



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Sheldon A. Wasserman - District 3

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Supervisor Wasserman Statement on the Passing of Fred Kessler

MILWAUKEE – Supervisor Sheldon Wasserman issued the following statement today on the passing of former Wisconsin State Assembly Representative Fred Kessler:

“It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of Fred Kessler's passing. Fred was a trailblazer, becoming the youngest person ever elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly on his 21st birthday during the opening day of the 1961 legislative session. He served our community in many capacities over the decades, leaving a lasting mark on Wisconsin's political landscape.

“Fred's career was one of tireless public service. After serving in the State Assembly until 1972, he was appointed as a circuit court judge. He briefly left the bench to run for Congress, and although that campaign was not successful, Fred returned to serve again as a judge for many years. His dedication to public service continued as he rejoined the Wisconsin State Assembly, where he served additional years. In total, Fred served 11 years as a judge and 24 years as a State Assembly Representative.

“Throughout his career, Fred was deeply committed to the principles of inclusion and equity. His wide circle of friends from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds is a testament to his belief in the power of unity and community.

“I first met Fred 40 years ago when he was running for Congress and knocked on my door. My sister and I were so impressed with him that we ended up volunteering on his campaign. Fred played a significant role in my own first race for the State Legislature, and over the years, he became a trusted friend and confidant.

“I offer my heartfelt condolences to Fred's wife, Joan, his daughters, grandchildren, and the many friends whose lives were touched by his kindness and dedication. May his memory be a blessing to everyone who knew him.”

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