



State Policy Update

A Briefing for Mental Health Advocates

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State Election Results

▶ State elected officials

- **State Senate (22 Rs, 11 Ds)**. Republican super-majority (changed to 21 Rs with resignation of Sen. Darling).
- **State Assembly (64 Rs, 35 Ds)**. Republican majority.
- **Governor/Lt. Governor, Tony Evers/Sarah Rodriguez (D)**
- **State Attorney General, Josh Kaul (D)**
- **Secretary of State, Doug LaFollette (D)**
- **State Treasurer, John Lieber (R)**

Election Results

Federal elected officials

- ▶ U.S. Senate, Ron Johnson (R)
- ▶ U.S. House of Representatives (6 Rs, 2 Ds)

What do the election results mean?

Governor Evers (D) re-elected Governor.

- ▶ State agency appointed leadership remains.
- ▶ Policy direction of state agencies likely to remain similar.

State Legislature remains controlled by Republicans

- ▶ State Senate and Assembly chose same leadership as last session (Senate, Sen LeMahieu, Assembly, Rep. Vos).
- ▶ General policy direction and relationship with Governor likely to remain similar.
- ▶ **State Senate (21 Rs, 11 Ds).**
 - ▶ 8th SD open; spring election will determine if there is a super-majority
- ▶ **State Assembly (64 Rs, 35 Ds).**

Significant turnover in legislature

- ▶ 30% of the legislature will be new to their positions. Most will have been elected for the first time.
- ▶ ◦Few legislators have served more than 10 years. Most have served less than three terms.
- ▶ Assembly swore in 24 new members: 16 Republicans and 8 Democrats.
- ▶ Senate swore in 7 new members: 5 Republicans 2 Democrats.
- ▶ Most legislative staff are new.
- ▶ New opportunities to build relationships and educate.

Legislative Committees

- ▶ **New Committee Assignments are posted**
<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>
- ▶ Select the Committee tab to view committee information.
 - [Senate Committees \(wisconsin.gov\)](https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/committees)
 - [Assembly Committees \(wisconsin.gov\)](https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/committees)
 - [Joint Committees \(wisconsin.gov\)](https://legis.wisconsin.gov/joint/committees)

Senate Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Children and Families

- ▶ Senator James (Chair)
- ▶ Senator Cabral-Guevara (Vice-Chair)
- ▶ Senator Ballweg
- ▶ Senator L. Johnson
- ▶ Senator Hesselbein

Assembly Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention

- ▶ Representative Tittl (Chair)
- ▶ Representative Dittrich (Vice-Chair)
- ▶ Representative Behnke
- ▶ Representative Gundrum
- ▶ Representative Magnafici
- ▶ Representative Plumer
- ▶ Representative VanderMeer
- ▶ Representative Wichgers
- ▶ Representative Vining
- ▶ Representative Considine
- ▶ Representative Moore Omokunde
- ▶ Representative Palmeri

Joint Committee on Finance

- ▶ Representative Born (Co-Chair)
- ▶ Senator Marklein (Co-Chair)
- ▶ Representative Katsma (Vice-Chair)
- ▶ Senator Stroebel (Vice-Chair)
- ▶ Senator Felzkowski
- ▶ Senator Ballweg
- ▶ Senator Testin
- ▶ Senator Wimberger
- ▶ Senator L. Johnson
- ▶ Senator Roys
- ▶ Representative Zimmerman
- ▶ Representative Rodriguez
- ▶ Representative Kurtz
- ▶ Representative Dallman
- ▶ Representative Goyke
- ▶ Representative McGuire

Some Other Committees of Interest

- [Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules](#)
- [Assembly Committee on Corrections](#)
- [Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety](#)
- [Assembly Committee on Education](#)
- [Assembly Committee on Housing and Real Estate](#)
- [Senate Committee on Education](#)
- [Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety](#)
- [Senate Committee on Housing, Rural Issues and Forestry](#)

Next Steps:

Connect with Your Legislators

- ▶ Look up who are your legislators at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/>).
 - ▶ Sign up to receive their newsletter
 - ▶ Review which committees they serve on
- ▶ Set up a meeting, call, or e-mail their office.
 - ▶ Introduce yourself as a constituent and credible mental health resource on issues that impact people in their district.
 - ▶ Meet in the district or at the Capitol

Other Next Steps

- ▶ Expect to see legislation from the last session return as well as new proposals introduced
- ▶ Attend one of the Governor's budget listening sessions and share your priorities for the budget.
 - ▶ <https://evers.wi.gov/Pages/BudgetListeningSessions.aspx>
- ▶ Listen to the Governor's State of the State address on January 24.
- ▶ Governor will present his proposed Biennial Budget to the Legislature on February 15. It will be referred to the Joint Finance Committee and kick off the state budget process.
- ▶ Participate in the Mental Health Task Force - we will keep you updated!

Budget Process Basics

- 1. The Governor crafts his executive budget proposal and submits it to the legislature (early February)**
 - Governor's budget proposal based on agency revenue estimates and requests and Governor's vision
 - Governor Evers gathered public input (budget listening session) on several topics; his budget proposal may be influenced by public comments.
- 2. Governor's budget referred to 16-member Joint Finance Committee (JFC),** which removes, edits, and adds items to the budget.
- 3. JFC holds budget hearings** for public comment (March-April) and hearings on each state agencies section of the budget (March-May).
- 4. JFC submits edited budget** proposal to state Senate and Assembly for a vote (late May-June).
- 5. Revised budget sent to Governor** for signature (by June 20, 2021)

2023 Elections

- ▶ Spring Primary: February 21, 2023
- ▶ Spring Election: April 4, 2023

Resources are available on: <https://disabilityvote.org/>

- ▶ [Make Your Plan to Vote fact sheet](#)
- ▶ [Voter Toolkit 2023 Elections](#)
- ▶ Disability Rights Wisconsin Voter Hotline:
844-347-8683 info@disabilityvote.org

What's on the Ballot?

Spring elections are nonpartisan races.

- ▶ State Supreme Court seat (Justice Pat Roggensack is retiring.)
- ▶ Court of Appeals Districts 1 and 4
- ▶ Circuit Courts In many counties
- ▶ Special Election Senate District 8

Local races depending on where you live:

- ▶ County Executive
 - ▶ County Board
 - ▶ Mayor
 - ▶ City Council, Town or Village President and Board
 - ▶ School Board
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- ▶ Constitutional amendments

Questions?

