






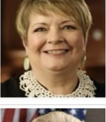
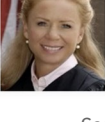


IRG COURT WATCH

WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT JUDICIAL SCORECARD

2025 Term • 25 Cases • 7 Justices • 5 Categories

Your property rights, your children’s schools, the integrity of your elections, and the limits on government power all depend on seven people most Wisconsinites cannot name. The Wisconsin Supreme Court decides cases that reshape the legal landscape more consequentially than most legislation—yet unlike legislators, these justices face almost no structured public accountability between elections. The IRG Court Watch Judicial Scorecard changes that. Every justice is evaluated—not on partisan loyalty, but on fidelity to the constitutional principles that safeguard individual liberty and the rule of law. Each justice is scored across five categories: Adherence to Precedent (25%), Separation of Powers (20%), Textualism (25%), Judicial Restraint (15%), and Individual Liberty (15%). The final composite score blends this five-category methodology score (50%) with a critical-cases score (50%) drawn from the ten most consequential decisions of the term, ensuring that performance in high-stakes cases carries real weight. Below are the results for the 2025 term—the first full term under the court’s new progressive majority.

	<p>Ann Walsh Bradley <i>Associate Justice (until July 2025)</i></p>	59.45
	<p>Rebecca Grassl Bradley <i>Associate Justice</i></p>	96.40
	<p>Rebecca Dallet <i>Associate Justice</i></p>	60.80
	<p>Brian Hagedorn <i>Associate Justice</i></p>	84.85
	<p>Jill Karofsky <i>Chief Justice (from April 2025)</i></p>	59.60
	<p>Janet Protasiewicz <i>Associate Justice</i></p>	61.70
	<p>Annette Ziegler <i>Chief Justice (until April 2025)</i></p>	95.30

Scores reflect the 50/50 Combined Model: 5-Metric Methodology Score (50%) + Critical Cases Score (50%).

HOW THEY VOTED: 10 CRITICAL CASES

Case	Category	Vote	A.W.B.	R.G.B.	Dallet	Hagedorn	Karofsky	Protasiewicz	Ziegler
<i>Evers v. Marklein</i>	Legislative Oversight	5-2	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓
<i>WMC v. DNR</i>	Agency Authority	5-2	X	✓	X	X	X	X	✓
<i>Kaul v. Legislature</i>	Separation of Powers	7-0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Kaul v. Urmanski</i>	Abortion	4-3	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓
<i>Legislature v. DPI</i>	Gubernatorial Veto	7-0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>LeMieux v. Evers</i>	Gubernatorial Veto	4-3	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓
<i>Brown v. WEC</i>	Election Admin.	4-3	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓
<i>WEC v. LeMahieu</i>	Election Admin.	7-0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Catholic Charities v. LIRC</i>	Religious Liberty	4-3	X	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓
<i>SEIU v. WERC</i>	Collective Bargaining	7-0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ALIGNMENT TOTAL			4/10	10/10	4/10	8/10	4/10	4/10	10/10

* Hagedorn concurred in part and dissented in part in *Evers v. Marklein*; he concurred separately in *WMC v. DNR*—both treated as not aligned with the dissenting position. ✓ = aligned with constitutional principles X = not aligned

HOW WE SCORE

<p>Adherence to Precedent 25%</p>	<p>The rule of law requires that legal principles remain stable and predictable. This metric evaluates whether a justice follows binding precedent, accurately characterizes prior holdings, and provides rigorous justification when departing from settled law. The most significant red flag is composition-change overruling—reversing recent precedent simply because the court’s membership has changed, signaling that outcomes depend on judicial identity rather than legal principle.</p>
<p>Separation of Powers 20%</p>	<p>The Wisconsin Constitution divides authority among three co-equal branches. This metric evaluates whether a justice respects those boundaries—striking down legislation only when a specific constitutional provision requires it, applying a presumption of constitutionality, and refusing to usurp legislative or executive functions. It penalizes both judicial overreach and judicial abdication. Scores are amplified in high-profile cases where political pressure on constitutional boundaries is greatest.</p>
<p>Textualism & Originalism 25%</p>	<p>Legal meaning comes from the text of statutes and constitutional provisions, understood as written at the time of enactment. This metric evaluates whether a justice begins with the enacted text, applies its ordinary public meaning, and resists overriding clear language with legislative history or policy preferences. Textualism is the interpretive gold standard because it ensures the law is what the people’s representatives enacted—not what judges wish they had.</p>
<p>Judicial Restraint 15%</p>	<p>Courts should decide only what the case before them requires. This metric evaluates whether a justice avoids advisory opinions, unnecessary constitutional rulings, and sweeping pronouncements beyond the facts presented. It rewards narrow holdings and penalizes reaching out to reshape the law beyond what the dispute demands.</p>
<p>Individual Liberty 15%</p>	<p>Protecting individual rights against government overreach is a core judicial function. This metric evaluates whether a justice faithfully protects constitutional liberties—including religious freedom, speech, due process, and property rights—grounded in the actual text of the constitution, while declining to invent unenumerated rights untethered from its language.</p>