



Contact: Liz Mueller  
Phone: 608-509-4154  
Email: [liz@judgetownsendforcircuitcourt.com](mailto:liz@judgetownsendforcircuitcourt.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AFSCME PEOPLE ENDORSES JUDGE MARILYN TOWNSEND FOR DANE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE**

MADISON, WI - AFSCME PEOPLE has endorsed the candidacy of Judge Marilyn Townsend in the April 4<sup>th</sup> election for Branch 12 of the Dane County Circuit Court. AFSCME PEOPLE is the political arm of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employee, which represents public employees in Dane County

"I am honored and grateful for the endorsement I have received from AFSCME PEOPLE. I began my career as a lawyer more than 30 years ago as a labor union attorney for the United Mine Workers. I have continued to fight for workplace justice for my entire career, representing labor unions and employees with issues that have included discrimination on the basis of age, race and gender, retaliation and wrongful discharges by employers, failures to comply with laws concerning medical leave and disabilities, and wrongful denials of insurance benefits and unemployment compensation."

The endorsement of AFSCME PEOPLE follows the endorsements of Judge Townsend by the South Central Federation of Labor-AFL-CIO, an umbrella organization consisting of 100 private and public sector unions representing tens of thousands of workers, as well as individual unions - including Local 565 of the Sheet Metal Workers, Locals 2304 & 965 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, District 2 of the United Steel Workers, and IATSE Local 251.

Judge Townsend has also been endorsed by current and former labor union officials including SCFL President Kevin Gundlach, former SCFL President Jim Cavanaugh. David Newby, the former President of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, and Michael Lipp and Bill Keyes, who are former officials of Madison Teachers Inc. Additional endorsements include State Senator Fred Risser, State Representatives Chris Taylor, Terese Berceau, Dianne Hesselbein, and Sondy Pope, and Appeals Court Judges Joanne Kloppenburg, Paul Higginbotham, and Gary Sherman.

"My endorsements reflect the work that I have done for more than 30 years, and the values that have led me to dedicate my career to seeking justice in the workplace," Judge Townsend said. "If I am elected, I will bring that passion for justice to the Dane County Circuit Court."

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