



Milwaukee  
Public  
Museum

1946

1940

## MILWAUKEE CIVIL RIGHTS CARDS: PART 2

Print these sheets “**double-sided, lip on short side**” for all fronts and backs to match up, then cut on the grey dotted lines.

1968

1967

1962

1961

**Housing - Red**  
**Education - Orange**  
**Voting Rights - Green**  
**Black Experience - Blue**  
**Law and Activism - Purple**

Only 5.9% of Milwaukee's non-White families own their own homes, contrasted with 32.6% of White families.

An attorney's survey filed with the Milwaukee County Register of Deeds estimates that 90% of the subdivisions in Milwaukee since 1910 contain some type of covenant that prohibits sale of the property to Black people.

Lloyd Barbee leads a 13-day sit-in at the Wisconsin capitol to pressure the legislature to pass a state fair-housing bill.

Milwaukee Alderwoman Vel Phillips proposes a strong municipal fair-housing law. Under heavy pressure from Mayor Maier, the Common Council defeats it by a vote of 18-1. Phillips continues to propose the law and it is defeated every time.

The NAACP Youth Council and Father Groppi begin to focus more on fair housing, including rallies and protesting at the homes of aldermen as well as marching to the predominantly White southside neighborhoods.

The federal open housing law is passed on April 11, preventing discrimination in 80% of the nation. On April 30, the Milwaukee Common Council passes an even more stringent desegregation law.

1953

1957

1960

MAY  
1965

JUNE  
1965

1992

1846

1849

The Milwaukee School Integration Committee and the Congress of Racial Equality begin a series of direct-action protests in response to the school board's refusal to address de facto segregation in Milwaukee.

Of the 191 Black teachers employed by MPS, only 10 work at schools with largely White students.

MPS begins the practice of "intact busing," moving entire Black classrooms to a host school every morning but preventing the Black students from mingling in any way with the White students at the host school.

Activists begin to protest the tacit agreement between MPS and the Urban League to hire Black teachers at only predominantly Black schools.

Wisconsin's legislature passes a Black suffrage law authorizing a referendum that was submitted to a vote. Voters approved the measure, but the number who voted to approve Black suffrage represented fewer than half of all voters in the election.

During the State Constitutional Convention, a majority of the delegates reject proposals to include Black suffrage in Wisconsin's constitution.

A report from the Wisconsin Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission indicates that Milwaukee-area schools remain very segregated.

Lloyd Barbee files a federal lawsuit, *Amos et al v. Board of School Directors of the City of Milwaukee*, charging the school board with intentionally maintaining racial segregation. The lawsuit is successful 11 years later.

**1857**

**1865**

**1866**

**1965**

**1861**

**1940**

**1946**

**1958**

The Voting Rights Act becomes federal law.

After being denied the right to vote under the provisions of the 1848 Wisconsin constitution, Ezekiel Gillespie sues and takes his case to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He wins unanimously under the provisions of the 1849 referendum.

Once again, the Wisconsin legislature passes a suffrage law, but the referendum is clearly rejected by voters.

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Daniel Bell, age 22, is pulled over by Milwaukee police for an inoperative taillight and shot moments later. Upon the policemen's story (later admitted to be totally fabricated) of Bell lunging at them with a knife, a coroner's jury ruled that the police had acted justifiably.

A report prepared by the Citizens' Governmental Research Bureau states that for the last six years the infant mortality rate among Milwaukee's Black population is 75% higher than the city as a whole.

The census reports that 51.2% of the Black labor force in Milwaukee is unemployed, contrasted with 17.3% of the White labor force.

George Marshall Clark is beaten and lynched by a White vigilante mob after an altercation with a White man.

1966

1981

1889

1931

1956

1960

1963

1966

Black people and White allies urge the legislature to pass provisions that improve the 1895 Civil Rights law, which clarifies some terms and prohibitions, specially forbidding the practice of overcharging Black customers and prohibiting discrimination in the sale of auto insurance.

A theater owner attempts to relegate a Black patron to racially segregated seats. Seventy-five Black Milwaukeeans hold an “indignation meeting” where they form a committee to take the proprietor to court. The committee becomes the Wisconsin Union League.

Ernest Lacy, age 22, dies in police custody from lack of oxygen after three police officers confront him about being a rape suspect and one holds a knee on his back. Huge protests erupt. A different suspect is later convicted of the rape; Lacy was not involved at all.

KKK terrorists blow up the NAACP headquarters in Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council pickets the Fraternal Order of the Eagles Club, which is exclusively White and includes prominent officials like the mayor. The protests continue at the homes of public officials.

Milwaukee Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) organizes an ongoing protest against Fred Lins of the Community Social Development Commission after his comments that African Americans all look alike, are crime-prone, and have low IQs. The Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council begins a direct action campaign against Marc’s Big Boy restaurant.

Calvin Sherard organizes a series of marches against police brutality and pickets of grocery stores in Black neighborhoods that do not hire Black workers.

Vel Phillips is elected Milwaukee’s first Black alderwoman.