

MANY NEW FACES IN THE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

BY NATHAN CONRAD AND JOE MURRAY

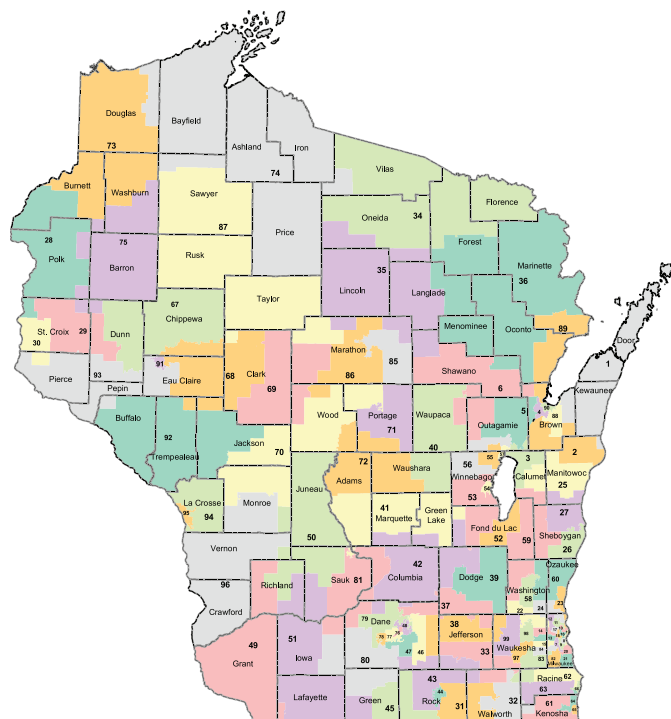
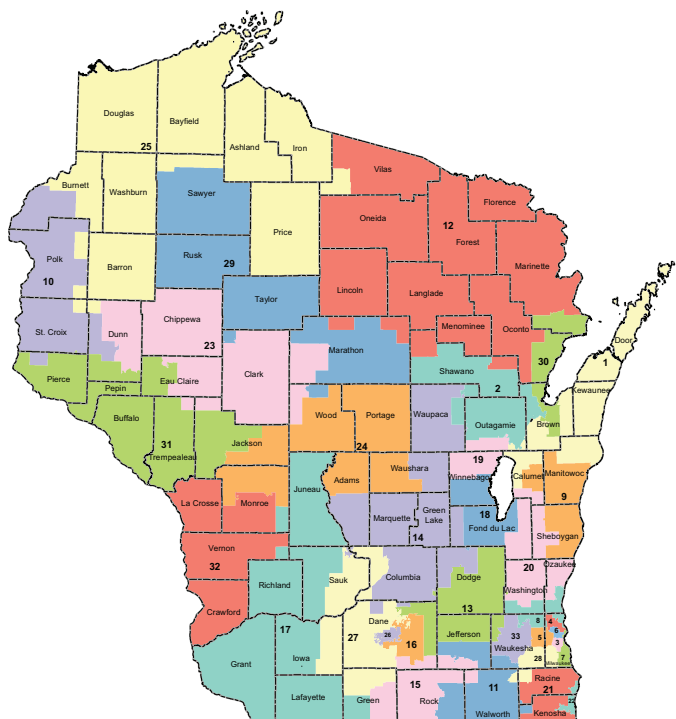
WRA DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY
AND WRA DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Wisconsin Legislature has just begun its new session, and state voters have welcomed 31 new faces in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate.

Seven new Senators began their tenure this year; all seven have filled vacant seats. In the Assembly, 24 newcomers are among the members who were reelected in November.

In the November elections, Republicans gained additional seats in both houses of the Wisconsin Legislature. In the state Senate, Republicans expanded their majority party status to 22-11 by picking up one seat previously occupied by a Democratic Senator. In the Assembly, Republicans picked up three seats and expanded their majority 64-35. In December, however, Republican Sen. Alberta Darling resigned her seat in southeastern Wisconsin, forcing a special election in April to elect her successor.

The real change, however, will be the background of the newly elected members and the legislative priorities they bring with them. This article introduces the 31 new members in both the state Assembly and Senate who took the oath of office this month.



STATE SENATE

- Six of the seven new members currently serve or formerly served in the state Assembly: These include Senators Cabral-Guevara, Hesselbein, Hutton, James, Spreitzer and Quinn. Running for the state Senate as a former representative generally provides a big advantage.
- Four of the seven have a small business background: Cabral-Guevara, Hutton, Quinn and Tomczyk. This is a plus for the business community.
- All seven were elected with support from the WRA and the REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC).
- Seven new members of the 33-member state Senate make up 21% of the overall Senate body.

STATE ASSEMBLY

- Ten of the 24 new members have a business background: These include Representatives Bare, Binsfeld, Goeben, Hurd, Joers, Johnson, Nedweski, O'Connor, Sapik and Schmidt. This is a benefit to the business community.
- Eleven of the 24 new members have previous experience as local elected officials: Anderson, Bare, Boddien, Donovan, Hurd, Jacobson, Michalski, Nedweski, Palmeri, Ratliff and Schmidt. Their local government experience will serve them well in the Assembly.
- Twenty-four new members of the 99-member state Assembly account for 25% of the Assembly body.
- Seventeen of the 24 new members were supported by the WRA and RPAC.



Rob Hutton (R)

Senate District 5
Resident of Brookfield
Former WI Assembly representative
Background: Small business owner



Mark Spreitzer (D)

Senate District 15
Resident of Beloit
Former WI Assembly representative
Background: Former local official



Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R)

Senate District 19
Resident of Appleton
Former WI Assembly representative
Background: Nurse practitioner



Jesse James (R)

Senate District 23
Resident of Eau Claire
Former WI Assembly representative
Background: Altoona police chief



Romaine Quinn (R)

Senate District 25
Resident of Rice Lake
Former WI Assembly representative
Background: REALTOR®



Dianne Hesselbein (D)

Senate District 27
Resident of Middleton
Former WI Assembly representative
Background: Former local official

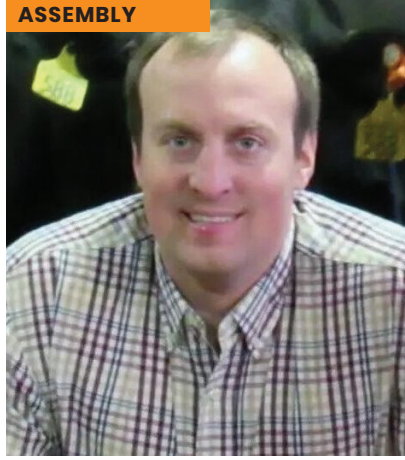


Cory Tomczyk (R)

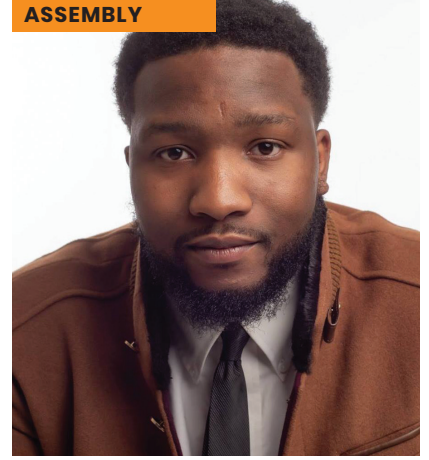
Senate District 29
Resident of Mosinee
Background: Industrial recycling

ASSEMBLY**Joy Goeben (R)**

Assembly District 5
Resident of Green Bay
Background: Classic Carpet Cleaning

ASSEMBLY**Peter Schmidt (R)**

Assembly District 6
Resident of Bonduel
Background: Dairy farmer

ASSEMBLY**Darrin Madison (D)**

Assembly District 10
Resident of Milwaukee
Background: Community organizer

ASSEMBLY**Tom Michalski (R)**

Assembly District 13
Resident of Brookfield
Background: Former village trustee

ASSEMBLY**Dave Maxey (R)**

Assembly District 15
Resident of New Berlin
Background: Sales and marketing

ASSEMBLY**Ryan Clancy (D)**

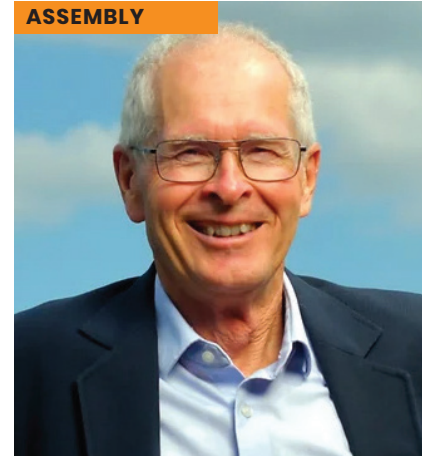
Assembly District 19
Resident of Milwaukee
Background: Teacher, business owner

ASSEMBLY**Amy Binsfeld (R)**

Assembly District 27
Resident of Sheboygan
Background: Family law firm

ASSEMBLY**Ellen Schutt (R)**

Assembly District 31
Resident of Clinton
Background: State capitol staffer

ASSEMBLY**Scott Johnson (R)**

Assembly District 33
Resident of Jefferson
Background: Farmer



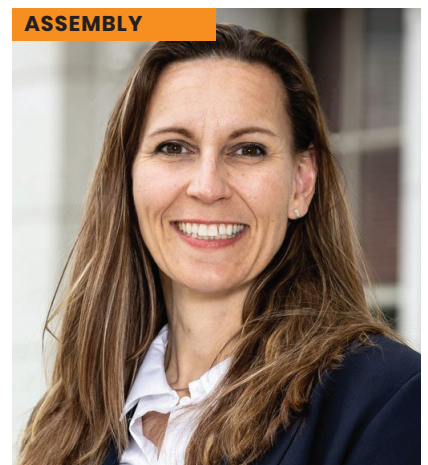
Jenna Jacobson (D)

Assembly District 43
Resident of Oregon
Background: Dane County housing specialist



Clinton Anderson (D)

Assembly District 45
Resident of Beloit
Background: Social worker



Melissa Ratcliff (D)

Assembly District 46
Resident of Cottage Grove
Background: Paralegal



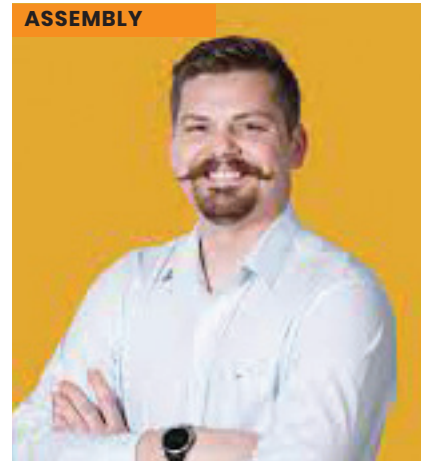
Jerry O'Connor (R)

Assembly District 52
Resident of Fond du Lac
Background: Retired bank CEO



Lori Palmeri (D)

Assembly District 54
Resident of Oshkosh
Background: Mayor of Oshkosh



Nate Gustafson (R)

Assembly District 55
Resident of Neenah
Background: Application analyst



Ty Bodden (R)

Assembly District 59
Resident of Hilbert
Background: Non-profit management



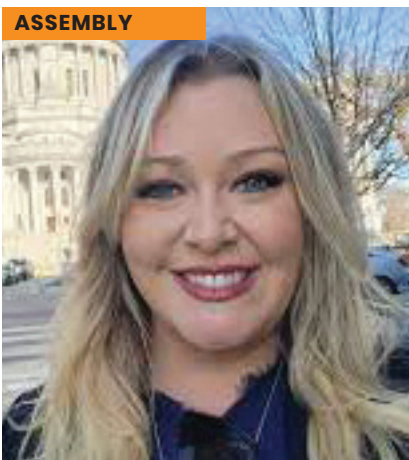
Amanda Nedweski (R)

Assembly District 61
Resident of Pleasant Prairie
Background: Corporate finance



Karen Hurd (R)

Assembly District 68
Resident of Fall Creek
Background: Substitute teacher, nutritionist



ASSEMBLY

Angie Sapik (R)

Assembly District 73
Resident of Superior
Background: Produce broker



ASSEMBLY

Chanz Green (R)

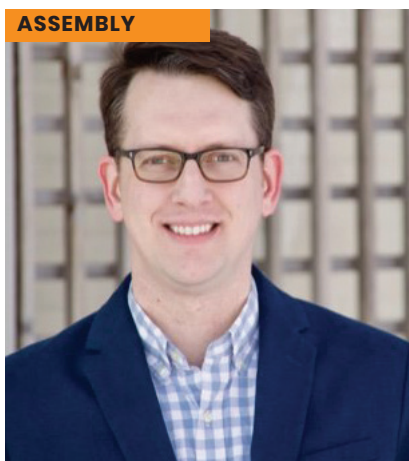
Assembly District 74
Resident of Grand View
Background: Public works employee



ASSEMBLY

Alex Joers (D)

Assembly District 79
Resident of Middleton
Background: Small business manager



ASSEMBLY

Mike Bare (D)

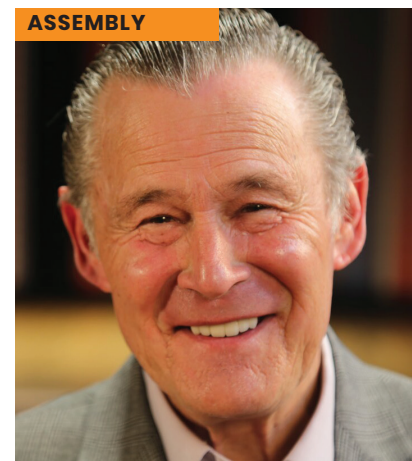
Assembly District 80
Resident of Verona
Background: Small business owner



ASSEMBLY

Nik Rettinger (R)

Assembly District 83
Resident of Mukwonago
Background: Wisconsin Senate staffer



ASSEMBLY

Bob Donovan (R)

Assembly District 84
Resident of Greenfield
Background: Former Milwaukee alderman