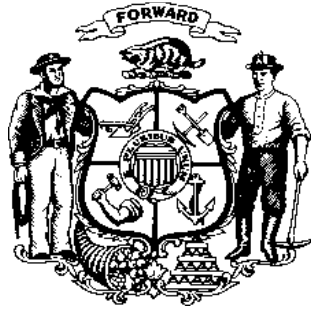




# Wisconsin Judicial Council

*William Gleisner, III, Chair*  
*Margo Kirchner, Vice-Chair*

## MINUTES

### Wisconsin Judicial Council Committee on Municipal Court Interpreters

APRIL 21, 2026. 12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Chair Hon. Kristine Snow, Ruby De Leon, Hon. Molly Gena, Hon. Jim Gramling, Hon. Jason Hanson, Hon. Margo Kirchner, Susan Lund, Fatima Malik, R. Timothy Muth, Ann Olson, Nora Platt, Hon. Kevin Rathburn, Ryan Sendelbach

Members Excused: Dawn Wilcox

#### I. Introductions and Roll Call

Judge Snow called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM. Committee members were identified and quorum was established.

#### II. Opening Statements by Judge Snow

Judge Snow gave an overview of the Judicial Council, the goals of the committee, and thanked the members for their participation. Judge Snow emphasized that members should make recommendations if they think any voices are missing from the table.

#### III. Open Records and Open Meetings Review with Attorney Zibolski

Attorney Zibolski welcomed the group and gave a brief review of open records and open meeting requirements while the committee is active.

IV. Discussion on the goals of the committee and updates from committee members

Members introduced themselves and their roles in the municipal court system. Judge Snow reiterated the three recommended issue areas the Supreme Court suggested be examined as part of this committee. Judge Snow further clarified the focus of this committee would be interpretation not translation. Judge Kirchner and Judge Hanson discussed the distinction between municipal and other courts, their constitutional purpose, and that their existence is elective by the municipality. Judge Snow solicited examples of how the need for interpreters has affected municipal courts. Judge Rathburn noted that almost all litigants in municipal court are pro se. The committee discussed generally how Language Line is commonly used by municipal courts, but friends and family members are sometimes used as well. There was consensus that understanding the court process is necessary and that the committee was united in trying to find solutions for litigants and judges.

V. Discussion of next steps

There was discussion about the accuracy of Language Line and examples of instances where interpretations were nuanced or inaccurate. Judge Snow questioned the cost of Language Line and whether there were any competitors. There was discussion of the use of Google Translate and the issues with relying on this technology. There was further discussion of whether law enforcement could note the need for an interpreter on a citation so that the court could be alerted to the need. The committee discussed some of the results of the survey conducted in 2025 by the Director of State Courts office. The committee set future meeting dates, and Judge Snow requested that ideas related to this committee should be sent to Attorney Zibolski for incorporation at the next meeting.

VI. Adjournment

Judge Hanson moved to adjourn. Nora Platt seconded. Adjourned at 1:03 PM.

*Notes by Attorney Zibolski*