

**Register of Deeds Office  
Polk County  
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**Laurie Anderson  
Register of Deeds**



**HISTORY OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE:**

In 1836 the Office of the Register of Deeds was established. In 1848, the Wisconsin Territory became the state of Wisconsin and a constitution was adopted. Based on the duties having been performed since the inception of the office of record, the 1849 statutes read:

“The register of deeds shall have the custody of, and shall safely keep and preserve all books, records, deeds, maps, and paper deposited or kept in his office; he shall also record or cause to be recorded correctly, and in plain and distinct hand writing, in suitable books to be provided and kept in his office, all deeds, mortgages, maps, instruments and wirings authorized by law to be recorded in his office, and left with him for that purpose, and shall perform all other duties required of him by law.”

In 1858, the Legislature expanded the instruments authorized by law to be recorded by the register of deeds and placed the duty of registering marriages, births, and deaths upon the ROD. In 1907 the Legislature created the state office for overseeing all vital records. Vital records were also required by law to be filed with the Wisconsin Vital Records office.

**ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Register of Deeds Office provides the official county repository for real estate and vital records, which consist of birth, death, marriage and domestic partnerships. In addition, the ROD office provides safe archival storage and access to public records, as well as implementing statutory changes, system modernization, program and procedural evaluation and staff development that ensures a high level of timely service for our citizens and customers.

The Register of Deeds Office is able to tell the vital story of “who, what and when” of any property. The filing or recording of documents with the Register of Deeds is a way of putting the world on notice that something important has happened. This function is critically important as the local government property tax base is defined from records housed with the Register of Deeds Office.

**STAFF**

Janet Voss – Chief Deputy Register of Deeds

Lisa Lundeen Brooks – Deputy

Denise Williamson – Clerk

**We are committed to excellent customer service!**