



# Portage County DEMOCRAT

Getting Together, Moving Forward APRIL 2021



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## SORE LOSERS?

Since the start of this year, Republicans have proposed 253 bills to restrict voting rights in 43 states.

Unhappy that Wisconsin has a Democratic Governor in Tony Evers, and a veto proof legislature, Republicans in our state legislature, have proposed 6 new or enhanced challenges to voters rights in Wisconsin to ensure their party wins in future elections!

While there is only one state race April 6th on the ballot, for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the races for local offices, public school board, town officials and city alders, have a more immediate impact on our individual lives on a daily basis. That is why it is so important for all Democratic voters to exercise their voting rights and go to the polls on April 6th or mail in their absentee ballot to be counted.

And, lets not forget the referendum question - "Should the state of Wisconsin establish a right to clean water to protect human health, the environment and the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin"?

You will find more on all the races and the referendum in this newsletter. Be prepared and vote.



I WILL  
VOTE

# PORTAGE COUNTY SPRING ELECTION

*Tuesday, April 6, 2021*      *compiled by Jack Allgaier*

Wis. Superintendent of Public Instruction: The current superintendent, Carolyn Stanford Taylor, was appointed by newly elected Governor Evers in Jan. 2019, and chose not to run. The primary in April narrowed the field from six candidates to two: Deborah Kerr and **Jill Underly**, who was endorsed by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

*Members of the Portage County Democratic Party are listed below with a (D) after their names. If you live in their district, please support them.*

Stevens Point Area School Board  
(vote for up to 3; the top 3 will win seats)

Meg Euler (Incumbent)  
Judy Rannow (Incumbent)  
Mike Wade (Incumbent)  
Robert Larson  
Ed Morganroth, Jr.  
W. Alexander Sommers

**Portage County Referendum:** "Shall the State of Wisconsin establish a right to clean water to protect human health, the environment, and the diverse economy, cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin?"

Your Executive Board supports this referendum and **encourages members to vote yes on it.**

City of Stevens Point

City Attorney: A Logan Beveridge (Incumbent)  
City Clerk: **Kari Yenter** (D)(Appointed to fill out a term)  
City Comptroller-Treasurer: **Corey Ladick** (D)(Incumbent)

Stevens Point alder seats

Dist 1: **Tori Jennings** (D)(Incumbent)  
Dist 3: Ginger Keymer (Incumbent Cindy Nebel retired)  
Dist 5: **Melesa Johnson** (D)(Incumbent)  
Marla Schultz  
Dist 7: **Mary Kneebone** (D)(Incumbent)  
Dist 9: Polly Dalton (Incumbent)  
Brian Beaulieu  
Dist 11: **Shaun Morrow** (D)(Incumbent)

Village of Plover Trustees

President: Tom Davies (Incumbent)  
1st Ward: Incumbent Kendra Schiefelbein, retired  
Ross Ballard  
Karl Pinter

Top vote-getter of the 3 will win the seat.

2nd Ward: Gary Wolf (Incumbent)  
**Jerod Barkley** (D)  
Steven Ransbottom  
3rd Ward: Steve Fritz (Incumbent)

Town of Hull

Chair: Incumbent John Holdridge retired.  
Current Hull Supervisor Dave Wilz is running for this position.  
Supervisor David Pederson (D) retired.  
Mark Fritsche is running for this seat.  
Supervisor **Jan Way** (D) is running unopposed.



**“You can’t Wisconsin without clean water.”** by Richard Wyman

Wood, Portage and Marquette County are taking the lead to let voters show the state legislature that Wisconsinites need clean water. Voters in these counties will have a chance to voice their support for clean water for all with a referendum question on their April 6, 2021 ballots as part of the “Clean Water Now” campaign. Local leaders are lining up to follow suit in more counties across the state. The Clean Water Now campaign is a multi-year campaign.

Clean water is a top issue for Wisconsinites. Communities across the state face threats to water quality, but, not nearly enough is being done in the Capitol. The campaign slogan is: **You can’t Wisconsin without clean water.** Clean water is vital to Wisconsin residents. Industries like tourism and agriculture rely on it. Clean drinking water is vital to our health.

“On April 6<sup>th</sup>, residents can affirm their desire to protect our most precious natural resource AND implore Wisconsin manufacturers, businesses, farm organizations, legislators, and each individual to do their part in renewing our waters and keeping them clean far into the future” stated Bill Leichnam, from Wood County which was the first county to approve the referendum. Too many things hinge upon water availability and quality for us to not find ways to work together, problem solve, and think creatively and constructively about how we can improve in an area that is fundamental to our lives, our economy, and the future of our state. The Clean Water Now referendum is needed because it will help build upon efforts that have been done recently across the globe, the nation, and in Wisconsin.

The Clean Water Now campaign is a county level non-binding referendum to show unity around the pressing need to address critical water issues. It is an opportunity to let Wisconsin’s policy leaders know that having clean water is an issue that voters across the state want them to provide.

The referendum question is simple:

***Should the State of Wisconsin establish a right to clean water to protect human health, the environment, and the diverse cultural and natural heritage of Wisconsin.***

The Portage County Democratic Party executive board has gone on record in support of this referendum and encourages our members to vote “**yes**”. It should pass with a 100% approval as clean water is an essential right for all.

# An invitation regarding the April 6th ballot from our Co-Chair Jan Way

VOTE APRIL 6. I realize that this race is non-partisan with not a lot of offices to fill on the ballot, but as with every election, we as Democrats need to have our voices heard. If you have any doubt as to how important your vote is in this election, feel free to give me a call 715 572-5802 or email me [janmway@gmail.com](mailto:janmway@gmail.com) and I will be glad to talk. Jan

Mark Kordus - Stevens Point Neighborhood Improvement Coordinator was our program speaker for the March meeting. Mark introduced us to and explained a program he developed and is spearheading to provide “the down and out” Portage County residents a chance at a better outcome in Point.

The attached informational poster explains the program.

RENTREADY

## Are You Homeless? Balancing on the Borderline of Homelessness? Just Can't Find Anyone to Rent to You Because of Your Past?

*RentReady May be Right for You!*

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- RentReady is program offered through **Hunger Poverty Prevention of Portage County (HPPP)** a local non-profit 501(c)(3).
- The program provides a mechanism for persons with checkered pasts, which may effectively keep them out of the rental market, to overcome those hurdles and allow them an avenue to get back into the rental market place.
- The program provides training and resources, and requires specific actionable items to be completed by each participant in order to become certified through RentReady.
- Upon certification, graduates would be eligible for a rent guarantee program, a post-placement sponsor/mentor, and a list of participating landlords.
- RentReady does not provide money for rent or security deposits. There are certain criteria that must be met in order to be eligible to participate in the program, which will be explained with your application.
- Contact us and ask to complete a RentReady general intake form! Completed forms will be forwarded to a RentReady counselor for review. Note that most applicants will be contacted within 72 hours of completing and submitting an intake form. Qualifying applicants will be scheduled for the next available class, currently scheduled for the second Wednesday of every other month from April 2020 onward.

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**HUNGER & POVERTY  
PREVENTION  
PARTNERSHIP**

**Complete Intake Forms at:**  
Salvation Army Hope Center: (715) 341-2437  
1600 Briggs Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

**General Inquiries to:**  
Mark Kordus: (715) 346-1554  
[mkordus@stevenspoint.com](mailto:mkordus@stevenspoint.com)



**THE  
SALVATION  
ARMY**



St. Joseph Parish



TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Stevens Point, Wisconsin



beloved  
COMMUNITY



STEVENS-POINT  
CATECHUMENAL  
1988

Mark also explained that the program welcomes mentors to provide encouragement and guidance to program participants. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Mark at [mkordus@stevenspoint.com](mailto:mkordus@stevenspoint.com) [www.stevenspoint.com/neighborhood](http://www.stevenspoint.com/neighborhood)

Rent Ready also happily accepts donations of household goods that are supplied to eligible “renters” who essentially have no household furnishings for their newly acquired rented space. A great chance for homeowners to donate used furnishings and “recycle” to a great cause.

More information on accepted donations and a donation form at <https://hPPP-pc.com/programs/rent-ready/rent-ready-donation-form/>



In honor of Earth Day, our meeting on April 13, will feature Patty Dreier, former County Executive and long time member of the Portage County Democratic Party.

Patty will speak on the environment and introduce us to her book- ***EMPOWERED: One Planet at a Time***.

"As a former elected official and someone with diverse background and experience, Patty offers an inside scoop on how to influence community leaders and legislators. Her life stories about being an environmental educator, community leader, activist to protect water resources, and organizer for Earth Day in the United States and Germany inspire hope, courage, and action."

Patty has a Master of Science degree in Natural Resource Management/ Environmental Education and "inspires readers to see themselves as citizens of Planet Earth with all the authority they need to be powerful agents for change." If you would like to get a copy of Patty's book before her presentation, you can get one at Kindred Spirit Books as well as Barnes & Noble, Amazon, or Kobo.



Alex Lasry, Candidate for US Senate, will also visit during our meeting. Alex announced his candidacy for the Senate against Ron Johnson in February. Alex is currently senior vice president of the Milwaukee Bucks.

**Zoom** into the April 13th meeting to hear what Alex's campaign is doing to unseat Wisconsin's radical Republican senator.

# Call to Convention

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District and the Democratic Party of Wisconsin will hold Virtual annual conventions in 2021. PCDP members are invited to sign-up to be delegates. These two events offer local party members a chance to provide input and direction to our Party for the next year. It is important that Portage County have our full contingent of 44 delegates in attendance.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District Convention

Sat, May 8<sup>th</sup>

Virtual

Deadline to apply: Tuesday, April 13

## DPW State Convention

Sat, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Sun, June 6<sup>th</sup>

Virtual also.

Deadline to apply: Sat, May 15

For more information or to sign-up,

email **co-chair Jan Way** at [janmway@gmail.com](mailto:janmway@gmail.com)

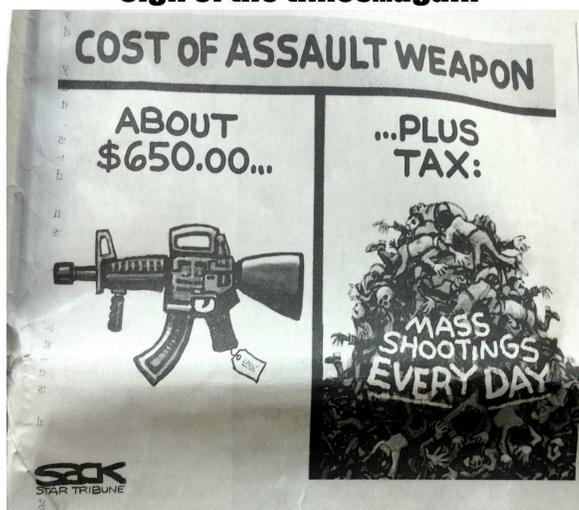
OR phone **co-chair Gary Hawley** at 715-321-0111

Business at **CD Conventions** includes election of CD officers and resolution debate. You are automatically a delegate to the state convention if you sign up for as a delegate to the 3<sup>rd</sup> CD convention.

Delegates at this year's **State Convention** will be able to vote for our [state party officers](#), as all 5 seats are up for election every odd-numbered year. In addition to participating in the State Party Officer election, delegates will also vote to approve the updated version of our Party Platform and Resolutions, vote on Constitutional changes, and attend virtual social events.



## Sign of the times...again



## The Idea for the first Earth Day – Recognizing the value of bipartisanship

Senator Gaylord Nelson, a junior senator from Wisconsin, had long been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States. Then in January 1969, he and many others witnessed the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, Senator Nelson wanted to infuse the energy of student anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution. Senator Nelson announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses to the national media, and persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair. They recruited Denis Hayes, a young activist, to organize the campus teach-ins and they choose April 22, a weekday falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, to maximize the greatest student participation. A thus, the beginning of the annual observation.

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Hypocrisy on display in plain sight...

While there are many critical issues concerning Wisconsin citizens today, recent reports of Republican lawmaker's actions in the Wisconsin legislature are particularly troubling. These issues struck a raw nerve...

The Wisconsin Republican controlled legislature passed bills this week that would bar health officials and employers from mandating Covid-19 vaccinations, require state workers to return to in-person work and give lawmakers more power over Wisconsin's share of the federal Covid-19 stimulus funds.

The audacity of the Republican legislature's attempt to control the legislative as well as the executive branch of state government regarding Covid-19 now is especially hypocritical as they were missing in action for over 300 days this past year while the pandemic raged through Wisconsin.

Particularly galling was testimony by Senator Andre Jacques-R- DePere and Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, R-Fond du Lac defending their vote to bar mandated Covid-19 vaccination.

“It is critical to protect individual freedom in medical decisions”... Senator Jacques and “in a free society, we must trust individuals to make their own decisions”, Jeremy Thiesfeldt.

These Republicans are members of the party that has continually spent untold time, energy and dollars to prevent women from making their own reproductive health care decisions. The audacity and hypocrisy of these statements from these individuals is infuriating!

Trudy

The world is ruled by those that show up

**VOTE**

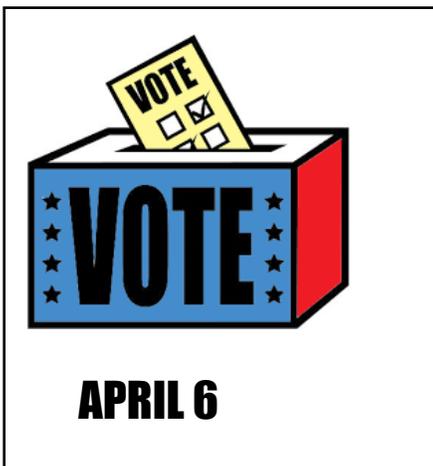


Portage County Democratic Party  
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[www.portagecountydems.org](http://www.portagecountydems.org)

Facebook: PortageCountyWIDems

Twitter: PortageCoWIDems@portagecountywidems



### PCDP April 13, 2021 Meeting

6:30 PM ZOOM meeting - watch for invite at PCDems  
email early April

Announcements

Program - Patty Dreier "Empowered: One Planet  
at a Time"

Elected Officials/Candidates

Business Meeting

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party