



# PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

OCTOBER 2023

Newsletter

WELCOME TO FALL EVERYONE!



Our big new news this month is that **KATRINA SHANKLAND** has entered the race to become our next 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District US Representative, running for the seat currently occupied by Derrick Van Orden. A statement released by her campaign says she is running to “bring some common sense to our nation’s capital”, “to fight against extremism”, and to “get things done for our community”. She is aware that people recognize “overwhelmingly that there is dysfunction in Washington, and they want someone who can cut through that dysfunction.” In an interview with the Wisconsin Examiner, she said “I’ve developed a reputation of being a trustworthy person who honors their word and their oath and that is something I’ll take with me to Washington.”

Shankland has served in our state Assembly since 2013, where she has worked successfully with colleagues across the aisle to pass about 170 bills. She joins several other Democrats also running for the same seat. There will be a Primary in August 2024.

**PCDP October 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting** will feature **Marianne Radley Wellhouse, the Public Affairs Regional Coordinator with Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin.** She is based out of her home in Appleton and services the Northeast Region of Wisconsin. She has been with PPWI since June of 2020, and before then was Advocacy Program Director at a sexual assault service agency in Neenah, Wisconsin. At home, she spends time with her husband, their beautiful and smart two-year-old daughter and their 3 cats. In non-pandemic times they like to travel, camp, and visit breweries. **Her topic will be an update on what is happening with women’s reproductive rights in the state of Wisconsin and ways we can help.** She will be joining us on ZOOM. Have your questions ready! Doors open at 6pm. Meeting begins at 6:30pm, with a business meeting following the speaker.





**According to an article published by The Associated Press on October 2, 2023, National Democrats are suing to block Wisconsin's absentee voting witness requirements. The Elias Law Group says witness signature is a "burden" for voters. This article was reported by NPR and is as follows:**

**A national Democratic law firm on Monday challenged Wisconsin's witness requirements for absentee voting, arguing that the state is violating the federal Voting Rights Act by demanding a witness signature on ballot envelopes.**

**Elias Law Group**, representing four Wisconsin voters, called the requirement a "burden" to voters in the lawsuit, which they filed in federal court against the Wisconsin Elections Commission and other elections officials.

**State law requires clerks to reject absentee ballots that are missing a witness' address or signature. A Wisconsin judge ruled last year that elections officials cannot correct or fill in missing information on witness certifications, a practice known as ballot curing.**

**The Voting Rights Act prohibits states from requiring a voter to "prove his qualifications by the voucher of registered voters or members of any other class."**

The elections commission did not immediately respond to an email on Monday seeking comment and asking how many ballots have been rejected over missing witness information in recent elections.

Nine states require witness signatures to verify absentee ballots and three states require an absentee ballot envelope to be notarized, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

In Wisconsin, witnesses for most voters must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years old. Witnesses for overseas and military voters are not required to be U.S. citizens.

In a random review of nearly 15,000 absentee ballots cast in the 2020 presidential election in Wisconsin, the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau found that nearly 7 percent of the witness certificates were missing at least one component of the witness' address.

**The rules for voting in Wisconsin are of heightened interest given its place as one of a handful of battleground presidential states. Four of the past six presidential elections in Wisconsin have been decided by less than a percentage point, including the past two.**

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**2023 Co-Chair**

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**FACEBOOK**

PortageCountyWiDems

**Instagram**

pocowidems

**X (Twitter)**

PortageCoWiDems

@portagecountywidems

**Address**

2220 Division St

Stevens Point WI

# Electronic Recycling Event



**October 12, 4 pm - 6:30 pm**

**Portage County Transfer Facility**

**650 Moore Road, Plover**

**Turn north onto Twin Towers then west onto Moore Rd. Any traffic entering off Apache will be rerouted to Twin Towers.**

**Cost:**

FREE - a limit of 20 items per vehicle

**ACCEPTED AT THE EVENT**

cable boxes, cables & cords, cameras & camcorders, cell phones/PDAs and charges, clocks, coffee makers, copiers, printers, scanners & fax machines, desktop computer towers & peripherals, docking stations, DVD/VHS/Blu-Ray players (no discs), external drives (all types), fans, hair dryers, landline phones, laptop computers & peripherals, monitors (all types), MP3 & iPod players, microwaves, projectors, radios, satellite dishes & receivers, servers, stereos & speakers, toasters, TVs (all types), UPS & jump starters, video game consoles & controllers

**NOT ACCEPTED**

ballasts, batteries, bulbs/lamps, capacitors, gas cylinders, ink & toner cartridges, holiday lights, liquids, medical & radioactive wastes, medical & lab equipment, refrigerant-containing appliances, smoke detectors, vape pens, white goods

**Portage County residents only, no businesses.**

Portage County Solid Waste  
(715) 343-6297

[www.co.portage.wi.us/department/solid-waste](http://www.co.portage.wi.us/department/solid-waste)





Portage County Democratic Party  
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Stevens Point, WI 54481

[www.portagecountydems.org](http://www.portagecountydems.org)

Facebook: PortageCountyWIDems

X (Twitter): PortageCoWIDems@portagecountywidems

Instagram: pocowidems



## PCDP General Meeting

October 10, 2023, 6:30pm

Guest Speaker: Marianne Radley Wellhouse

Topic: Planned Parenthood in Wisconsin  
Updates and Opportunities

## Electronic Recycling Event

October 12, 4-6:30pm

Portage County Transfer Facility  
650 Moore Rd, Plover

## OCTOBER 24 United Nations Day

**COFFEE** on Wednesdays, 10am at HQ

Coffee and other beverages provided

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party