



City of Wauwatosa Municipal Court 2023 State of the Court

2023 STATISTICS

The Wauwatosa Municipal Court is a court of limited jurisdiction granted by statute. The Court handles juvenile non-traffic cases for children ages 12-17. All traffic cases are heard in adult court. Cases come to the Court when the Wauwatosa Police Department or a City Department issues a citation that falls within the Court's jurisdiction. A person appears first for an initial appearance in Court or can pay the deposit amount on her citation. If an individual does not appear for their citation, then a default judgment of guilty is issued and the forfeiture for the amount listed on the citation.

	2023 Citations Adjudicated	Change from 2022	2023 Appearances	2023 Appearance Rate
Adult	4,852	49% increase	1,155	23.8%
Juvenile	237	10% decrease	77	32.5%
Total	5,089	44% increase	1,232	24.2%

As of April 30, 2024, the Court has received 1,775 issued citations.

List of the Top 5 Citations for Initial Appearances in Court in 2023:

Adult	Juvenile
1. Speeding	1. Loitering on School Property**
2. Operating After Suspension	2. Retail Theft
3. Non-Registration of Auto	3. Resisting/Obstructing/Providing False Information
4. Red Light Violation	4. Loitering/Prowling
5. Retail Theft	5. Truancy

**This is often written on citations by the police department as "school disorderly conduct."

In 2023, the Court had 24 trials scheduled, and 6 were heard.

The Court ordered 869 hours of community service, of which Defendants completed 515 hours.

The Court's net revenue in 2023 was \$301,845.

In addition to initial appearances for citations, the Court regularly has hearings, including but not limited to hearings for individuals who were issued a summons to appear due to outstanding fines, indigency hearings for an individual facing a hardship paying a forfeiture, and motions to reopen an old case.

In August 2023, the Common Council passed an ordinance that adopted Wisconsin Administrative Code 305, which permits the Wauwatosa Police Department to write municipal citations for violations of the code. In 2023, 20 citations were issued by the police department; 7 were withdrawn by the Police Department and 2 were dismissed by the Court as the issue was corrected. In 2024, 14 citations have been issued as of May 2024.

STAFFING CHANGES IN 2023

The Court's longtime court clerk, Robin Bloczynski, was promoted to Court Administrator. This reflects Robin's longtime assistance to the Court, the City, and each defendant that appears in Court. She is a crucial piece for this Court, and we are appreciative of her knowledge and assistance.

The Court's part-time court clerk left for a new opportunity in August 2023. The Court requested that the part-time position be replaced with a 1.0 full time employee as citation numbers are increasing. As part of the budgeting cycle, the Mayor's Executive Budget removed that position from the Court budget. The Court was advised to fill the position from staff already within City Hall, with the City Administrator's goal of multiple individuals fulfilling the role of a single court clerk. This has proved a difficult task for the Court, which has only 1 full-time employee.

LOOKING AHEAD: REMAINDER OF 2024

The Court has received an increase in citations issued by the Police Department throughout 2024. The Court has been contacted multiple times by the Police Department to add additional initial appearance nights. The Court has added initial appearance nights both for adults as well as juveniles throughout 2024.

With the sudden closure of the Milwaukee County Social Development Commission in April 2024, the Court is without options for referrals for individuals facing mental health challenges and individuals requiring therapy. The Court is currently having a conversation with the Wauwatosa Health Department regarding providing substance abuse education within City Hall. The Court is researching other options for referrals, as many of the juvenile cases before the Court need in-person therapy and assistance.

HOW YOU CAN INTERACT WITH THE COURT?

The Court does not order where individuals complete community service. If you work or run a nonprofit organization or church in the greater Milwaukee area and would be open to taking either adults or juveniles who are ordered to complete court-ordered community service, please contact the Court to be added to our growing list of organizations.

Judge LaFave is always open to providing presentations or education to community groups, local organizations, or schools. Education about our judicial system, and the importance of our community municipal court, is important for the community. Please reach out to the court clerk if you are interested in having Judge LaFave present.