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## WISCONSIN WOMEN LEGISLATORS – A HISTORICAL LIST

In the years since the first three women were elected as “assemblymen” in 1925, a total of 86 women have held seats in the Wisconsin Legislature, including 33 who will serve in the 2001 Legislature. The largest number of women to serve in a single session were the 36 members of the 1993 Legislature.

This brief summarizes the service of Wisconsin women legislators. Section I lists all the women members alphabetically by house and indicates their party, district, occupation, and terms of service. Section II lists the members serving in each session.

### The Senate

The 11 women elected to the 2001 Senate make up exactly one-third of that 33-member body. One is new to the senate. All have previous legislative experience, and all have served in both houses.

In 1975, Kathryn Morrison became the first woman to serve in the Wisconsin Senate. Since her inauguration, there have been 17 women senators, 13 with previous experience in the assembly. Senator Carol Roessler, first elected to the senate in a 1987 special election, is currently senior in senate service. Senator Barbara Lorman, who served in eight sessions, beginning with the 1979 session, has the longest tenure for a woman senator to date.

### The Assembly

Of the 22 women elected to the 2001 Assembly, five are in their first term. This compares to a record nine who were newly elected to the 1993 session.

Representative Annette Polly Williams, who begins her 11th session in the 2001 Assembly, is currently the senior woman representative. Her record approaches that of Representative Esther Doughty Luckhardt whose tenure of 11 sessions, beginning with the 1963 session, is the longest period served by any woman legislator in either house. Representative Susan Engeleiter appears to be the youngest woman ever elected to the Wisconsin Legislature. She was 22 years old when she took office in January 1975.

### Leadership

Senator Mary Panzer and Representative Shirley Krug currently hold the highest ranking among the women legislators as Republican minority leader in the senate and Democratic minority leader in the assembly, respectively. Over the years, women have held increasingly important positions of leadership. In 1976, Senator Kathryn Morrison was the first woman to serve on the powerful Joint Committee on Finance, and Representative Mary Lou Munts was the first woman to cochair that committee in the 1983 session. In the 1985 session, Senator Susan Engeleiter was the first woman to be chosen senate minority leader, and Representative Betty Jo Nelsen was elected the first woman minority leader of the assembly in 1987.

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## I. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS, 1925 – 2001 SESSIONS

### SENATE

NAME	PARTY	DISTRICT	OCCUPATION	SENATE SESSIONS
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
Engeleiter, Susan Shannon†	Rep.	33	Attorney, teacher	1979 <sup>1</sup> , 81, 83, 85, 87, 89 <sup>2</sup>
Farrow, Margaret†	Rep.	33	Teacher, real estate agent	1989 <sup>3</sup> , 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Harsdorf, Sheila E.†	Rep.	10	Dairy farmer	2001
Huelsman, Joanne B.†	Rep.	11	Attorney	1991, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Lazich, Mary A.†	Rep.	28	Marketing representative	1997 <sup>4</sup> , 99, 2001
Lorman, Barbara	Rep.	13	President of recycling firm	1979 <sup>5</sup> , 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93
Moore, Gwendolynne†	Dem.	4	Housing and economic development analyst	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Morrison, Kathryn M.	Dem.	17	Assistant professor	1975, 77
Panzer, Mary†	Rep.	20	Bank employee, legislative aide	1993 <sup>6</sup> , 95, 97, 99, 2001
Plache, Kimberly M.†	Dem.	21	Legislative aide	1995 <sup>7</sup> , 97, 99, 2001
Radosevich, Michele G.	Dem.	10	Business publication editor	1977, 79
Robson, Judith†	Dem.	15	Registered nurse, teacher	1999, 2001
Roessler, Carol A.†	Rep.	18	Nutrition program administrator	1987 <sup>8</sup> , 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Rosenzweig, Peggy A.†	Rep.	5	Medical center community relations director	1993 <sup>9</sup> , 95, 97, 99, 2001
Ulichny, Barbara L.†	Dem.	4	YWCA program director	1985, 87, 89, 91

†Served in both houses.

<sup>1</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, April 29, 1980.

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

<sup>3</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, June 27, 1989.

<sup>4</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, April 7, 1998.

<sup>5</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, December 2, 1980.

<sup>6</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, September 21, 1993.

<sup>7</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, June 4, 1996.

<sup>8</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, April 7, 1987.

<sup>9</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, April 6, 1993.

**I. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS, 1925 – 2001 SESSIONS (continued)**

**ASSEMBLY**

NAME	PARTY	DISTRICT	OCCUPATION	ASSEMBLY SESSIONS
Albers, Sheryl K.	Rep.	50	Dairy farmer	1991 <sup>10</sup> , 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Allen, Carolyn Blanchard	Rep.	Rock 2	Homemaker	1963 <sup>11</sup> , 65, 67, 69
Baldwin, Tammy	Dem.	78	Attorney	1993, 95, 97
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	Career services coordinator	1999, 2001
Blanchard – see Allen				
Brooks, Hellen M.	Rep.	Green Lake & Waushara	Teacher	1925
Buettner – see Roessler				
Charbonneau, Agnes	Rep.	Douglas 1	Homemaker	1931
Coggs, Marcia P.	Dem.	18, 12, 18	Legislator	1977, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91
Darling, Alberta†	Rep.	10	Teacher, marketing director	1989 <sup>12</sup> , 91
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
Duren, Joanne M.	Dem.	Iowa-Richland, 50	Secretarial service owner	1971, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81
Engleiter, Susan Shannon†	Rep.	99	Legislator	1975, 77
Farrow, Margaret†	Rep.	99	Teacher, real estate agent	1987, 89 <sup>3</sup>
Goodrich, Patricia A.	Rep.	72, 86, 41	Homemaker	1975, 77, 79, 81, 83
Gronemus, Barbara	Dem.	43, 91	Nursing home activity director	1983, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Hanson, Doris J.	Dem.	48	Business manager	1993, 95, 97
Harsdorf, Sheila E.†	Rep.	30	Dairy farmer	1989, 91, 93, 95, 97
Hinkfuss, Rosemary	Dem.	6, 88	Teacher	1989, 91, 93
Hough, Maxine	Dem.	83	Teacher, school administrator	1991
Hubler, Mary	Dem.	75	Attorney	1985, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001

**I. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS, 1925 – 2001 SESSIONS (continued)**
**ASSEMBLY**

NAME	PARTY	DISTRICT	OCCUPATION	ASSEMBLY SESSIONS
Huelsman, Joanne B.†	Rep.	65, 31	Attorney	1983, 85, 87, 89
Hundertmark, Jean L.	Rep.	40	Restaurant owner	1999, 2001
Jaronitzky, June	Rep.	74, 50, 74	Retail cheese business	1981, 83
Jeskewitz, Suzanne	Rep.	24	Public relations representative	1997, 99, 2001
Kelso, Carol	Rep.	88	Vice president, Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce	1995, 97, 99
Klusman, Judith	Rep.	56	Dairy farmer	1989, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99
Krawczyk, Judy	Rep.	88	Supper club owner	2001
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
Krusick, Margaret Ann	Dem.	17, 24, 97	Assembly aide	1983 <sup>13</sup> , 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001
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
Lahn, Jacquelyn J.	Rep.	93	Real estate appraiser	1989
Lassa, Julie	Dem.	71	Legislative aide	1999, 2001
Lautenschlager, Peggy A.	Dem.	52	Attorney	1989, 91
Lazich, Mary A.†	Rep.	84	Marketing representative	1993, 95, 97 <sup>4</sup>
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
Luckhardt, Esther S. Doughy	Rep.	Dodge 1, 54, 88, 59	Insurance and real estate	1963, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83
Magnuson – see Rohan				
Manders, Verna M.	Dem.	Milwaukee 8	Bookkeeper, salesperson	1967 <sup>14</sup>
McCormick, Terri	Rep.	56	Education consultant	2001
Metz, Sharon K.	Dem.	90, 84, 90	Salesperson, administrative assistant	1975, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85
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

**I. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS, 1925 – 2001 SESSIONS (continued)**

**ASSEMBLY**

NAME	PARTY	DISTRICT	OCCUPATION	ASSEMBLY SESSIONS
Moore, Gwendolynne†	Dem.	7	Housing and economic development analyst	1989, 91
Morris-Tatum, Johnnie	Dem.	11	Executive director, community organization	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Munts, Mary Lou	Dem.	76, 94, 76	Economist	1973, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83
Nelsen, Betty Jo	Rep.	10, 5, 10	Voluntary action agency manager	1979 <sup>15</sup> , 81, 83, 85, 87, 89 <sup>16</sup>
Notestein, Barbara	Dem.	12, 19	Executive director, Hunger Task Force	1985, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97
Owens, Carol	Rep.	53	Dairy farmer	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Panzer, Mary†	Rep.	53, 72, 53	Bank employee, legislative aide	1979 <sup>17</sup> , 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93 <sup>6</sup>
Plache, Kimberly M.†	Dem.	62	Legislative aide	1989, 91, 93, 95 <sup>7</sup>
Plous, Lois	Dem.	15, 8, 15	Learning disabilities supervisor	1979 <sup>18</sup> , 81, 83
Potter, Rosemary	Dem.	19, 20	Teacher	1989 <sup>19</sup> , 91, 93, 95, 97
Raihle, Sylvia Havre	Rep.	Chippewa	Teacher, homemaker	1949, 51, 53, 55
Rhoades, Kitty	Rep.	30	Consultant	1999, 2001
Robson, Judith†	Dem.	45	Registered nurse, teacher	1987 <sup>20</sup> , 89, 91, 93, 95, 97
Roessler, Carol A. (Buettner)†	Rep.	81, 54	Nutrition program administrator	1983, 85, 87 <sup>8</sup>
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 <sup>9</sup>
Schneiders, Lolita	Rep.	97, 69, 97	Salesperson	1981, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95
Seratti, Lorraine M.	Rep.	36	Small business owner	1993, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Shannon – see Engeleiter				
Shilling, Jennifer <sup>21</sup>	Dem.	95	Congressional and legislative aid	2001
Sinicki, Christine	Dem.	20	Small business manager	1999, 2001
Smith, Patricia Spafford	Dem.	75, 51, 75	School bus contractor	1979, 81, 83
Spillner – see Wade				
Starzyk, Samantha	Rep.	66	Legislative aide	2001

## I. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS, 1925 – 2001 SESSIONS (continued)

### ASSEMBLY

NAME	PARTY	DISTRICT	OCCUPATION	ASSEMBLY SESSIONS
Tesmer, Louise M.	Dem.	19, 1, 19	Attorney	1973, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89 <sup>22</sup>
Thompson, Helen F.	Rep.	Price	Teacher, hotel keeper	1925, 27
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
Varda, Margaret P.	Prog.	Iron & Vilas	Attorney	1943
Vergeront, Susan B.	Rep.	60	Public relations consultant	1985, 87, 89, 91, 93
Wade, Joan (Spillner)	Rep.	42	Distance learning specialist	1997 <sup>23</sup> , 99, 2001
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 <sup>24</sup>
Williams, Annette Polly	Dem.	17, 11, 17	Mental health assistant	1981, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 2001
Young, Rebecca	Dem.	76	Attorney	1985, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97
Zeuske, Cathy Susan	Rep.	54, 4	Insurance agent	1983, 85, 87, 89

#### †Served in both houses

<sup>1</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, April 29, 1980.

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

<sup>3</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, June 27, 1989.

<sup>4</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, April 7, 1998.

<sup>5</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, December 2, 1980.

<sup>6</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, September 21, 1993.

<sup>7</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, June 4, 1996.

<sup>8</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, April 7, 1987.

<sup>9</sup>Elected to Senate in special election, April 6, 1993.

<sup>10</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, December 10, 1991.

<sup>11</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, April 2, 1963.

<sup>12</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, May 1, 1990.

<sup>13</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, June 28, 1983.

<sup>14</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, October 10, 1967.

<sup>15</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, July 10, 1979.

<sup>16</sup>Resigned January 12, 1990 to become head of the Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

<sup>17</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, January 31, 1980.

<sup>18</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, April 29, 1980.

<sup>19</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, October 17, 1989.

<sup>20</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, June 9, 1987.

<sup>21</sup>Elected to Assembly under maiden name of Ehlenfeldt. Name changed to Shilling prior to inauguration.

<sup>22</sup>Resigned August 1, 1989 to become Milwaukee County circuit court judge.

<sup>23</sup>Elected to Assembly in special election, January 13, 1998.

<sup>24</sup>Elected to Assembly in Special election, April 13, 1999.

## II. LIST OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS BY SESSION (Sessions in which no women legislators served are not listed)

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), (Doughty) Luckhardt, and Manders*
1969	2	Assemblymen (Blanchard) Allen and (Doughty) Luckhardt
1971	4	Representatives Duren, (Doughty) Luckhardt, Mielke, and Miller
1973	7	Representatives Donoghue, Duren, (Doughty) Luckhardt, Mielke, Miller, Munts, and Tesmer
1975	10	Senator Morrison Representatives Donoghue, Duren, Goodrich, (Doughty) Luckhardt, Metz, Miller, Munts, Shannon (Engeleiter), and Tesmer
1977	12	Senators Morrison and Radosevich Representatives Coggs, Donoghue, Duren, (Shannon) Engeleiter, Goodrich, (Doughty) Luckhardt, Metz, Miller, Munts, and Tesmer

**II. LIST OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS BY SESSION (continued)**

Session	Total	Names
1979	18	Senators (Shannon) Engeleiter*, Lorman*, and Radosevich Representatives Coggs, Donoghue, Duren, Goodrich, (Doughty) Luckhardt, Metz, Miller, Munts, Nelsen*, Panzer*, Plous*, Smith, Tesmer, Ulichny, and Wagner
1981	20	Senators (Shannon) Engeleiter and Lorman Representatives Coggs, Donoghue, Duren, Goodrich, Jaronitzky, (Doughty) Luckhardt, Metz, Miller, Munts, Nelsen, Panzer, Plous, Schneiders, Smith, Tesmer, Ulichny, Wagner, and Williams
1983	26	Senators (Shannon) Engeleiter and Lorman Representatives Bell, Buettner (Roessler), Coggs, Donoghue, Goodrich, Gronemus, Huelsman, Jaronitzky, Krusick*, (Doughty) Luckhardt, Metz, Miller, Munts, Nelsen, Panzer, Plous, Rosenzweig, Schneiders, Smith, Tesmer, Ulichny, Walling, Williams, and Zeuske
1985	25	Senators (Shannon) Engeleiter, Lorman, and Ulichny Representatives Bell, Buettner (Roessler), Coggs, Gronemus, Hubler, Huelsman, Krug, Krusick, Lewis, (Rohan) Magnuson, Metz, Nelsen, Notestein, Panzer, Rosenzweig, Schneiders, Tesmer, Vergeront, Walling, Williams, Young, and Zeuske
1987	28	Senators Buettner (Roessler)*, (Shannon) Engeleiter, Lorman, and Ulichny Representatives Bell, Buettner (Roessler)*, Coggs, Farrow, Gronemus, Hubler, Huelsman, Krug, Krusick, Lewis, Linton, (Rohan) Magnuson, Nelsen, Notestein, Panzer, Robson*, Rosenzweig, Schneiders, Tesmer, Van Dreel, Vergeront, Walling, Williams, Young, and Zeuske
1989	37	Senators Buettner (Roessler), (Shannon) Engeleiter*, 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, Notestein, Owens, Panzer*, Plache, Potter, Robson, Rosenzweig*, Schneiders, Seratti, Vergeront, Williams, and Young

## II. LIST OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS BY SESSION (continued)

Session	Total	Names
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, Notestein, Owens, Plache*, Potter, Robson, Schneiders, Seratti, Williams, and Young
1997	32	Senators Clausing, Darling, Farrow, Huelsman, Lazich*, Moore, Panzer, Plache, (Buettner) Roessler, and Rosenzweig  Representatives Albers, Baldwin, Gronemus, Hanson, Harsdorf, Hubler, Jeskewitz, Kelso, Klusman, Krug, Krusick, Ladwig, Lazich*, Linton, Morris-Tatum, Notestein, Owens, Potter, Robson, Seratti, Spillner (Wade)*, Williams, and Young
1999	31	Senators Clausing, Darling, Farrow, Huelsman, Lazich, Moore, Panzer, Plache, Robson, (Buettner) Roessler, and Rosenzweig  Representatives Albers, Berceau, Gronemus, Hubler, Hundertmark, Jeskewitz, Kelso, Klusman, Krug, Krusick, Ladwig, Lassa, Morris-Tatum, Owens, Rhoades, Seratti, Sinicki, Spillner (Wade), Waukau*, and Williams
2001	33	Senators Darling, Farrow, Harsdorf, Huelsman, Lazich, Moore, Panzer, Plache, Robson, (Buettner) Roessler, and Rosenzweig  Representatives Albers, Berceau, Gronemus, Hubler, Hundertmark, Jeskewitz, Krawczyk, Krug, Krusick, Ladwig, Lassa, Lippert, McCormick, Morris-Tatum, Owens, Rhoades, Seratti, Shilling, Sinicki, Starzyk, (Spillner) Wade, and Williams

\*Indicates legislator served only part of the session.

Note: 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.