

## **REGISTER OF DEEDS BACKGROUND**

*The Register of Deeds Office was established in Wisconsin in 1836. The 1848 Wisconsin constitution established the Register of Deeds as a permanent element of the county-level government structure.*

*The Register of Deeds files, records and issues copies of instruments and document of significance to both the community as a whole and to its individual citizens. Vital records document the span of our lives from birth to death. The office also maintains land records documenting title to over \$613.1 billion\* in real property in Wisconsin.*

*During the past 150+ years the Register of Deeds office has utilized advanced technology to handle the increasing work load. From quill pens to computerized indexes to internet - accessible documents to electronic filing, these advancements have allowed us to provide a higher level of service to our customers during tough budget constraints.*

*\* 2020 equalized value of real property, WI Dept. of Revenue*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*To provide the official county repository for:*

*Real estate records (deeds, land contract, mortgages, etc.)*

*Vital records (birth, death, marriage, domestic partnership and military discharges)*

*To provide safe archival storage and convenient access to these public records.*

*To implement statutory changes, system modernization, program and procedure evaluation and staff development to assure a high level of timely service for our citizens-customers.*

## **WISCONSIN REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICERS**

### **PRESIDENT**

**SARAH VAN CAMP**

*OUTAGAMIE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS*

### **1st VICE PRESIDENT**

**TIFFANY RINGER**

*WOOD COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS*

### **2nd VICE PRESIDENT**

**HEATHER KUHN**

*DUNN COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS*

### **3rd VICE PRESIDENT**

**ISRAEL RAMON**

*MILWAUKEE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS*

### **SECRETARY**

**MARGO KATTERHAGEN**

*BARRON COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS*

### **TREASURER**

**BETH PABST**

*STCROIX COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS*

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

**BRENT BAILEY**

*SAUK COUNTY REGISTER OF DEED*



**WISCONSIN**

**REGISTER**

**OF**

**DEEDS**

**ASSOCIATION**

**[www.wrdaonline.org](http://www.wrdaonline.org)**

## REGISTER OF DEEDS STATUTORY DUTIES

The Register of Deeds performs essential functions which include but are not limited to filing, recording, and issuing instruments and documents of significance both to the community as a whole and to its individual citizens.

- Review, record, file, scan, eRecord and maintain all documents authorized by law to be recorded as outlined in Wisconsin Statutes Chapters 59.43 and 69.
- Prepare documents for indexing, imaging and eRecording\* using quality control procedures.
- Safely keep and return to the proper party, instruments which have been recorded.
- Make and deliver to any person on demand and upon payment of proper fees, certified and uncertified copies of official office records.
- Register, index, and file all marriages, deaths, births and domestic partnerships occurring in the county.
- Perform the duties that are related to vital statistics under Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 69.
- File, index and maintain military discharges per Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 45.
- Record federal tax liens, articles of incorporation, firm names and fixture filings.
- File all types of plats and certified survey maps.



### \*eRecording of Documents

Racine and Washington Counties began accepting documents for recording electronically in January, 2003. Later that year the Milwaukee County Register of Deeds began recording documents electronically. More counties soon followed, making Wisconsin a leader in the number of counties that are able to accept documents electronically.

## ELECTED VS. APPOINTED

Public service is a key responsibility of county-wide officials. The electoral process brings forth individuals interested in public service. Voters deserve the right to choose who will provide the most effective and responsive public service. Elimination of the electoral process diminishes the voice of the people.

County-wide elected officials are accountable to their constituents, while an appointed department head is accountable only to the person or committee who appointed them. This separation of power removes the opportunity for undue influence by the county executive, administrative staff, and county board supervisors in their performance of their duties, and maintains the integrity of their offices.

Allowing county boards, especially where there are county executives, to appoint individuals to these public service positions could lead to a patronage system that is contrary to Wisconsin good government practices.

County-wide elected officials are more responsive to the administrative needs of the taxpayer and are in a better position to maintain the checks and balances needed in county government.

County-wide elected officials deal with people's records and monies, which affects their lives in almost every aspect. Since county elected officials are the guardians of the public's records and monies, they ought to answer directly to the people whose records they protect.

For current list of Register of Deeds please visit [www.wrdaonline.org](http://www.wrdaonline.org).