

## What is the Wisconsin Circuit Court?

- The Wisconsin Circuit Courts are the trial courts for civil and criminal cases in the Wisconsin court system.
- Circuit court judges and commissioners hear cases first in almost all civil, traffic and criminal matters in the state.
- Trial court judges also hear cases appealed from Municipal Courts and from administrative hearings.
- Both state and county governments fund circuit courts.

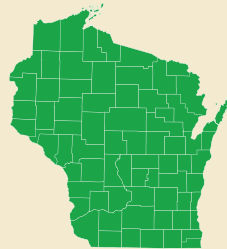


## What do I need to know about circuit court judges?

There are 249 circuit court judges in Wisconsin.



At least one circuit court judge serves in each of the state's 72 counties.



Voters elect judges in nonpartisan elections to serve six-year terms.



**Circuit court decisions can impact many Wisconsinites beyond the people in court. Judges' decisions can affect:**

**Family Law Disputes**



**Civil Rights**



**Disability Rights Including Guardianship and Civil Commitments**



**Voting rights**



**Labor rights**



**Public Safety**



**Further reading:**

<https://www.wicourts.gov/courts/circuit/index.htm>

# How do you decide who to vote for?

## 1. Decide what you are looking for in a candidate

- What issues are important to you?
- What qualities do you want in a leader?
- Which candidate's judicial philosophies align with your values?

## 2. Learn about the candidates

- Visit their websites. Attend candidate forums and read interviews.
- Visit **VOTE411.org**. Seek other nonpartisan sources for information.
- What are their qualifications?
- What are their judicial records?

## 3. Sort it out

- Which candidate's judicial philosophies and views on the role of a judge best match your own views?
- Who seems most prepared for the job?
- Who has the leadership qualities you are looking for?

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*The Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition is a project of Disability Rights Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities.*