

# Dorow campaign: Statement on cash bail constitutional amendment

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(Waukesha, Wis.) Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge Jennifer Dorow released the following statement today in response to the Wisconsin State Assembly's taking the final step to submit a constitutional amendment to voters giving judges broader discretion when setting bail:

"I have long argued for the need to fix Wisconsin's broken bail system," said Judge Dorow. "Five years ago, I served on a Legislative Council Study Committee that looked at bail, and I am gratified we will finally have a chance to make some needed changes to our Wisconsin Constitution. The law needs to make clear that dangerous people accused of serious crimes need to be locked up—period. Public safety must be paramount in all bail decisions. In particular, judges should be required to consider the dangerousness of the defendant, the severity of a crime, and the criminal history of the defendant, along with having a viable option to hold dangerous defendants without bail.

"The proposed constitutional amendment aligns with my long-held views and is a step in the right direction. This change is long overdue.

"Unfortunately, for many suffering families, this change will have come too late. Passage of the proposed amendment helps ensure that others might be spared their pain and grief."