



City of Wauwatosa Municipal Court 2026 State of the Court

2025 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.

	2025 Citations Adjudicated	Change from 2024	2025 Appearances	2025 Appearance Rate
Adult	4787	9.95% decrease	1104	22.9%
Juvenile	213	10.2% decrease	103	48.4%
Total	5,000	9.98% decrease	1,243	24.9%

As of April 30, 2026 the Court has received 1,154 citations.

List of the Top 5 Citations for Initial Appearances in Court in 2025:

Adult	Juvenile
1. Exceeding zone and posted limits 2. Non-Registration 3. Retail Theft 4. Operating After Suspension 5. Violate red traffic sign or signal	1. Retail Theft 2. Truancy 3. Loitering on School Property (school disorderly conduct) 4. Disorderly Conduct 5. Possession of Marijuana 5. Resisting/Obstructing

In 2025, the Court ordered 1,543 hours of community service 551 was completed. The Court scheduled 50 citations for trial (43 individual defendants). Ultimately, the Court held trials for 8 defendants.

The Court's net revenue in 2025 was \$294,626.45. Note that the Court collected \$349,462.40 but per a City practice dating back many years, a certain percent is apportioned to the police department (\$54,835.95 in 2025).

In addition to initial appearances for citations, the Court regularly holds 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.

STAFFING COVERAGE MODIFICATIONS

Court Administrator, Kasey Campbell, began with the Court in February 2025. In the fall of 2025, Kasey was involved in the recruitment and hiring of a part-time court clerk. Emily Neuser now



works 50%% for the Court and 50% for the City Clerk's office. This modification provides the Court with an additional 30% of assistant court clerk coverage. Kasey and Emily are both doing a fantastic job serving the Court, the City of Wauwatosa, and all of the interested parties in Court proceedings.

CONTINUED DAYTIME COURT SCHEDULE

Since January 2025, the Court has moved to a daytime schedule. On most Wednesdays, initial appearances for adults is at 9:00, pre-trials/motion hearings and trials are at 10:00 on alternating weeks, and juveniles are at 3:00 on specific Wednesdays. The Court adds additional juvenile dates as needed based on the number of citations issued or for habitual truancy return dates.

ONGOING REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Court continues to collaborate across city offices to ensure that citations are properly handled and the proper procedures are in place. In 2025, the Court worked with the Police Department to review the process for indigency hearings and summons that WPD issues to defendants. The Court has met with city leadership, Wauwatosa School District leaders, and Wauwatosa Police Department SROs regarding habitual truancy, including options for defendants, recommendations for best practices, and reviewing the process for defendants in court. The Court welcomes collaboration across departments.

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.