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PROFILE OF THE 1981 WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

AS OF JANUARY 1, 1981

The profile of the members of the 1981 Wisconsin Legislature presented in this brief comprises 2 parts: (1) A summary of data on the 1981 legislators in each house, including their party affiliation, marital status, legislative experience, local government experience, occupation, age, educational background, and service in the armed forces; and (2) A comparative table, "Personal Data on Wisconsin Legislators, 1971-1981".

THE SENATE PROFILE

The Senate has 33 members. In the 1981 Legislature there are 19 Democrats and 14 Republicans. Two members of the 1981 Senate are women, and one member is a Black. Of the 33 senators, 24 are married and 2 are widowed.

Legislative Experience. Fourteen senators were reelected and 16 are holdover senators. Of the 3 first-term senators, one has served previously in the Assembly and 2 are new to the Legislature.

Five senators have had experience in 10 or more legislative sessions. Four have served in 5 to 9 sessions, and twenty-four have served in less than 5 sessions. Senator Clifford Krueger, 12th Senate District, has the longest legislative experience; the 1981 session will be his 17th session. Of the 10 senators now in their first 4-year terms, four will complete their first full term at the end of the 1981 session.

Local Government Experience. Twelve senators have had experience in elected local public office (that is, county or municipal office). Of these, 1 senator has held public office at both the county and municipal level ("municipal" includes cities, towns and villages), 2 senators have served on county boards, 4 on city councils and 4 on town boards (3 as chairman). Two senators have served as city attorneys (one also served as mayor) and one senator has served as county district attorney.

Age. The average age of the senators is 43.7. Eleven senators are in the 26-35 year range, followed by 9 in the 36-45 year range, 6 in the 46-55 year range, 5 in the 56-65 year range, and 2 are over 65 years of age. The oldest senator is 81 years old and youngest is 26. All ages are listed as of January 1, 1981.

Occupations. Eleven senators are attorneys (one of whom is also a real estate broker). The current occupations of other senators include 3 farmers (one is also a real estate broker), a chairman of a bank board of directors, a salesman, a commercial airline captain, an electrical contractor, a television account executive, a president of a recycling firm, and a biologist and owner of an environmental consulting firm. The remaining 12 senators indicated no

Prepared by Gary Watchke, Research Analyst, from questionnaires sent to state legislators by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

current occupation other than being a full-time legislator. Included among the former occupations of those 12 full-time legislators are 3 teachers, 2 congressional aides, a legislative aide and a construction worker.

Education. Of the 30 senators who attended college, 25 hold academic degrees. Eleven senators hold law degrees, 2 hold Ph.D. degrees, 2 hold M.A. degrees, 1 holds an M.S. degree, and 9 hold bachelor's degrees.

Thirteen senators attended two or more colleges or universities. Ten attended UW-Madison, 3 attended UW-Milwaukee, and 3 attended other schools in the UW System. Six attended Marquette University, one attended Lawrence University, and 2 attended a business or trade school. Three attended both in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities, while 8 attended only out-of-state schools. Two senators did not attend any school beyond high school.

Armed Services Record. Thirteen senators have served in the nation's armed forces. Four served in the Army, 3 in the Navy, 1 in the Marine Corps, and 1 in the Air Force; and 4 senators have served in the National Guard or Army Reserve. Six senators are veterans of World War II, and 2 are veterans of the Korean Conflict.

THE ASSEMBLY PROFILE

The Assembly has 99 members. In the 1981 Legislature, 59 representatives to the Assembly are Democrats, 39 are Republicans, and 1 vacancy exists. Eighteen members of the 1981 Assembly are women, and 2 members are Black. Seventy-four representatives are married, 20 are single and 4 are widowed.

Legislative Experience. Eighty-seven representatives were reelected, while 11 are serving their first term in the Assembly. One reelected member, however, resigned in December 1980 to accept a judgeship. One prior member was elected to his post after having been defeated in the 1978 election. The representatives with the highest number of terms are Earl F. McEssy, 52nd Assembly District, and Bernard Lewison, 96th Assembly District, who both have served in 12 prior sessions. Representative McEssy's terms are consecutive; Representative Lewison's terms are not. Twenty-nine representatives have had previous legislative experience in 5 or more sessions, thirteen have served 4 sessions, eleven have served 3 session, thirteen have served 2 sessions, and twenty-one have served 1 prior session in the Assembly.

Local Government Experience. Of the 36 representatives who have had experience in elected local public office, 12 have held office at both the county and municipal level, 11 have held office at the county level only, and 13 have held office at the municipal level only. Sixty-two have held no elected, local public office.

Nineteen representatives have served on county boards, 10 have served as city council members, 1 has served as village trustee, 8 have served as town board members (4 as town chairperson) and 6 have served as school board members. One representative has served as mayor, 2 as district attorneys, 1 as coroner, 1 as county clerk, 1 as municipal justice and 1 as town clerk.

Age. The average age of the representatives is 43.3 years. Three representatives are under 26 years of age, 26 representatives are in the 26-35 year range, 32 are in the 36-45 year range, 21 in the 46-55 year range, 12 in the 56-65 year range, and 4 are over 65 years. The oldest representative is 78 years old, whereas the youngest representative is 22 years of age. All ages are listed as of January 1, 1981.

Occupation. Law and farming are the predominant current occupations in the Assembly. Thirteen representatives are attorneys (including one who is a farmer-businessman and one who is not presently practicing law). Nine

representatives are farmers (including the attorney-businessman and one who is also a newspaper publisher). Eight representatives are engaged in business (4 of whom are either presidents, managers or owners of the business), 2 are in real estate (including one savings and loan president also listed in the business category), and 2 clergymen (of whom one is presently on leave and is a carpenter). Other current occupations include stockbroker, telephone cable splicer, sheet metal worker, train dispatcher, homemaker, cabinet maker, pharmaceutical coordinator, bricklayer and mason, political scientist, and mental health assistant. The remaining 56 representatives list no current occupation other than being a full-time legislator. The most predominant former occupations of these full-time legislators include teaching (12), congressional or legislative aide (6), and business (5).

Education. Of the 80 representatives who have attended college, 68 hold academic degrees. Fourteen representatives hold a law degree, 1 holds a Ph.D. degree and 14 hold master's degrees. Thirty-nine representatives hold a bachelor's degree, and one holds an A.S. degree. Fifty-four representatives attended schools in the University of Wisconsin System (8 also attended other schools), 8 attended Marquette University, 5 attended other private schools in Wisconsin, and 19 attended out-of-state colleges or universities. Four attended a business, technical or trade school after high school graduation, and 18 did not continue beyond high school.

Armed Services Record. Thirty-two representatives have served in the nation's armed forces. Sixteen have served in the Army, 5 in the Navy, 3 in the Air Force and 2 in the Marine Corps. In addition, 6 representatives have served exclusively in the Wisconsin National Guard, Army Reserve or Navy Reserve. Ten representatives are veterans of World War II, 8 are veterans of the Korean Conflict, 5 are veterans of the Vietnam Era, and one representative served in both World War II and the Korean Conflict.

PERSONAL DATA ON WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS, 1971-1981 SESSIONS*

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1971** 1973 1975** 1977 1979** 1981**

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	1971**	1973	1975**	1977	1979**	1981**
Party						
Democrat	12	67	15	62	18	63
Republican	20	33	18	37	13	36
No. serving prior terms						
In Senate	26	0	26	0	25	0
In Assembly	16	71	13	71	12	77
Top no. of prior sess. in same house	17	12	12	13	13	14
Occupations						
Attorney	11	20	12	19	12	14
Farmer	3	15	1	12	0	14
Other	14	62	16	64	17	65
Retired	4	3	4	4	2	6
Education						
Not beyond high school	4	20	4	18	2	19
Business or technical school	2	17	1	9	1	5
Attended College	27	71	28	75	28	77
Academic degree	18	49	21	52	22	57
Higher degree	12	30	16	31	16	28
No. with exp. on local gov. body						
County board	8	18	6	19	6	20
Municipal board	8	27	5	25	5	24
Age						
Oldest	74	72	76	71	78	72
Youngest	25	24	25	19	27	20
Average	51	44	48	43	45	41
Veterans	17	47	14	40	10	32
Marital Status						
Single	1	12	7	17	7	23
Married	30	86	26	79	24	73
Widowed	1	2	0	3	0	3
No. of women	0	4	0	7	1	9

*Data based on the membership when the Legislature first convenes in January of each odd-numbered year.
 **Vacancy: 1971 - 1 Senate; 1975 - 2 Senate; 1979 - 2 Senate; 1981 - 1 Assembly.