

Dane County Redistricting Commission

Commissioner Biographies

Barry Burden is a professor of political science and director of the Elections Research Center at UW-Madison, where he has been a faculty member since 2006. His research and teaching are focused on election administration, voter decision making, and representation. Barry, his wife, and his cat reside on the west side of Madison.

Greg Hyer: Chair, Town of Cross Plains; Member, Town of Cross Plains Plan Commission; President and Board Member, Groundswell Conservancy; President and Board Member, Black Earth Creek Watershed Association; Associate Director Emeritus, University Research Park, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Andrea Kaminski has lived in Madison since 1977. She was executive director of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin from 2004 through 2017. After retiring from that position, she worked part-time as the League's legislative coordinator through March 2020 and continues to serve as a volunteer following the voting rights/elections portfolio on the LWV-WI Legislative Committee. Andrea is a poll worker for the City of Madison.

Ken Leonard is a lifetime Wisconsinite and a Madison resident for the last 50 years. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from UW-La Crosse and a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from Southern Illinois University. He was employed as a transportation planner with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 34 years. His last 25 years with WisDOT was as Director of the Bureau of Planning. His next job was as a partner in the transportation-planning firm of Cambridge Systematics, Inc. for 13 years. Among other Madison planning studies, he was a member of the advisory committee for *Transit 2020*, which addressed commuter rail in the Madison area, and a member of the consultant team that completed the *Madison Beltline Study* in 2015.

My name is **Jo Oyama-Miller** and I have been a resident of Monona, Wisconsin for over 45 years. My husband works for the Wisconsin State Legislature and I have 3 grown children: Chandra Miller Fienen and her husband live in Madison, Keiko and Chance Veasey and their 2 children (15,13) live in Minneapolis, MN and our son, Sterling Miller along with his wife, Emi and their 2 children (10, 7) live in Tokyo, Japan. In addition, my husband and I have opened our home to over 20 international students from Japan whether it be a month or years. I am a retired community economic developer and assisted people in starting their own businesses throughout Dane County, a self-employed business consultant, and I owned a distribution company for over 13 years in Dane County. I currently serve on several non-profit boards: Madison-Obihiro Sister Cities, Inc., Friends of PACT, Inc. and , Project Home, Inc. I have been active for many years as a trainer and teacher for NAMI-Dane County for their Family to Family Program, NAMI Homefront (for active and retired Service Members and their families), as well as assisting in financial literacy for low-income and disabled individuals and have served on a variety of committees for the Monona School District. I look forward to serving on this redistricting committee as I have been active in the Asian-Pacific as well as the American-Black and

American-Latina communities for many years. I hope my interests, research skills and integrity adds to the focus and goals of the committee.

Ken Opin:

I have lived in Dane County since 1976 and have been active in public volunteer service since 1979. Here are some of my past activities:

Founder and co-chair of *It's Wright For Wisconsin*, the advocacy group that promoted the construction of Monona Terrace

- Founder and board member of the Dane County Natural Heritage Foundation, now the Groundswell Conservancy
- Member, Dane County Economic Summit
- Member, Wisconsin Task Force on Solid Waste Recycling
- Chair, City of Madison Plan Commission
- Chair, City of Madison Committee on the Environment

Here are my current activities:

- Vice President, Madison Print Club
- Member, CARPC — the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

I retired from paid employment in 2001, and since then have pursued the above volunteer activities as well as trying to become an artist. In recent years my medium has been etching. Here is one of my etchings:



Joan I. Schwarz. I practiced law for 35 years and was a university academic at the University of Wisconsin- Whitewater for 28 years where I taught civic education and gender law and policy. I am now retired from both professions. I am currently a Board Member of the League of Women Voters of Dane County and am the Membership Co-Chair. I am part of the Program Committee for the League and currently provide legal research for civic education on all issues about democracy, including but not limited to the ERA, the Electoral College, redistricting and constitutional issues.. I have lived in Dane County for 43 years, formerly in Stoughton where I lived and had my private law practice and then for the last 17 years, I have lived on the west side of Madison. I am married to a retired English professor who is currently an editor of an international journal and I have two adult daughters and three grandchildren.

Ralph Sirmons lives in Sun Prairie and is an Insurance Agent with Humana. He served 10 years in the military as an Army Drill Instructor. He taught soldiers how to read maps. He also has over 20 years of management experience and a Master's Degree in Science Management.

My name is **Nakia Wiley**, I live and work in Madison. I am a firm believer of hard work and building strong communities. I hold a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. I am an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher for Madison Metropolitan School District. I am a realtor for Keller Williams Reality. I am also a Doctoral student at Edgewood College. I moved to Madison in the Summer of 2016 to make a difference and I am here to stay.

Thomas Wilson has served as the Attorney/Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Westport in Dane County since 1999. Previously, he was a partner in the Wisconsin law firm Stafford Rosenbaum with a practice focus on local government and administrative law. He has served and continues to serve on several State, local and regional government boards, commissions and committees, including the current Executive Board of the Dane County Towns Association, the current Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District Commission, and the current Executive Committee of Yahara WINS. He received both his BA in Political Science and his JD from the UW-Madison.

Idella Yamben: I reside in Deerfield, WI and work for the University of Wisconsin System in support of small businesses across the state. Our focus is supporting startup and growth of technology businesses with impacts in agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing and more. In my off time, I am mom to one three year-old, daughter to an aging parent, and wife. I am looking forward to working with the diversity of participants on this committee!