



State: Wisconsin

Core Constituency/Target Audience:

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



ABOUT

Citizen Action of Wisconsin Education Fund (CAWEF) is dedicated to economic, racial, and environmental justice, and achieving a Wisconsin and an America where every human being has an equal opportunity to live a meaningful and fulfilling life. They believe that organizing is the only pathway to unlocking the true potential of democracy to fundamentally transform our society in the human interest. Founded in 1983, Citizen Action WI is a statewide membership organization. They use cutting-edge organizing, communications, and policy to create a multi-racial community of interest across urban, rural, and suburban Wisconsin for the purpose of achieving fundamental reform.

They use a hybrid organizing model, which combines traditional community organizing with new communication technologies to rally people to action beyond their membership base. Citizen Action's methods include advanced use of social media, web tools, cutting-edge civic engagement technologies, and a decade-old weekly podcast show with a statewide audience. Citizen Action has built a talented multi-racial staff team that is making tangible progress. They are one of a handful of groups with a member-leader base across the entire state. Their organizing co-op membership model (democratic local chapters of small monthly donors), is a model for deepening member involvement in decision making while augmenting the capacity-building impact of institutional funding. The co-op model has helped us build a base in small cities and contiguous rural areas across the state, as well as one of the only organizing bases in the Milwaukee Metro area that unites urban, suburban, and exurban areas.

WEBSITE: citizenactionwifund.org/

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/CitizenActionWI

TWITTER: [@citizenactionwi](https://twitter.com/citizenactionwi)

INSTAGRAM: [@citizenactionwi](https://instagram.com/citizenactionwi)

DONATE: secure.actblue.com/donate/sd003-wi-cawef



LEGISLATIVE WORK

Citizen Action has supported the BadgerCare Public Option bill in the state legislature. They gathered over 500 people for info sessions, which resulted in 181 people taking action and making over 13,000 calls to promote the BadgerCare Public Option. All but two Democratic legislators signed on as cosponsors. CAWEF lobbied Governor Evers and the state legislature, along with a coalition of partners they built, to not accept the one-sided public subsidy to the Milwaukee Brewers, with a petition of 255 signatures.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2024, Citizen Action and their coalition passed three resolutions in Milwaukee County related to emissions benchmarking for large buildings and the Green Jobs Accelerator. CAWEF convened the Green Jobs Task Force, as a part of the Green Jobs Accelerator in Milwaukee City Climate and Equity Plan. The Green Jobs Task Force created a green jobs guide and collaborative green jobs outreach. CAWEF did outreach to over 1,100 homeowners on the Inflation Reduction Act through webinars, lunch and learns, and direct conversations. CAWEF also applied for \$30 million in grants for Milwaukee Public Schools and is planning for a five-year Sustainability Action Plan in 2025.

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:

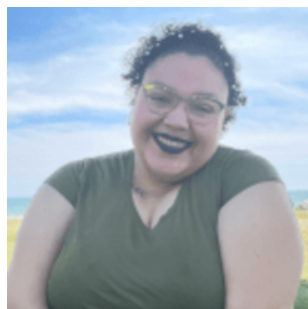
- Strengthen and protect the constitutional right to a fair and impartial judiciary.
- Guarantee equal rights across the gender spectrum in housing, employment, and education.
- Create a juvenile and criminal justice system that protect the public through equitable and rational practices.
- Reduce the 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 also took part in unionizing the Working Parties Family with Workers United, serving on the bargaining committee, as well as creating and developing 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
- **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

