

2007-2008 Wisconsin Legislature Democracy Reform Scorecard



Just about every politician claims to be on guard against corruption and in favor of reforms that promote clean, open and honest government. Few move beyond words to action. This scorecard measures the sincerity of legislators by analyzing four roll call votes in each house. Whether legislators sponsored any of six reform proposals also was taken into consideration. Lawmakers were awarded a full point for each reform measure they voted for, and got a half-point for each bill they sponsored. As a result, the point scale goes from zero to a possible high score of seven.

Legislators are ranked by score and divided into four categories:

- **Democracy Defenders** – 9 legislators consistently voted for reform and regularly sponsored and worked for passage of reform initiatives.
- **Public Allies** – 45 legislators supported most but not all reform proposals.
- **Bystanders** – 22 legislators supported some reform measures but did not actively push for changes limiting special interest influence and cleaning up state politics.
- **Public Enemies** – 54 legislators regularly stood with the special interests and worked to defeat reforms that would restore power to the general public.

The roll call votes on an ethics enforcement reform bill (January 2007 Special Session Senate Bill 1) that was enacted into law last year were included in the analysis for both houses. The other three roll call votes in the Senate were on electioneering disclosure (Senate Bill 77), publicly financed state Supreme Court elections (SB 171) and requiring legislators to wait one year after leaving office before becoming a lobbyist (SB 23). In the Assembly, the other roll call votes were on banning campaign fundraising during the state budget process (Assembly Bill 61), publicly financed Supreme Court elections (AB 250) and electioneering disclosure (AB 272).

The reform bills legislators were credited for sponsoring include ethics enforcement reform (SB 2), comprehensive campaign finance reform (SB 12), prohibiting campaign fundraising during state budget deliberations (SB 25/AB 61), electioneering disclosure (SB 77/AB 272/SB 463), publicly financed Supreme Court elections (SB 171/AB 250), and full public financing of all state races (SB 182/AB 355).

Please use and share this scorecard with other informed Wisconsin voters. Ask candidates in legislative races where they stand on democracy reforms and encourage their active support for reforms that promote clean, open and honest government in the next legislative session.

SENATE

Democracy Defenders (7 - 6 points)				Public Allies (5.5 - 4.5 points)				Bystanders (4 - 2.5 points)				Public Enemies (2 - 0 points)			
Name	Dist	City	Score	Name	Dist	City	Score	Name	Dist	City	Score	Name	Dist	City	Score
ERPENBACH, Jon	27	Middleton	6	BRESKE, Roger	12	Eland	4.5	DARLING, Alberta	8	River Hills	4	FITZGERALD, Scott	13	Juneau	1.5
LEHMAN, John	21	Racine	7	CARPENTER, Tim	3	Milwaukee	5.5	DECKER, Russ	29	Weston	4	GROTHMAN, Glenn	20	West Bend	2
RISSER, Fred	26	Madison	6.5	COGGS, Spencer	6	Milwaukee	4.5	KAPANKE, Dan	32	La Crosse	3	KANAVAS, Ted	33	Brookfield	2
				COWLES, Robert	2	Green Bay	5	LASEE, Alan	1	De Pere	2.5	KEDZIE, Neal	11	Elkhorn	2
				ELLIS, Michael	19	Neenah	4.5	LEIBHAM, Joseph	9	Sheboygan	2.5	LAZICH, Mary	28	New Berlin	2
				HANSEN, Dave	30	Green Bay	5	PLALE, Jeff	7	South Milw.	4				
				HARSDORF, Sheila	10	River Falls	5.5	ROESSLER, Carol	18	Oshkosh	2.5				
				JAUCH, Bob	25	Poplar	4.5	TAYLOR, Lena	4	Milwaukee	4				
				KREITLOW, Pat	23	Chippewa Falls	5								
				LASSA, Julie	24	Stevens Point	5.5								
				MILLER, Mark	16	Monona	5								
				OLSEN, Luther	14	Ripon	5								
				ROBSON, Judith	15	Beloit	4.5								
				SCHULTZ, Dale	17	Richland Center	5.5								
				SULLIVAN, Jim	5	Wauwatosa	5.5								
				VINEHOUT, Kathleen	31	Alma	5								
				WIRCH, Robert	22	Pleasant Prairie	5.5								

ASSEMBLY*

Democracy Defenders (7 - 6 points)				Public Allies (5.5 - 4.5 points)				Bystanders (4 - 2.5 points)				Public Enemies (2 - 0 points)			
Name	Dist	Home City	Score	Name	Dist	Home City	Score	Name	Dist	Home City	Score	Name	Dist	Home City	Score
BERCEAU, Terese	76	Madison	6	BENEDICT, Chuck	45	Beloit	5	COLON, Pedro	8	Milwaukee	4	ALBERS, Sheryl	50	Loganville	1.5
BLACK, Spencer	77	Madison	7	BOYLE, Frank	73	Superior	4.5	FIELDS, Jason	11	Milwaukee	4	BALLWEG, Joan	41	Markesan	1
HEBL, Gary	46	Sun Prairie	6.5	CULLEN, David	13	West Milw.	5.5	GRIGSBY, Tamara	18	Milwaukee	4	BIES, Garey	1	Sister Bay	1.5
HINTZ, Gordon	54	Oshkosh	6	GARTHWAITE, Phil	49	Fennimore	5.5	GRONEMUS, Barbara	91	Whitehall	4	DAVIS, Brett	80	Oregon	2
POCAN, Mark	78	Madison	6	HILGENBERG, Steve	51	Dodgeville	5	HUBLER, Mary	75	Rice Lake	4	FITZGERALD, Jeff	39	Beaver Dam	1
TRAVIS, David	81	Waunakee	7	HIXSON, Kim	43	Whitewater	4.5	KAUFERT, Dean	55	Neenah	3	FRISKE, Donald	35	Merrill	1
				HRAYCHUCK, Ann	28	Balsam Lake	5	MUSSER, Terry	92	Black River Falls	2.5	GOTTLIEB, Mark	60	Port Washington	1.5
				JORGENSEN, Andy	37	Ft. Atkinson	5	SCHNEIDER, Marlin	72	Wisc. Rapids	3.5	GUNDERSON, Scott	83	Waterford	1
				KESSLER, Frederick	12	Milwaukee	4.5	STASKUNAS, Tony	15	West Allis	4	HAHN, Eugene	47	Cambria	1.5
				KREUSER, James	64	Kenosha	4.5	STEINBRINK, John	65	Pleasant Prairie	4	HINES, J.A.	42	Oxford	1.5
				KRUSICK, Peggy	7	Milwaukee	4.5	TOLES, Barbara	17	Milwaukee	4	HONADEL, Mark	21	Milwaukee	1
				MASON, Cory	62	Racine	5	WASSERMAN, Sheldon	22	Milwaukee	4	HUEBSCH, Michael	94	West Salem	1
				MOLEPSKE, Jr., Louis	71	Stevens Point	5	WILLIAMS, Annette	10	Milwaukee	4	JESKEWITZ, Suzanne	24	Menominee Falls	1.5
				NELSON, Tom	5	Kaukauna	4.5	YOUNG, Leon	16	Milwaukee	4	KERKMAN, Samantha	66	Powers Lake	1
				PARISI, Joe	48	Madison	5.5					KESTELL, Steve	27	Elkhart Lake	1
				POPE-ROBERTS, SONDY	79	Verona	5					KLEEFISCH, Joel	38	Oconomowoc	1
				RICHARDS, Jon	19	Milwaukee	4.5					KRAMER, Bill	97	Waukesha	1
				SEIDEL, Donna	85	Wausau	5					LASEE, Frank	2	Bellevue	1
				SHERIDAN, Mike	44	Janesville	5					LEMAHIEU, Daniel	59	Cascade	1
				SHERMAN, Gary	74	Port Wing	4.5					LOTHIAN, Thomas	32	Williams Bay	1
				SHILLING, Jennifer	95	La Crosse	4.5					MEYER, Dan	34	Eagle River	1
				SINICKI, Christine	20	Milwaukee	5					MONTGOMERY, Phil	4	Green Bay	1
				SMITH, Jeff	93	Eau Claire	5.5					MOULTON, Terry	68	Chippewa Falls	1
				SOLETSKI, James	88	Green Bay	5					MURSAU, Jeffrey	36	Crivitz	1
				TURNER, Robert	61	Racine	5					MURTHA, John	29	Baldwin	1
				VAN AKKEREN, Terry	26	Sheboygan	5.5					NASS, Stephen	31	Whitewater	1
				VRUWINK, Amy Sue	70	Milladore	4.5					NERISON, Lee	96	Westby	1
				ZEPNICK, Josh	9	Milwaukee	5					NEWCOMER, Scott	33	Hartland	1
												NYGREN, John	89	Marinette	1
												OTT, Alvin	3	Forest Junction	1.5
												OTT, Jim	23	Mequon	1
												OWENS, Carol	53	Oshkosh	1
												PETERSEN, Kevin	40	Waupaca	1
												PETROWSKI, Jerry	86	Marathon	1
												PRIDEMORE, Don	99	Hartford	1
												RHOADES, Kitty	30	Hudson	1
												STONE, Jeff	82	Greenfield	1
												STRACHOTA, Pat	58	West Bend	1
												SUDER, Scott	69	Abbotsford	1
												TAUCHEN, Gary	6	Bonduel	1
												TOWNSEND, John	52	Fond du Lac	1.5
												VAN ROY, Karl	90	Green Bay	1.5
												VOS, Robin	63	Caledonia	1
												VUKMIR, Leah	14	Wauwatosa	1
												WIECKERT, Steve	57	Appleton	1
												WILLIAMS, Mary	87	Medford	1.5
												WOOD, Jeffrey	67	Chippewa Falls	1
												ZIEGELBAUER, Bob	25	Manitowoc	2
												ZIPPERER, Rich	98	Pewaukee	1

* Reps. Gundrum and Roth are not included in our table because they were serving overseas in Iraq when all but one of the votes occurred and most of the bills were circulating for sponsors.