



Wisconsin Grocers Association – Capitol Days May 3 – Legislative Biographies



Senator Mark Speitzer - D
District 15

- Born Chicago, Illinois, December 16, 1986, married.
- Graduate Northside College Preparatory High School (Chicago, Illinois), 2005; B.A. in Political Science, Beloit College, 2009; Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development, 2017; State Legislative Leaders Foundation Emerging Leaders Program, 2017.
- Full-time legislator. Former assistant director of alumni and parent relations and annual support, Beloit College.
- Member: United Church of Beloit (finance and facilities board); Welty Environmental Center; National Caucus of Environmental Legislators; Great Lakes Legislative Caucus; Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus; Wisconsin Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus; Major, Wisconsin Wing, Civil Air Patrol Legislative Squadron (official Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force).
- Former member: Community Action, Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties (board member); City of Beloit Appointment Review Committee (chair).
- Recipient: Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans *Elected Official Award 2022*; Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters *Conservation Champion 2021-22, 2017-18, 2015-16*; Wisconsin Economic Development Association *Champion of Economic Development Award 2019-20, 2017-18*; Wisconsin Farmers Union *Friend of the Family Farmer 2017*; Rock River Coalition *Protector Award 2017*; Fair Wisconsin Community *Advocate of the Year 2014*.
- Beloit City Council, 2011-15 (president, 2014-15).
- Elected to Assembly 2014-2020. Minority Caucus Chair 2021, 2019, 2017. Elected to Senate 2022.




Senator Howard Marklein

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District 17

- Born Madison, Wisconsin, October 3, 1954; married; 2 children, 3 stepchildren, 7 grandchildren.
- Graduate River Valley High School (Spring Green), 1972; BBA University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 1976.
- Retired certified public accountant (CPA); retired certified fraud examiner (CFE).
- Member: St. John's Catholic Church Spring Green (finance committee member); NRA; Knights of Columbus.
- Former member: Taliesin Preservation Inc. Board of Trustees (treasurer); University of Wisconsin-Whitewater National Alumni Association (president); University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Foundation (board of directors president); Fort Health Care Board of Directors (chair, treasurer); Fort Atkinson Rotary Club (president); Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce (president); Whitewater Chamber of Commerce (president); Dodgeville Chamber of Commerce (vice president).
- Recipient: Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce Working for Wisconsin Award 2022, 2018, 2016, 2014, 2012; Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce Champion of Commerce Award 2022, 2018, 2016, 2014, 2012; Wisconsin Pork Association Distinguished Service Award 2019, 2013; Wisconsin Newspaper Association Badger Award 2013; Wisconsin Aquaculture Association Legislator of the Year 2013; Dairy Business Association Legislative Excellence Award 2018, 2016, 2012; Wisconsin Auto Collision Technicians Association Legislator of the Year 2016; Wisconsin Towns Association Friend of Towns 2022, 2020, 2016; Associated General Contractors Legislator of the Year 2016; Wisconsin Counties Association Outstanding Legislator 2022, 2018, 2016; Wisconsin Builders Association Friend of Housing 2018, 2016, 2015; Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards & Wisconsin Public Health Association Friend of Public Health 2018, 2016; Wisconsin Hospitals Association Health Care Advocate Award 2018; Associated Builders and Contractors Building Wisconsin Award 2018, 2014; League of Wisconsin Municipalities Municipal Champion Award 2018, 2016; National Federation of Independent Businesses Guardian of Small Business Award 2018; University of Wisconsin-Platteville Friend of the University Award 2022, 2018; Wisconsin Grocers Association Friend of Grocers 2020, 2018; Wisconsin Agri-Business Association Friend of Wisconsin

	<p>Agri-Business 2018; Wisconsin ATV/UTV Association President’s Award 2017; Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association Excellence in Legislative Leadership Award 2022, 2018; Wisconsin Electric Cooperatives Enlightened Legislator of the Year 2018; Wisconsin Cooperative Network Friend of Cooperatives 2020; Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians Friend of Family Medicine 2022; Wisconsin Economic Development Association Champion of Economic Development 2022; Wisconsin Association for Home Health Care Friend of Home Health Care 2022; University of Wisconsin–Whitewater Distinguished Alumni Award 2022; Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association Cheese Champion Award 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected to Assembly 2010, 2012. Elected to Senate since 2014. Leadership positions: President Pro Tempore 2019, 2017.
 <p>Senator Dianne Hesselbein - D District 27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born Madison, Wisconsin, March 10, 1971; married; 3 children. • Graduate La Follette High School (Madison), 1989; B.S. University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, 1993; M.A. Edgewood College, 1996. • Full-time legislator. • Member: Dane County Democratic Party; Friends of Pheasant Branch; Middleton Action Team; VFW Auxiliary Council. • Former member: Parent Teacher Organization (president); Boy Scouts of America (cubmaster); Girl Scouts (troop leader); Monona Terrace Convention and Community Center Board. • Elected to Middleton-Cross Plains Area Board of Education, 2005-08; Dane County Board of Supervisors, 2008-14; Assembly 2012–20. Assistant Minority Leader 2021, 2019, 2017. Elected to Senate 2022. Minority Caucus Vice Chair 2023.



Rep. Jenna Jackson – D
District 43

- Born Brenham, Texas, February 4, 1982; married; 3 children.
- Graduate Frederic High School, 2000; University of Wisconsin–River Falls, 2003; Purdue University, 2008.
- Housing program specialist; financial analyst.
- Elected to Village of Oregon Board of Trustees, 2017–22. Elected to Assembly 2022.



Rep. Sue Conley – D
District 44

- Born Galesburg, Illinois, February 19, 1960; married; 3 children.
- Graduate Joseph A. Craig High School (Janesville); attended University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, University of Wisconsin–Rock County; Blackhawk Technical College.
- Full-time legislator. Former banker; YWCA Executive Director; Community Foundation of Southern Wisconsin Executive Director; University of Wisconsin–Whitewater Rock County Foundation Executive Director.
- Elected to Janesville City Council, 2017–21 (president 2020–21), Assembly in 2020.



Rep. Clint Anderson – D
District 45

- Born Beloit, Wisconsin, 1993; single.
- Graduate Beloit Memorial High School, 2011; Associate’s Degree, University of Wisconsin–Rock County, 2014; B.S. in Psychology, University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, 2018.
- Youth support specialist, Professional Services Group; former volunteer coordinator and shelter advocate, YWCA Rock County.
- Member: Beloit Meals on Wheels (board member); Young Elected Officials Network.
- Elected to Beloit City Council, 2017–23 (vice president 2019–21, president 2021–22).
- Elected to Assembly 2022.



Rep. Travis Tranel - R
District 49

- Born Dubuque, Iowa, September 12, 1985; married; 5 children.
- Graduate Wahlert Catholic High School (Dubuque, Iowa), 2004; B.A. Loras College (Dubuque, Iowa), 2007.
- Dairy farmer, small business owner.
- Member: St. Joseph Sinsinawa Parish Council, 2010–12 (president, 2011–12); Wisconsin Farm Bureau; Knights of Columbus; National Rifle Association; Platteville Regional Chamber of Commerce; Grant County Republican Party.
- Recipient: DBA *Legislative Excellence Award* 2018, 2016, 2014, 2012; WMC *Working for Wisconsin Award* 2018, 2016, 2014, 2012; MMAC *Champion of Commerce Award* 2014, 2012; WAFP *Friends of Family Medicine* 2014; WATA *Ambassador Award* 2015; University of Wisconsin-Platteville *Friend of the University Award* 2018; WEDA *Champion of Economic Development Award* 2018.
- Elected to Assembly since 2010.





Rep. Tony Kurtz – R
District 50

- Born Columbus, Ohio, December 23, 1966.
- B.S. in Professional Aeronautics, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, 1989; M.S. in International Relations, Troy State University (Troy, Alabama), 1997.
- Organic grain farmer. Former U.S. Army attack helicopter pilot 1985–2005, retired from active duty as a Chief Warrant Officer Four (CW4); Persian Gulf War veteran; Iraq War veteran.
- Member: Veterans of Foreign Wars (life member); Military Officers Association of America (life member); American Legion; Wisconsin Farm Bureau; Organic Farmers Association; Juneau County Republican Party.
- Elected to Assembly since 2018.



Rep. Todd Novak – R

- Born Dodgeville, Wisconsin, April 23, 1965; 2 children.
- Graduate Iowa-Grant High School, 1983; attended Southwest Technical College, 1983–85.
- Former government/associate newspaper editor, 1990–2014.
- Member: Wisconsin League of Municipalities; NRA; Wisconsin Farm Bureau.
- Former member: Iowa County Humane Society (founding member, treasurer); Wisconsin Newspaper Association; National Newspaper Association.

<p>District 51</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipient: <i>Gathering Waters Policymaker of the Year</i>; <i>WISCAP William Steiger Human Services Award</i>; <i>MMAC Champion of Commerce</i>; <i>WMC Working for Wisconsin Award</i>; <i>WNA Legislative Service Award</i>; <i>WCA Outstanding Legislator Award</i>; <i>WPHCA Friend of Community Health Centers</i>; <i>WAFP Friend of Family Medicine Award</i>; <i>LWM Municipal Champion Award</i>; <i>CEF (Clean Energy Service) Clean Energy Champion</i>; <i>University of Wisconsin-Platteville Friend of the University Award 2018</i>. • Southwest Regional Planning Commission, 2012–present. Mayor of Dodgeville, 2012–present. • Elected to Assembly since 2014.
 <p>Rep. Alex Joers - D District 79</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born Madison, Wisconsin, August 27, 1992; married; 1 child. • Graduate Middleton High School, 2011; B.A. in Public Administration and Political Science, University of Wisconsin–La Crosse, 2015. • Small Business Manager. Former legislative aide and association executive. • Member: Dane County Democratic Party; Friends of Pheasant Branch Conservancy; New Leaders Council–Wisconsin (former fellow and board member); University of Wisconsin–La Crosse Alumni Association; Young Elected Officials Network; MCPSAD Education Foundation Board of Directors; Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center Board of Directors. • Dane County Board of Supervisors 2020–22. Elected to Assembly 2022.
 <p>Rep. Mike Bare – D District 80</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born March 8, 1983, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. • Graduate Manitowoc Lincoln High School, 2001; B.A. in Political Science, American University, 2005; M.A. in Political Science, American University, 2010. • Co-owner, Biergarten at Olbrich Park. Former researcher and advocate, Community Advocates Public Policy Institute. • Former member: New Leaders Council–Wisconsin (chapter director); Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin; Special Olympics of Wisconsin; Verona City Council; Verona Parks Commission; Verona Plan Commission. • Elected to Verona City Council, 2013–14; Dane County Board, 2020–23; Assembly 2022.



Rep. Dave Considine - D
District 81

- Born Janesville, Wisconsin, March 29, 1952; married; 5 children, 13 grandchildren.
- Graduate Mukwonago Union High School, 1970; B.S. in Education, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 1974; certificate in EBD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1990; M.A. in Education, Viterbo University, 2005; instructor certificate, autism spectrum and enhanced verbal skills, Crisis Prevention Institute (Milwaukee), 2008, 2010, 2013.
- Full-time legislator. Former dairy goat farmer, special education teacher.
- Member: Columbia County Democratic Party; Sauk County Democratic Party; Pheasants Forever; Ducks Unlimited; First United Methodist Church, Baraboo.
- Former member: Baraboo Education Association (president); American Dairy Goat Association (judge); Wisconsin Dairy Goat Association (president); Crisis Prevention Institute (instructor).
- Elected to Assembly since 2014.