

# 2020 Legislative Report Card & Election Endorsements







## **INTRODUCTION:**

With over 10,000 members from almost 300 local association affiliates, the WPPA is Wisconsin's largest law enforcement group. Our mission is to protect and promote public safety, as well as the interests of the dedicated men and women that serve to provide it. As such, the WPPA closely monitors legislative proposals that might impact the officers serving our communities and we work diligently to inform state lawmakers of their public policy implications. Through our lobbying efforts, the WPPA has demonstrated the pivotal role it plays in advancing new laws to enhance policing and to otherwise make Wisconsin safer for both the public and the officers that serve it.

Since 2006, the WPPA has published a legislative report card summarizing the actions taken on the bills for which the organization took a position either for or against. The most cumulative of its kind in Wisconsin, the WPPA report card tabulates legislative actions on bills throughout each stage of the lawmaking process, and awards and deducts points to individual legislators accordingly. The state lawmakers in each house are then ranked after those aggregate scores are calculated, and those ranked in the top tier in each house are named to the WPPA's **"Law Enforcement Honor Roll."** The highest-ranking Legislators are given the distinct recognition of being named **"WPPA Legislator of the Year."**

The pages that follow provide a detailed summary of the report card results for the 2019-20 legislative session.

What began as a fraternal group in 1932 has evolved into a full-service organization that aims to serve as the voice of Wisconsin's law enforcement community. Our governmental affairs efforts are critically-important to ensuring that our voice is an informed one, and this report card is an invaluable resource in our work to preserve and strengthen law enforcement's ability to keep our communities safe and maintain the quality of life that Wisconsinites expect and have every right to deserve.

For questions or comments about this publication, please feel free to contact me by telephone at 608-273-3840 or by e-mail at [palmer@wppa.com](mailto:palmer@wppa.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Palmer". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Jim Palmer  
Executive Director

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## Table of Contents

The WPPA's Legislative Priorities	p. 4
2019 - 2020 Bill Weighting Chart	p. 5
Senate Legislators of the Year	p. 6
2019-2020 Legislative Report Card Results: State Senate	p. 6
Assembly Legislators of the Year	p. 7
2019-2020 Legislative Report Card Results: State Assembly	p. 7
2020 Candidate Questions	p. 8
2020 Candidate Responses	p. 9

# The WPPA's Legislative Priorities

As the state's largest law enforcement group, the Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) actively represents its membership before the State Legislature. We advocate on a wide variety of law enforcement- and labor-related issues during each two-year legislative session and we have used a cumulative methodology to closely evaluate legislative action.

At the 2004 WPPA Annual Convention, the Board of Directors formally adopted a governmental affairs platform declaring the legislative principles and policies of interest to the officers within our ranks.

At the beginning of each legislative session, the WPPA sends every lawmaker an explanation of our governmental affairs platform and report card methodology. This platform is used to help develop our biannual report card that measures legislative action on bills of importance to the law enforcement community. This report card is published in the WPPA's quarterly magazine, the *Wisconsin Police Journal*, which each and every member receives. It also aids our affiliated state and local political action committees in their consideration of political endorsements.

## The WPPA Governmental Affairs Platform

1. Protect state funding programs that impact public safety services and promote reforms of state funding formulas in a manner that prioritizes these services.
2. Promote legislation to provide collective bargaining rights for all public employees and to protect against legislation which could diminish those bargaining rights.
3. Support legislation improving the collective bargaining dispute settlement procedures for members of the law enforcement community.
4. Support legislation allowing for the arbitration of discipline for municipal law enforcement officers.
5. Support legislation improving and protecting the pension and retirement benefits of protective service employees.
6. Promote legislation likely to have a beneficial impact on the law enforcement community and protect against legislation likely to have a detrimental impact on the law enforcement community.
7. Promote political activity by WPPA members through methods such as: encouraging locals to establish local political action committees; advising locals on the operation of their political action committees; providing political action committees with a current uniform candidate questionnaire and organizing meetings with WPPA locals and their legislators.

## The WPPA's Legislative Report Card Scoring Methodology

It is the responsibility of the WPPA's registered lobbyist(s) to identify items of legislation that impact Wisconsin's law enforcement community generally, and the WPPA's membership specifically. Preliminary positions on those bills are made by the lobbying staff, and those positions are then considered for

ratification by the WPPA Legislative Committee and Board of Directors.

In recognition of the fact that not all bills are created equal, each legislative measure (companion bills are counted together) is weighted by the Legislative Committee.

In order to prevent any bill from unfairly influencing the cumulative results, a weighting scale of 1 to 5 is applied to each one, as determined by the Legislative Committee. All positions ratified by the board are included on the legislative report card, and are scored in the following manner:

Legislative Action	Points (+/-)
Co-sponsoring legislation which we support/oppose	+/-3
Committee votes for legislation which supports/opposes the WPPA position	+/-1
Floor votes for legislation which supports/opposes the WPPA position	+/-2
Procedural votes/other efforts to advance or stall legislation which supports/opposes the WPPA position	+/-2
Offering amendments which we support	+2
Offering amendments we oppose	-2

Lawmakers that garner a cumulative score in the top one-third of all of the legislators in their respective chambers are named to the “WPPA Law Enforcement Honor Roll” for that particular legislative session and are eligible for an automatic endorsement in their next election. The legislators with the highest overall scores in their respective chambers will be eligible to be named a “WPPA Legislator of the Year.” Given that the Legislative Report Card tracks a variety of legislative activity, such as co-sponsorships and committee and floor votes, legislators may be recognized in these secondary areas as well, if determined appropriate

by the WPPA’s Legislative Committee and/or Board of Directors.

Due to the extent to which the WPPA’s scoring methodology tracks legislative activity, it is important to recognize that our evaluative approach provides lawmakers that sit on committees that consider law enforcement- or labor-related issues with greater opportunities to be awarded or deducted points. In situations in which a bill passes out of a legislative chamber on a voice vote, or is simply passed without objection in concurrence, all lawmakers in that legislative chamber receive credit for supporting or opposing

the measure, depending upon the organization’s position on that specific measure, unless the official journal for that legislative chamber indicates a lawmaker’s successful motion to be recorded otherwise. Due to the fact that the Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, Assembly Speaker and Assembly Minority Leader traditionally serve on fewer committees and sponsor fewer legislative measures as a result of their leadership status, those positions are not included on the Report Card. Legislators that left the legislature during the course of the session are also not included.

## 2019-2020 Legislative Session: Bill Weighting Chart

Bill No	Description	WPPA Position	Legislative Committee Weight
AB 2/SB4	To expand the type of immobilization devices that may be used to immobilize either an unregistered motor vehicle or a motor vehicle owned by a habitual parking violator. <b>ENACTED.</b>	For	2
AB 7/SB 10	To establish an absolute sobriety requirement for the purpose of operating a snowmobile for any person under the age of 21.	For	1
AB 157/SB 149	To create a public safety employee exemption to the current restrictions that apply to rehired WRS annuitants.	For	4
AB 300/SB 266	To require political subdivisions and Marquette University to pay health insurance premiums for survivors of a law enforcement officer who dies in the line of duty. <b>ENACTED.</b>	For	5
AB 454	To create the crime of "swatting," which prohibits a person from intentionally conveying, or causing to be conveyed, any false information that an emergency exists if the information elicits, or could elicit, a response from a specialized tactical team. <b>ENACTED.</b>	For	2
AB 527	To create grants and guidance grants related to preventing suicide by firearm and making an appropriation.	For	2
AB 545	To create a new crime of impersonating a public officer, public employee, or employee of a utility and providing a penalty.	For	2
AB 569/SB 511	To establish more reasonable standards for extending claims for worker's compensation benefits to police officers and fire fighters diagnosed with PTSD.	For	5
AB 633/SB 565	To clarify the law to allow law enforcement agencies to contract for emergency detention transports. <b>ENACTED.</b>	For	3
AB 1012	To codify and require that law enforcement agency policies on the use of force specifically incorporate certain specified principles that otherwise already exist elsewhere in the statutes, administrative code, or curriculum governing law enforcement training.	For	1
AB 1038	To make numerous law changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. <b>(NOTE: The WPPA helped negotiate the original bill, which included a provision that would presume that a public safety employee who contracts COVID-19 contracted it while on the job and it would be covered by workers' compensation. Speaker Vos pushed a last-minute amendment negating that provision, forcing the employee to <b>prove</b> they contracted it at work. We fought against that amendment, but it passed.) ENACTED.</b>	For	5



SB 50	To establish uniform policies and parameters for the use, retention, and release of body-worn cameras and BWC video. <b>ENACTED.</b>	For	5
SB 104	To create a criminal prohibition for a law enforcement officer to have sexual contact or sexual intercourse with any person who is detained by any law enforcement officer or is in the custody of any law enforcement officer.	For	1
SB 154	To allow public employees to receive credit for the purpose of the Wisconsin Retirement System for military service performed before 1974.	For	2
SB 163	To create a crime of causing bodily harm to a nurse. <b>ENACTED.</b>	For	3
SB 456	To establish crisis intervention team grants.	For	3
SB 771	To establish grants for additional policing and strategic planning to combat crime.	For	3

## "Legislators of the Year"

State Senator **André Jacque**



**District 1 (R-De Pere)**

State Senator **Van Wanggaard**



**District 21 (R-Racine)**

### 2019-2020 Legislative Report Card Results: State Senate

Party	State Senate	Rank
R	JACQUE, André	1
R	WANGGAARD, Van H.	2
R	MARKLEIN, Howard	3
D	BEWLEY, Janet	4
D	LARSON, Chris	5
R	OLSEN, Luther	6
R	DARLING, Alberta	7
R	NASS, Stephen L.	8
D	SCHACHTNER, Patty	9
D	TAYLOR, Lena C.	T-10
D	RISSER, Fred A.	T-10
D	CARPENTER, Tim	T-10
D	ERPENBACH, Jon B.	13
D	JOHNSON, LaTonya	14
R	TESTIN, Patrick	15
D	HANSEN, Dave	16
R	FEYEN, Daniel	17

Party	State Senate	Rank
D	SMITH, Jeff	18
R	PETROWSKI, Jerry	19
R	KOOYENGA, Dale	20
R	ROTH, Roger	21
D	WIRCH, Robert	22
R	BERNIER, Kathy	T-23
D	MILLER, Mark	T-23
R	COWLES, Robert	T-23
D	RINGHAND, Janis	26
R	STROEBEL, Duey	27
R	LEMAHIEU, Devin	28
R	KAPENGA, Chris	29
R	CRAIG, David	30

### "Law Enforcement Honor Roll"

6 Republicans  
6 Democrats

# "Legislators of the Year"

State Representative **Cody Horlacher**



**District 33** (R-Mukwonago)

State Representative **Jimmy Anderson**



**District 47** (D-Fitchburg)

## 2019-2020 Legislative Report Card Results: State Assembly

Party	State Assembly	Rank
R	HORLACHER, Cody	1
D	ANDERSON, Jimmy	2
D	SPREITZER, Mark	3
R	SKOWRONSKI, Ken	4
R	NOVAK, Todd	5
D	SARGENT, Melissa	T-6
R	TUSLER, Ron	T-6
R	SPIROS, John	8
D	SUBECK, Lisa	9
D	EMERSON, Jodi	T-10
D	STUBBS, Shelia	T-10
D	SINICKI, Christine	12
D	OHNSTAD, Tod	13
D	ZAMARRIPA, JoCasta	T-14
R	KULP, Bob	T-14
R	TITTL, Paul	16
D	SHANKLAND, Katrina	17
R	MURSAU, Jeffrey	T-18
R	DITTRICH, Barbara	T-18
D	MILROY, Nick	T-20
D	BILLINGS, Jill	T-20
D	DOYLE, Steve	T-20
R	LOUDENBECK, Amy	T-20
R	ROHRKASTE, Mike	T-20
R	EDMING, James	T-25
R	OTT, Jim	T-25
D	VRUWINK, Don	27

Party	State Assembly	Rank
R	JAMES, Jesse	28
D	POPE, SONDY	29
D	CONSIDINE, Dave	30
R	KRUG, Scott	31
D	GOYKE, Evan	T-32
D	VINING, Robyn	T-32
D	HESELBEIN, Dianne	T-34
D	STUCK, Amanda	T-34
R	BRANDTJEN, Janel	T-36
D	BROSTOFF, Jonathan	T-36
D	KOLSTE, Debra	T-38
D	BOWEN, David	T-38
D	MCGUIRE, Tip	T-38
D	NEUBAUER, Greta	T-38
R	BROOKS, Robert	42
R	THIESFELDT, Jeremy	T-43
R	BALLWEG, Joan	T-43
R	STEFFEN, David	T-43
R	MURPHY, Dave	T-43
D	HEBL, Gary	T-47
R	PETRYK, Warren	T-47
R	DUCHOW, Cindi	T-47
D	GRUSZYNSKI, Staush	50
R	BORN, Mark	T-51
R	ZIMMERMAN, Shannon	T-51
R	PLUMER, Jon	T-53
R	WICHGERS, Chuck	T-53

Party	State Assembly	Rank
D	FIELDS, Jason	T-55
D	MEYERS, Beth	T-55
D	RIEMER, Daniel	57
R	SCHRAA, Michael	58
R	SANFELIPPO, Jo	T-59
R	KERKMAN, Samantha	T-59
D	MYERS, LaKeshia	T-61
R	NYGREN, John	T-61
R	RAMTHUN, Timothy	63
D	HAYWOOD, Kalan	T-64
R	TRANEL, Travis	T-64
R	JAGLER, John	T-66
R	KATSMA, Terry	T-66
D	CABRERA, Marisabel	T-68
R	KURTZ, Tony	T-68
R	QUINN, Romaine	T-68
R	ALLEN, Scott	71
R	SNYDER, Patrick	T-72
R	PRONSCHINSKE, Treig	T-72
R	STAFSHOLT, Rob	T-74
R	SUMMERFIELD, Rob	T-74

Party	State Assembly	Rank
R	SORTWELL, Shae	76
R	KITCHENS, Joel	T-77
R	VORPAGEL, Tyler	T-77
R	WITTKE, Robert	T-77
R	MAGNAFICI, Gae	T-77
R	AUGUST, Tyler	T-81
R	PETERSEN, Kevin	T-81
R	VANDER MEER, Nancy	T-83
R	KNODL, Dan	T-83
R	GUNDRUM, Rick	T-83
R	MACCO, John	T-86
R	RODRIGUEZ, Jessie	T-86
R	SWEARINGEN, Rob	T-86
R	TAUCHEN, Gary	T-86
R	FELZKOWSKI, Mary	T-90
R	KUGLITSCH, Mike	T-90
R	OLDENBURG, Loren	92
R	NEYLON, Adam	93
R	HUTTON, Rob	94

**"Law Enforcement Honor Roll"**

14 Republicans

16 Democrats

## 2020 Candidate Questions

1. What is the number one priority regarding policing and public safety that you would like to see lawmakers accomplish in the next year?
2. Following the tragic death of George Floyd, there have been many calls for police reform throughout the state. What police reform proposals do you believe should be a priority?
3. Some people have called upon state and local governments to “defund the police,” but the effort means different things to different people. What does it mean to you, and how do you think it should or should not be applied to police spending?
4. A lack of adequate mental health services has resulted in a large portion of law enforcement’s calls for service involving individuals with mental health issues. What do you believe can or should be done to alleviate law enforcement’s role in mental health intervention?
5. Various proposals have been introduced at every level of government on the topic of police accountability. Do you believe that law enforcement officers are appropriately held accountable for their actions? Why or why not? What changes, if any, would you support to increase police accountability?
6. In recent years, the number of violent offenses committed in Wisconsin has increased, and departments throughout the state report a significant reduction in the number of people entering the law enforcement profession. Meanwhile, there has also been a decrease in the number of officers employed throughout the state. What do you believe should be done to address this issue?
7. Polling by the St. Norbert College Strategic Research Institute has consistently indicated that a majority of Wisconsin citizens favor allowing law enforcement officers to negotiate contracts with employers over their wages and benefits. Do you support collective bargaining rights for law enforcement officers?
8. What do you believe we should know about you and /or your opponent as we consider making an endorsement in your race?











District	Party	Name	Report Card Rank	Report Card Tier	Survey Q1	Survey Q2	Survey Q3	Survey Q4	Survey Q5	Survey Q6	Survey Q7	Survey Q8	ENDORSEMENT
33	D	Mason Becker	n/a	n/a	Restore trust between LE & public by opening up avenues for conversation.	State needs to consider bills from both parties. Supports banning chokeholds, universal UoF stds & more de-escalation training.	Does not support defunding police as a whole, but more should be done to address community issues so the police don't have to.	Reduce LE time for ch. 51 transports, allocate more \$ to mental health. LE should not have to be social/mental health workers.	On the whole, yes. We should support BWCs for every dept.	Make LE more attractive & rewarding by eliminating levy limits, restoring local control & increasing funding options so LEOs can be paid more.	Yes.	Serves on city council, currently council president, & believes in not being partisan.	
	R	Cody Horlacher (i)	1	1									Horlacher
34	D	Kirk Bangstad	n/a	n/a									
	R	Rob Swearingen (i)	86	3									
35	D	Tyler E. Ruprecht	n/a	n/a									
	R	Calvin Callahan	n/a	n/a									
36	R	Jeffrey L. Mursau (i)	18	1									Mursau
37	D	Abigail Lowery	n/a	n/a									
	R	John Jagler (i)	66	3	Stop attacks on LE. Lawmakers should lead by example & show their support. Gov. & Lt. Gov. comments following the Blake shooting were irresponsible & hurtful.	Increased grant funding for BWCs.	Calls to defund are hurtful, reckless & terrible public policy.	Cites long support for mental health funding in general.	WI has taken great strides on this topic. Will be open to recommendations of Speaker's Task Force.	Public officials should show more support for LE.	Doesn't see any changes coming on this, especially w/ a D governor.	States long support of LE & that his opponent suggested elimination of SROs in DeForest, advocated for donations to funds to pay bail of those arrested in protests.	Jagler
	Ind.	Stephen W. Ratzlaff, Jr.	n/a	n/a									
38	D	Melissa Winker	n/a	n/a									
	R	Barbara Dittrich (i)	18	1	Solidify w/ DOJ a training protocol for SRS & fund grants for school districts to establish SRO programs.	States that police input is needed on this issue, but that she supports ways to more readily remove bad cops.	Opposes defunding the police. Supports recruiting & adding more officers & funding for training.	Co-authored bill to allow sheriffs to contract out emergency transports. Currently serves on the Suicide Prevention Task Force.	Believes that we mostly have good accountability, but that she has heard officers complain that it is too difficult to remove bad cops, so she wants to focus on that.	She supports more support for our technical schools for LE careers & more general moral support for LE.	Yes, "for the most part." Reiterates interest in carving out a way to remove the bad apples & restore public trust.	States that she has been endorsed by the Milwaukee Police Assn., while her opponent has been a detractor of LE & had to delete social media posts saying such.	Dittrich
39	D	Izzy Hassey Nevarez	n/a	n/a									
	R	Mark L. Born (i)	51	2									Born
40	D	Deb Silvers	n/a	n/a									
	R	Kevin Petersen (i)	81	3									
41	D	Nate Zimdars	n/a	n/a									
	R	Alex A. Dallman	n/a	n/a	Wants to see a broad discussion to determine LE needs.	Training & support for LE for dealing w/ people w/ mental health issues.	Does not support.	More training.	Yes. Supports qualified immunity & CI investigative process.	Incentivize students & ex-military to join LE through bonuses & loan forgiveness.	Yes.	Endorsed by several sheriffs & chiefs in district.	Dallman
	Ind.	Jean Bartz	n/a	n/a									
42	D	Melisa Arndt	n/a	n/a									
	R	Jon Plumer (i)	53	2	"Anything that protects our LE officers."	Open to discussing these issues, as long as LE is at the table.	Does not support.	Points to mental health funding in budget that was vetoed.	Indicated that WI is "a shining star" when it comes to police training.	DAs need to prosecute offenders.	Yes.	Brother is retired LE.	Plumer
43	D	Don Vruwink (i)	27	1	Make sure we adequately fund counties to have enough MH pros to help police w/ crisis intervention.	States that we should also focus on criminal justice reform. States that qualified immunity must remain. Supports limited ban on chokeholds, BWCs.	Does not support.	States that we need to fund county MH programs to reduce burden on LE.	Yes. Does not state that changes are needed.	Increase pay by giving local govts more flexibility w/ things such as a limited sales tax.	Yes.	States that he supports LE, & having LEOs in schools.	Vruwink
	R	Beth Drew	n/a	n/a	People should stop, take a breath, & hear the positive things our PDs do on a daily basis.	Interested in learning more about LE training already in place & what may need to be tweaked, including mental/emotional health screenings.	Does not support.	We should explore this issue & consider whether LE should have to fulfill this role.	States that she would not make any blanket changes.	States that more exploration of this issue is necessary.	No, "however, I need to look into this some more" to understand whether depts would be further disadvantaged if not unionized.	States that she has always been an LE supporter & that she will remain so regardless of our endorsement.	
44	D	Sue Conley	n/a	n/a	Agree on a set of reasonable UoF policies.	Consistent use of BWCs to protect officers & the public. Increase implicit bias training.	Does not support eliminating LE funding. Believes LE should be open to exploring new ways to provide services to people in need, such as addicts & those w/ mental health issues.	Cites a Janesville program that includes an embedded social worker for mental health calls.	States that there are many levels of accountability in every PD, but that she does not have enough knowledge to be more definitive.	Set high stds for honesty, compassion & successful outcomes. Reward those who strive to achieve the stds & replace those who don't.	Yes.	States that she is a consensus builder & her opponent tends to toe the party line.	















Before you vote, know the score.

