

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Date: January 22, 2020 Contact: Melissa Sargent, (608)-220-2273 <u>melissaforwisconsin@gmail.com</u>

Melissa Sargent Announces Campaign Endorsements

MADISON– Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement announcing the endorsements of Barbara Lawton & Kathleen Falk, for her candidacy for Wisconsin's 16th Senate District:

"Today I am proud to announce campaign endorsements from two highly respected former-elected officials, who are progressive champions and have been an inspiration to women and people across Wisconsin," said Sargent.

Barbara Lawton, the 43rd Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin under former-Governor Jim Doyle, was the first woman elected to the position in 2002. In her tenure as Lieutenant Governor, Lawton worked on a broad array of issues to help Wisconsinites, from economic development, to addressing climate change and championing campaign finance reform. Since leaving office, she has been a leader in the nonprofit and advocacy sector, continuing to fight for fair elections and clean government.

"Melissa Sargent is a tenacious leader who I have had the pleasure to get to know over the years. Melissa has fought ardently on behalf of her constituents, and has never shied away from a challenge. She is led by her moral compass and what is best for the people she represents, and continues to be a transparent and dedicated leader for our state. I am pleased to support Melissa's candidacy for State Senate, where I know she will continue to advocate for working families, environmental protections, and government transparency," said Lawton.

Kathleen Falk is the only woman to serve as Dane County Executive and was the first woman to seek a major party's gubernatorial nomination in Wisconsin. In her 14-year tenure with Dane County, Falk prioritized community safety, criminal justice reform, community-based programming, and conservation efforts, among many other successful initiatives.

"I had the privilege to work with Melissa Sargent when she served on the County Board. Few people who I have met and worked with over the years have been as dedicated to serving Dane County and our state as Melissa. Given her admirable work both at the local and state levels, I am confident that she will continue to be a voice for the people of our community. It is my honor to support Melissa in her candidacy for the 16th Senate District, and I look forward to her continued leadership," said Falk.

"It is my honor to be endorsed by both Barbara and Kathleen, two amazing women who have paved the way in Wisconsin. Their contributions to our state and to Dane County are unparalleled, and I am grateful for their support," said Sargent.

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Born and raised in Dane County, Melissa served on the Dane County Board prior to being elected to represent the 48th Assembly District. Before her start in politics, Melissa owned a small business and worked in the private sector. Concern for the greater community and a vision for a better Wisconsin brought her to public service and community activism. She is a proud mother of 4 boys, and lives on Madison's northside.