



PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

January 2023 Newsletter

Happy New Year, Everyone! Hope you are all rested

up because we need to hit the ground running! **There will be a Spring Primary Election on February 21st, 2023 and the stakes could not be higher.** Here's why: There are four candidates running for a nonpartisan open seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, two progressives and two conservatives. **The top 2 vote getters will advance to the nonpartisan general election on April 4th, 2023.** While supreme court elections are officially nonpartisan, this court is considered to have a 4-3 conservative majority. With the retirement of Patience Roggensack (a member of the conservative majority), this election will determine the ideological control of the court. At stake are: election policy, legislative redistricting, and abortion policy. **Once again, it is extremely important to vote for a progressive candidate in February to make sure that one of our progressive candidates advances to the April election! Otherwise, if the conservative candidates win in February, we will lose the opportunity to defend voting rights, adopt fair legislative maps, and to restore reproductive rights for women.** While the Supreme Court does not legislate, we know the Republican majority in Wisconsin has been using the court to defend their agenda. The two progressive candidates are **Janet Protasiewicz**, and **Everett Mitchell**. They are both experienced and qualified. Since each of us can only vote for one candidate this will be a difficult choice. Join the Wood County Democrats Zoom meeting on Monday, January 9th at 6:30pm. Both Protasiewicz and Mitchell will be there. Visit their websites. Look for other opportunities to get to know the candidates and make sure you vote on February 21st!

In the words of **Judge Janet Protasiewicz**: "We must restore confidence that judges aren't just trying to reach their favored outcomes, but actually applying the law and the constitution. I'm running to restore integrity to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, and get politics out of the courtroom."

Judge Everett Mitchell says "Preserving the integrity and independence of the court has never been more important...Wisconsinites deserve a justice who has the highest respect for the Wisconsin Constitution and is committed to ensuring that the Wisconsin Supreme Court in an instrument of balance and justice rather than partisan divide."

On January 9th, at 5pm, Ben Wikler, WisDems Chair, along with other party leaders, will be holding LISTENING SESSIONS. As we all prepare for the upcoming 2023 spring election, the state party wants to hear from **you** about what went well in 2022, and how they can improve moving forward. **Here is your big chance to let your thoughts be known!**

Please register for the session using the link below. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to WisDems Political Director Nick Truog at nicholast@wisdems.org.

[Stevens Point Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler](#)

Date & Time: Monday, January 9th at 5:00 PM

Location: Portage County Democratic Headquarters

RSVP Link: [Here](#)

Our PCDP General Meeting is on January 10th.

Maria Davis, Portage County Clerk, will be our guest speaker. She will be showing us the **new Express Vote machines** that will be replacing the Automark voting machines presently used for voters with disabilities. Eventually, all in-person voting will be done on Express Vote machines, possibly as soon as the 2024 elections. The large ballots we use now will still be used for early and mail-in ballots. The vote tabulator (DS200) will accommodate both size ballots.

We still need a Treasurer to succeed Rick Wyman who has resigned. Please consider stepping up to fill the position, or to suggest someone who might consider it. This is an important position and comes with training and support.

We have a Membership Committee to lead our membership efforts!

Rick Christofferson, Karyn Tank, Bev Mancel, and Barb Brewster are all willing to be on the committee. Jack Allgaier will provide training to learn the process of keeping track of our membership, and signing up new members. Thank you all for stepping up!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: When it's time to renew your Democratic Party membership, please submit payment to your local PCDP office. It will be processed much more quickly!

Rural Power Lab Update: Joan Garski and Gary Hawley, our Rural Power Lab Chairs, are **looking for more members who are passionate about reaching out to our rural voters.** We are especially focused on voters who have voted for Democrats in the past but have moved to the "other side" recently. If you are interested in exploring strategies used by the national Rural Caucus in their "Rural Power-Up Manual" we would love to have you join us to share your ideas. Meetings are once or twice a month, usually at Headquarters. Our meetings are spent brainstorming and discussing ways to actively achieve our goals. So far, our committee has achieved all goals set for us by the Power Lab Committee, so you can see we are an active committee. We would like to build a strong coalition ahead of the 2024 election cycle. By the way, "rural" is defined by the WisDems as any area other than Madison or Milwaukee, so by that definition, most of the state is rural!

Portage County Democratic Party 2023 Executive Board

2023 Co-Chair Jan Way	Statutory Chair Marion Trzebiatowski	Membership Chair TBD
2023 Co-Chair Gary Hawley	3rd CD Rep Rick Christofferson	Newsletter Editor Lynn Wyman
1st Vice Chair Ned Grossnickle	At Large Collin McNamara	College Dems Rep Will Scheder
2nd Vice Chair Karyn Tank	At Large Trudy Pederson	
3rd Vice Chair David Pederson	At Large Mary Vils	HQ Phone: 715-544-6323
4th Vice Chair Joan Garski	At Large Mary Zinda	Website: portagecountydems.org
Secretary Kathy Celer	At Large Barb Brewster	Address: 2220 Division Street
Treasurer OPEN	At Large Bev Mancl	Stevens Point, WI 54481

February 21st, 2023 Primary Election: Candidates for open Offices

OFFICE	Incumbents	Candidates
Justice of the Supreme Court Vote for 1.	Chief Justice Patience Roggensack (not running for re-election)	Jennifer Dorow Daniel Kelly Everett Mitchell: website www.judgeeverettmitchell.com/ Janet Protasiewicz: website www.janetforjustice.com/
Wis Court of Appeals Dist 4	Michael Fitzpatrick	
Circuit Court Branch 1	Michael Zell	
Stevens Point Area School Board Vote for 3.	Gee Pope Christina Scott	Miguel Campos, Colin Kobishop Ted Kowalski, Robert Larson Alex Sommers
City of Stevens Point Mayor and odd number aldermanic seats plus Dist 6. Meleesa Johnson is not running for Dist 5, and Polly Dalton is not running for Dist 9.	Mayor: Mike Wiza (D) Dist 1: Marc Christianson Dist 3: Ginger Keymer Dist 5:(Meleesa Johnson(D) Dist 6: David Plaisance Dist 7: Mary Kneebone (D) Dist 9: (Polly Dalton) Dist 11: Shaun Morrow (D)	Meleesa Johnson (D) and Craig Tesch Gracia Day (unopposed) Allison Birr (unopposed) Jason Behrendt Tim Johnson Keith Kedrowski and Sam Lang (unopposed)
Portage County	Election of supervisors and officials is held every other year.	

Village of Plover Tom Davies is not running.	Village President: (Tom Davies) Trustee Ward 1: Ross Ballard Trustee Ward 2: (Gary Wolf) Trustee Ward 3: Steve Fritz	Gary Wolf, Ross Ballard (unopposed) Al Haga, Darcy Grabski, Sara Luchini, Tim Cisewski (unopposed)
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Visit myvote.wi.gov to register to vote, to find your voting site, and to request an Absentee Ballot. Share this website with friends and neighbors and encourage them to vote. **We KNOW every vote counts!**



Portage County Democratic Party
2220 Division St.
Stevens Point, WI 54481

www.portagecountydems.org

Facebook: PortageCountyWIDems

Twitter: PortageCoWIDems@portagecountywidems



PCDP General Meeting

January 10th, 2023 6:30pm

Guest Speaker: **Maria Davis**,
Portage County Clerk

Topic: **New Voting Machines**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: January 16th

Lunar New Year: January 24th

Belly Laugh Day: January 24th

COFFEE on Thursdays 10:00am at HQ

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party