



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

WOMENSCOUNCIL.WI.GOV

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, December 15, 2016

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**WISCONSIN WOMEN'S COUNCIL REPORTS DECREASE IN WOMEN
IN STATE LEGISLATIVE SEATS FOLLOWING THE 2016 GENERAL ELECTION**

(Madison, WI) The Wisconsin Women's Council today released a new Fact Sheet, *Women in the Wisconsin Legislature, 2017*. The report updates the status of women in elected office for the upcoming 2017 State Legislature. Following the November 2016 general election, women will hold 31 (23%) of the 132 seats in the 2017 State Senate and Assembly, compared to 33 seats (26%) in 2015. In fact, the percentage of seats held by women in the Wisconsin State Legislature has hovered around the 25% mark for the past three decades. The factsheet is available online at: www.womenscouncil.wi.gov.

Highlights following the November 2016 Election:

- Women hold nine (out of 33) seats in the State Senate, down slightly from 2015, but up from a 20-year low of seven seats in 2009; and hold 22 (out of 99) seats in the State Assembly, the same as in 2015.
- One woman was newly elected to the 2017 State Legislature, running in an open seat.
- More than half incumbent female legislators (Senate and Assembly) on the November ballot ran in uncontested elections, and of those in contested elections, women were re-elected to their seats 92% of the time with an average of 63.8% of the vote.

Since 2005, the Women's Council has tracked and published statistics on women in state and local elected offices in Wisconsin, including post-election fact sheets updating data on Women in the Wisconsin Legislature. The Council's most recent report on women and elected office, *Moving Wisconsin Forward, 2015*, found that women account for 23% of elected officials in Wisconsin (about one in four), across levels of government, and 14% of leadership positions (one in seven).

ABOUT THE WOMEN'S COUNCIL

The Women's Council is Wisconsin's statutory commission on the status of women and girls. Established in 1983, the Council promotes initiatives that empower women, serves as a clearinghouse for information for and about women, and promotes unique partnerships to address issues affecting Wisconsin women. The Council is governed by a 15-member Council that is appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders. For more information about the Wisconsin Women's Council visit our web site at <http://womenscouncil.wi.gov>.

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