



LEARN, COLLABORATE, LEAD: INTRODUCING THE BILLD CLASS OF 2023

Congratulations to the diverse, bipartisan, binational group of legislators who make up the new class of BILLD Fellows. The intensive 2023 Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development Program took place in August in Madison, Wis. Over the course of five days, 37 state and provincial legislators participated in a mix of professional development workshops and policy seminars designed to advance their leadership skills and their work as lawmakers. Participants earned the fellowships through a nonpartisan, competitive application process that is overseen by a bipartisan steering committee of The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC).

The MLC is made up of all legislators from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Saskatchewan, South Dakota and Wisconsin; legislators from the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario are affiliate members. CSG Midwest provides staff support to the MLC and all of its programs and services, including BILLD — the only leadership training program designed exclusively for Midwestern legislators. The goal of BILLD is to help newer legislators (those in their first four years of service) develop the skills necessary to become effective leaders, informed decision-makers and astute policy analysts.

This year's BILLD Fellows join nearly 1,000 current and former legislators who have graduated from the program since its inception in 1995; many graduates have gone on to become top legislative leaders or to hold high-level positions in state executive and judicial branches. Others are now serving in the U.S. Congress.



REP. AVERY ANDERSON

Having worked in Washington, D.C. as a U.S. Senate staffer and as a campaign manager, Avery Anderson witnessed firsthand how divisive politics can be, but as a member of the Kansas Legislature, he is committed to bipartisanship.

Anderson became chair of the Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committee at the start of his second term in the House, and he is committed to being a good steward of state dollars while addressing the needs of the state. Anderson has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Kansas. While in college, he was an intern for a legislator in the Kansas House.

Newton, Kansas
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2020

- Committees:
- Appropriations
 - Transportation
 - Transportation & Public Safety Budget



REP. CLAIRE CORY

Since joining the legislature, Claire Cory has taken a lead role on several education-related measures — on issues ranging from school lunches and school choice, to funding for the University of North Dakota, to providing in-state tuition to out-of-state National Guard members.

Cory uses her position as a young legislator to speak at high schools and Girls State about the importance of politics and community service. She also has helped mentor prospective "GenZ" political candidates. Cory has a bachelor's degree from the University of North Dakota; as a college student, she served as an intern for a U.S. senator and as a field intern for the North Dakota GOP.

Grand Forks, North Dakota
Republican

first appointed: Oct. 2019
first elected: Nov. 2020

- Committees:
- Government & Veterans Affairs
 - Judiciary



REP. SEAN P. BRENNAN

An award-winning school teacher for three decades, as well as a longtime member and president of his local city council, Sean Patrick Brennan has earned a reputation of strong community leadership and public service. He has helped lead numerous local philanthropic activities, and used his love of running (Brennan has completed more than 100 marathons) to create a special event, the Parma Run-Walk for Pierogies, which raises thousands of dollars for local charities.

Brennan holds a master's degree in educational administration from Cleveland State University. He is committed to being a leading "voice for local government" inside the legislature.

Parma, Ohio
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Pensions
 - Primary & Secondary Education
 - Public Utilities
 - State & Local Government
 - Ways & Means



REP. JAYME DAVIS

Jayme Davis came to the North Dakota legislature with an extensive and varied background in tribal governance, federal Indian law and tribal sovereignty. That includes her current position as a policy specialist and law and policy department administrator for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.

Davis aims to be a legislative leader on policies that impact Indian country, and during her first year in office, she guided through legislation that codified the Indian Child Welfare Act. She also became the first Native American to hold a caucus leadership position in North Dakota. Davis has a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Minnesota.

Rolette, North Dakota
Democrat

first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Human Services
 - Political Subdivisions



SEN. SEAN CLEARY

As a policy advisor for Gov. Doug Burgum, Sean Cleary became a trusted leader in advancing North Dakota health policy. Some of the same issues now top his legislative agenda, including expanding access to home and community-based services, strengthening behavioral health, and controlling health care costs.

Outside the legislature, Cleary serves as grant writer for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation; he previously worked as regional director for a U.S. senator. Cleary has a master's degree in applied economics from the University of North Dakota. His community activities include serving on the board of North Dakota Assistive, which helps people in need of assistive technology devices.

Bismarck, North Dakota
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Human Services
 - State & Local Government



SEN. SYDNEY DAVIS

Sydney Davis quickly emerged as a leader on health care policy after being elected to the House in 2020, and then South Dakota's upper legislative chamber two years later. Having worked since 2018 as a certified registered nurse anesthetist, she brings an on-the-ground perspective to legislative discussions and her role as vice chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

In 2023, she collaborated with other legislators on a law decriminalizing fentanyl test strips to prevent drug overdoses. She is involved locally in the Farm Bureau and Rotary Club, and also co-founded a golf tournament to support CDH International. Davis has a master's degree in nurse anesthesia from Mount Mary College.

Burbank, South Dakota
Republican

first elected: Nov. 2020

- Committees:
- Education
 - Health & Human Services
 - State Affairs



REP. WILLIAM CLIFFORD

A former U.S. Air Force pilot and emergency medical technician, as well as a practicing physician, William Clifford has a wealth of experience and interests. His biggest policy interests, though, center on the challenges of substance abuse disorder, mental health and the opioid crisis. He earned his doctorate in medicine from the University of Southern California, and has participated in medical missions around the world.

Dr. Clifford has more than 30 years of experience in comprehensive ophthalmology and is president of the Fry Eye Surgery Center. He also has served as a community college trustee and a county commissioner.

Garden City, Kansas
Republican
first appointed: Nov. 2021
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Financial Institutions & Pensions
 - Health & Human Services
 - Social Services Budget



MLA RYAN DOMOTOR

Ryan Domotor has spent his entire professional career in public service. After receiving his Local Government Administration certification from the University of Regina in 1993, Domotor became the longtime chief administrative officer for the village of Mervin. In 2017, Domotor received the Fraser-Gatrell Citizen's Planning Award in recognition of his contributions to the promotion of planning.

In his community, Domotor has served as the curling club executive, spent 12 years on the Town of Turtleford Council, and 17 years as the area coroner. He currently is on the board of directors for the Turtleford and District Co-op Association. In the Legislative Assembly, he serves on the Standing Committee on the Economy.

Turtleford, Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Party

first elected: Oct. 2020

- Committee:
- Economy



REP. ALABAS FARHAT

A son of immigrants, Alabas Farhat discovered his passion for public service as an intern in the Michigan House. He also has served in other levels of government, including a leadership role in government relations and special projects for the Wayne County executive.

With a background in public health and health care, Farhat's primary legislative interest lies in improving health care equity, access and affordability for all Michigan residents. He holds a bachelor's degree in public health from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and is finishing a master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Dearborn, Michigan
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Economic Development & Small Business
 - Health Policy
 - Tax Policy
 - Transportation, Mobility & Infrastructure



SEN. ERICA HARRISS

Erica Harriss founded a small business built around the idea of using innovation and creative solutions to solve problems, and she employs those same principles as a legislator. In Springfield, she advocates for policies that help small-business owners and entrepreneurs, encourage innovation, and support workers.

She holds a bachelor's degree in speech communication from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. For six years, Harriss served as a member of her local county board, and she now is the caucus lead on the Senate Local Government Committee. Her longtime service in the community has included being a youth group leader for high school girls for more than 20 years.

Glen Carbon, Illinois
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Appropriations, Health & Human Services
 - Energy & Public Utilities
 - Higher Education
 - Local Government
 - Veterans Affairs



REP. LAURA FAVER DIAS

Laura Faver Dias has brought her leadership skills to the classroom, to a political campaign and now to elected office. She holds a master's degree in education from Wayne State University and received several accolades during her 10 years as a history teacher in Chicago.

She previously helped run a state representative's campaign and district office before seeking elected office herself. Faver Dias became a village trustee before winning a race for the Illinois House in 2022. She hit the ground running, passing five bills during her few first months as a legislator while emerging as a leader on education policy.

Grayslake, Illinois
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Appropriations, Elementary & Secondary Education
 - Child Care Access & Early Childhood
 - Elementary Secondary Education, School Curriculum Policies
 - Energy & Environment
 - State Government Administration



REP. MELLISSA HEERMANN

A former mayor, city council member and school board member, Melissa Heermann brings varied leadership experiences to her legislative work, as well as a long list of community service — a volunteer at her church, as well as for youth boards and activities, Junior Achievement, the PTA and other nonprofit groups.

Her policy interests include education, adoption, youth mental health and reduction of child abuse. Heermann, a Nebraska legislative aide in 2002, is the revenue cycle director for Brookings Health System, where she also serves as the privacy officer in charge of adhering to federal privacy regulations. She has a master's degree in business operations from South Dakota State University.

Brookings, South Dakota
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Education
 - Health & Human Services



SEN. JOHN FREDRICKSON

John Fredrickson came to the Legislature with 10 years of experience as a social worker and mental health provider, helping people of diverse backgrounds and needs overcome challenges and better their lives. One of his top legislative priorities is improving access to mental health services, which Fredrickson views as critical to helping communities thrive. He also is pursuing policies on school-based mental health, the expansion of anti-discrimination laws, and protections for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Fredrickson, who runs his own psychotherapy practice, has a master's degree in social work from Columbia University. He is the first openly gay man ever elected to the Nebraska Legislature.

Omaha, Nebraska
Nonpartisan
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Natural Resources
 - Transportation & Telecommunications



REP. AMANDA HEMMINGSEN-JAEGER

Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger uses her diverse background in science and public policy to guide her evidence-based approach to legislating and leadership. In her previous role as a forensic scientist for the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, she analyzed data at the molecular level. Hemmingsen-Jaeger now analyzes policy in her dual roles as an analyst for the Minnesota Department of Human Services and as a legislator.

She leans on that expertise in pursuit of policy in priority areas such as equity, paid parental leave and transportation. Hemmingsen-Jaeger holds master's degrees in genetics from the University of Iowa and in public policy from the University of Minnesota.

Woodbury, Minnesota
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Climate & Energy Finance & Policy
 - Children & Families Finance & Policy
 - Health Finance & Policy
 - Workforce Development Finance & Policy



SEN. JESSE GREEN

As a fifth-generation farmer, Jesse Green brought with him to the Iowa Statehouse a deep understanding of agriculture as well as a commitment to improving state-level policies in a number of areas. Among them: improving water quality, addressing the shortage of veterinarians, and strengthening value-added programs for producers.

Before entering public office, Green served on his county's Farm Bureau board and was the youngest chairman of his local rodeo committee. He also has served his community as a volunteer Bible instructor. In his second term in the Senate, Green was selected to serve as chair of the Local Government Committee.

Harcourt, Iowa
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2020

- Committees:
- Agriculture
 - Appropriations
 - Local Government
 - Natural Resources & Environment



REP. JO ELLA HOYE

Jo Ella Hoye held various management positions in the public, private and nonprofit sectors (including as a senior analyst in the Johnson County manager's office) before taking time to raise a family, during which she volunteered at her local school in a variety of capacities as well as for the state chapter of an advocacy organization for gun safety. Her advocacy work led to the passage of bipartisan legislation in Kansas.

In the House, she has worked to be an "active listener" while seeking to move measures forward that reduce gun violence. Hoye has a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas.

Lenexa, Kansas
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2020

- Committees:
- Federal & State Affairs
 - Transportation
 - Transportation & Public Safety Budget



MPP MIKE HARRIS

Mike Harris' legislative service is rooted in helping rural communities, and the people who live there, prosper. He grew up in northern Ontario and is the son of a former provincial premier.

In the Legislative Assembly, Harris serves as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Legislative Affairs. He was a champion of legislation that led to the launch of Ontario's Digital Dealership Registration program, which is reducing red tape for car dealers and streamlining the vehicle purchasing process for buyers. Another policy priority has been child safety, with one example being his introduction of the Safer School Buses Act, which had Ontario adopt a safer amber-red warning light system.

Kitchener, Ontario
Progressive Conservative
first elected: June 2018

- Committees:
- Government Agencies
 - Procedure & House Affairs



SEN. JANA HUGHES

Jana Hughes' experience as a local school board member led her to seek legislative office, and she is now committed to helping improve education policy in areas such as teacher recruitment and retention. Her long list of community involvement has included volunteering for her local church, various parent groups and 4-H.

Hughes has a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Texas A&M University. Her varied background includes working as an engineering consultant manager and group exercise instructor, and when her local school district was experiencing a shortage of substitute teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic, she helped fill the void by seeking a license and providing classroom instruction.

Seward, Nebraska
Nonpartisan
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Agriculture
 - General Affairs
 - Natural Resources



MLA DARYL HARRISON

Prior to his election to the Legislative Assembly, Daryl Harrison had worked in the oil industry for more than 30 years in a variety of roles, including serving as account manager for the energy technology company Baker Hughes General Electric.

He serves as the legislative secretary for value-added agriculture and livestock engagement for the Saskatchewan Minister of Agriculture. Harrison also is a member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Outside of the legislature, he is a member of the Lions Club, a volunteer firefighter, a cattle rancher, and a local director for the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association. Harrison previously served as a trustee for his local school division.

Alida, Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Party
first elected: Oct. 2020

- Committee:
- Public Accounts



SEN. ANDREA HUNLEY

A longtime educator, Andrea Hunley understands the importance of listening and reflection. As a high school English teacher and, later, the principal of a K-8 public school in Indianapolis, Hunley became aware of the importance of equitable workforce development, access to transportation and economic growth — all issues she now prioritizes as a senator. She also lends her first-hand experiences to discussions about education policy and supporting vulnerable children. (Hunley began her life in the foster care system.)

Hunley has a master's degree in language education from Indiana University. She served on several community boards before taking the chance to represent her Indianapolis community in the legislature.

Indianapolis, Indiana
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Commerce & Technology
 - Education & Career Development
 - Elections
 - Family & Children Services
 - Homeland Security & Transportation
 - Pensions & Labor
 - Utilities
 - Veterans Affairs & Military



REP. KAREN HURD

Karen Hurd counts her work as a nutritionist and biochemist and her time as part of the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Corps as shaping her legislative outlook: pay attention to the detail and data that lead to sound decisions.

A former village board member, she currently is vice chair of the Assembly Transportation Committee; in that role, she is pursuing policies that repair Wisconsin's rural roads. Hurd has a master's degree in biochemistry from the University of Saint Joseph (Connecticut) and is seeking a master's degree in public health. She also is a screenwriter and producer; her historical drama "The Lumber Baron" won the Audience Award at the 2018 Twin Cities Film Fest.

Fall Creek, Wisconsin
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2022

Committees:

- Agriculture
- Corrections
- Energy & Utilities
- Family Law
- Rural Development
- Transportation



REP. DONAVAN MCKINNEY

Donavan McKinney's legislative priorities are to provide access to health care and quality education, improve the criminal justice system, and secure workers' rights. He was appointed by the governor to serve on the state's first Environmental Justice Council, an opportunity that has allowed him to advocate for a state plan that aims to improve water accessibility and affordability.

Among his volunteer pursuits: organizing "Young Minds in Transition" tours, which bring musicians, entrepreneurs, engineers, elected officials and others to schools to speak with students about the importance of perseverance and mentorship. McKinney has a degree in public policy from the University of Michigan.

Detroit, Michigan
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2022

Committee:

- Appropriations



REP. SPENCER IGO

Spencer Igo already has taken on leadership roles in the Legislature, including as chair of the bicameral Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Advisory Board (the first Republican to serve in that post since its founding in 1941) and as House assistant minority leader.

He once worked as a field representative for a local member of the U.S. House, a position that cemented his commitment to helping the people of northern Minnesota. His priorities include policies that support the safe mining of critical minerals (for energy and other products) in Minnesota's Iron Range. Igo has a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of North Dakota.

Wabana Township, Minnesota
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2020

Committees:

- Climate & Energy Finance & Policy
- Economic Development Finance & Policy
- Sustainable Infrastructure Policy



REP. BJORN OLSON

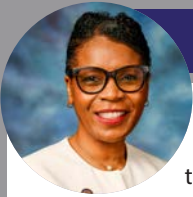
A captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, Bjorn Olson also is a former mayor, coach and history teacher in rural Minnesota, where he continues a family tradition in farming that dates back to the late 1800s. He is a commercial grain farmer who independently farms 220 acres while also assisting with his family's 1,200 acres of land.

Olson's two terms as mayor were highlighted by eliminating a 30 percent budget deficit without raising taxes. In the Minnesota Legislature, he serves as assistant minority leader, and is focused on improving state policies on local government and agriculture. Olson has a master's degree in military history from American Military University.

Fairmont, Minnesota
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2020

Committees:

- Taxes
- Transportation Finance & Policy
- Veterans & Military Affairs Finance & Policy



SEN. ADRIANE JOHNSON

Adriane Johnson has dedicated her life to environmental protection and improving the lives of the residents of Chicago's northern suburbs.

Johnson previously served as president of the Buffalo Grove Park District, allowing her to lead in an area of particular importance to her — preserving and expanding the availability of green spaces so that everyone in the community can experience the wide-ranging benefits. In the Senate, Johnson has sponsored bills pushing a utility to clean up its coal ash ponds and served as a co-sponsor of the Clean Energy Jobs Act. Johnson, who has a master of jurisprudence in business law from Loyola University Chicago, also currently serves as chair of the Senate Education Committee.

Buffalo Grove, Illinois
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2020

Committees:

- Appropriations
- Behavioral & Mental Health
- Education
- Environment & Conservation
- Local Government
- Transportation
- Veterans Affairs



SEN. BRAD PFAFF

Improving the economic and social prosperity of rural residents is driving the legislative agenda of Brad Pfaff, and it's also an issue that he has pursued throughout a career devoted to public service.

Pfaff twice served as deputy chief of staff to a Wisconsin congressman, and is the current director of the state Department of Administration's Office of Small Business and Rural Development. For most of 2019, he was Gov. Tony Evers' secretary designee for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Pfaff also previously served in two senior leadership positions within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Services Agency. Pfaff has a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Onalaska, Wisconsin
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2020

Committees:

- Agriculture & Tourism
- Economic Development & Technical Colleges
- Insurance & Small Business
- Transportation & Local Government
- Utilities & Technology



REP. BARB KNIFF McCULLA

Barb Kniff McCulla has earned a reputation as a state and business leader as the longtime owner and CEO of KLK Construction. She has served on the board of directors for the National Federation of Independent Businesses and been chair of the Leadership Council for the federation's Iowa chapter. Additionally, Kniff McCulla's business success and experience led her to be appointed by the governor to serve as chair of the Iowa Telecommunication and Technology Commission.

She has a bachelor's degree in business management from William Penn University. Her legislative interests include issues related to health and human services.

Pella, Iowa
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2022

Committees:

- Commerce
- Economic Growth & Technology
- Health & Human Services
- Ways & Means



REP. KYLE PIERCE

Kyle Pierce once was a legislative assistant in the chamber that he now represents. It is one of many varied professional experiences that Pierce brings to his work in the Indiana General Assembly. He also has worked as a congressional staffer and served as the deputy executive director for a medical association and director of development for a university foundation. Pierce currently is a project manager for Argo Strategy, a marketing and communications consultancy.

He has a law degree from Indiana University. Early in his legislative career, Pierce has focused on becoming a policy leader on election law.

Anderson, Indiana
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2022

Committees:

- Commerce, Small Business & Economic Development
- Elections & Apportionment
- Financial Institutions



SEN. IZAAH KNOX

Shortly after graduating from college, Izaah Knox emerged as a young leader in the Des Moines community that he now represents.

Knox joined the nonprofit organization Urban Dreams, and eventually became its executive director. In this role, he has been involved with projects related to workforce development, substance abuse, mental health awareness and food insecurity.

His work on many of those same issues continues as a legislator. Knox earned a master's degree in leadership and organizational development from Drake University and is pursuing a Ph.D. in education from Iowa State University.

Des Moines, Iowa
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2022

Committees:

- Commerce
- Judiciary
- Local Government
- Natural Resources & Environment
- Technology



SEN. MICHELE REYNOLDS

A third-generation business owner and the CEO of a nonprofit, faith-based organization that provides affordable housing to Ohioans, Michele Reynolds remains committed to serving others in the legislature. Her legislative priorities include preserving and expanding religious liberties and freedom of expression. A former township trustee and chair, Reynolds is a licensed real estate salesperson.

She has received numerous humanitarian awards, including the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Barack Obama. Reynolds holds multiple degrees, including a master of law from the Thomas Jefferson School of Law and a master of arts in public administration and urban studies from the University of Akron.

Canal Winchester, Ohio
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2022

Committees:

- Community Revitalization
- Education
- Judiciary
- Rules & Reference
- Workforce & Higher Education



SEN. LIZ LARSON

Liz Larson brings a world of experience to her work as a legislator — more than 20 years of project management, consulting and advising at organizations such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia/Pacific, the U.N. Capital Development Fund in Fiji and a World Bank Initiative in India. Larson helped improve financial ecosystems in vulnerable communities and expand credit access for many small, women-owned businesses.

As minority whip in the Senate, she is pursuing evidence-based policies in areas such as agriculture, natural resources and sustainability. Larson has a master's degree in international studies from the University of Oregon.

Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2022

Committees:

- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Local Government
- Transportation



REP. JULIE ROGERS

A practicing physical therapist, Julie Rogers has made improving access to health care and strengthening public health programs among her priorities as a legislator. Of particular interest to her: advancing state policies on lead exposure, including identifying where it exists, educating the public, and mitigating the problem.

Rogers previously served four terms on her county's board of commissioners and was a longstanding member (including vice chair) of the National Association of Counties' Health Policy Steering Committee. She also was the American Physical Therapy Association's federal affairs liaison to the U.S. Congress. Rogers holds a master's degree in physical therapy from Marquette University.

Kalamazoo, Michigan
Democrat
first elected: Nov. 2020

Committees:

- Health Policy
- Insurance & Financial Services
- Local Government & Municipal Finance
- Military, Veterans & Homeland Security



REP. ELIZABETH ROWRAY

Elizabeth Rowray brings considerable experience to her work as a lawmaker, from serving as a legislative director for a member of the U.S. House, leading a local Chamber of Commerce and an alliance of local businesses, working as a lobbyist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and serving on a local school board.

She uses that background as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee to advocate for budgets that promote business growth while also sufficiently funding public services. In her second term, Rowray was chosen as assistant majority floor leader. She has a bachelor's degree in English from Ball State University, where she also is pursuing a master's degree in public administration.

Yorktown, Indiana
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2020

- Committees:
- Family, Children & Human Affairs
 - Insurance
 - Ways & Means



SEN. R. BRAD VON GILLERN

As he rose in the ranks at Lueder Construction, a commercial building contractor, R. Brad von Gillern also was leaving an impressive mark of community service — for example, board positions with the Salvation Army, Lifegate Church, the YMCA and Boy Scouts of America, and president of the Rotary Club. His legislative work continues that commitment to service.

He is vice chair of the Revenue Committee, lending his experience as a business leader to tax policy discussion. The past president, CEO and majority owner of Lueder Construction, von Gillern eventually sold his interest in the business. He has a bachelor's degree in construction management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Elkhorn, Nebraska
Nonpartisan
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Banking, Commerce & Insurance
 - Revenue



REP. DONNA ROZAR

As part of her distinguished career in health care, Donna Rozar worked as an emergency room and medical-surgical registered nurse, as a college-level nurse and clinical educator, and as a cardiac nurse.

She brings that wealth of experience and knowledge to the Wisconsin Legislature, including as vice chair of the Assembly's Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee. She also is chair of the Family Law Committee. A county board supervisor since 2000, Rozar has long been active in her community, from involvement in the Chamber of Commerce to volunteer service at her church. She is also a competitive online Scrabble player. Rozar has a master's degree in nursing from Viterbo University in Wisconsin.

Marshfield, Wisconsin
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2020

- Committees:
- Campaigns & Elections
 - Education
 - Family Law
 - Health, Aging & Long-Term Care
 - Jobs, Economy & Small Business Development
 - Workforce Development & Economic Opportunities



REP. JOSH WILLIAMS

Josh Williams's personal story is one of overcoming hardships. He was a homeless high school dropout who later suffered a life-changing workplace injury, but ultimately persevered to become a successful attorney and professor of constitutional law.

Williams' life experiences drive his commitment to helping others conquer their own personal challenges. In the legislature, he is focused on issues such as education and criminal justice reform. His work as a community mentor and role model has included serving as a youth minister, sports program director and coach. Williams' law degree is from the University of Toledo; he is an attorney at Groth and Associates.

Oregon, Ohio
Republican
first elected: Nov. 2022

- Committees:
- Criminal Justice
 - Economic & Workforce Development
 - Higher Education
 - Primary & Secondary Education



MLA NATHANIEL TEED

Nathaniel Teed comes from a long family line of community activists. After earning a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Saskatchewan, he became an educational assistant and teacher, worked as an arts and culture fundraiser, and advocated for his union colleagues as a shop steward. His experiences as a teacher have made him a strong advocate for increased education funding, smaller class sizes, and classroom support staff.

Teed is the first openly gay MLA in Saskatchewan history. He owns a furniture and design store with his partner in Saskatoon's downtown core. Even prior to entering politics, Teed was an advocate for the local business community in Saskatoon.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
New Democratic
first elected: Sept. 2022

- Committees:
- None as yet



Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development
MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

THANK YOU TO THE 2023 SPONSORS OF THE BILLD PROGRAM

Each year, the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development is supported by organizations, foundations and corporations that believe in the importance of legislators having the opportunity to develop their leadership and policymaking skills. CSG Midwest gratefully acknowledges our partners for their generous support of the 2023 BILLD program. Their contributions help make the Bowhay Institute possible.

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