



Portage County DEMOCRAT

Getting Together, Moving Forward May 2020

We could all use a cheery flower garden right now. Enjoy!



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Supreme Court Judge, Jill Karofsky

We first met candidate Jill Karofsky at our Party's picnic in August of 2019 and again at a fundraiser in Stevens Point.

Throughout her campaign she emphasized that Wisconsin needed an experienced, fair and impartial Supreme Court justice. Voters in the April 7th election recognized that her opponent could never be that impartial justice based on his voting record.

Much has been written about the logistics regarding the April 7th primary election, but in the end, despite the Republican efforts to suppress the vote, we are encouraged that Wisconsin voters made a sound choice in electing Justice Karofsky.

Wisconsin Assembly Leader Robin Vos assuring Wisconsin voters that the election would be safe on April 7th



REALITY IN MILWAUKEE



ELECTION - Although the Wisconsin Republican legislators, Wisconsin Supreme Court and the US Supreme Court assured that the circumstances of the April 7th primary election were not ideal, and in fact a health threat to the participants, nevertheless, Wisconsin voters exercised their Democratic voting rights.

Notably, along with electing Justice Karofsky to the WI. Supreme Court, Wisconsin voters also reelected Lisa Neubauer, an appellate judge Democrats supported. Additionally, other district appellate courts will seat newly elected judges as the incumbents were defeated.

Voters in nine counties, including Portage county, along with 13 towns and villages, approved by a large majority the Fair Maps referenda. This vote confirms that Wisconsin wants to end partisan gerrymandering.

Another encouraging election result was the approval of several school referendums across Wisconsin. After the draconian ACT 10 championed by the former governor and our Republican legislature underfunded public schools for several years, voters across the state, recognized and voted to fund operational budget increases along with funds for need repairs to their public schools.

We can not sit on our laurels. **Important Call for Volunteers**

Can you help by Phone Canvassing with us?
After our super local volunteers helped in Judge Jill Karofsky's definitive win, another job awaits us!

The Special Election in District 7 will take place on May 12. Our Portage County Democratic Campaign Volunteers will phone voters in District 7, to encourage Absentee Voting and to promote Trisha Zunker for Congress. She is running against State Sen. Tom Tiffany.

We no longer meet in person, so our short training to prepare will be a virtual one, **on May 2nd at 2:00 pm.** We'll then reach Wisconsin Voters from our own homes, to ensure they can vote, safely.

Please call Michele at **715-345-9779** or Gary Hawley **714-321-0111** to sign up for the training or with any questions about volunteering you may have.

Virtual Reality~~~~~

Most all contact these days is done virtually, as it should be! This is the way we come out of this health crisis safely. Portage County Dems are reminded to be safe and insure the safety of those you love and care about by following Governor Ever's and the CDC guidelines regarding Covid-19. Be responsible.

Caucuses to select delegates:

The County and 3RD Congressional District Caucuses will be conducted virtually. You would have had to sign up with the DPW recently to qualify as a delegate to the County Caucuses where delegates to the Congressional Caucus' are selected.

May 17th is the date for the 3rd Congressional District Caucus. Delegates to the Democratic National Convention are selected at the District Caucus. A decision on whether to hold the National Convention in August in Milwaukee or virtually is to be decided on May 1st by DPW chair Wikler.

The Democratic State Convention Friday June 12th will also be virtual. The agenda will be an abbreviated format to include voting for the Democratic National Committee representatives and updates by elected officials.

These dates and programming information are based on information on the DPW website and subject to change as we navigate an election year during this pandemic.

CONSIDER VOTING ABSENTEE FOR THE AUGUST & NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

It is possible that we will still be under physical distancing restrictions into the summer and fall. We all need to stay safe and consider others and keep them safe as well.

In Wisconsin, you can apply to vote absentee for the entire year. Please consider applying to vote absentee for the August and November elections.

Go to <http://myvote.wi.gov>. Click on the Vote Absentee link in the dark gray band near the top of the page. First you will be asked to check to make sure you are registered. Please register if you have not done so.

After your registration is confirmed, click on the Request Absentee Ballot button. Confirm your information and then proceed through the subsequent steps to indicate that you want absentee ballots for the remaining elections this year.

It is important that we continue to participate in our elections, by working for Democratic candidates and then voting for them in August and September.

#VoteBlue!



Dear Portage County Democrats,

I'm thinking of you all as we practice social distancing and stay Safer at Home. Usually, we'd be meeting to sign candidates' nomination papers and discuss the upcoming election. I would have loved to say thank you for voting in what was the most disappointing Election Day of our time. No one should have been forced to choose between their health and exercising their right to vote. To everyone who worked the polls or participated in our democracy, I appreciate you. I'm incredibly excited that Jill Karofsky will be serving on the Supreme Court, but I'm very concerned about the cost to people's health and well-being this election took. We can do better, and I will continue advocating for vote by mail policies for the upcoming elections.

I usually say, and you're all used to hearing this, that this election is the most important election of our lifetimes. That's still true! But what's even more important is the actions that we take in the coming months, centered in empathy for our neighbors and care for everyone's health and future.

First, we must do all we can to stay safer at home, help out our neighbors who need us, and protect the public health. Wear a mask when you must be in public, and let's minimize nonessential outings.

Next, there are plenty of local businesses and organizations who need our support. Check in on the people who you rely on when times are good: the person who cuts your hair, your friendly local farmer, your local coffee shop, the bar and grill with the best fish fry, your favorite trinket store. If you can, buy something from them online or curbside, purchase a gift certificate, or pay your hairdresser what you would normally be giving them right now. Sign up for a CSA to support our farmers. Buy some stamps from the post office and write a nice note for your mail carrier. Send a thank you card to a teacher or a health care worker. Tip your delivery driver extra. Donate to CAP Services or United Way. The power of kindness will get us through this.

Finally, we all must do what we can to support and elect candidates who will lead us through good times and bad. In these turbulent times, I'm so grateful to have a governor who is led by science. Governor Evers and his dedicated Department of Health Services team are working around the clock to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and save lives. While Republican politicians are pulling out all the stops to undermine his work and at a moment that demands bipartisan cooperation, let's elect people up and down the ticket who will meet the moment with facts, conscientiousness, and deep compassion for their community.

The Portage County Democratic Party leadership team has generously mailed out nomination papers for candidates who are running for office. Please help these candidates get on the ballot by signing and returning their nomination papers in a timely manner. You can also help us by donating, volunteering to make phone calls, and dropping off literature without making any person-to-person contact. This is going to be the most high-stakes campaign yet, and it's all hands on deck. I know our Portage County Dems: we are hardy, hard-working, and have never met a challenge we didn't tackle head-on. Let's all do our part to ensure our country and state are led by the people we trust to have *all* of our best interests at heart: Democrats.

Thank you for being on this team. I can't wait until we can see each other in person again. Until then, know that I'm thinking of you with a grateful heart. I hope you and your family stay healthy and well.

Sincerely,

Katrina Shankland

State Representative, 71st Assembly District



Now that the April 7th Spring Election is concluded, it is time for the Governor, State Legislature and the Wisconsin Election Commission to look forward and make plans for the two remaining elections this year, the August 11th Partisan Primary and the November 3rd General Election. This can not wait. Voters and clerks need time to adjust to whatever system we choose to use for these elections. We cannot wait until the last few days or hours before the next election, to firmly set the rules. It leads to confusion for voters and those who work elections.

Given the uncertainty about people gathering in large numbers for the foreseeable future, and the possibility of another COVID 19 spike in infections at some point later this year. It would seem prudent to plan for all vote by mail elections for the rest of 2020. Voter safety has to be the paramount concern. Other states have moved to all vote by mail. Expressed worries about voter fraud have been largely disproven.

As a former City Clerk, a repeat of last Tuesday's experience is the worst option. A lack of poll workers causing a vast reduction in the number of polling sites can be avoided. Voters and election workers need not be dressed in PPE from head to toe to try to ensure safety. Making this move now, would allow voters and clerks to become familiar with the new procedures and to plan for the rest of the year with certainty.

I urge everyone to demand action on the part of our elected representatives now.

I am a retired Stevens Point Police Department Sergeant and served as City Clerk for Stevens Point for a year and half and worked elections as an Election Worker/Chief Inspector for 20 years prior to be appointed City Clerk.

Paul Piotrowski, Democratic Candidate in the 24th State Senate District

Contributions via ActBlue/Piotrowski for State Senate greatly appreciated, or mail to Piotrowski for State Senate, 510 West St., Stevens Point, WI. 54481



Meet Marc, Our Field Organizer

My name is Marc Epstein and I'm the new field organizer for Portage County. I'm an activist turned attorney turned activist.

As a college student in 2008, I spent several weeks canvassing in New Hampshire for Barack Obama, and I have since volunteered in multiple presidential elections. I then veered off the political path, moved to China (yes—I can order takeout in Chinese), then Russia (no—I can't do the same in Russian), and then back to New York for law school (bagels are my real native language).

After law school, I worked as an attorney at Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP, and for the past two years, I was a law clerk for a federal judge in New York.

I'm a fitness and comedy enthusiast, but I'm most passionate about beating Donald Trump in November and electing progressive candidates across the board. Right now, I'm stuck in New York because of the quarantine, but I can't wait to join you all in Portage County soon. Until that happens, I'm excited to meet you all virtually—and feel free to reach out to me by phone, text, or email in the meantime!

Marc Epstein

Field Organizer | Democratic Party of Wisconsin

marc@wisdems.org (914) 261-1670

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Every member who lives in Portage County (yes, we have members who live outside of Portage County and even three who live outside the state) recently received several letters with nomination papers enclosed. Please return the completed papers - with one or two or three signatures - in the stamped, addressed envelopes included with the mailings. We are doing this to help Democrats running for office gather enough signatures to be nominated for the post. Thank you to all who have returned them already.

If you haven't returned them yet, do it NOW.



by Jack Allgaier

4-3 ratio

| SUPREME COURT JUDGE | Term Ends |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Patience Roggensack | 2023 |
| Ann Walsh Bradley | 2025 |
| Rebecca Grassl Bradley | 2026 |
| Annette Ziegler | 2027 |
| Rebecca Dallet | 2028 |
| Brian Hagedorn | 2029 |
| Jill Karofski | 2030 |

The recent election of Jill Karofski was definitely a feel good political moment for several valid reasons, but we should not be that thrilled in that it only moved the Supreme Court from a 5-2 conservative/liberal ratio to a 4-3 ratio. The Wisconsin Supreme Court, where many of the battles between the governor and the Republican controlled assembly and senate will be decided, continues to be viewed as conservative. The next election for a Supreme Court judge is way-out in 2023! A list of judges and the year their term ends is listed above. This clearly demonstrates how critical the Hagedorn/Neubauer election was last year as well as the Rebecca Bradley/Kloppenber election in 2016.



EVENTS

Coffee & Conversation continues virtually via Zoom-contact Jan Way 715-572-5802 if you would like to participate

PCDP Picnic - August 23, 2020 - as with all gatherings, the picnic is contingent on the Safer At Home order being lifted. In any event, we will be selling raffle tickets as this is our best fund raiser.

Stay up to date with PCDP events - www.PortageCountyDems.org

Facebook-PortageCountyWisconsinDemocrats

Twitter-PortageCo@Portagecountydemswldems

PCDP moves forward

If you have driven by the PCDP headquarters lately, you will have noticed some changes taking place. Here are some photos during various stages of the transformation.



Historical columns





PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
2220 Division St.
Stevens Point, WI. 54481

MAY 12, 2020 PCDP MEETING - CANCELED

Stay in touch

www.PortageCountyDems.org

Facebook-PortageCountyWisconsinDemocrats

Twitter-PortageCo@PortagecountydemsWldems

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Reminder - return your 2020 Census forms if you haven't

2020census.gov to order a form or get answers to questions