

## **CATCH US AT THE POLLS** 2024 WISCONSIN ELECTION TOOLKIT







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# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Wisconsin Elections Toolkit for political education in Racine, Kenosha, and Milwaukee Counties! This toolkit aims to empower Wisconsin residents with essential local and state election information to help our communities be more involved in the political process. Whether you're curious about voting, the candidates in your area, or why these elections are important, our toolkit has the resources to help you find your voice and feel confident at the polls.

### Why is This Important?

This year, we're taking action to safeguard your vote and strengthen Black communities across Wisconsin. We know that building community is the foundation of building Black political power. By connecting with Black voters—whether at the doors, on the phone, or in the streets—we can address the issues impacting us and work together to create a better future. Political education is vital to ensuring that Black voters in Wisconsin feel empowered and informed. The road ahead is challenging, but by continuing to build power, we're protecting our rights and safeguarding our volunteers and voters across the country.

### Who is Black Futures Lab?

Black Futures Lab **Black Futures Lab** is an innovation and experimentation lab focused on new ways of engaging Black communities civically and building our capacity to be influential in politics. We close the gap between our communities and the necessary power-building tools.

<u>Click here to learn more about our work.</u>

### Who is Black to the Future Action Fund?



The **Black to the Future Action Fund** is a 501(c)(4) that works to transform Black communities into constituencies that build Black political power in cities and states. We work to enact policy that improves Black people's lives and elect Black legislators with progressive values who move progressive policies. Together, we work to ensure that Black people have what all people deserve-dignity, safety, and power. Click here to learn more about our work.

# Here's the Plan!

- 1. Go to **Black Futures Lab's Electoral Action Center** and check your voter registration status. Make sure it is updated with your correct address and contact information.
- 2. Know your polling location
- 3. Read your Ballot and research the candidates who are running for these seats
- 4. Bring your required photo ID
- 5. Plan your transportation to the polls
- 6. Vote early during the Early Voting period to avoid Election Day crowds and track your ballot to make sure it is counted, or:
- 7. Vote on Election Day, November 5, 2024

# LETTER FROM THE BLACK FUTURES LAB TEAM

Dear Wisconsin Voters,

THE OWNER AND

These upcoming 2024 general elections are a critical opportunity for Black communities in Wisconsin to make their voices heard. Our concerns and needs have been overlooked for far too long, and many of us still struggle to access essential resources. This is why we're committed to mobilizing and building Black political power—because when we vote, we hold the power to drive change and create a better future for our communities.

If we've learned anything from recent years, it's that our collective Black power is key to improving our communities and lives. At Black Futures Lab, we released the data from our <u>Black Census Project</u>—the largest survey of Black people in the U.S. in 157 years—which has provided us with valuable insights about our experiences, concerns, and dreams for the future. The results have shown us that Black communities across this country aspire to wield greater economic and political influence, yet many feel let down by current leadership.

In addition, key issues such as inflation, affordable childcare and education, and the overall wellbeing of our communities, are at the forefront of these concerns. That's why here in Wisconsin, we collectively have the unique opportunity to influence the balance of political power, ensuring that our voices are heard and that we secure the resources and changes necessary for our communities to thrive. In an effort to make this possible, we have partnered with <u>African American Round Table</u> (<u>AART</u>) to enhance our ability to reach more people and amplify Black voices across Wisconsin.

As we approach this November election, we invite you to use our Wisconsin Election Toolkit to create your voting plan, check your voting registration status, and learn about the candidates up and down the ballot. Together, we can ensure that our Black communities in Wisconsin are heard, represented, and empowered to shape our future.

Let's make this 2024 election a turning point for Black people. Your voice and your vote matter!

Carlie B. Digital Organizer Black Futures Lab and Black to the Future Action Fund

P.S. Want to take action? Visit <u>BlackFuturesLab.org</u> to join our volunteer action network!

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# OUR PROGRAM

The 2024 Election is by far the most critical election of our lifetime. What is at stake if we choose NOT to exercise the POWER OF OUR VOTE in Wisconsin?

- → Education: Addressing funding disparities and curriculum concerns in public schools.
- → Healthcare: Expanding access to affordable healthcare and addressing health disparities.
- → Economic Opportunity: Focusing on job creation, fair wages, and economic development in Black communities.

### Who Can Vote in the General Election?

Any U.S. citizen age 18 or older who is a resident of Wisconsin and registered to vote can participate in the general election. Wisconsin does not require voters to register with a political party.



#### Key Election Dates: MARK YOUR CALENDARS for November 5, 2024!

That's when people get to choose their favorite candidates in the general election. This general election allows voters to decide who will presume office that will affect the everyday lives of people, from federal level to local level.

### **Dates to Know:**



October 16, 2024

Deadline to register to vote online or by mail for the General Election.



#### October 22, 2024

In-person absentee voting begins for the General Election.



#### October 31, 2024

Deadline to request an absentee ballot for the General Election (by 5:00 PM).



#### Early Voting Begins November 5, 2024

General Election Day. Polls open 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

\*\*Wisconsin allows same-day voter registration at polling places on Election Day with proof of residence. \*\*



## Federal Level (All Three Counties)

## **U.S. Senate Wisconsin**

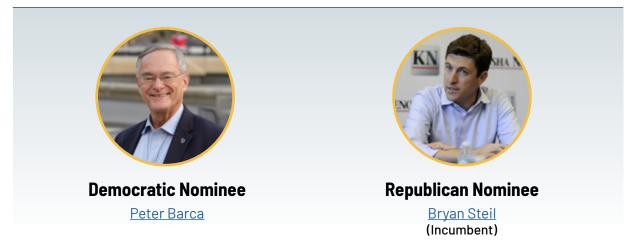


Democratic Nominee <u>Tammy Baldwin</u> (Incumbent)



Republican Nominee

## Racine and Kenosha Counties Representative in Congress: District 1



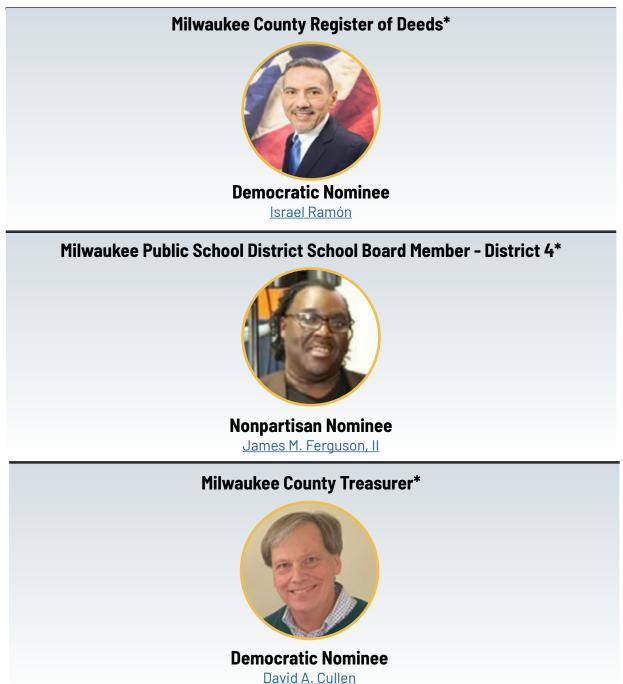


### **Milwaukee County**



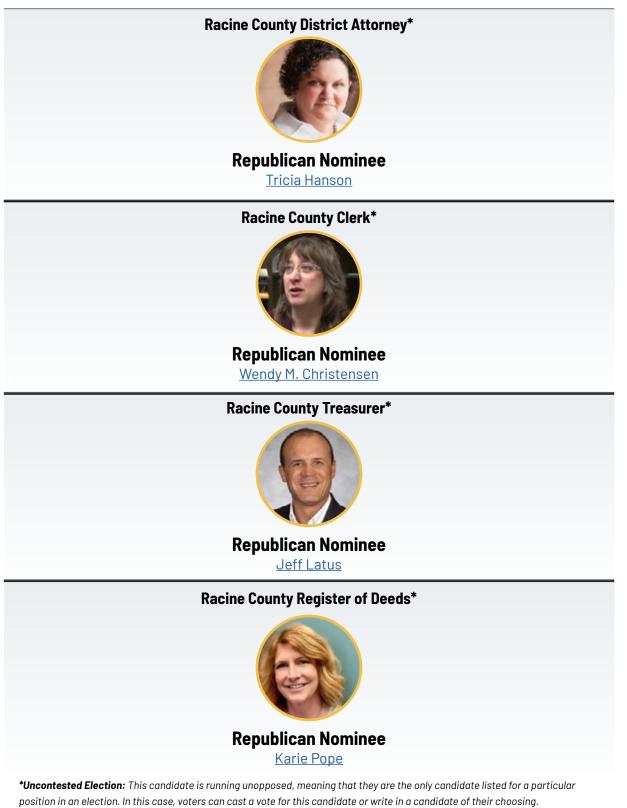


## **Milwaukee County**





## **Racine County**



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## **Kenosha County**



Democratic Nominee Carli McNeill (Incumbent) **District Attorney** 



Republican Nominee Xavier Solis

#### Kenosha County Clerk\*



Democratic Nominee Regi Waligora

#### Kenosha County Treasurer\*



Democratic Nominee Teri Jacobson

#### Kenosha County Register of Deeds\*



Democratic Nominee



## State Assembly (Milwaukee County)



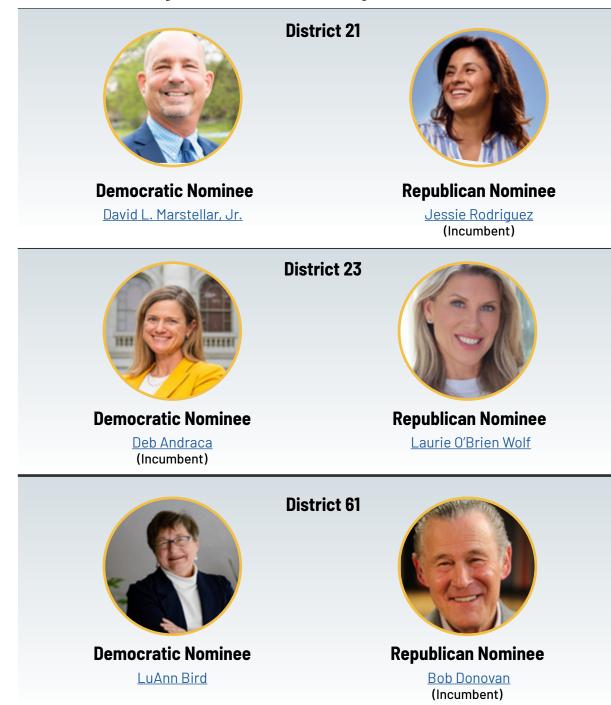


## State Assembly (Milwaukee County)



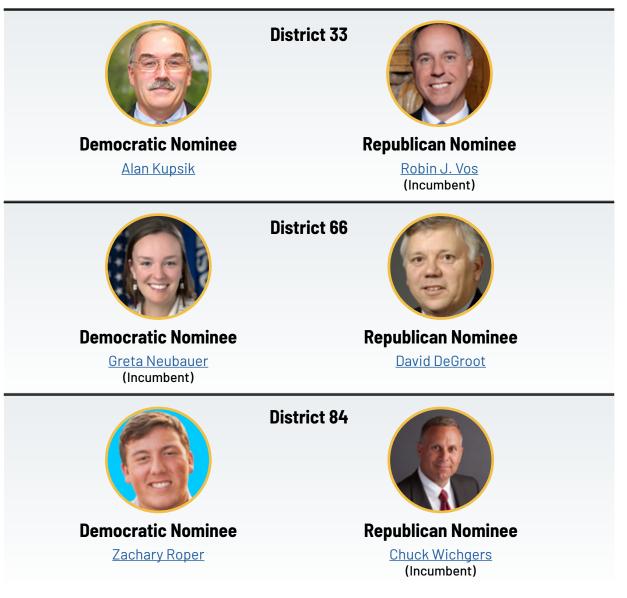


## State Assembly (Milwaukee County)





## State Assembly (Racine County)



## UNDERSTANDING KEY POSITIONS

**U.S. Senate:** Senators make decisions on national laws, approve federal judges, and represent Wisconsin's interests in Washington, D.C.

**District Attorney:** The District Attorney is the chief prosecutor for the county, responsible for prosecuting criminal cases and representing the state in criminal proceedings. This role has a profound impact on Black communities through decisions on which cases to prosecute and plea bargains, influencing policies on bail, sentencing recommendations, and diversion programs, and the power to address or perpetuate racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

**U.S. House of Representatives:** Representatives make federal laws and advocate for Wisconsin's needs in Congress.

#### → State Assembly:

This election year all 99 Assembly seats will be up for re-election. The results of these elections can significantly impact the direction of state policy, as the party that controls the Assembly has a major influence on which bills are considered and passed.

- → We encourage voters to research their local Assembly candidates and understand how these representatives can affect their daily lives through state-level decision-making.
- → The Wisconsin State Assembly is the lower house of the Wisconsin State Legislature. Here are some key points about the State Assembly:

**Make-up of the Assembly:** The Assembly consists of 99 members, each representing a single district.

**Elections:** Assembly members are elected to two-year terms. All 99 seats are up for election every two years.

**Role:** Along with the State Senate, the Assembly is responsible for creating, debating, and passing state laws. They also work on the state budget and can propose amendments to the state constitution.

**Leadership:** The Assembly is led by the Speaker, who is elected by the majority party.

**Committees:** Much of the Assembly's work is done in committees that focus on specific areas of policy (e.g., education, health, transportation).

**Local representation:** Assembly members represent the interests of their local districts in state-level decision-making.

**Checks and Balances:** The Assembly works with the State Senate and the Governor in a system of checks and balances. Bills must pass both the Assembly and the Senate and be signed by the Governor to become law.

**Constituent Services:** Assembly members often help constituents navigate state government services and address local concerns.

## THE POWER OF YOUR VOTE

### By participating in these elections, Black voters in Wisconsin have the opportunity to:

- → Elect representatives who understand and prioritize their community's needs
- → Shape policies that address longstanding inequities in education, healthcare, criminal justice, and economic opportunity
- → Ensure that diverse voices are heard in decision-making process at all levels of government

## **Additional Information**

### **Wisconsin Elections Commission**

Phone: (608) 266-8005 Email: elections@wi.gov

### **Racine County**

Phone: (262) 636-3121 Email: countyclerk@racinecounty.com **Kenosha County** Phone: (262) 653-2552 Email: county.clerk@kenoshacounty.org

**Milwaukee County** Phone: (414) 278-4060 Email: elections@milwaukeecountywi.gov

## HERE'S THE PLAN TO VOTE IN THE ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024

- Check your registration status
- Know your polling place
- Review your ballot and research candidates
- Prepare your required photo ID
- Plan your transportation to the polls
- Consider voting early to avoid Election Day crowds

Remember, your vote is your voice in shaping the future of your community, state, and nation. Be sure to cast your ballot on November 5, 2024!



