

Civil service is essential to good state government

As a retired state employee, I know that “civil service” may seem like an ambiguous term, but it has a long history of assuring that our government is based on merit, equal treatment and service in the public interest.

Civil servants are government employees who work in occupations that are neither political, judicial nor military. Civil service assures that the most competent employees are serving the public, free of political or corrupt pressure. It is an indispensable component of democracy.

Wisconsin will celebrate the 119th anniversary of state civil service on Monday. In 2023, the Department of Administration reported that about 28,000 employees were in the executive branch of state government who have full civil service protection and thousands of vacancies were waiting to be filled.

These employees receive civil service protection in both their hiring and subsequent careers with the state. Not included in these numbers are Universities of Wisconsin employees, legislative and judiciary officials and staff, and a large number of limited-term employees.

**Sally Drew, Madison,
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