

## I. Background

Many election observers believe Democrats are well positioned to pick up seats going into the 2018 midterm elections based on historical trends and the number of incumbents and open seats Republicans must defend. In the past, cycles that were especially good for Democrats coincide with them being the party out of power at the national level, and vice versa. For example, Democrats picked up a combined 17 Assembly and Senate seats and majorities in both houses during the last four years of the George W. Bush presidency. When President Obama held office, Republicans took back majorities in both houses and picked up seats every cycle, despite Obama winning Wisconsin in 2012. In the following sections, the current make-up of the state Assembly and Senate are provided, along with scenarios of anticipated Democratic overperformance.

Top of Ticket Winner	% of Vote	Opponent	Difference	Assembly	Senate
Doyle 06'	52.7%	45.3%	7.4%	Dem +8	Dem +4
Obama 08'	56.2%	42.3%	13.9%	Dem +5	Even
Walker 10'	52.3%	46.5%	5.7%	GOP +15	GOP +4
Walker 12' Recall	53.1%	46.3%	6.8%		Dem +2
Obama 12'	52.8%	45.9%	6.9%	GOP +2	GOP +3
Walker 14'	52.3%	46.6%	5.7%	GOP +4	GOP +2
Trump 16'	47.2%	46.5%	0.8%	GOP +1	GOP +2

## II. Governor

Republican Scott Walker is running for a third term as Governor of Wisconsin. He was first elected in November 2010 with 52.2% of the vote, survived a recall election in 2012 with 53.1%, and secured a second term in 2014, garnering 52.3%. In the August 14<sup>th</sup> Democratic primary, state Superintendent Tony Evers easily defeated his challengers garnering 42% of the vote, while former state Rep. Mandela Barnes won the Lt. Governor primary and will face Republican Rebecca Kleefisch, elected with Walker in 2010.

Governor of Wisconsin General Election Poll Results						
Poll Source	Date	Spread	Walker	Evers	Neither	Don't Know
Marquette Law School	June 2018	Walker +4	48%	44%	3%	7%
NBC News/Marist	July 2018	Evers +13	41%	54%	0%	5%
Emerson	July 2018	Evers +7	41%	48%	4%	7%
Public Policy Polling	Aug 2018	Evers +5	44%	49%	0%	7%
Marquette Law School	Aug 2018	Walker +2	48%	46%	6%	0%
<b>Average</b>			<b>44%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>5%</b>

### III. State Senate

Republicans control the state Senate with 18 seats, while Democrats hold 15 seats. Half of the Senate Districts, the odd-numbered seats, will be on the ballot this fall. Ten are held by Republicans and seven by Democrats. Democrats need to flip two seats to take back the majority for the first time since 2012. There are three open seats, two currently held by Republicans and one by Democrats. GOP Senator Terry Moulton (R-Chippewa Falls) is retiring while Sens. Leah Vukmir (R-Brookfield) and Kathleen Vinehout (D-Alma) stepped down to run for higher office.

Current Senate Make-up			Dem Overperformance	Seats Flipped	Majority
18 Republicans			Even	GOP +1	GOP
15 Democrats			1%	GOP +1	GOP
			2%	Even	GOP
			3%	Even	GOP
Make-up	Outcome	Majority	4%	Even	GOP
19-14	GOP gain one seat	GOP	5%	Even	GOP
18-15	GOP hold seats	GOP	6%	Dem +1	GOP
17-16	GOP lose one seat	GOP	7%	Dem +1	GOP
16-17	GOP lose two seats	DEM	8%	Dem +2	DEM
15-18	GOP lose three seats	DEM	9%	Dem +3	DEM
			10%	Dem +5	DEM

#### Noncompetitive Dem Seats: 4

Sen. Tim Carpenter (D-3)	Sen. Chris Larson (D-7)	Sen. Janis Ringhand (D-15)	Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-27)
Unopposed	Jason Red Arnold	Unopposed	Casey Helbach

#### Noncompetitive GOP Seats: 3

Sen. Steve Nass (R-11)	Sen. Scott Fitzgerald (R-13)	Sen. Chris Kapenga (R-33)
Unopposed	Michelle Zahn	Unopposed

#### Competitive Dem Seats: 2

**25<sup>th</sup> Senate District** - St. Croix, Dunn, Barron, Washburn, Burnett, Douglas, Sawyer, Bayfield, Ashland, Price, Iron, Vilas Counties (48.3% GOP)

- Incumbent Sen. Janet Bewley (D-Ashland) - elected in 2014, served in the Assembly 2010-2014
- James Bolen (R-Cable) - resort owner/operator, former Chamber of Commerce Exec Director

**31<sup>st</sup> Senate District** - Buffalo, Trempeleau, Pierce, Pepin, Dunn, Eau Claire, Clark, Monroe, Jackson Counties (49.1% GOP)

- Open Seat - Sen. Kathleen Vinehout (D-Alma) ran unsuccessfully for Governor
- Mel Pittman (R-Plum City) - farmer, Pierce County supervisor, candidate in 2014
- Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire) - former two-term representative for the 93<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District
- Aaron Elaine Camacho (Wisconsin Green-Fountain City)

## Competitive GOP Seats: 5

### 5<sup>th</sup> Senate District - Milwaukee, Waukesha Counties (56.4% GOP)

- Open Seat - Sen. Leah Vukmir (R-Brookfield) running for U.S. Senate
- Rep. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) - elected to Assembly since 2010
- Julie Henszey (D-Wauwatosa) - corporate trainer and executive coach

### 9<sup>th</sup> Senate District - Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Calumet Counties (58.7% GOP)

- **Incumbent Sen. Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg)** - elected in 2014, owner of a weekly newspaper
- Kyle Whelton (D-Sheboygan) - Sheboygan School Board Member, previously employed by Acuity Insurance

### 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District - Outagamie, Winnebago Counties (53.1% GOP)

- **Incumbent Sen. Roger Roth (R-Appleton)** - Senate President since 2017, elected in 2014 with 57% of vote, served in Assembly 2006-2008
- Lee Snodgrass (D-Appleton) - Chair of Outagamie County Democratic Party

### 21<sup>st</sup> Senate District - Racine, Kenosha, Walworth Counties (57.7% GOP)

- **Incumbent Sen. Van Wanggaard (R-Racine)** - elected in 2010, recalled in 2012, 2014 re-elected, former law enforcement officer, former Racine County Supervisors
- Lori Hawkins (D-Bristol) - Small Business Owner

### 29<sup>th</sup> Senate District - Marathon, Barron, Bayfield, Price, Rusk, Taylor Counties (57.8% GOP)

- **Incumbent Sen. Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon)** - elected in June 2012 special election, re-elected in 2014, previously served in Assembly 1998-2010
- Richard Pulcher (D-Lublin) - Lublin Village Board Member, ran unsuccessfully for Assembly in 2014

## Most Competitive Seats: 3

### 1<sup>st</sup> Senate District - Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Calumet Counties (57.9% GOP)

- **Incumbent Sen. Caleb Frostman (D-Sturgeon Bay)** - elected in June 2018 special election with 51%, former Door County Economic Development Director
- Rep. Andre Jacque (R-De Pere) - elected to Assembly in 2010
- June 2018 Special Election called following Sen. Frank Lasee (R-De Pere) joined Walker administration in December of 2017

### 17<sup>th</sup> Senate District - Grant, Lafayette, Juneau, Richland, Iowa, Sauk, Green, Monroe, Vernon Counties (49.4% GOP)

- **Incumbent Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green)** - Certified Public Accountant, elected in 2014 with 55% of the vote, elected to Assembly 2010-2014
- Kriss Marion (D-Blanchardville) - farmer, LaFayette County Board supervisor

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Senate District - Barron, Clark, Chippewa, Dunn, Taylor, Eau Claire, Wood, Marathon Counties (57.0% GOP)

- Open Seat - Sen. Terry Moulton (R-Chippewa Falls) retiring
- Rep. Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie) - elected since 2010, former county clerk and village trustee
- Chris Kapsner (D-Boyceville) - emergency room physician

## IV. State Assembly

Republicans in the state Assembly hold a sizeable 64-35 majority. All 99 Assembly Districts are up for election in 2018. Thirteen seats are vacant due to retirements and members opting to run for higher office. Six Republican members are retiring, including Reps. Lee Nerison (R-Westby), Adam Jarchow (R-Balsam Lake), Jesse Kremer (R-Kewaskum), Tom Weatherston (R-Caledonia), Joel Kleefisch (R-Oconomowoc) and Ed Brooks (R-Reedsburg), along with two Democrats, Reps. Terese Berceau (D-Madison) and Leon Young (D-Milwaukee). Three Republicans are running for higher office, including Reps. Andre Jacque (R-De Pere), Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield), and Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie), along with two Democrats, including Reps. Dana Wachs (D-Eau Claire) and Eric Genrich (D-Green Bay).

Current Assembly Make-up			Dem Overperformance	Seats Flipped	Majority
64 Republicans			10%	Dem +21	Dem
35 Democrats			9%	Dem +17	Dem
			8%	Dem +14	GOP
			7%	Dem +11	GOP
Make-up	Outcome	Majority	6%	Dem +9	GOP
64-35	GOP hold seats	GOP	5%	Dem +9	GOP
63-36	GOP lose 1 seat	GOP	4%	Dem +6	GOP
62-37	GOP lose 2 seats	GOP	3%	Dem +3	GOP
61-38	GOP lose 3 seats	GOP	2%	Dem +2	GOP
60-39	GOP lose 4 seats	GOP	1%	Dem +1	GOP
59-40	GOP lose 5 seats	GOP	Even	Dem +1	GOP
58-41	GOP lose 6 seats	GOP			
57-42	GOP lose 7 seats	GOP			
56-43	GOP lose 8 seats	GOP			
55-44	GOP lose 9 seats	GOP			
54-45	GOP lose 10 seats	GOP			
53-46	GOP lose 11 seats	GOP			
52-47	GOP lose 12 seats	GOP			
51-48	GOP lose 13 seats	GOP			
50-49	GOP lose 14 seats	GOP			
49-50	GOP lose 15 seats	DEM			
48-51	GOP lose 16 seats	DEM			

### Noncompetitive Dem Seats: 35

<b>Rep. Daniel Riemer (D-7)</b> Matthew Bugham (Libertarian)	<b>Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa (D-8)</b> <b>Angel Sanchez</b>	<b>Marisabel Cabrera (D-9)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Rep. David Bowen (D-10)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Jason Fields (D-11)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>LaKeshia Meyers (D-12)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Kalan Haywood (D-16)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. David Crowley (D-17)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Evan Goyke (D-18)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Rep. Jonathan Brostoff (D-19)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Christine Sinicki (D-20)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Don Vruwink (D-43)</b> <b>Gabriel Szerlong</b>
<b>Rep. Debra Kolste (D-44)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-45)</b> Reese Wood (Libertarian)	<b>Rep. Gary Hebl (D-46)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Rep. Jimmy Anderson (D-47)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Melissa Sargent (D-48)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-54)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Rep. Amanda Stuck (D-57)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Peter Barca (D-64)</b> Thomas Harland (Consitution)	<b>Rep. Tod Ohnstad (D-65)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Rep. Greta Neubauer (D-66)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-71)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Nick Milroy (D-73)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Rep. Beth Meyers (D-74)</b> <b>Jeff Fahl</b>	<b>Rep. Chris Taylor (D-76)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Sheila Stubbs (D-77)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Rep. Lisa Subeck (D-78)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Dianne Hesselbein (D-79)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Sony Pope (D-80)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Rep. Dave Considine (D-81)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Staush Gruszynski (D-90)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Jodi Emerson (D-91)</b> <b>Echo Reardon</b>
<b>Rep. Steve Doyle (D-94)</b> <b>Albert Rohland</b>	<b>Rep. Jill Billings (D-95)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	

### Noncompetitive GOP seats: 44

<b>Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-1)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Shae Sortwell (R-2)</b> Mark Grams	<b>Rep. Ron Tusler (R-3)</b> Scott Gavin
<b>Rep. Jim Steineke (R-5)</b> Matt Lederer	<b>Rep. Gary Tauchen (R-6)</b> Richard Sarnwick	<b>Rep. Rob Hutton (R-13)</b> Dennis McBride
<b>Matt Adamczyk (R-14)</b> Robyn Vining	<b>Rep. Joe Sanfelippo (R-15)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Janel Brandtjen (R-22)</b> Aaron Matteson
<b>Rep. Jim Ott (R-23)</b> Liz Sumner	<b>Rep. Dan Knodl (R-24)</b> Emily Siegrist	<b>Rep. Paul Tittl (R-25)</b> Jennifer Estrada
<b>Rep. Terry Katsma (R-26)</b> Rebecca Clarke	<b>Rep. Tyler Vorpapel (R-27)</b> Nanette Bulebosh	<b>Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-31)</b> Brittany Keyes
<b>Rep. Tyler August (R-32)</b> Katherine Gaulke	<b>Rep. Cody Horlacher (R-33)</b> Brandon White	<b>Rep. Rob Swearingen (R-34)</b> Chris Meier
<b>Rep. Mary Felzowski (R-35)</b> Mark Martello	<b>Rep. Jeff Mursau (R-36)</b> Tim Comer	<b>Rep. John Jagler (R-37)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Barbara Ditttrich (R-38)</b> Melissa Winker	<b>Rep. Mark Born (R-39)</b> Elisha Barudin	<b>Rep. Kevin Petersen (R-40)</b> Erin Tracy
<b>Rep. Joan Ballweg (R-41)</b> Frank Buress	<b>Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R-52)</b> Kevin Booth	<b>Rep. Michael Schraa (R-53)</b> Joe Lavrenz
<b>Rep. Mike Rohrkaste (R-55)</b> Dan Schierl	<b>Rep. Dave Murphy (R-56)</b> Diana Lawrence	<b>Rep. Rick Gundrum (R-58)</b> Dennis Degenhardt
<b>Timothy Ramthun (R-59)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Rob Brooks (R-60)</b> Chris Rahif	<b>Rep. Samantha Kerkman (R-61)</b> Gina Walkington
<b>Rep. Robin Vos (R-63)</b> Joel Jacobsen	<b>Rep. Bob Kulp (R-69)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Ken Skowronski (R-82)</b> Jason Sellnow (Libertarian)
<b>Rep. Chuck Wichgers (R-83)</b> Jim Brownlow	<b>Rep. Mike Kuglitsch (R-84)</b> Erica Flynn	<b>Rep. John Spiros (R-86)</b> Nancy Stencil
<b>Rep. James Edming (R-87)</b> Elizabeth Riley	<b>Rep. John Nygren (R-89)</b> Ken Holdorf	<b>Rep. Scott Allen (R-97)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>
<b>Rep. Adam Neylon (R-98)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	<b>Rep. Cindi Duchow (R-99)</b> <i>Unopposed</i>	

**Most Competitive Seats: 20** *\*all held by Republicans*

**92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District** - Buffalo, Trempealeau, Pepin, Jackson Counties (50.6% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Treig Pronschinske (R-Mondovi)** - elected to Assembly in 2016, former Mondovi Mayor
- Rob Grover (D-Galesville) - farmer, small business owner

**51<sup>st</sup> Assembly District** - Richland, Iowa, La Fayette, Green, Sauk Counties (46.8% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville)** - elected to Assembly in 2014, Dodgeville Mayor, former newspaper editor
- Jeff Wright (D-Plain) - school superintendent, ran unsuccessfully for the seat in 2016

**96<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Monroe, Vernon, Crawford Counties (49.0% GOP)

- Open Seat - Rep. Lee Nerison (R-Westby) retiring after serving six terms in the Assembly
- Loren Oldenburg (R-Viroqua) - farmer
- Paul Buhr (D-Viroqua) - farmer

**85<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Marathon County (53.3% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Pat Snyder (R-Wausau)** - elected to Assembly in 2014, former talk radio host
- Alyson Leahy (D-Wausau) - Marathon County Board Supervisor, copywriter, co-founder Wausau Makers Market

**50<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Richland, Juneau, Monroe, Sauk Counties (51.4% GOP)

- Open Seat - Rep. Ed Brooks (R-Reedsburg) retiring after four terms in the Assembly
- Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) - retired Army helicopter pilot, farmer, ran unsuccessfully for 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District in 2014
- Arthur L. Shrader (D-Reedsburg) - banker, ran unsuccessfully against Brooks in 2016
- James Krus (I-Camp Douglas)

**42<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District** - Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Marquette, Dane Counties (52.5% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Jon Plumer (R-Lodi)** - small business owner, former salesman, elected in June 2018 special election with 53% of the vote
- Ann Groves Lloyd (D-Lodi) - Lodi City Council Member, academic advisor at UW-Madison
- Seat became vacant following Keith Ripp's (R-Lodi) resignation in December of 2017 to serve as an assistant deputy secretary with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

**68<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Eau Claire, Clark, Chippewa Counties (53.0% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Kathy Bernier (R-Lake Hallie)** is vacating the seat to run for state Senate
- Jesse James (R-Altoona) - Altoona Police Chief, small business owner
- Wendy Sue Johnson (D-Eau Claire) - former Eau Claire School Board Member, teacher, small business owner, attorney, lead plaintiff in recent redistricting case

**88<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Brown County (55.2% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. John Macco (R-Ledgeview)** - elected to the Assembly since 2014, founder of regional retail franchise, business consultant
- Tom Sieber (D-Green Bay) - Brown County Supervisor, owner of a retail business

**72<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District** - Waushara, Wood, Portage, Adams Counties (53.9% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Scott Krug (R-Nekoosa)** - realtor, elected to Assembly since 2010
- David Gorski (D-Wisconsin Rapids) - retired school counselor, ran unsuccessfully in 2016 garnering 44% of the vote

**29<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - St. Croix, Dunn Counties (54.2% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Rob Stafsholt (R-New Richmond)** - elected to the Assembly in 2016, small business owner
- John Rocco Calabrese (D-Menomonie) - carpenter, ran unsuccessfully in the 2018 January 10<sup>th</sup> Senate District Special Election Democratic primary
- Brian Corriea (Libertarian-Wilson)

**67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Chippewa, Dunn Counties (55.5% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Rob Summerfield (R-Bloomer)** - elected to the Assembly in 2016, small business owner
- Wren Keturi (D-Chippewa Falls) - communications director for the American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin

**49<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Grant, Richland, LaFayette Counties (48.2% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City)** - elected to the Assembly since 2010, farmer
- Mike Mooney (D-Platteville) - owns a design company, Grant County Democratic Party Vice Chairman

**75<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Washburn, Barron, Polk, St. Croix, Dunn Counties (56.2% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Romaine Quinn (R-Barron)** - elected to the Assembly since 2014, former Rice Lake Mayor
- Ali Holzman (D-Cumberland) - regional manager for the Wisconsin Education Association Council, farmer

**70<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Monroe, Jackson, Wood, Portage Counties (55.2% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah)** - elected to the Assembly since 2014, small business owner
- Cari Fay (D-Merrillan) - contract health services assistant administrator and mediator for Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health

**21<sup>st</sup> Assembly District** - Milwaukee County (55.2% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R-Oak Creek)** - elected to the Assembly since 2013, former analyst for a supermarket company, former coordinator for Hispanics for School Choice
- Gabriel A. Gomez (D-South Milwaukee) - United States Marine Corps veteran, maintenance and management services for a medical technology company

**30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - St. Croix, Pierce Counties (55.3% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Shannon Zimmerman (R-River Falls)** - elected to the Assembly since 2016, founder and CEO of a language translation company
- Barry Hammarback (D-River Falls) - attorney and businessman

**4<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Brown County (55.9% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Dave Steffen (R-Green Bay)** - elected to the Assembly since 2014, small business owner
- Terry Lee (D-Green Bay) - community activist with Citizen Action Northeast Wisconsin, and former local radio news reporter and TV producer

**93<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District** - Eau Claire, Dunn, Pierce, Pepin Counties (55.6% GOP)

- **Incumbent Rep. Warren Petryk (R-Eleva)** - Elected to the Assembly since 2010, worked previously in community relations for United Cerebral Palsy of West Central Wisconsin
- Charlene "Charlie" Warner (D-Mondovi) - real estate agent

**62<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District** - Racine, Kenosha Counties (56.6% GOP)

- Open Seat - Rep. Tom Weatherston (R-Caledonia) retiring after serving two terms in the Assembly
- Robert Wittke (R-Racine) - Racine Unified School Board President, tax and finance professional
- John Lehman (D-Racine) - former 62<sup>nd</sup> District State Representative and former 21<sup>st</sup> District State Senator, Democratic candidate for Lt. Governor in 2014

**28<sup>th</sup> Assembly District** - Polk, Burnett, St. Croix Counties (58.4% GOP)

- Open Seat - Rep. Adam Jarchow (R-Balsam Lake) retiring
- Gae Magnafici (R-Dresser) - Registered nurse
- Kim Butler (D- Balsam Lake) - Former TV producer, small business owner

## **V. Key Dates**

September 25 – September Campaign Finance Reports due

October 29 – Fall Pre-Election Campaign Finance Reports due

**November 6 – General Election**