This year, all 99 seats in the Wisconsin State Assembly are up for election, along with 17 Wisconsin State Senate seats. In addition, Wisconsin will see several statewide and congressional races that may influence both state and federal military-related priorities.

The general timeline for Wisconsin elections includes:

- Spring and summer 2026 candidate announcements and campaign activity
- November 3, 2026 General Election

During this period, legislators will be heavily engaged with constituents and community organizations, making it an excellent opportunity to educate elected officials on National Guard issues and priorities.

WINGA has benefited tremendously from strong bipartisan legislative support over the past year. Many current legislators have taken the time to learn about the Wisconsin National Guard mission, attend military events, and support initiatives important to our members and families. Those relationships helped move forward several significant legislative wins and initiatives, including:

- Continued momentum on tax fairness efforts related to drill and Annual Training pay
- Progress toward modernization and reform of Wisconsin educational benefits for National Guard members
- Expanding eligibility for Guard members and veterans to receive veteran designation identifiers on Wisconsin driver's licenses and IDs through Act 12

These successes happened because legislators understood the operational tempo, deployments, state emergency response missions, recruiting and retention challenges, and the sacrifices made by service members and families.

However, elections also bring change. New legislators may not have the same familiarity with the National Guard, military authorities, state missions, or the challenges facing our force. Some long-standing legislative champions may retire or leave office, requiring WINGA to build new relationships and continue educating newly elected officials.

This makes member engagement even more important moving forward. WINGA members can help by:

- Attending town halls and local listening sessions
- Sharing personal experiences related to deployments, training, family support, and employer challenges

- Participating in legislative outreach and advocacy opportunities
- Staying informed on current state and federal initiatives

Personal interaction remains one of the most effective advocacy tools. When legislators hear directly from Guardsmen, retirees, and families in their districts, it creates understanding and support that can shape future policy decisions.

As leadership transitions occur at both the state and federal levels, continued member involvement will be essential to maintaining momentum on current initiatives and advancing future priorities that support the Wisconsin National Guard community.

Currently, the legislative team is reviewing potential proposals for next year. Areas being explored include reducing the disability rating threshold for the Wisconsin property tax credit from 100% to 70%, expanding and modernizing the definition of a veteran, and additional reforms to the Wisconsin GI Bill.

If you have ideas for future legislative initiatives, please send them forward. We ask that members do some initial research by reviewing what other states are offering, identifying what laws or statutes may need to be changed, and explaining how the proposal would benefit service members, retirees, and military families.

Reminder: Members engaging with elected officials and advocacy efforts should do so in accordance with Department of Defense political activity guidance. Service members should not participate in partisan political activities while in uniform or acting in an official military capacity pursuant to DoD Directive 1344.10. Members are encouraged to remain informed and engaged as private citizens and may access voter registration, absentee ballot, polling place, and election information through the official State of Wisconsin election website: MyVote Wisconsin.