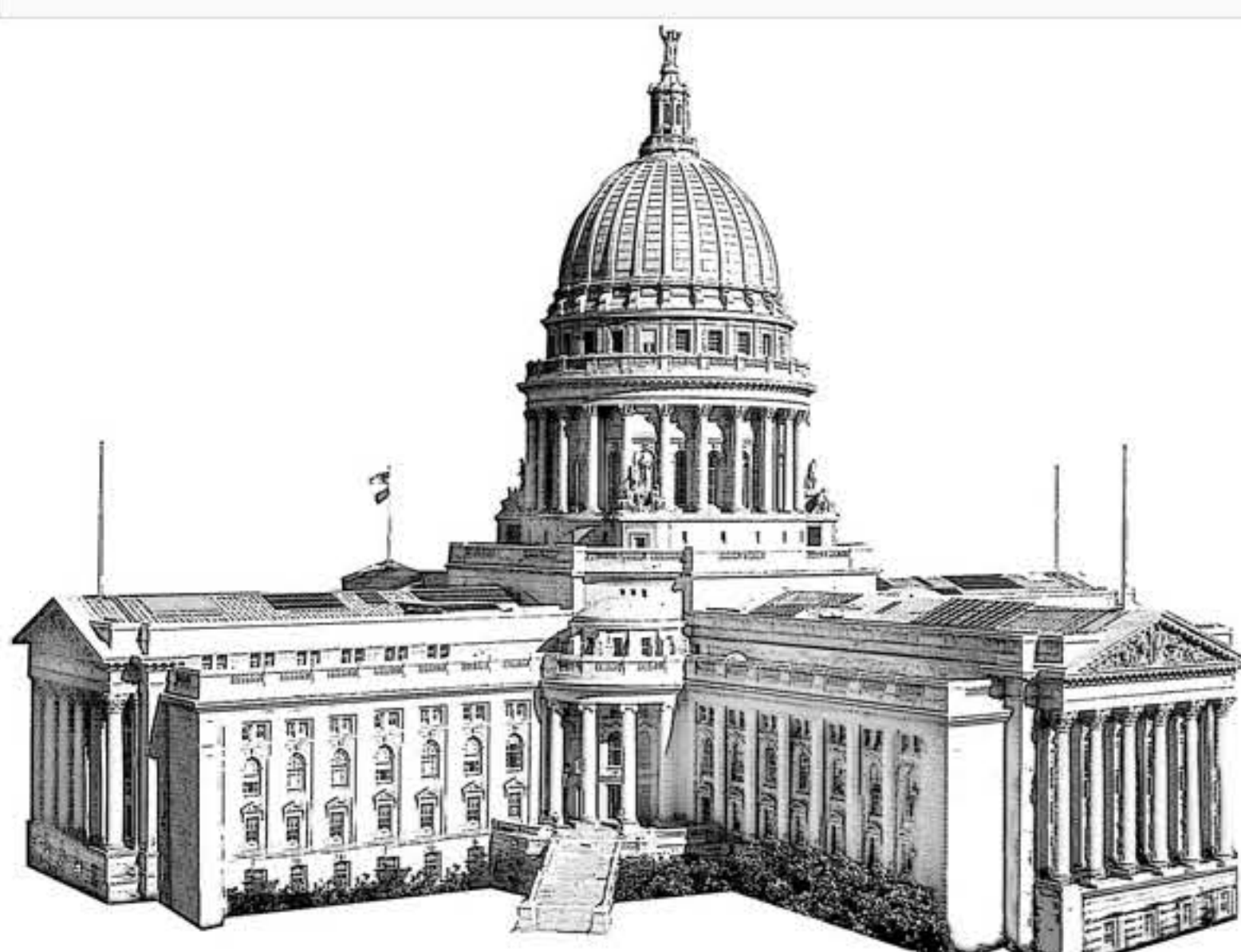


Here is Your ACE Newsletter!



ACE Works to Help Save Civil Service!

Proclamation from Governor Tony Evers

ACE worked with the Coalition to Save Civil Service once again to celebrate the 115th anniversary of the Civil Service System on June 17, 2020. We were successful in getting the word out about the anniversary through a variety of methods and media.

Thank you to Barbara Smith from the Coalition for all of her hard work on this effort.

STATE of WISCONSIN OFFICE of the GOVERNOR Proclamation WHEREAS the Wisconsin Civil Service system was established on June 17, 1905, when Governor Robert M. La Follette signed into law one of the earliest state-level civil service bills in the country; and WHEREAS for 115 years, the Wisconsin Civil Service system has ensured that public services are delivered with professionalism, efficiency, and integrity by highly qualified workers; and WHEREAS our Civil Service system promotes democratic values – such as equity, transparency, and public service – within state agencies, and was created to protect Wisconsinites from patronage, corruption, and excessive political interference; and WHEREAS based on the principle that state employees should be hired, promoted, and disciplined based on merit through fair and unbiased processes, our Civil Service system prioritizes the delivery of vital public services over partisan and political interest; and WHEREAS today, the state of Wisconsin joins the Association of Career Employees and the Coalition to Save Civil Service in recognizing the important contributions of our civil servants to the quality of public services enjoyed by folks across our state; NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim June 17, 2020, as WISCONSIN CIVIL SERVICE ANNIVERSARY DAY throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents. IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 12th day of June 2020. Tony Evers TONY EVERS GOVERNOR By the Governor: Douglas La Follette DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE Secretary of State

Letter to the Editor by Wendy Fearnside

June 17 was the 115th anniversary of Wisconsin's civil service.

Originally conceived as a way to prevent cronyism and corruption, civil service envisions a government based on merit, equal treatment and service in the public interest. These principles are as fundamental to good government as they were 100 years ago. Wisconsin was one of the first states to enact civil service legislation and was long known for its squeaky clean government. Once lauded as model of competence and integrity, Wisconsin's state government is now pointed to in the national press as an example of dysfunction.

Our political process has been manipulated through gerrymandering and voter suppression, our ostensibly nonpartisan Supreme Court has become overtly partisan, and our Legislature has deliberately obstructed and usurped the authority of the governor and the executive branch. In 2016, the Legislature abolished the requirement for civil service exams in the hiring process, opening the door to patronage and political influence. Over 4,000 civil service positions remained unfilled, hampering the efficiency and effectiveness of our state agencies and limiting their ability to respond to this pandemic.

It is time to say "enough." It is time to make Wisconsin proud of its government again.

Link to original publication

Press Release to Wisconsin newspapers and other media

Wisconsin Coalition to Save Civil Service Celebrates the Anniversary of the Wisconsin Civil Service System

June 17, 2020, is the 115th anniversary of the Wisconsin Civil Service system.

Civil service is a system, created in Wisconsin Statute, with procedures for the hiring, promotion, discipline and termination of state employees based on an objective assessment of their qualifications and clear, standardized criteria.

Civil service is recognized as promoting clean government and preventing partisan influence, cronyism, patronage, nepotism and corruption in public agencies. Under the civil service system, government should serve the citizens of the state – not just corporate or political interests. The original slogan of Wisconsin's civil service was: "The Best Shall Serve the State."

"Because Wisconsin Civil Service helps ensure that public services are delivered with professionalism, efficiency, and integrity by highly qualified workers, it is the people of Wisconsin who are the prime beneficiaries of the civil service system," said Sally Drew of the Association of Career Employees.

"Civil service is a key tool for democracy and roots out political and unfair influence from our public institutions," said Harry Richardson, a member of the AFSCME Local 171 Executive Committee.

Merit-based civil service promotes fair and transparent employment practices that combat discrimination based on race, gender and other personal characteristics that are irrelevant to serving the public. Historically, this is one reason that state and local public sectors have provided more equitable opportunities for women and people of color than other employment settings.

Wisconsin Civil Service has been eroded under several recent administrations. In particular, Wisconsin's Act 150 – put into effect on July 1, 2016 – made historic reductions in the Wisconsin Civil Service system, including eliminating the requirement for civil service exams in state hiring and changing the concept of just cause. Since 2016, there has been a spike in employees leaving state service.

"Our goal is the full restoration of the Wisconsin Civil Service system, and a recommitment to public agencies oriented to solving people's problems and serving the public good. Wisconsin should lead on reform efforts as it did when Governor Robert M La Follette signed one of the nation's first state civil service bills into law in 1905," said Bill Franks, Chair of the Labor & Industry Committee of the NAACP of Dane County Branch 36AB, member of Protect Our Retirement Security (POWRS), and Chief Steward Emeritus of American Federation of Teachers Local 4848, Wisconsin Professional Employee Council.

The Coalition to Save Civil Service includes the South Central Federation of Labor, AFSCME Council 32, American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin (AFT-W), the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, the Association of Career Employees (ACE), Our Wisconsin Revolution, AFT-W State Employee Council, Wisconsin Professional Employee Association, POWRS, NAACP-Dane County, Progressive Dane, AFSCME Locals 171 and 1, AFSCME Retirees Subchapter 52, and Wisconsin Science Professionals.

Statement from Senator Fred Risser's Office for use with social media

Today we commemorate the 115th anniversary of the creation of the Wisconsin Civil Service. I am proud of the fact that my grandfather Ernest Warner introduced the legislation that later became law as a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1905. At the time, Wisconsin was only the third state to establish a merit based civil service. As a result of Wisconsin's civil service laws we have often been cited as a model of a clean and efficient government.

Let us take a moment today to celebrate the hard work and dedication of Wisconsin's civil servants.

If you found this information helpful forward to a friend and ask them to consider joining ACE

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