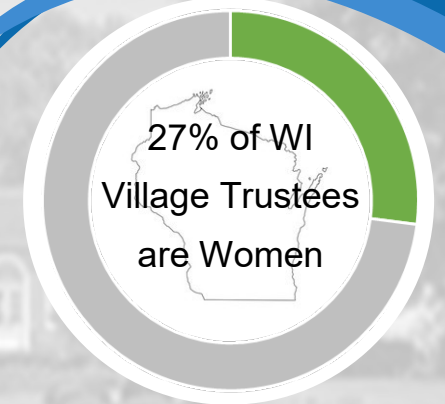


## VILLAGE BOARDS

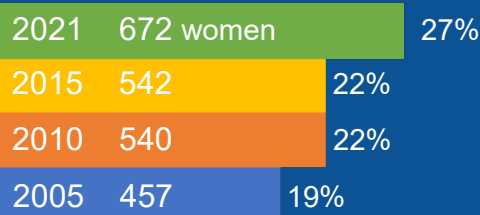
2021 was a Year of Record Growth\*  
for Women Serving on Village Boards.  
Women hold 27% of seats (+130)  
in 2021, up from 22% in 2015.

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

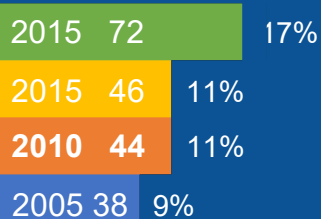


### Number and Percentage of Women Village Board Trustees, by Year

#### Village Boards (Trustees & Presidents)



#### Village Boards Presidents



Wisconsin Villages  
with three or more  
women Trustees.

93 (22%)

One woman on  
a board is a token,  
two is a presence,  
three is a voice.<sup>1</sup>

Statewide, the number of  
seats on a Village Board  
ranges from 3 to 9.  
Overall, the median number  
is 7; the median number of  
seats held by women is 1.

### 17% of Villages have a Woman President

72 (17%) of Wisconsin's Village  
Presidents are women, up from  
46 (11%) in 2015. In 2019, the  
Village of Brown Deer elected  
Wisconsin's first, and to-date only,  
black female Village President.

### 58 Villages have Gender Parity

Villages where women account for  
half or more of the Trustees more  
than doubled from 2015—58  
Villages compared to 24 in 2015.  
Two Villages—Rockdale and  
Wilson—have all-female Boards.

### 84 Villages have No Women Trustees

84 Wisconsin Villages (20%)  
have no women Trustees,  
down from 100 (25%) in 2015.

### Nationally

Women hold 30.5% of municipal  
offices (city and village combined).<sup>3</sup>

### HERSTORY: Wisconsin's First Women Village Trustees

**Amherst** • Cora Turner  
**Camp Douglas** • Lillian Eberhart  
**Camp Douglas** • Inez Singleton  
**Curtiss** • Lucile Peterman  
**Eagle** • Miss Frances Fitzmorris  
**Eagle River** • Ruby Radcliffe  
**Oakfield** • Ruby Edwards  
**Pound** • Nellie Dwyer  
**Trempealeau** • Mary Moore  
**Weyauwega** • Mrs. Geo. Haire  
**Wycocena** • Mrs. S.C. Cushman  
**Turtle Lake** • Mrs. R. Prosser

The 1921 Wisconsin Equal Rights  
Act affirmed women's new right  
to hold any public office. In 1924,  
the UW Extension Municipal  
Information Bureau surveyed  
municipalities, identifying over  
400 women in elected and  
appointed office—including  
312 female Village Trustees.<sup>2</sup>

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>



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## FOOTNOTES

1. *The Power of Three*, Milwaukee Women Inc. <https://milwaukeewomeninc.org/>
2. Center for American Women and Politics, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 'Levels of Office' data, <https://cawp.rutgers.edu/women-municipal-office> (accessed 10/10/21)
3. University of Wisconsin Extension Division, Municipal Information Bureau, "Women Officials in Wisconsin Municipalities," Compiled by Gladys D. West, Information Report No. 33, September 1923 and No. 36, January 1924.
4. Wisconsin Women's Council, "Women Roared in Office in the 1920s - a History of Women and Elected Office in Wisconsin," Factsheet, 2018. [https://womenscouncil.wi.gov/Documents/WC\\_1920FactSheet\\_FINAL\\_opt.pdf](https://womenscouncil.wi.gov/Documents/WC_1920FactSheet_FINAL_opt.pdf)

## 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 Cadarin    Christine Lidbury  
Chair            Executive Director

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Local  
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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.  
Executive Director

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@AlvernoRCWG

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the following organizations for their ongoing assistance and support with compiling data on women in local elected office:

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](mailto:womenscouncil@wisconsin.gov).