In 1862 he was unanimously chosen a member of the assembly for the district comprising the counties of Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, and Polk; and in the discharge of his duties, he soon became a prominent leader in that body, and in the Republican party of the State. He was re-elected to the assembly in 1863, and again in 1865, 1866, 1867 and 1868.

In April, 1869, he was appointed fifth auditor in the United States treasury by President Grant, and served until November, 1871, when he was again elected to the assembly by the people of his district, and resigned his position at Washington to serve them. He was re-elected in 1872, and in the fall of 1873 was chosen State senator for the 24th senatorial district, serving a full term. He was re-elected senator in 1875, but having been elected judge of the eleventh judicial circuit in April, 1876, he tendered his senatorial resignation, and entered upon the discharge of his judicial duties.

During his legislative service, he held many important and honorable positions. He was speaker of the assembly in 1866, and again during the session of 1873. He was chairman of the judiciary committee several sessions in both the senate and assembly, and was president pro tem of the senate during the session of 1875. In 1868 he was one of the presidential electors at large on the Republican national ticket, and again in 1872, and chosen president of the electoral college. In 1863, he was elected by joint ballot of the legislature, a regent of the Wisconsin State University, which position he held until 1876. He was for many years a corresponding member of the State Historical Society, of which he was a friend and patron; and from January, 1869, till his death, he served as one of its vice-presidents. He was nominated by President Grant, Chief Justice of Dakota Territory in March, 1869, but not wishing to leave Wisconsin, he declined the honor. He was appointed trustee for Wisconsin of the Antietam Cemetery, by Governor Fairchild in 1871, and represented the State during its organization, and until it was placed in charge of the national government.

At home, he was a prominent citizen and took an active interest in the local affairs of his town and county, and many of the