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WISDOMWISCONSIN.ORG



**State:** Wisconsin

**Core Constituency/Target Audience:** Faith-based organizations and individuals across Wisconsin

**Website:** [wisdomwisconsin.org](http://wisdomwisconsin.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/WISDOMactionnetwork](https://facebook.com/WISDOMactionnetwork)

**Twitter:** @wisdomwisconsin

**Instagram:** @wisdomwisconsin

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[secure.actblue.com/donate/sd003-wi-wisdom](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd003-wi-wisdom)

WISDOM is a state-wide grassroots interfaith organization that includes participation from 160 congregations of 19 different religious traditions. Since its founding in 1988, WISDOM has grown to include 13 affiliate organizations across the state of Wisconsin. They work on campaigns fighting for immigrant rights and to correct the narrative around formerly incarcerated individuals, and much more.

WISDOM leads the ROC Wisconsin campaign, an effort to end mass incarceration in Wisconsin. Members and local affiliates have also been active in promoting immigrant rights, economic justice, public transit, and health care access.

## STATE LEGISLATIVE WORK

WISDOM works to mobilize progressive faith-based community members to vote in support of progressive candidates and causes at all levels of government. They also advocate for state level policy by mobilizing their members to attend rallies, speak at legislative hearings, and meet directly with elected officials to discuss issues like criminal justice reform, economic justice and much more.

## ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

### Criminal Justice Reform

WISDOM works to end mass incarceration and expand funding to community-based alternatives. They aim to close prisons and re-invest money in programs that rebuild the communities that have been devastated by mass incarceration.

Ex-incarcerated People Organizing (EXPO) leads WISDOM's efforts to end mass incarceration in Wisconsin. EXPO also works to eliminate all forms of structural discrimination against formerly incarcerated people and restore formerly incarcerated people to full participation in our communities.

### Environmental Justice

WISDOM wants all Wisconsinites to live in a beautiful, safe and clean state. They know that climate change is real and the communities that are most impacted are communities of color. Over the past few years, members of WISDOM have joined together to fight for climate justice initiatives. WISDOM is fighting for the creation of green jobs and implementation of land and water resource conservation. Affiliates such as JOSHUA have rallied to stop unsafe pipelines carrying toxic tar sands oil under the Great Lakes.

### Racial Equity

WISDOM works to eliminate racial disparities and improve outcomes for everyone, no matter the color of their skin. They advocate for changing policies, practices, systems, and structures to prioritize measurable change in the lives of people of color.

## STATE BRIDGES SPEAKERS



### David Liners

David Liners has led WISDOM Wisconsin for nearly two decades. Liners started his career as a Catholic priest working in Mexican churches on the southside of Chicago. He left the priesthood to become a bilingual community organizer for an organization in Milwaukee that started out fighting against hunger and evolved to address other social justice issues.

Today he leads WISDOM and its network of 13 local organizations that use civic engagement, education, advocacy and community mobilization to address inequities in jobs and economic development, transit, housing, immigration, and criminal justice and prison reform.



## IN THE NEWS

- Joining the fight to end mass incarceration
- New campaign to end child poverty aims for 10,000 signatures
- Advocacy group's special assembly returning to discuss, act on pressing social justice issues
- Stakeholders protest proposed repurpose of Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center
- She left Chicago to get away from violence; now she's fighting inequality in Racine
- 'Justice for Immigrants' Rally in Appleton to hold democratic leaders accountable

## WISCONSIN FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Divided Government (since 2019)
- **Gubernatorial Election:** 2022
- **Length of Assembly term:** 2 years
- **Length of Senate term:** 4 years
- **Redistricting:** The Wisconsin State Legislature draws Congressional and state maps; Democratic Governor Evers has veto power
- **Sister District Target:** Blue Inroads