



207 East Buffalo Street, Ste 325  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 272-4032  
aclu-wi.org

## **2024 State Assembly and Senate Candidate Questionnaire**

The ACLU of Wisconsin respectfully requests responses to the questions below regarding your positions on civil rights and liberties issues impacting Wisconsinites.

The questions and answers, if received in time, will be published on the ACLU of Wisconsin website and potentially used in other formats. If you do not respond, the publication will state "Refused to Respond."

Please send responses in this fillable PDF via email to Amanda Merkwae at [amerkwae@aclu-wi.org](mailto:amerkwae@aclu-wi.org) or by mail to 207 E. Buffalo St., Suite 325, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202 by **Tuesday, August 6, 2024.**

**Name:** Renuka Mayadev

**Email Website:** [www.mayadevforwi.com/](http://www.mayadevforwi.com/)

**Office Sought:** Assembly District 77

**Affiliation(s):** Democratic Party

**Question 1:** If elected, would you vote against an abortion ban?

Yes

No

*Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.*

Emphatically yes! As a lifelong advocate for women, children and families, I am dedicated to ensuring that every individual has access to abortion care, high quality reproductive care, which includes birth control/contraceptives, fertility treatments and all other reproductive and sexual healthcare and education needs. My rights, my daughters rights, and the rights of all birthing people in Wisconsin are under attack. We will not be limited by a 1849 law, passed at a time before women's suffrage. I am a reproductive freedom champion and I am committed to ensuring that the right to reproductive healthcare is not only legal, but a protected right enshrined in our state constitution.

**Question 2:** If elected, would you vote against restrictions on contraception and in vitro fertilization (IVF)?

Yes

No

*Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.*

I have spent my career advocating for women, children, and families. Contraception and IVF are vital to reproductive health, and the health of Wisconsin families. Our future rests on the health and well-being of women & families. We must protect the right and access to all forms of reproductive healthcare.

**Question 3:** Do you pledge to accept the results of the election, no matter who wins?

- Yes  
 No

*Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.*

Free and fair elections are crucial to the preservation of our democracy. Unlike many leaders in the Republican party, I believe that the election results must be accepted and upheld. Peaceful transitions of power are the bedrock of our democracy, and we cannot allow our democracy to falter. I pledge to respect the will of the people, and I will always support our democratic tradition of free & fair elections.

**Question 4:** Do you support the legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana for recreational use by adults 21 and over in Wisconsin?

- Yes  
 No

*Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.*

Prohibition has not worked in Wisconsin. Criminalization has broken families, locked up Wisconsinites, and kept many of our neighbors from reaching their full potential. As a policy professional and a child advocate, we need to implement criminal justice reform here in Wisconsin. Our communities of color are over incarcerated and the criminalization of marijuana perpetuates the cycle. Black Wisconsinites are 4 times more likely to be arrested for simple possession than their white counterparts. Legalization is one way we can address over-incarceration in our state.

**Question 5:** Do you oppose government entities banning books from local libraries and schools due to content, ideas, or viewpoints expressed in the books?

- Yes  
 No

*Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.*

A democracy rests upon the freedom to exchange ideas. Ideas must be exchanged & debated, not hidden & silenced. Local libraries & public schools should be places where a diversity of ideas and honest discussions are welcomed and celebrated. Our children need to learn about our full history and diverse viewpoints. As a champion for children, I will always support our local librarians & our teachers as they educate and support our next generation.

**Question 6:** Would you vote to protect same-sex marriage in Wisconsin, no matter what is decided at the federal level?

- Yes
- No

*Please write any comments you might have in the box provided below.*

Yes, I will always protect same-sex marriage. The rights of same-sex couples are under threat from those yearning to go back to a pre-Obergefell v. Hodges world. In our society, all married couples must have the same rights. Period. We need to amend our state's constitution so that, no matter what happens at the federal level, the rights of same-sex couples are protected.