



**A HOME FOR
EVERYONE**

**Plenary Speaker
Biographies**

A HOME FOR EVERYONE



State Senator LaTonya Johnson



Elected to Wisconsin's 6th Senate District in 2016, LaTonya Johnson previously served in Wisconsin's 17th Assembly District since 2012.

Sen. Johnson has lived in Milwaukee for over 30 years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Tennessee State University. Before being elected to public office, LaTonya owned and operated a licensed in-home childcare service. She served as President AFSCME Local 502, the union representing in-home childcare providers in Milwaukee. She went through Emerge Wisconsin, an intensive training program for progressive women who want to run for office and is a proud alum of the Class of 2012.

In addition to her legislative committee appointments, which includes serving on the powerful Joint Committee on Finance, Senator Johnson serves as co-chair of the bipartisan Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus, a member of the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board, a member of the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council, an advisory member of the UW Health Population Institute, an advisory member of Family Impact Seminar, and serves on several other commissions and councils related to public safety, democracy, and health care.

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Bryan Greene, VP of Policy Advocacy, National Association of Realtors



Bryan Greene is Vice President of Policy Advocacy at the National Association of REALTORS® where he oversees all legislative and regulatory advocacy on behalf of the association's 1.4 million members. Bryan joined NAR in November 2019, and spent his first year at NAR raising the association's profile in Washington and nationwide on all fair-housing-related policy matters as NAR's first Director of Fair Housing Policy.

Before joining NAR, Bryan served for ten years as the highest-ranking career official in HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO), where he oversaw the policy direction and operational management of the 600-person office enforcing the nation's housing anti-discrimination laws. Under Bryan's leadership as FHEO General Deputy Assistant Secretary, HUD pursued large-scale, high-profile cases that addressed systemic discrimination and provided widespread relief. Bryan also managed HUD's Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) and HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), which together provide over \$70 million to state and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations fighting discrimination in local communities.

Bryan has held other senior positions at HUD during his three decades at the agency, including a stint as the Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs in HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), where he worked to reduce regulatory barriers to affordable housing.

Bryan was the 2007 recipient of the Presidential Rank Award, the highest federal honor bestowed upon federal senior executives for outstanding service.

Bryan earned his degree in Government from Harvard University.

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State Treasurer Sarah Godlewski



Treasurer Sarah Godlewski is a 5th generation Wisconsinite, former small business owner, proud Green Bay Packers shareholder, and financial expert from Eau Claire, WI. When politicians tried to eliminate the Wisconsin State Treasurer's office in 2018, Sarah led a bipartisan coalition to save the office, defeating their effort with an overwhelming 62% of the vote. Sarah then stepped up to run, winning her election with 51% of the vote.

As Treasurer, Sarah leads a \$1.3 billion state trust fund that invests in communities across Wisconsin. Since the beginning of her tenure, the fund has distributed an unprecedented \$154 million to Wisconsin's public school libraries. When the COVID pandemic hit, Sarah led the fund to provide an additional \$5.25 million to Wisconsin school districts to expand virtual learning and tackle the digital divide. Early on, her leadership led to the removal of a gag rule preventing the state from considering the risk of climate change when making investments. Since this reversal, she has fought to ensure that smart investments are made that benefit our communities and Wisconsin's economy.

In March 2020, Sarah formed a coalition of local treasurers and community partners to improve homeownership in Wisconsin, aiming to help people buy, maintain, and stay in their homes. In the wake of the pandemic, this Treasurer's Homeowners Task Force created an early-response system to help people avoid delinquency and ultimately foreclosure, knowing that it is more important than ever that Wisconsinites can stay safe in their homes. The work of the Task Force resulted in the creation of Take Root Wisconsin, a statewide network to help Wisconsinites buy, fix, and stay in their homes. Treasurer Godlewski further leveraged the connections that were created as the result of the task force to help launch the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program in collaboration with the Department of Administration and Wisconsin Community Action Program (WISCAP).

Additionally, Sarah chaired the bipartisan Retirement Security Task Force and developed innovative and cost-effective ways to ensure Wisconsinites can retire with peace of mind. Through listening sessions with retirees, small business owners, and workers, the Task Force developed plans for a child savings program, named 401(K)ids, to address the wealth gap and help families save, and a simple, plug-and-play, retirement program for Wisconsin small businesses that would address retirement access for almost one million Wisconsinites. Recently, a bipartisan 401(K)ids bill was introduced before the state legislature and received a public hearing, which is the first step in the legislative process.

Prior to serving, Sarah was the co-founder of a multimillion-dollar socially responsible investment firm called MaSa Partners which invests in early-stage businesses. Beyond investing, Sarah gained financial expertise working with the Pentagon for almost a decade where she helped save taxpayers tens of millions of dollars. In her free time, you can find Sarah cheering on Wisconsin sports teams with her husband Max, son Hartley, and their rescue dog Tanner.

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Teig Whaley-Smith, Chief Alliance Executive, Community Development Alliance



Teig's passion is building and leading collaborative teams to make Milwaukee the best place on planet earth. He believes that for Milwaukee to achieve its full potential, there needs to be a focus on the people and neighborhoods that have been left out of the larger political, social, and economic systems. Teig was raised and continues to live in the Sherman Park neighborhood and is a proud Milwaukee Public Schools alumni and parent.

In 2022, Teig was named the Chief Alliance Executive for the Community Development Alliance (CDA). CDA is an affiliation of community development funders and practitioner in the Milwaukee Area that led Milwaukee's first Collective Affordable Housing Plan, with the goal of advancing racial equity by providing a quality affordable home for every Milwaukeean. The plan lays out a transformative road map to support 32,000 new Black & Latino homeowners, and 32,000 homes for families making less than \$15 per hour. CDA continues to successfully bring together funders and partners to implement the innovative approaches within the plan.

Prior to joining CDA, Teig served as the chief operating officer of Milwaukee County where he managed a \$1.2 billion annual budget, serving one million residents. Teig supported the expansion of mental health services, the elimination of chronic homelessness, and was a core member of the leadership team that was the first municipality in the country to declare racism as a public health crisis and develop a strategic plan to combat racism. Teig also served as the Economic Development Director of Milwaukee County and led the efforts to develop more than \$1 billion in the former Park East corridor, including Fiserv Forum. In his private sector career, Teig led a community economic development firm that developed \$60 million of affordable housing and main street development.