

PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Standing up for Democracy

DECEMBER 2022

EXECUTIVE BOARD

2023 Co-Chair

Jan Way

2023 Co-Chair

Gary Hawley

1st Vice Chair

Ned Grossnickle

2nd Vice Chair

Karyn Tank

3rd Vice Chair

David Pederson

4th Vice Chair

Joan Garski

Statutory Chair

Marian

Trzebiatowski

Treasurer

OPEN

Secretary

Kathy Celer

Newsletter Editor

Lynn Wyman

3rd CD Rep

Rick Christofferson

At Large

Collin McNamara

At Large

Trudy Pederson

At Large

Mary Vils

At Large

Mary Zinda

At Large

Barb Brewster

At Large

Bev Mancl

College Dems Pres

OPEN

College Dems Treas

OPEN

HQ Phone 715-544-6323

Website:

portagecountydems.org

HAPPY HOLIDAYS fellow Dems!

We all deserve a break after the November election!

We did good work. There was **NO red wave.**

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who voted and worked in any way to get out the vote! Gary Hawley says "Thank you to all the volunteers who made the campaigns as successful as they were. Take a break--you did good work--but know we'll be back at it again this spring with another super-critical race for a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court

In this issue we have some information on what influenced the November election from our resident expert, **Dr. Ed Miller**; thoughts on winning elections from **Pat Kreitlow**; and a cautionary tale from **Ben Wikler**, our Wisconsin Democratic Party Chair, about the upcoming Wisconsin Supreme Court election this spring.

Your new PCDP Board as voted on at the November General Meeting is listed to the left. **The Treasurer position is open. Please speak up or spread the word. Training is provided!** We also need a **Membership Chair** and a membership committee. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact Jan Way at: 715-572-5802 or janmway@gmail.com, or Gary Hawley at: 715-321-0111 or garybh2008@yahoo.com

NEW OFFICE HOURS: Thursday and Saturday 10am to 2pm

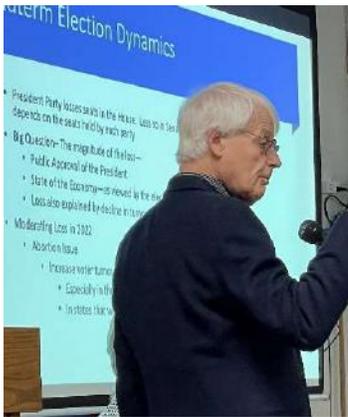
(Or any time the **OPEN** sign is on). Please bring in sign wires. The signs themselves can be recycled or put in the trash.

PCDP 2021 Financial Books Audited

On Wednesday, October 6th, 2022, The Audit Committee convened to review the financial books for the Portage County Democratic Party. The committee included Pam Przybelski, Janet Langton, and Jacqui Guthrie. The review was completed with the 2021 Treasurer Richard Wyman in attendance. After review of the documentation, the committee finds the financial books to be in good condition. The committee noted that the balance recorded at the end of 2021 matched the bank balance at the end of 2021. The committee commends Richard Wyman, Treasurer, for his diligence in keeping clear and neat documentation.

Rural Power Lab news: the December project is to collect non-perishable food for the Mobile Pantry. You can drop off donations at HQ when it's open, or bring donations to our holiday party on December 13th, or write a check and mail it, or put a check in our secure mailbox in the entry-way at HQ. Many ways to help 😊

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!



Dr. Ed Miller, our resident expert on politics, gave his analysis of the midterm elections at our November General Meeting. He broke down voting patterns based on age, sex, marital status, race, and urban/suburban/rural residence. He discussed the effect of party spending on results, explained the probable reasons for ticket splitting, and discussed the reliability, or the lack thereof, of political polls. Dr. Miller also cautioned us about Spanish-speaking voters----
Republicans are busy buying up Spanish language radio stations.

Midterm Election Dynamics

- Evers outperformed Barnes by 2% statewide
 - More money
 - Better ads
 - Barnes ads did not respond to Johnson's ads, especially crime ads or hit harder on Johnson's position on Social Security and Medicare—the third rail of politics
 - Barnes did not have many ads in September
 - Was race a factor??
- Johnson outperformed Michels by about 3% (67,000 fewer votes)
 - More money and stronger ads
 - Uihlein and Hendricks PAC strong support for Johnson plus money from the Senatorial Campaign Committee
- President Party losses seats in the House. Less so in Senate as only one-third up for election and it depends on the seats held by each party
- Big Question— The magnitude of the loss—
 - Public Approval of the President
 - State of the Economy—as viewed by the electorate.
 - Loss also explained by decline in turnout in midterm (Surge and Decline Hypothesis)
- Moderating Loss in 2022
 - Abortion Issue
 - Increase voter turnout particular of young voters, especially women.
 - Especially in the 6 states that had an abortion question on the ballot
 - In states that were subject to the loss of reproductive rights

Issue of Polls

- Poor Polls mixed in with Better Polls— problem of taking average
 - Survey research not meant to predict close elections. Give public opinion within a range of accuracy
 - Low Response Rates—violates equal chance of falling in sample law
 - Charles Franklin (Marquette Poll) 1988 for Franklin 75% response rate, 2020 2%
 - Cell phone issue
 - Bias in who results
 - Failure to truthfully answer questions—e.g. race election issue
 - Tricky to discern “likely voters”
 - Legitimate polls mixed in with “push polling”
 - Pollster working on other means such as use of panels, including computer panels to detect change
-
- **Quality of Candidates**—Republican questionable candidates, e.g. election deniers,. Candidates supported by Trump.
 - Democrats support of these candidates in primary- controversial stand
 - Increased turnout to defeat – e.g. Pa., Arizona, Nevada
 - **Economy** was the top issue—what voters meant by economy was inflation (note low unemployment, businesses doing well)
 - However, **abortion** important particularly to women and younger voters. Large turnout of younger voters
 - **Immigration Issue**
 - Many Latinos opposed Biden's border policy.
 - Republican Latinos in Florida and on the Texas border
 - **Election Deniers**– defeated for top positions, including Secretary of State. Won some legislative positions
 - More extreme candidates on rights and left mostly loss. Electorate went for moderates.
 - Significant number of **women** elected, especially for governor. 12 female governors, up from 9.
 - Why didn't Democrats support some candidates that came close to winning, e.g. Ryan in Ohio, Pfaff in Wisconsin (Van Order 52% v. Pfaff 48%)

Election-winning thoughts from Pat Kreitlow: Republicans are very good at staying on message. They are loud and bombastic and have lots of money. **Pat Kreitlow**, founding editor of UP NORTH NEWS, observes **Democrats should “never underestimate the power of simply telling people what you plan to do and basing it in the search for common ground”**. He states that in this election Tony Evers won because he “told people in plain English what he wanted to do to help them, their kids, and the small businesses that power our local economies. His conversational tone was a welcome alternative to Tim Michels’ constant carping...”. Katrina Shankland won because she put in countless hours talking to people. Voters know who she is and they know she listens. Mandela Barnes came close to winning because he told his story, but fell short because he didn’t talk about what he would do as Senator. Mr. Kreitlow firmly believes that **“the basic building block of a winning political campaign is not the political ad. It’s conversation—one-on-one and small-group discussions that can change hearts and minds, affirm values, and enhance the search for the ever-elusive “common ground” of helpful ideas”**.

The Spring election is fast approaching, and candidates are needed.

Races for mayor and some city council seats will be up. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact Jan or Gary and they will put you in contact with the appropriate people. The deadline to file for candidacy is January 3rd, 2023, and nomination signature collection begins December 1st, 2022.

Excerpted from ***Weekly News*** from our Wisconsin Democratic Party Chair Ben Wikler: **Politics, like pickleball, is a life sport. There’s always a next election—and in Wisconsin, ours is a big one: in less than 120 days, we have a chance to end the GOP’s domination of our state Supreme Court.**

If we win, the gerrymandered maps and the abortion ban could fall. The stakes are, once again, impossibly high. Somehow, they always are. Work on that race has already begun.

On April 4, 2023, Wisconsinites will vote to fill an open seat on the state Supreme Court—in an election that will determine whether that body will have a conservative or a progressive majority until 2025. This race will shape voting rights, decisions on election subversion, legislative district lines, and so much more—and will likely have a larger effect on the 2024 presidential race than any other contest in the country in 2023.

Over these last two presidential cycles, the state Supreme Court has played an outsized role in shaping the electoral playing field and the powers of government in ways that have systematically advantaged Republicans in Wisconsin. Currently, three independent and relatively progressive Justices serve on the nominally nonpartisan court, along with three hard-right Republicans and one conservative, Brian Hagedorn, who occasionally declines to take the most extreme GOP position.

Wisconsin was the state that came closest in the country to overturning the results of the 2020 election; only Hagedorn’s decision to side with the three non-GOP-aligned Justices led to Trump’s suit losing 4-3.

With a conservative Justice retiring, April 4 represents a chance to flip an open seat—which could lead to a Wisconsin Supreme Court majority ready to adopt far less gerrymandered state legislative maps, defend voting rights, rule that Wisconsin’s 1849 abortion ban is invalid, and otherwise side with the law rather than Republican ideology. Fair maps, in turn, could open the door to contested legislative majorities in 2024 and the possibility of winning a blue trifecta in Wisconsin in 2024 or 2026.

So far three candidates have announced they’re running while a fourth is reported to be considering jumping in to the race. **On the liberal side, Dane County Judge Everett Mitchell and Milwaukee County Judge Janet Protasiewicz are already in the race.** On the conservative side, former Justice Dan Kelly has announced, while Wisconsin Right Now has reported that Waukesha County Judge Jennifer Dorow is considering a run. **The Democratic Party of Wisconsin intends to fully support the more progressive candidate in this nonpartisan contest. In keeping with other recent high-stakes races here, this is likely to be the most expensive Supreme Court race in Wisconsin history.** Republican billionaires are already backing Kelly.



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

www.portagecountydems.org

Facebook: PortageCountyWIDems

Twitter: PortageCoWIDems@portagecountywidems



PCDP Christmas Party

December 13th, 2022, 6:30pm

You may bring Christmas goodies to share
and donations to the Mobile Pantry
to the party 😊

HANUKKAH begins December 19th

WINTER SOLSTICE December 21st

Christmas December 25th

Kwanzaa December 26th

COFFEE on Thursdays 10:00am at HQ

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party