

Inside the Capitol – August 2024

Post-Primary Election Update

Yesterday, August 13, the partisan primary election took place in Wisconsin. Voter turnout yesterday, which was 26 percent, was the highest presidential-year primary election turnout since 1964, according to the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

WAFP's government relations professionals have drafted this memo to provide you with results for federal and state legislative races of interest. It is also important to note that new state legislative districts were put in place earlier this year via legislation that Governor Evers signed into law. As such, a number of state legislative races are more competitive this year.

Federal Government Elections

U.S. Senate

Republican Primary

- **Eric Hovde (Winner):** 86.3%
- Charles Barman: 7.4%
- Rejani Raveendran: 6.3%

Democratic Primary

- **Tammy Baldwin (Winner)**
 - This was an uncontested race. She is the incumbent.

U.S. House of Representatives – Key Races

Eighth Congressional District

- This district includes the Green Bay area, as well as the northern Fox Valley (Appleton, Kaukauna), and much of the rest of northeast Wisconsin. Winners are marked in bold font.

Republican Primary (*Special Election – Winner of November election takes office until January 2025*)

- **Tony Wied:** 43.5%
- Roger Roth: 32.5%
- Andre Jacque: 24.0%

Republican Primary (*Regular Election – Winner of November election takes office in January 2025*)

- **Tony Wied:** 41.3%
- Roger Roth: 33.9%
- Andre Jacque: 24.8%

Democratic Primary

- **Kristin Lyerly (Winner)**
 - This was an uncontested race.

Third Congressional District

- This district includes west central and south central Wisconsin, as well as portions of central Wisconsin. Communities in the district include Eau Claire, La Crosse, Platteville, Wisconsin Rapids, and Stevens Point. Winners are marked in bold font.

Democratic Primary

- **Rebecca Cooke:** 50.0%
- Katrina Shankland: 41.2%
- Eric Wilson: 8.8%

Republican Primary

- **Derrick Van Orden (Winner)**
 - This was an uncontested race. He is the incumbent.

State Government Elections

State Assembly

The following are the Assembly races in which incumbent members of the Assembly faced primary challenges. Winners are marked in bold font.

Assembly District 1 – Door and Kewaunee Counties

- **Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay):** 77.2%
- Milt Swagel (R-Kewaunee): 22.8%
 - This is a 57% Republican district.

Assembly District 4 – Eastern Green Bay Suburbs and Portions of Oconto County

- **Rep. David Steffen (R-Green Bay):** 66.7%
- Darwin Behnke (R-Oconto): 33.3%
 - This is a 64% Republican district. It is notable that Darwin Behnke is the father of incumbent Rep. Elijah Behnke (R), who ran against Rep. Peter Schmidt (R-Bonduel) in nearby Assembly District 6.

Assembly District 6 – Northeast Wisconsin – Oconto, Shawano, and Menominee Counties

- **Rep. Elijah Behnke (R-Oconto):** 58.6%
- Rep. Peter Schmidt (R-Bonduel): 41.4%
 - This is a 66% Republican district. Rep. Behnke is moving into this district from Oconto County to run in this race. Rep. Schmidt faced some controversy in his first election in 2022 and, as such, some county Republican party organizations did not endorse his candidacy at that time.

Assembly District 19 – Milwaukee (Downtown and Lower East Side)

- **Rep. Ryan Clancy (D-Milwaukee):** 54.9%
- Jarrod Anderson (D-Milwaukee): 45.1%

- This is an 81% Democratic district. Rep. Clancy is one of two members of the Assembly socialist caucus. It is notable that Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson and Milwaukee County Board Chair Marcelia Nicholson have both endorsed Anderson in this race.

Assembly District 24 – Western/Northern Milwaukee Suburbs (Menomonee Falls, Germantown)

- **Sen. Dan Knodl (R-Germantown):** 65.0%
- Rep. Janel Brandtjen (R-Menomonee Falls): 35.9%
 - This is a 58% Republican district. Brandtjen has become well known for making a number of controversial statements regarding the integrity of the 2020 election. Sen. Knodl was “drawn into” the same Senate district as Sen. Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville) and opted to run for this Assembly seat instead.

Assembly District 35 – Northcentral Wisconsin (Merrill, Antigo, Tomahawk)

- **Rep. Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk):** 84.7%
- Todd Mayr (R-Antigo): 15.3%
 - This is a 65% Republican district.

Assembly District 37 – Southcentral Wisconsin (Beaver Dam, Waupun, Fox Lake)

- **Rep. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam):** 69.5%
- Steve Rydzewski (R-Beaver Dam): 30.6%
 - This is a 63.5% Republican district. It is notable that Rep. Born is the Assembly co-chair of the powerful, budget-writing Joint Committee on Finance.

Assembly District 43 – Southcentral Wisconsin (Whitewater, Milton, Edgerton and portions of Janesville)

- **Rep. Scott Johnson (R-Jefferson):** 70.6%
- Dylan Kurtz (R-Janesville): 29.4%
 - This is a 55% Democratic district. First term Rep. Johnson was originally “drawn in” to a district with long-time Rep. Cindi Duchow (R-Delafield) and opted to run for this seat instead.

Assembly District 55 – Oshkosh Area

- **Rep. Nate Gustafson (R-Fox Crossing):** 55.1%
- Rep. Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh): 44.9%
 - This is a 59% Republican district. This race pitted 12-year Assembly veteran Rep. Schraa against first-term member Gustafson.

Assembly District 57 – Central Wisconsin (Waupaca)

- **Rep. Kevin Petersen (R-Waupaca):** 63.1%
- Duane Wilson (R-Waupaca): 36.9%
 - This is a 67% Republican district. Rep. Petersen is also a member of the Assembly Republican leadership as the Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore.

Assembly District 61 – Southeast Milwaukee Suburbs (Greendale, Hales Corners, Greenfield)

- **Rep. Bob Donovan (R-Greenfield):** 92.8%
- Martin Gomez (R-Milwaukee): 7.3%
 - This is a 51% Democratic district.

Assembly District 67 – Northwest Wisconsin (Rice Lake, Chetek)

- **Rep. David Anderson (R-Rice Lake):** 78.1%
- Jimmy Swenson (R-Barron): 21.9%
 - This is a 63% Republican district.

Assembly District 68 – Northwest Wisconsin (Bloomer, Park Falls, Ladysmith)

- **Rep. Rob Summerfield (R-Bloomer):** 63.6%
- Clifford Taylor (R-Ladysmith): 36.4%
 - This is a 67% Republican district. Rep. Summerfield is a member of the Assembly Republican leadership as the majority caucus chair.

Assembly District 69 – Northcentral Wisconsin (Abbotsford, Medford, Thorp)

- **Rep. Karen Hurd (R-Thorp):** 57.2%
- Lori Voss (R-Abbotsford): 42.8%
 - This is a 70% Republican district. Rep. Hurd was “drawn in” to a predominantly Democratic Eau Claire area district with Rep. Jodi Emerson (D-Eau Claire) and, as such, moved into this new district to run for re-election.

Assembly District 74 – Northwest Wisconsin (Hayward, Spooner)

- **Rep. Chanz Green (R-Grand View):** 56.9%
- Scott Harbridge (R-Radisson): 43.1%
 - This is a 59% Republican district.

Assembly District 78 – Madison and Eastern Suburbs

- **Rep. Sheila Stubbs (D-Madison):** 65.9%
- Maia Pearson (D-Madison): 34.1%
 - This is an 81% Democratic district.

Assembly District 80 – Madison and Western Suburbs

- **Rep. Mike Bare (D-Verona):** 78.4%
- Nasra Wehelie (D-Madison): 21.6%
 - This is a 74% Democratic district.

Assembly District 86 – Northcentral Wisconsin (Marshfield, Marathon City)

- **Rep. John Spiros (R-Marshfield):** 43.3%
- Rep. Donna Rozar (R-Marshfield): 31.7%
- Trine Spindler (R-Stratford): 25.0%
 - This is an 86% Republican district. This race pitted second-term Rep. Rozar against 12-year veteran Rep. Spiros, as well as farmer and anti-wind/solar energy activist Spindler.

Assembly District 99 – Far Western Milwaukee Suburbs (Oconomowoc, Chenequa, Hartland)

- **Rep. Barb Dittrich (R-Oconomowoc):** 63.0%
- Jeff Pfannerstill (R-Hartland): 37.0%
 - This is a 68% Republican district.

State Senate

The following are the Senate races in which incumbent members of the Senate faced primary challenges. Winners are marked in bold font.

Senate District 4 – Northern Milwaukee County (Milwaukee, Glendale, Shorewood)

- **Rep. Dora Drake (D-Milwaukee):** 62.4%
- Rep. LaKeshia Myers (D-Milwaukee): 37.6%
 - This is an 84% Democratic district.

Senate District 20 – Fond du Lac, West Bend, Saukville

- **Sen. Dan Feyen (R-Fond du Lac):** 64.4%
- Former Rep. Tim Ramthun (R-Kewaskum): 35.6%
 - This is a 68% Republican district. Ramthun unsuccessfully ran in the Republican gubernatorial primary in 2022 and has become well known for making a number of controversial statements regarding the integrity of the 2020 election.

State Constitutional Amendment Questions – August Primary

The August 13 primary election ballot in Wisconsin included the following two “questions” – that is, whether the following two items should be added to the state constitution. The specific results are noted below. The winning side is marked in bold font.

- **Question 1 - Delegation of Appropriation Power:** Delegation of appropriation power. Shall section 35 (1) of article IV of the constitution be created to provide that the legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated?
 - **No:** 57.5%
 - Yes: 42.5%
- **Question 2 - Allocation of Federal Moneys:** Allocation of federal moneys. Shall section 35 (2) of article IV of the constitution be created to prohibit the governor from allocating any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule?
 - **No:** 57.5%
 - Yes: 42.5%

In short, the reason these constitutional amendments were on the primary election ballot was due to concerns of Legislative Republicans that Governor Tony Evers (D) has had a great deal of flexibility – without any legislative oversight – over the last few years to allocate

tens of billions of dollars in federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for various purposes. ARPA was a federal effort to provide funding nationwide to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.