

# Citizen Action of Wisconsin: Recognizing Citizen Action members who challenged incumbents across Wisconsin

Posted on Monday, Nov 12, 2018

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**Contact:** Robert Kraig  
(414) 322-5324  
[robert.kraig@citizenactionwi.org](mailto:robert.kraig@citizenactionwi.org)

**Statewide:** In 2018 an unprecedented number of Citizen Action of Wisconsin members stepped forward as new candidates for state office. In all 18 Citizen Action members ran as challengers for state office, in many cases taking on entrenched incumbent Republicans incumbents in hotly contested races for State Senate, State Assembly, Lt. Governor and State Treasurer. In addition, member Randy Bryce ran a strong race for Congress.

This outpouring of leadership from members reflects both the growing statewide grassroots influence of Citizen Action, and a general upsurge in civic engagement among progressives. It builds on our Spring election successes, when [49 Citizen Action Members were elected to local office.](#)

Citizen Action member who won challenger elections to state office in 2018 were Mandela Barnes (Lt. Governor); Sarah Godlewski (State Treasure); Marisabel Cabrera (State Assembly) and Jeff Smith (State Senate). (This does not include Citizen Action members in the Legislature who successfully ran for re-election). In addition, a number of candidates who lost ran closer than expected races in traditionally Republican districts

The Citizen Action candidates who did not win had to contend with highly partisan legislative maps which rigged the game against them. Despite this obstacles, all of the Citizen Action member-candidates made a difference both by turning out votes for Tammy Baldwin, Tony Evers, and Josh Kaul, and expanding the playing field for Republicans to create more electoral opportunities for progressive candidates.

“Citizen Action members across the state ran highly competitive grassroots campaigns in districts that were rigged against them by unfair maps,” said Robert Kraig, Executive Director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin. “Even when our member-candidates fell short of victory, their hard work and one-on-one engagement with tens of thousands of voters improved overall Democratic performance, helping swing key statewide races to progressive candidates.”

### **Full List of Citizen Action Member Challengers for State and Federal Office**

(Not including Citizen Action members already in the State Legislature, running for re-election)

Lt. Governor

[Mandela Barnes](#)

State Treasurer

[Sarah Godlewski](#)

U.S. Congress District 1

[Randy Bryce](#)

Julie Meyers (primary candidate)

Senate District 5

[Julie Henszey](#)

Senate District 31

[Jeff Smith](#)

Assembly District 4

[Terry Lee](#)

Assembly District 9

[Marisabel Cabrera](#)

Assembly District 15

[Lillian Cheesman](#)

Assembly District 21

[Gabriel Gomez](#)

Assembly District 22

[Aaron Matteson](#)

Assembly District 23

[Liz Sumner](#)

Assembly District 24

[Emily Segrist](#)

Assembly District 28

[Kim Butler](#)

Assembly District 35

[Mark Martello](#)

Assembly District 60

[Chris Rahlf](#)

Assembly District 68

[Wendy Sue Johnson](#)

Assembly District 72

[David Gorski](#)

Assembly District 84

[Erica Flynn](#)

Assembly District 86

[Nancy Stencil](#)

Assembly District 88

[Tom Sieber](#)

Assembly District 89

[Ken Holdorf](#)

Link to news release [https://www.citizenactionwi.org/recognizing\\_citizen\\_action\\_members\\_who\\_challenged\\_incumbents](https://www.citizenactionwi.org/recognizing_citizen_action_members_who_challenged_incumbents)