

# PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

## NOVEMBER 2023

### Newsletter

### WINTER IS COMING!



At this time next year, we will be embroiled in election year politics and working hard to elect Democrats up and down the ballot. Two of our own Central Wisconsin candidates, Katrina Shankland and Collin McNamara, are working hard to raise money for their candidacies. Katrina recently held a fund-raiser at Great Northern Distilling, and Collin has a fund-raiser coming up on November 7<sup>th</sup> at Central Waters Brewing in Amherst. Please be generous with your time and donations for these worthy candidates. On Facebook you can donate to both of them: find [Katrina Shankland for Congress](#), and [One Year to Win Fundraiser for Collin McNamara](#).


Our PCDP November 14<sup>th</sup> General Meeting will be at 6:30pm at HQ. Our Guest Speaker will be David Shorr, our District 2 alderperson, and a leading member of the Wisconsin Democratic Party Environmental Caucus. He will be sharing important information with us about the Inflation Reduction Act regarding climate action that we Democrats can be proud of, and that we need to share with voters. The Caucus has prepared a fact sheet (shown here) for us to use as talking points in conversation. After our speaker we will be nominating members to serve on the 2024 Executive Board.....

W I S D E M S


## The Inflation Reduction Act

Passed by Democrats in Congress and signed into law by President Biden, the Inflation Reduction Act is the **largest investment in our history in the fight against climate change**. Already, the IRA is spurring **clean energy investment, reducing energy costs, and helping America to meet our climate goals**.


Democrats are the party of climate action in 2024. The WisDems Environmental Caucus has compiled the key facts below and looks to other Party leaders to help us spread the word.



**Household Energy Savings**  
By 2030, the Inflation Reduction Act will **reduce the average household's yearly energy costs by \$500**. Already, \$1,200 in incentives are available to help homeowners make energy efficiency improvements to their homes.



**Greenhouse Gas Emissions**  
The Inflation Reduction Act will **cut greenhouse gas emissions by a billion metric tons by 2030**—delivering 10 times more climate impact than any other single piece of legislation. This will represent a 40% reduction from peak 2005 levels and put the US on track to meet its Paris Accords pledge.



**Environmental Justice**  
The IRA directly addresses America's shameful history of burdening communities of color with our most toxic pollution, with **\$3 billion in grants and technical assistance** to build a **cleaner future** and grow a **just economy**.

PAID FOR BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN, BEN WIKLER, CHAIR

2023

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**2023 Co-Chair**

Jan Way

**2023 Co-Chair**

Gary Hawley

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair**

Ned Grossnickle

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair**

Karyn Tank

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Chair**

David Pederson

**4<sup>th</sup> Vice Chair**

Joan Garski

**Secretary**

Kathy Celer

**Treasurer**

Lynn Dominick

**Statutory Chair**

Marian Trzebiatowski

**3<sup>rd</sup> CD Rep**

Rick Christofferson

**At Large**

Collin McNamara

**At Large**

Trudy Pederson

**At Large**

Mary Vils

**At Large**

Mary Zinda

**At Large**

Bev Mancl

**Membership Chair**

TBD

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Lynn Wyman

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**According to our PCDP Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, Nominations for PCDP office and for members-at-large may be made by a nominating committee or from the floor by a member of the PCDP. Nominees must be present or must submit a written letter of acceptance for the nomination to be valid. Nominations shall be made at the general membership meeting prior to the annual election. The nominating committee shall consider a diversity of interest and background in their deliberations.**

**We need PCDP members** willing to run for positions on our Executive Board for 2024. It does involve attending the Executive Board meeting held on the first Tuesday of every month and helping out at events throughout the year. Serving on the Executive Board would give you an excellent background in the operation of our county party, and allow you to be part of the decision-making process. **If interested, contact our co-chairs Jan Way at [janmway@gmail.com](mailto:janmway@gmail.com) or 715-572-5802, or Gary Hawley at 715-321-0111 before our Nov 14<sup>th</sup> general meeting so that your name can appear on our candidate slate. You may also nominate yourself at the meeting that night. However, no names can be added to the slate after the Nov 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Voting will occur at our Dec 12<sup>th</sup> general meeting.**

**We especially need nominations for Co-Chair as Jan Way is stepping down.** The Co-Chair is the presiding officer at all PCDP meetings and is an administrative head of the party. Training and support are available.

**The Statutory Chair position will also be vacant as Marian Trzebiatowski is stepping down.** That person works with all the municipal clerks in Portage County to make sure that poll workers who are Democrats are chosen to work. State law requires that a certain percentage of poll workers are Democrats as well as a certain percentage are Republican (that percentage is determined by results from the previous gubernatorial election.) The Statutory Chair also encourages members to work at the polls. The current chair will help train the new person.

We should also note that the Treasurer and Newsletter Editor have indicated they will serve for one more year so please consider stepping up for these positions next year. Voting will take place at the December General Meeting, with the new Executive Board taking office at the close of that meeting.

## **Holiday Party Time! Tuesday, Dec 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm.**

Join your Democratic friends at our Headquarters for our annual Holiday festivities. **Mark the date on your calendar now to remember to join us for fun, food, and spirited conversation.** We invite members to bring their special holiday goodies to share. The meeting agenda will be kept short so that we have time to be “festive and merry.” There is no main speaker that night, although many of our elected officials do show-up and offer words of holiday cheer. We look forward to seeing you!



# Interesting articles from UpNorthNews:

**If successful, a recently filed lawsuit will become a landmark event in the fight to save public education in Wisconsin from the proliferation of school voucher programs siphoning away our tax dollars.**

It's a lawsuit sought for years by public school advocates, but it couldn't happen until this year's state Supreme Court election ended 15 years of conservative control. The lawsuit was also made possible by a lot of donations to a company up north that serves up [beer and progressive politics](#).

The legal issue is whether taxpayers should be forced to fund two parallel school systems when the Wisconsin Constitution is clear about how the state must fund education.

"It says to create a system of public schools," lead plaintiff Julie Underwood, former dean of the UW-Madison School of Education, explained. "It doesn't say anything about creating two parallel school systems and sucking the money out of the public school system and providing it to the private school system, which is what is happening."

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit, *Underwood v. Vos*, have a lot of allies; one of the most noteworthy is the [Minocqua Brewing Co.](#) and its SuperPAC, founded by Kirk Bangstad. The SuperPAC's donors have funded other legal cases, [billboards](#), and other activities to show that there are progressives all over Wisconsin—not just in the big cities—who will fight to defend public schools from a voucher system that is politically motivated and far from transparent to taxpayers, even as the annual tab approaches a [half-billion dollars per year](#).

"Ending these unaccountable programs puts us on a path to fairness all our kids deserve," said Heather DuBois Bourenane of the Wisconsin Public Education Network. "We know this state can afford to fully and fairly fund its public schools but [legislators] choose not to."

**MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Democratic voters in Wisconsin hoping to undo Republican-drawn legislative district maps told the liberal-controlled state Supreme Court that it should create new maps by March** — forcing every lawmaker to stand for election under redrawn lines in 2024. "The current maps are unsalvageable," attorneys for the voters argued, but Republicans who control the Legislature countered that Democrats were exercising "raw political power" and trying to take advantage of the new liberal majority on the court to overturn its 2021 ruling that adopted the current maps. "A change in this Court's membership cannot justify overturning that precedent," attorneys for the Legislature wrote in legal filings. Oral arguments are set for Nov. 21.

Republicans have been in majority control of both the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly since 2011. During that time, they have enacted a wide range of conservative priorities. They have all but eliminated collective bargaining for public workers, and since 2019 they've been a block on Evers' agenda. Republicans are also just two seats short of a supermajority that would allow them to overturn Evers' vetoes. New maps favoring Democrats would weaken Republicans' grip on legislative power, which they have also used in the Senate to fire Evers appointees and to threaten impeachment of Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janet Protasiewicz and the state's elections leader.

The redistricting lawsuit, filed the day after Protasiewicz joined the court in August and flipped majority control to 4-3 for liberals, asks that all 132 state lawmakers be up for election next year in newly drawn districts. In Senate districts that are midway through a four-year term in 2024, there would be a special election, with the winners serving two years. The regular four-year-cycle would resume again in 2026.



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## PCDP General Meeting

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm

Guest Speaker: David Shorr

Topic: Dems Climate Action Achievements

NOMINATIONS FOR 2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD

November 5<sup>th</sup> Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 10<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day

## Thanksgiving Day

November 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

Coffee and other beverages provided

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party