



# Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

## Governor’s Judicial Selection Advisory Committee Questionnaire for Circuit Court or Court of Appeals

| Your name | Position you are applying for |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
|           |                               |

### Governor’s Judicial Selection Advisory Committee Members:

Attorney Christine Bremer  
Co-Chair  
Bremer & Trollop Law Offices

Chief Legal Counsel Ryan Nilsestuen  
Co-Chair  
Office of Governor Tony Evers

Attorney Jeanne Armstrong  
Fuhrman & Dodge

Attorney Truscenialyn Brooks  
Stowell & Friedman, Ltd.

Attorney Michael Brose  
Doar, Drill & Skow

Attorney Kristen Hardy  
Northwestern Mutual

Attorney Rebeca López  
Godfrey & Kahn

Attorney Craig Mastantuono  
Mastantuono & Coffee

Attorney Odalo Ohiku  
Law Office of Odalo Ohiku

Deputy State Public Defender Jon Padgham  
Wisconsin State Public Defender’s Office

Attorney John Raihala  
Clifford & Raihala

District Attorney John Sacia  
Trempealeau County

Professor Miriam Seifter  
University of Wisconsin Law School

Attorney Dana Wachs  
Gingras, Thomsen & Wachs

Attorney Benjamin Wagner  
Habush Habush & Rotier

Attorney MaiVue Xiong  
Bakke Norman

**Directions:** You must answer each question in the questionnaire. If you need additional space to fully answer a question, attach additional pages to your application. Questions may be directed to the Office of the Governor at (608) 266-1212.

Last revised: January 2020

**Section 1: Personal information**

1. Provide the following personal information:

|                              |  |                          |  |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Name (First Middle Last)     |  | Date of birth (MM/DD/YR) |  |
|                              |  |                          |  |
| Email address                |  | Home phone               |  |
|                              |  |                          |  |
| Work phone                   |  | Cell phone               |  |
|                              |  |                          |  |
| Place of birth (City, State) |  | Gender                   |  |
|                              |  |                          |  |
| Wisconsin State Bar Number   |  | Race                     |  |
|                              |  |                          |  |

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Maiden/alias/former name(s) | Dates used (MM/YR – MM/YR) |
|                             |                            |
|                             |                            |

2. Are you a United States Citizen?  Yes  No

3. List each residential address you have had in the last 10 years:

| Street address | City, State, Zip | Dates you lived at the address (MM/YR – MM/YR) |
|----------------|------------------|--|
|                |                  |  |
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**Section 2: Familial information**

4. What is your current marital status:  Married/domestic partner,  Not married

5. If you are married/have a domestic partner, answer the following:

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Spouse's/domestic partner's name (First Middle Last) | Date of birth (MM/DD/YR)     |
|  |                              |
| Date of marriage/domestic partnership                | Place of birth (City, State) |
|  |                              |

| Spouse/domestic partner's maiden/alias/former name(s) | Dates used (MM/YR – MM/YR) |
|---|----------------------------|
|   |                            |
|   |                            |
|   |                            |

6. List your spouse's/domestic partner's three most recent occupations, beginning with their current or most recent employer:

| Employer | Employer's address | Occupation/job title | Dates of employment (MM/YR – MM/YR) |
|----------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
|          |                    |                      |                                     |
|          |                    |                      |                                     |
|          |                    |                      |                                     |

7. If you have ever been divorced, answer the following for each former spouse/domestic partner:

| Ex-spouse's/ex-domestic partner's name (First Middle Last) | Date of birth (MM/DD/YR)                                  |
|--|---|
|  |   |
| Dates of marriage/domestic partnership (MM/YR – MM/YR)     | Ex-spouse's/ex-domestic partner's occupation and employer |
|  |   |

| Ex-spouse's/ex-domestic partner's (First Middle Last)  | Date of birth (MM/DD/YR)                                  |
|--|---|
|  |   |
| Dates of marriage/domestic partnership (MM/YR – MM/YR) | Ex-spouse's/ex-domestic partner's occupation and employer |
|  |   |

| Ex-spouse's/ex-domestic partner's name (First Middle Last) | Date of birth (MM/DD/YR)                                  |
|--|---|
|  |   |
| Dates of marriage/domestic partnership (MM/YR – MM/YR)     | Ex-spouse's/ex-domestic partner's occupation and employer |
|  |   |

8. If you have children or step-children, provide the following information:

| Name of child | Age | State of residence | Occupation and employer |
|---------------|-----|--------------------|-------------------------|
|               |     |                    |                         |
|               |     |                    |                         |
|               |     |                    |                         |
|               |     |                    |                         |

**Section 3: Education background**

9. List the name and location of each school you attended, beginning with high school:

| Name of school | Location (City, State) | Dates attended (MM/YR – MM/YR) | Degree earned |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
|                |                        |                                |               |
|                |                        |                                |               |
|                |                        |                                |               |
|                |                        |                                |               |
|                |                        |                                |               |
|                |                        |                                |               |

10. List any scholarships, awards, honors, fellowships, or citations you received during college, graduate school, or law school.

11. While attending any secondary school or college, have you ever been expelled, suspended, placed on probation, or withdrawn from enrollment due to an allegation of academic dishonesty or because of conduct that harmed or could have harmed others? \_\_\_ Yes, \_\_\_ No

12. If yes, provide the following information:

| Name & location of school | Date conduct occurred (MM/YR) |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                           |                               |
| Nature of conduct         | Disposition / outcome         |
|                           |                               |
| Details of incident       |                               |
|                           |                               |

**Section 4: Professional background and experience**

13. List each court and administrative body in which you have been admitted to practice:

| Bar admission | Date of admission (MM/YR) |
|---------------|---------------------------|
|               |                           |
|               |                           |
|               |                           |
|               |                           |
|               |                           |
|               |                           |

14. If any of your admissions listed above have lapsed, state when and why the admission lapsed.

15. List all your places of employment for the last 20 years since you've turned 18, including periods of unemployment, beginning with your most recent employer.

| Employer | Employer's address | Occupation / Job title | Dates of employment (MM/YR – MM/YR) |
|----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|          |                    |                        |                                     |
|          |                    |                        |                                     |
|          |                    |                        |                                     |
|          |                    |                        |                                     |
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|          |                    |                        |                                     |

16. If you served in the military, provide the particulars of your service, including: the dates of service, the branch of service, rank or rate, and type of discharge received.

17. Within the past 10 years, has your employment ended for one of the following reasons: you were fired; you resigned after being told you would be fired; you left by mutual agreement following allegations of misconduct or unsatisfactory performance; or you left for other reasons under unfavorable circumstances?  
 \_\_\_ Yes, \_\_\_ No

18. If yes, provide the following information:

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Employer                       | Employer's address           |
|                                |                              |
| Specific reason for separation | Date of separation (MM/YEAR) |
|                                |                              |
| Explanation                    |                              |
|                                |                              |

19. Provide the following information if, within the past 10 years, an employer investigated you or disciplined you due to actual or alleged misconduct:

|                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Employer                           | Employer's address           |
|                                    |                              |
| Nature of allegation or misconduct | Disposition of investigation |
|                                    |                              |
| Explanation                        |                              |
|                                    |                              |

**Section 5: Legal practice**

20. Describe the general character of your practice. If you are currently a judge, describe your practice before you became a judge.

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21. Describe your typical clients and the areas, if any, in which you have specialized.

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22. How many cases have you tried to verdict? \_\_\_\_\_

23. Describe up to three significant trials, appeals, or other legal matters in which you participated as a judge or lawyer in the past seven years. Please explain your role in the case, jurisdiction, name of judge and opposing counsel, dates of involvement, a brief description of your involvement, and why it was significant:

24. Describe your experience in adversary proceedings before an administrative agency or commission.

25. Describe your non-litigation legal experience (e.g., arbitration, mediation).

26. Summarize any speeches or presentations you have given in the past five years about the law, including: the date of the speech or presentation and the organization to which you presented.

27. List any articles or publications you have authored about the law. Include a citation or hyperlink to each article or publication.



**Section 5: Professional and public service**

28. Identify your participation in professional, civic, and charitable organizations.

| Name of association | Offices held and committees served on | Awards, honors, or citations | Dates of participation |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
|                     |                                       |                              |                        |
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|                     |                                       |                              |                        |

29. Do you currently belong to, or have you ever belonged to, any organization that discriminates on the basis of gender identity, race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation, through membership requirements or membership policies? If so, identify the organization, the dates in which you belonged to the organization, and what, if anything you did to change such requirements or policies.

30. Identify all public offices to which you were appointed or elected.

| Name of office | Elected or appointed? | Dates of service |
|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|                |                       |                  |
|                |                       |                  |
|                |                       |                  |

31. Identify any awards or honors you have received in the past 10 years, which have not been listed elsewhere on this questionnaire.

| Entity providing the award or honor | Name of the award or honor | Date received (MM/YR) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
|                                     |                            |                       |
|                                     |                            |                       |
|                                     |                            |                       |
|                                     |                            |                       |
|                                     |                            |                       |
|                                     |                            |                       |
|                                     |                            |                       |

32. Describe any significant pro bono legal work or volunteer service you have performed.

**Section 6: Business interests**

33. If you or your spouse/domestic partner are a director, officer, or otherwise engaged in the management of any business entity, provide the following information:

| Name of the business | Nature of the business | Duties you or your spouse/domestic partner perform | You or your spouse's/domestic partner's intended involvement if you are appointed |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|---|
|                      |                        |  |   |
|                      |                        |  |   |
|                      |                        |  |   |
|                      |                        |  |   |

**Section 7: Previous partisan or non-partisan political involvement**

34. List any position you've held in a judicial, non-partisan, or partisan, political campaign (e.g. treasurer, campaign manager, volunteer).

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|--|

35. If you have ever run for public office, provide the following information:

| Office sought | Date of primary election | Date of general election | Outcome / percentage of vote you obtained |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
|               |                          |                          |   |
|               |                          |                          |   |
|               |                          |                          |   |

36. If you have ever publicly endorsed a judicial or non-partisan candidate in the past ten years, provide the following information:

| Name of endorsed candidate | Office sought by candidate | Year of endorsement |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
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|                            |                            |                     |

**Section 8: Character and fitness**

37. Answer the following questions. If you answer “no” to any of the following questions, you must attach a detailed explanation of why you answered no.

|  | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| a. Are you in good standing with each jurisdiction in which you are admitted to practice law?  |     |    |
| b. Are you current with your continuing legal education requirements in each state in which you are admitted to practice law?  |     |    |
| c. Are you free of any physical or mental impairment that in any way would limit your ability or fitness to properly exercise your duties as a member of the judiciary in a competent and professional manner? |     |    |
| d. Have you met every deadline imposed by a court order or obtained an extension when needed?  |     |    |
| e. Were all of your taxes (federal, state, local) current as of the date of your application?  |     |    |

38. Answer the following questions. If you answer “yes” to any of the following questions, you must attach a detailed explanation of why you answered yes.

|  | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| a. Has any tribunal ever held you in contempt or otherwise formally reprimanded or sanctioned you?   |     |    |
| b. Have you ever been disciplined, reprimanded, or sanctioned by any regulatory or licensing entity?   |     |    |
| c. Have you ever been party to a lawsuit, either as a plaintiff or a defendant?  |     |    |
| d. Have you ever been subject to an investigation by the Wisconsin Judicial Commission, the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the Office of Lawyer Regulation, the Crime Victim Rights Board, or any other equivalent entity in any jurisdiction? |     |    |
| e. If you are a quasi-judicial officer, have you ever been disciplined or reprimanded by a sitting judge?  |     |    |
| f. Has a tax lien ever been filed against you?   |     |    |
| g. Have you or your spouse/domestic partner ever been subject of any audit, investigation, or inquiry for either federal, state, or local taxes?   |     |    |
| h. Have you or your spouse/domestic partner ever filed for bankruptcy?   |     |    |
| i. Is there anything in your current or past financial situation that would affect your ability to be a judge or justice?  |     |    |
| j. Are there any circumstances in your professional or personal life that create a substantial question as to your qualifications to serve as a judge or justice that might interfere with your ability to serve?                        |     |    |

39. Provide five references, three of which must be practicing attorneys or judges.

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Name    | Occupation   |
|         |              |
| Address | Phone Number |
|         |              |

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Name    | Occupation   |
|         |              |
| Address | Phone Number |
|         |              |

|         |              |
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| Name    | Occupation   |
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| Address | Phone Number |
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| Name    | Occupation   |
|         |              |
| Address | Phone Number |
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|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Name    | Occupation   |
|         |              |
| Address | Phone Number |
|         |              |

**Section 10: Additional information for consideration**

40. Attach your answers to the following questions. Each answer must be 500 words or less. Your answers must be attached as a Word document.

- a. Why do you want to serve the people of Wisconsin as a judge or justice?
- b. Decisions by the Wisconsin Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court can greatly impact the people of Wisconsin. Describe which case in the past 25 years by the Wisconsin Supreme Court or U.S. Supreme Court you believe had a significant positive or negative impact on the people of Wisconsin.
- c. Identify two or three judges or justices whom you admire and explain why.
- d. Describe the proper role of a judge.

41. Attach two legal writing samples. Your writing samples must be attached as a Word document.

42. Do you wish to request that your application remain confidential to the extent permitted by law? Please note that state law only provides limited protections. A request for confidentiality will not adversely affect your application.

\_\_\_ Yes, \_\_\_ No

**REMINDER:** Do not forget to attach the following documents to your application:

- Your resume;
- Your cover letter;
- Two legal writing samples;
- Your answers to question 40;
- Your waiver, notice of disclosure, and affidavit (see below); and
- Any necessary attachments (e.g., explanations).

**SUBMISSION:** Email your application and application materials as a PDF to [GOVJudicialAppointments@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GOVJudicialAppointments@wisconsin.gov). The email address will provide an automatic confirmation if your submission is received. The email address will not accept attachments exceeding 10 mb in size. If your attachments exceed 10 mb in size, send the attachments in two separate emails.

**NEXT STEPS:** After you submit your application materials, the Governor's Office will review the application for completeness and accuracy. Complete and accurate applications will be forwarded to the Governor's Judicial Selection Advisory Committee for consideration. If you are selected for an interview, the Committee will contact you to setup an interview. The Committee will base its recommendation on your materials, references, interview, and any other information it deems relevant.

**LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** You may have individuals submit letters of recommendation on your behalf. The letters must be sent to [GOVJudicialAppointments@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GOVJudicialAppointments@wisconsin.gov). The letters must be received by the application due date. No more than 10 letters may be submitted.

## Waiver and Authorization

I hereby authorize the Office of the Governor or his staff to solicit information and records pertaining to me from any or all of the following sources:

1. My present employer.
2. My previous employers.
3. Any school, college, university, or other educational institution that I attended.
4. Any place of business.
5. Any governmental agency or political subdivision.
6. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

I further authorize any recipient of a request for information from the Governor or his staff to provide any such information as may be necessary to consider my application.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notice of Disclosure

I acknowledge and understand that my application and its attachments will become public records once they are submitted to the Office of the Governor. I further acknowledge and understand that, while state law provides limited confidentiality protections, most of my application and its attachments are subject to disclosure to the general public under the Public Records Law.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Affidavit

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do swear that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Sworn and subscribed to before me  
this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 201\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin  
My commission: \_\_\_\_\_