
Vukmir, Leah †	Rep.	14	Certified pediatric nurse	2003, 05, 07, 09
Wade, Joan (Spillner)	Rep.	42	Distance learning specialist	1997*, 99, 2001 <sup>5</sup>
Wagner, Mary K.	Dem.	66	County clerk, educator	1979, 81
Walling, Esther K.	Rep.	80, 55	Bookkeeper, sales manager	1983, 85, 87, 89
Waukau, Sarah	Dem.	35	Elderly benefits analyst	1999*
Weber, Becky	Rep.	5	Restaurant developer, insurance agent	2003
Williams, Annette Polly	Dem.	17, 11, 17, 10	Mental health assistant	1981, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001, 03, 05, 07, 09
Williams, Mary	Rep.	87	Restaurant owner	2003, 05, 07, 09, 11, 13
Wright, Mandy	Dem.	85	Teacher	2013
Young, Rebecca	Dem.	76	Attorney	1985, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97
Zamarripa, JoCasta	Dem.	8	Nonprofit professional	2011, 13, 15, 17, 19
Zeuske, Cathy Susan	Rep.	54, 4	Insurance agent	1983, 85, 87, 89

†Served in both houses.

\*Elected in special election.

Dem.—Democrat; Prog.—Progressive; Rep.—Republican

1. One of two women now serving in Congress who served in the state legislature previously, Tammy Baldwin now represents Wisconsin in the U.S. Senate.

2. Resigned January 12, 1990, to become head of the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

3. Elected to assembly under maiden name of Ehlenfeldt; changed to Shilling prior to inauguration.

4. Resigned August 1, 1989, to become Milwaukee County circuit court judge.

5. Resigned September 1, 2001.

**Table 4. List of women legislators by session**

Session	Total	Names
1925	3	Assemblymen Barber, Brooks, and Thompson
1927	1	Assemblyman Thompson
1929	1	Assemblyman Kryszak
1931	1	Assemblyman Charbonneau
1933	1	Assemblyman Kryszak
1935	1	Assemblyman Kryszak
1937	1	Assemblyman Kryszak
1941	1	Assemblyman Kryszak
1943	2	Assemblymen Kryszak and Varda
1945	1	Assemblyman Kryszak
1949	2	Assemblymen Doyle and Raihle
1951	2	Assemblymen Doyle and Raihle
1953	1	Assemblyman Raihle
1955	1	Assemblyman Raihle
1963	2	Assemblymen Blanchard (Allen)* and Doughty (Luckhardt)
1965	2	Assemblymen Blanchard (Allen) and Doughty (Luckhardt)
1967	3	Assemblymen Blanchard (Allen), Luckhardt (Doughty), and Manders*
1969	2	Assemblymen Allen (Blanchard) and Luckhardt (Doughty)
1971	4	Representatives Duren, Luckhardt (Doughty), Mielke, and Miller
1973	7	Representatives Donoghue, Duren, Luckhardt (Doughty), Mielke, Miller, Munts, and Tesmer
1975	10	Senator Morrison Representatives Donoghue, Duren, Goodrich, Luckhardt (Doughty), Metz, Miller, Munts, Shannon (Engeleiter), and Tesmer
1977	12	Senators Morrison and Radosevich Representatives Coggs, Donoghue, Duren, Engeleiter (Shannon), Goodrich, Luckhardt (Doughty), Metz, Miller, Munts, and Tesmer
1979	18	Senators Engeleiter (Shannon)*, Lorman*, and Radosevich Representatives Coggs, Donoghue, Duren, Goodrich, Luckhardt (Doughty), Metz, Miller, Munts, Nelsen*, Panzer*, Plous*, Smith, Tesmer, Ulichny, and Wagner
1981	20	Senators Engeleiter (Shannon) and Lorman Representatives Coggs, Donoghue, Duren, Goodrich, Jaronitzky, Luckhardt (Doughty), Metz, Miller, Munts, Nelsen, Panzer, Plous, Schneiders, Smith, Tesmer, Ulichny, Wagner, and Williams
1983	26	Senators Engeleiter (Shannon) and Lorman Representatives Bell, Buettner (Roessler), Coggs, Donoghue, Goodrich, Gronemus, Huelsman, Jaronitzky, Krusick*, Luckhardt (Doughty), Metz, Miller, Munts, Nelsen, Panzer, Plous, Rosenzweig, Schneiders, Smith, Tesmer, Ulichny, Walling, Williams, and Zeuske

Table 4. List of women legislators by session, continued

Session	Total	Names
1985	25	Senators Engeleiter (Shannon), Lorman, and Ulichny Representatives Bell, Buettner (Roessler), Coggs, Gronemus, Hubler, Huelsman, Krug, Krusick, Lewis, Magnuson (Rohan), Metz, Nelsen, Notestein, Panzer, Rosenzweig, Schneiders, Tesmer, Vergeront, Walling, Williams, Young, and Zeuske
1987	28	Senators Buettner (Roessler)*, Engeleiter (Shannon), Lorman, and Ulichny Representatives Bell, Buettner (Roessler)*, Coggs, Farrow, Gronemus, Hubler, Huelsman, Krug, Krusick, Lewis, Linton, Magnuson (Rohan), Nelsen, Notestein, Panzer, Robson*, Rosenzweig, Schneiders, Tesmer, Van Dreel, Vergeront, Walling, Williams, Young, and Zeuske
1989	37	Senators Buettner (Roessler), Engeleiter (Shannon)*, Farrow*, Lorman, and Ulichny Representatives Bell, Coggs, Darling*, Farrow*, Gronemus, Harsdorf, Hinkfuss, Hubler, Huelsman, Klusman, Krug, Krusick, Lahn, Lautenschlager, Lewis, Linton, Moore, Nelsen*, Notestein, Panzer, Plache, Potter*, Robson, Rohan (Magnuson), Rosenzweig, Schneiders, Tesmer*, Van Dreel, Vergeront, Walling, Williams, Young, and Zeuske
1991	32	Senators Buettner (Roessler), Farrow, Huelsman, Lorman, and Ulichny Representatives Albers*, Bell, Coggs, Darling, Gronemus, Harsdorf, Hinkfuss, Hough, Hubler, Klusman, Krug, Krusick, Lautenschlager, Linton, Moore, Notestein, Panzer, Plache, Potter, Robson, Rohan (Magnuson), Rosenzweig, Schneiders, Van Dreel, Vergeront, Williams, and Young
1993	36	Senators Buettner (Roessler), Clausing, Darling, Farrow, Huelsman, Lorman, Moore, Panzer*, and Rosenzweig* Representatives Albers, Baldwin, Beal, Bell, Gronemus, Hanson, Harsdorf, Hinkfuss, Hubler, Klusman, Krosnicki, Krug, Krusick, Ladwig, Lazich, Linton, Morris-Tatum (Morris), Notestein, Owens, Panzer*, Plache, Potter, Robson, Rosenzweig*, Schneiders, Seratti, Vergeront, Williams, and Young
1995	32	Senators Buettner (Roessler), Clausing, Darling, Farrow, Huelsman, Moore, Panzer, Plache*, and Rosenzweig Representatives Albers, Baldwin, Bell, Gronemus, Hanson, Harsdorf, Hubler, Kelso, Klusman, Krug, Krusick, Ladwig, Lazich, Linton, Morris-Tatum (Morris), Notestein, Owens, Plache*, Potter, Robson, Schneiders, Seratti, Williams, and Young
1997	32	Senators Clausing, Darling, Farrow, Huelsman, Lazich*, Moore, Panzer, Plache, Roessler (Buettner), and Rosenzweig Representatives Albers, Baldwin, Gronemus, Hanson, Harsdorf, Hubler, Jeskewitz, Kelso, Klusman, Krug, Krusick, Ladwig, Lazich*, Linton, Morris-Tatum (Morris), Notestein, Owens, Potter, Robson, Seratti, Spillner (Wade)*, Williams, and Young
1999	31	Senators Clausing, Darling, Farrow, Huelsman, Lazich, Moore, Panzer, Plache, Robson, Roessler (Buettner), and Rosenzweig Representatives Albers, Berceau, Gronemus, Hubler, Hundertmark, Jeskewitz, Kelso, Klusman, Krug, Krusick, Ladwig, Lassa, Morris-Tatum (Morris), Owens, Rhoades, Seratti, Sinicki, Spillner (Wade), Waukau*, and Williams
2001	33	Senators Darling, Farrow*, Harsdorf, Huelsman, Lazich, Moore, Panzer, Plache, Robson, Roessler (Buettner), and Rosenzweig Representatives Albers, Berceau, Gronemus, Hubler, Hundertmark, Jeskewitz, Krawczyk, Krug, Krusick, Ladwig, Lassa, Lippert, McCormick, Morris-Tatum (Morris), Owens, Rhoades, Seratti, Shilling, Sinicki, Starzyk (Kerkman), Wade* (Spillner), and Williams



Table 4. List of women legislators by session, continued

Session	Total	Names
2003	37	Senators Darling, Harsdorf, Lassa*, Lazich, Moore, Panzer, Robson, Roessler (Buettner), and Stepp Representatives Albers, Berceau, Gronemus, Hubler, Hundertmark, Jeskewitz, Kerkman (Starzyk), Krawczyk, Krug, Krusick, Ladwig, Lassa*, McCormick, Morris (Morris-Tatum), Nischke, Owens, Pope-Roberts, Rhoades, Seratti, Shilling, Sinicki, Taylor*, Toles*, Towns, Vruwink, Vukmir, Weber, A. Williams, and M. Williams
2005	34	Senators Darling, Harsdorf, Lassa, Lazich, Robson, Roessler (Buettner), Stepp, and Taylor Representatives Albers, Ballweg, Berceau, Grigsby, Gronemus, Hubler, Hundertmark, Jeskewitz, Kerkman (Starzyk), Krawczyk, Krusick, McCormick, Nischke, Owens, Pope-Roberts, Rhoades, Seidel, Shilling, Sinicki, Strachota, Toles, Towns, Vruwink, Vukmir, A. Williams, and M. Williams
2007	30	Senators Darling, Harsdorf, Lassa, Lazich, Robson, Roessler (Buettner), Taylor, and Vinehout Representatives Albers, Ballweg, Berceau, Grigsby, Gronemus, Hraychuck, Hubler, Jeskewitz, Kerkman (Starzyk), Krusick, Owens, Pope-Roberts, Rhoades, Seidel, Shilling, Sinicki, Strachota, Toles, Vruwink, Vukmir, A. Williams, and M. Williams
2009	29	Senators Darling, Harsdorf, Lassa, Lazich, Robson, Taylor, and Vinehout Representatives Ballweg, Berceau, Bernard Schaber, Dexter, Grigsby, Hraychuck, Hubler, Kerkman (Starzyk), Krusick, Pasch, Pope-Roberts, Rhoades, Roys, Seidel, Shilling, Sinicki, Strachota, Toles, Vruwink, Vukmir, A. Williams, and M. Williams
2011	34	Senators Darling, Galloway, Harsdorf, King*, Lassa, Lazich, Shilling*, Taylor, Vinehout, and Vukmir Representatives Ballweg, Berceau, Bernard Schaber, Bernier, Bewley, Billings*, Coggs, Grigsby, Kerkman (Starzyk), Krusick, Litjens, Loudenbeck, Pasch, Pope-Roberts, Ringhand, Roys, Seidel, Shilling*, Sinicki, Strachota, Taylor*, Toles, Vruwink, Williams, and Zamarripa
2013	34	Senators Darling, Harris, Harsdorf, Lassa, Lazich, Shilling, Taylor, Vinehout, and Vukmir Representatives Ballweg, Berceau, Bernard Schaber, Bernier, Bewley, Billings, Czaja, Hesselbein, Johnson, Kerkman (Starzyk), Kolste, Loudenbeck, Pasch, Pope-Roberts, Ringhand, Rodriguez*, Sargent, Shankland, Sinicki, Strachota, Taylor, Vruwink, Williams, Wright, and Zamarripa
2015	34	Senators Bewley, Darling, Harris Dodd, Harsdorf, Lassa, Lazich, Ringhand, Shilling, Taylor, Vinehout, and Vukmir Representatives Ballweg, Berceau, Bernier, Billings, Brandtjen, Czaja (Felzkowski), Duchow*, Hesselbein, Johnson, Kerkman (Starzyk), Kolste, Loudenbeck, Meyers, Pope, Rodriguez, Sargent, Shankland, Sinicki, Stuck, Subeck, Taylor, VanderMeer, and Zamarripa
2017	33	Senators Bewley, Darling, Harsdorf*, Johnson, Ringhand, Schachtner*, Shilling, Taylor, Vinehout, and Vukmir Representatives Ballweg, Berceau, Bernier, Billings, Brandtjen, Duchow, Felzkowski (Czaja), Hesselbein, Kerkman (Starzyk), Kolste, Loudenbeck, Meyers, Neubauer*, Pope, Rodriguez, Sargent, Shankland, Sinicki, Stuck, Subeck, Taylor, VanderMeer, and Zamarripa
2019	36	Senators Bernier, Bewley, Darling, Johnson, Ringhand, Schachtner, Shilling, and Taylor Representatives Ballweg, Billings, Brandtjen, Cabrera, Dittrich, Duchow, Emerson, Felzkowski (Czaja), Hesselbein, Kerkman (Starzyk), Kolste, Loudenbeck, Magnafici, Meyers, Myers, Neubauer, Pope, Rodriguez, Sargent, Shankland, Sinicki, Stubbs, Stuck, Subeck, Taylor, VanderMeer, Vining, and Zamarripa

Table 4. **List of women legislators by session**, continued

Session	Total	Names
2021	41	Senators Agard, Ballweg, Bernier, Bewley, Darling, Felzkowski, Johnson, Ringhand, Roys, and Taylor Representatives Andraca, Billings, Brandtjen, Cabral-Guevara, Cabrera, Conley, Dittrich, Drake, Duchow, Emerson, Hesselbein, Hong, Kerkman, Loudenbeck, Magnafici, Meyers, Myers, Neubauer, Ortiz-Velez, Pope, J. Rodriguez, S. Rodriguez, Rozar, Shankland, Shelton, Sinicki, Snodgrass, Stubbs, Subeck, VanderMeer, and Vining

\*Indicates legislator served only part of the session.

Note: Sessions in which no women legislators served are not listed. The total includes any woman legislator who served any portion of a session. A legislator serving in both houses in the same session is counted only once.