



NANCY VANDERMEER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 70TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

For Immediate Release:

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VanderMeer Pleased with Enactment of Legislation Adding Circuit Court Branch in Jackson County

Madison – Yesterday, Director of State Courts Randy R. Koschnick named four Wisconsin counties selected for new circuit court branches under newly enacted legislation signed by Governor Evers. [2019 Wisconsin Act 184](#) authorizes the creation of 12 additional circuit court branches, with four branches beginning operations on August 1, 2021, four on August 1, 2022, and four on August 1, 2023.

As enacted, the director of state courts may determine which county each additional branch is allocated, so long as the county has passed a resolution requesting an additional branch and, by May 31 of the year in which an additional branch begins operations, has established appropriate infrastructure to support the additional branch's operation.

Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah), who represents parts of Jackson County, supported the legislation in the Assembly and released the following statement:

"I'm glad that we were able to get this bill passed and I'm extremely pleased that we were able to get this done for the residents of Jackson County. County Board members, including Chair Ray Ransom, should be commended for their proactive efforts to put the county in a position to be the recipient of this additional circuit court branch."

In a release from March 9, Director of State Courts Randy Koschnick said, "Based on thorough caseload analysis, demonstrated judicial need, county board support, and the ability to have the necessary facilities and support in place by the effective date, I have selected Calumet, Dunn, Jackson, and Marathon counties."

He continued, "This is the beginning of the process established by the Legislature that will help the court system address judicial need during the next three years. We are thankful to the Governor, Legislature and counties throughout the state for support and recognition of the vital role courts play in our government and communities. This approach not only makes sense for the court system, but also for the efficiency of operations of the justice system as a whole."

Elections for the judgeships in the selected counties will be held during the 2021 Spring Election. The counties selected for new judgeships are also among counties that received funding in the 2019-2021 state budget for additional assistant district attorney positions, which VanderMeer also supported.

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The 70th Assembly District includes portions of Monroe, Jackson, Portage and Wood counties.