



State: Wisconsin

Core Constituency/Target Audience:

Individuals and organizations committed to achieving racial, economic, and environmental justice.



WEBSITE citizenactionwi.org

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/CitizenActionWI

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ABOUT

Citizen Action of Wisconsin is dedicated to economic, racial, and environmental justice, and to achieving a Wisconsin and an America where every human being has an equal opportunity to live a meaningful and fulfilling life. Citizen Action believes that organizing is a critical pathway to unlocking the true potential of democracy to fundamentally transform our society in the human interest and overcome structural racism, sexism, xenophobia, corporate domination, and other forms of oppression. Citizen Action's theory of building power in Wisconsin is to work on big issues that can be the basis for creating a community of interest across the state. The pathway to progressive power in Wisconsin is multiracial organizing that bridges the urban/rural/suburban divide.

Citizen Action's Organizing Co-op innovation, where members who make monthly sustaining donations play a deeper democratic role in leading their work, is considered a national model for making organizing more sustainable. They currently have built six organizing co-ops, and are launching an African-American centered organizing co-op.

LEGISLATIVE WORK

Citizen Action's work is laser-focused on state government, particularly the Wisconsin state legislature. They were involved in many of Sister District's 2020 target races, providing candidates at the state and local level with grassroots support. In 2020, Citizen Action layered grassroots organizing with paid electoral strategies and united their work for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris at the top of the ballot with targeted legislative races at the bottom.

Citizen Action executed a large-scale direct voter contact field program that targeted over 200,000 critical swing and motivation voters in rural, small and medium metros, and suburban areas in 27 legislative districts.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Citizen Action worked in 2020 to help elect Joe Biden President and Kamala Harris Vice President of the United States. Due in part to their work, the Biden/Harris ticket won Wisconsin by 20,535 votes. Citizen Action also helped elect five new state legislators and protect four fragile incumbents through their direct voter contact programs.

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Climate Equity

Citizen Action believes in protecting Wisconsin citizens from environment-related risks to health, safety, and well-being, and securing natural resources. They work to:

- Enact a transition to a low-carbon economy that is less reliant on fossil fuels.
- Transition from an extractive economy to a more prosperous and resilient circular economy by dramatically increasing the use of renewable and recyclable resources.

Healthcare

Citizen Action believes that healthcare is a fundamental human right that must be guaranteed by our democratic government. They work to:

- Set a vision to achieve Medicare for All in Wisconsin, and in the United States, by moving away from corporate healthcare and toward a progressively public system.
- Guarantee comprehensive medical care, including the full spectrum of acute and chronic health services, preventive care, mental health, women's health, substance use treatment, dental, and evidence-based alternative treatments, for everyone.

Education

Citizen Action believes we must give each generation the education they need to succeed in an ever-changing world. They work to:

- Guarantee and fund a great education for everyone, from preschool through college.
- Expand public college education access.
- Control hyperinflation in the cost of public colleges and universities.
- Guarantee equality of educational opportunity for every Wisconsin family.

Criminal Justice Reform

Citizen Action believes we must end the system of mass incarceration and biased policing, and instead invest in harm reduction, restorative justice, and mental health treatment. They work to:

- Strengthen and protect the Constitutional rights to a fair and impartial judiciary.
- Guarantee equal rights across the gender spectrum in housing, employment, and education.
- Create a juvenile and a criminal justice system that protects the public through equitable and rational practices.
- Reduce the incarceration rate by half within four years.

Democracy

Citizen Action believes we must shift power back to the people, and away from the corporate and big money interests, by creating a vibrant democracy where voting rights are expanded and the public interest drives public policy. They work to:

- Expand voting rights.
- Establish a fair process for drawing election maps that restores power to the voters.
- End the domination of corporate money in elections.
- Close the revolving door between government and corporations.

STATE BRIDGES SPEAKER



Priscilla Bort

Priscilla Bort serves as the Movement Politics Director of Citizen Action. She is passionate about working with anyone who is looking to find their place in the world, and in movement politics. She wants to change the status quo of Wisconsin politics by working with BIPOC candidates, getting them across the Election Day finish line and beyond.

She grew up in West Allis, the daughter of a single mother union employee. She got her start within the gun control movement, and after the Parkland shooting she wanted to get involved in politics. She volunteered for Mandela Barnes’ Lt. Gov campaign and found her progressive political space. During her time at the Wisconsin Working Families Party she built programs with hundreds of volunteers and worked closely with 60+ candidates of all kinds up and down the ballot around the state of Wisconsin. She was also part of the unionizing of WFP with Workers United, serving on the bargaining committee, as well as the creation and development of curriculum for her programs Bet on Us Wisconsin and Candidate Services Training. The heart of everything she has loved doing is recruiting and encouraging candidates who want to change the way politics looks in Wisconsin.

WISCONSIN FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided Government (since 2019)
- **Gubernatorial Election:** 2026
- **Length of Assembly Term:** 2 years
- **Length of Senate Term:** 4 years
- **Redistricting:** The Wisconsin State Legislature draws Congressional and state maps; Democratic Governor Evers has veto power

