



# Academic Staff Professionals Representation Organization

Advocating on Behalf of Academic Staff Since 1989...

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November 10, 2014  
[www.aspro.net](http://www.aspro.net)

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## Election Recap

Governor Scott Walker beat his Democratic challenger Mary Burke by a margin of 52% to 46%. This is similar to the margin of victory for Walker in the November 2010 election, but smaller than the margin of victory in the recall election of June 2012. The Republicans maintained control of the Assembly and widened their margin to 63-36, pending the results of official canvases and two potential recounts. If the margin holds, it will be the largest Assembly Republican majority since 1957. In the Senate, the Republicans widened their margin to 19-14, a level they also reached in 2011 and 2005.

These Fall Elections will bring many new faces to the State Legislature. There will be seven new State Senators and 25 new State Representatives that take office on January 5, 2015. Twenty-nine of the new legislators were elected in open seats where the incumbent legislators chose to run for a different elected office or retired. Only three of the new legislators defeated an incumbent legislator to take office. The three incumbents who were defeated are: State Representative Amy Sue Vruwink (D-Milladore), Stephen Smith (D-Shell Lake) and Mandy Wright (D-Wausau). Representative Wright lost by approximately 85 votes and a recount is likely.

With every November election comes leadership elections in both parties of both houses. The Senate Republicans have already held their leadership elections and Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) will continue as the Senate Majority Leader, and Senator Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin) will be the Senate President. The Assembly Republicans will hold their leadership elections this morning and Representative Robin Vos (R-Rochester) was expected to be re-elected as Assembly Speaker.

The Assembly Democrats will meet tomorrow and the Senate Democrats will meet on Wednesday to conduct their leadership elections. In both cases, the Minority Leaders will be challenged by members of their caucuses. In the Assembly, Representative Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee) is expected to take on current Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca (D-Kenosha). In the Senate, Senator Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse) will take on current Senate Minority Leader Chris Larson (D-Milwaukee).

But what does all of this mean? Republican legislative leaders are touting that both houses will be "more conservative" in the 2015-2016 legislative session than in the previous session and Governor Walker said with a stronger GOP majority in the Legislature, "we're going to be even more aggressive now" in finding ways to do things more quickly and effectively.

## Anxiety and Action

If you are a bit anxious about what the next legislative session will bring, you should join ASPRO. The next year will be an important one. As a member, you will receive vital information via the newsletter and action alerts that impact your job and your life. Plus, a larger ASPRO membership brings more clout in the State Legislature and within the UW System. A membership application is on the back of this sheet.

## Wisconsin Alumni Association Advocacy Fall Forum

Academic staff are encouraged to attend the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Advocacy Fall Forum Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Pyle Center. The event begins at 11:30 am (3 hours before kick-off of the Wisconsin-Nebraska football game) with presentations by Chancellor Blank and others about the 2015-2017 State Biennial Budget and other higher education policy issues. A tailgate lunch will follow the presentation. To learn more about the event or to register to attend, go to [www.uwalumni.com/support/advocate](http://www.uwalumni.com/support/advocate).