

Roles in Real Life: Executives, Administrators and Administrative Coordinators

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Panel Members

- Steve O'Malley, La Crosse County Administrator
- Brent Miller, Sauk County Administrator
- Joshua Schoemann, Washington County Executive
- Lolita Olson, Washburn County Administrative Coordinator / County Clerk

Forms of Wisconsin County Government

Three types

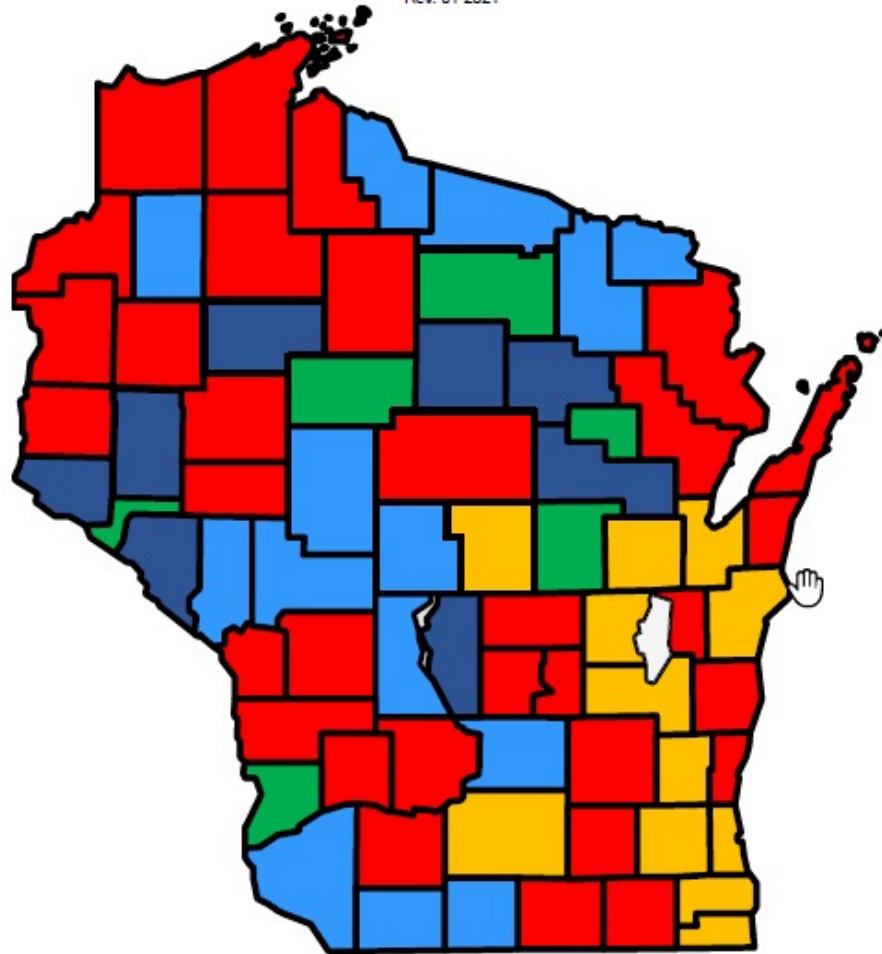
- **County Executive**
- **County Administrator**
- **County Administrative Coordinator**

In 1981 there were 7 County Executives, 10 County Administrators and one Administrative Secretary. The other 54 counties had no central administrative or executive position.

In 1985, the legislature adopted Wis. Stat. § 59.19 which required any County w/o an Executive or Administrator to designate an official to serve as Administrative Coordinator. County Administrative positions have evolved over time.

County Form of Government

Rev. 01-2021



Maintained by Carlson Detmann Consulting

- County Administrator
- County Executive

- Administrative Coordinator (Sole Job)
- Administrative Coordinator (Dual Staff Role)
- Administrative Coordinator (Elected Official)

Full Time Dedicated Positions: 52 Counties

12 Elected County Executives (CE)

33 Appointed County Administrators (CA)

7 Appointed Administrative Coordinators (AC)

Dual Role Positions: 20 Counties

10 AC/County Clerks

4 AC/Board Chairs

3 AC/Human Resources

1 AC/Finance Director

1 AC/Human Services

1 AC/Highway Commissioner

County Executive (s. 59.17)

12 of the 72 Counties, 56% WI Population

- Independently elected to 4-year term county-wide
- Appoints and supervises department heads subject to board confirmation
- Appoints members to Boards and Commissions
- Submits an annual budget to the county board
- Has veto authority
 - may veto ordinances and resolutions
 - county board can override veto with 2/3 vote

County Administrator (s. 59.18)

33 of the 72 Counties, 31% WI Population

- Chief administrator of the county
- Responsible for coordinating all administrative and management functions not vested by law with other officers
- Appoints and supervises Department Heads
- Appoints members to boards and commissions
- Submits annual budget

County Administrator (cont'd)

- Sec. 59.18(6) - The county administrator shall be appointed solely on merit. In appointing the county administrator, the board shall give due regard to training, experience, administrative ability and general qualifications and fitness for performing the duties of the office, and no person shall be eligible to the office of county administrator, who is not by training, experience, ability and efficiency qualified and generally fit to perform the duties of such office. No weight or consideration shall be given by the board to residence, to nationality, or to political or religious affiliations.

To Whom is the Administrator Accountable?

- Sec. 59.18(7) - The board may remove the county administrator at any time that the county administrator's conduct of the county administration becomes unsatisfactory, and engage a successor. The action of the board in removing the county administrator shall be final.

Administrative Coordinator (s. 59.19)

7 Full Time of the 72 Counties, 3.5% of WI population

20 Dual role of the 72 Counties, 9.3% of WI Population

- Similar to county administrator but does not have appointment authority and coordinates rather than supervises
- Some counties meet the requirement by appointing an elected official

County Board Supervisors

Elected by District – Board size from 7 up to 37

From fewer than 1,000 per district to 53,000 in Milwaukee

- Supervisors serve primarily a legislative function
- The legislative function is largely limited to policy making, law making, budgetary approval and cooperative decision making
- No operational control resides with individual supervisors