

**The mission of The American Legion,  
Department of Wisconsin is to  
provide service to veterans, their  
families and their communities.**

**Julie Muhle**

*Department Commander*

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*Legislative Chair*

**Chuck Friedlein**

*Legislative Vice-Chair*

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*Legislative Committee Member*

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*Department Judge Advocate*

**Nathan Bond**

*Department Executive Committee  
Liaison*



**LEGION  
WISCONSIN  
LEGISLATIVE  
AGENDA**

**for the 2023-2024  
Legislative Session**



**THE AMERICAN LEGION,  
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**

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## **Support suicide prevention efforts**

It is estimated that 22 veterans commit suicide every day. Many do not avail themselves of the services provided by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs. In Wisconsin far too many children commit suicide each year. The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin supports all efforts to reduce suicide in Wisconsin.

## **Support legislation and programs that recognize veterans for their service**

Wisconsin is the only state that no longer recognizes Veterans Day with paid time off to honor those who served. Wisconsin has over 1,000 service members who are listed as Missing in Action; they need to be accounted for.

The American Legion Department of Wisconsin supports legislation to restore November 11th as a state holiday and to return the remains of Wisconsin service members listed as Missing in Action.

## **Support programs and legislation to achieve full employment of veterans**

Many veterans are either unemployed or under employed. Wisconsin needs to utilize the veteran's skills to achieve a robust, diverse, and sustainable economy. Legion Wisconsin supports all efforts to enable the full employment of Wisconsin veterans.

## **Support programs and legislation to provide improved access to health care for veterans and their families.**

Access to quality health care is difficult for veterans and their families in many parts of Wisconsin. The impact is especially felt by rural veterans, female veterans and veterans of color.

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin supports efforts to improve access to health care for all veterans regardless of location and expand payment options for services regardless of location or ability to pay.

## **Support our senior veterans**

Wisconsin currently has Veteran Care Facilities to provide care for our senior veterans. They are located in Central Wisconsin (King), South east Wisconsin (Union Grove), and North west Wisconsin (Chippewa Falls). These facilities provide essential quality care for our senior veterans.

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin supports the modernization of these facilities to maintain the high quality of care. The Department supports locating Additional facilities in those areas of the state which are under served.

## **Support benefits for Wisconsin veterans and their families**

Wisconsin provides some of the most generous benefits to its veterans found in the country. These benefits not only benefit the veteran families, but also their communities.

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin not only supports current benefits but also supports providing benefits that are relevant to the newest generation of veterans.

## **Implement and oversee recent acts of the Legislature and the Administrative Code**

During the last Legislature there were several new laws that require revision of State Administrative Code.

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin will work with the Legislature and the Administration to ensure proper implementation.

## **Support the families of active duty service members and veterans in Wisconsin**

The 2019-2020 Legislature began the process of providing new benefits to not only veterans but also to current members of the military community. They are addressing issues such as child support and child custody issues while deployed. Some families have found it difficult to find full employment due to the difficulty in transferring professional credentials.

The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin supports Legislation and Programs which provide education benefits to the children of service members and veterans residing in Wisconsin.