



State: Wisconsin

Core Constituency/Target Audience:

Faith-based organizations and individuals across Wisconsin



ABOUT

WISDOM is a Wisconsin statewide interfaith organization that works among progressive faith communities, and with the people most directly impacted by social inequities, to empower people to address the root causes of social injustice. WISDOM's work is built on the community organizing principles of relationship-building, self-interest and mutuality, an approach that enables WISDOM to build many smaller communities that have the ability to come together around larger goals. WISDOM is best known for its work for criminal legal system reform. It also has strong campaigns for immigrant rights, transit and environmental justice.

WEBSITE: wisdomwisconsin.org

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/wisdomwisconsin

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

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

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

LEGISLATIVE WORK

WISDOM has won significant victories in the area of criminal legal system reform, including millions of dollars in the state budget for treatment alternatives to incarceration. WISDOM continues to work for broader, systemic change that significantly reduces prison populations and redirects money to programs that serve communities most in need. WISDOM advocates for transit, for immigrant rights, and for the rights of nature. WISDOM's depth and breadth translate into hundreds of Wisconsinites reaching out to their own representatives on matters of social justice.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

WISDOM has won victories in the area of criminal legal system reform and has built a larger coalition to achieve more systemic change. It has done this by building a community of directly impacted people working along with allies from progressive faith communities.

WISDOM consistently reaches tens of thousands of Wisconsinites before elections and between election cycles. Most importantly, WISDOM is a vehicle for thousands of Wisconsinites to step into the public arena effectively, and as part of a diverse community.

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

Criminal Legal System Reform

WISDOM works to end mass incarceration and expand funding to community-based alternatives. They aim to close prisons and reinvest money in programs that rebuild the communities that have been devastated by mass incarceration. Ex-incarcerated People Organizing (EXPO) leads WISDOM's efforts to end mass incarceration in Wisconsin. EXPO also works to eliminate all forms of structural discrimination against formerly incarcerated people and restore formerly incarcerated people to full participation in our communities.

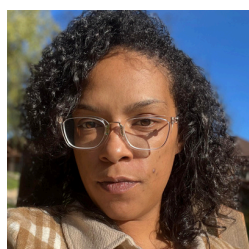
Rights of Nature (Environmental Justice)

WISDOM wants all Wisconsinites to live in a beautiful, safe, and clean state. They know that climate change is real and the communities that are most impacted are communities of color. Over the past few years, members of WISDOM have joined together to fight for climate justice initiatives. WISDOM is fighting for the creation of green jobs and implementation of land and water resource conservation. Affiliates such as JOSHUA have rallied to stop unsafe pipelines carrying toxic tar sands oil under the Great Lakes. Led by the WISDOM member organization on the Menominee Reservation, WISDOM has made a commitment to taking a role in the rights of nature movement.

Immigrant Rights

WISDOM brings together people from across racial, geographic, and economic lines to demand fair and safe immigration processes for all families. No matter where we come from, what our color, how we worship, or what our immigration status is, we are all in Wisconsin, and we all want to provide for our families.

STATE BRIDGES SPEAKER



Yolanda Perkins

Yolanda Perkins is the Associate Director and Director of Integrated Voter Engagement at Wisdom. She was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI. After a lifetime of struggle with many issues that plague communities like hers, Yolanda decided to get involved.

In 2015, She started volunteering and learned the words to describe her struggles, along with the commitment and persistence that organizing required to build relationships. Yolanda then started her career where she created a structure of data integration with grassroots organizing. Yolanda joined Wisdom in 2018 and added Integrated Voter Engagement into its network, which allowed for year-round base-building work, alternating issue and electoral campaigns. She now trains others to create, build, and develop strategies to more effectively organize their communities by integrating data, tech tools, and tactics.



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

