



PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Standing up for Democracy

OCTOBER 2022

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The General Mid-term Election is just weeks

away. **The stakes could not be higher!** **Mary Maller has been following the race for Wisconsin Secretary of State and reminds us why Doug LaFollette is the right choice for this position.** In 2011, in defiance of Scott Walker and the Republican legislature, Doug delayed publishing the outline for Act 10 for more than 10 days, allowing many unions just the right amount of time to negotiate new contracts for public employees. His opponent is supported by **the state Republican party and is proposing that administration and oversight of all public elections in our state be under the control of the office of Secretary of State rather than the evenly divided Wisconsin Elections Commission.** **This may include the possibility that the Secretary of State would have the power to declare the results of a state public election fraudulent.** This is actually a national attempt by Republicans to gain control of elections leading up to the 2024 Presidential election. We need to get the word out and to support Doug LaFollette in November!

Here's how YOU can help GET OUT THE VOTE: Volunteer to canvass neighborhoods of likely voters! It's a great way to connect with like-minded people and to let them know how important their vote is! Weekends of action are coming up fast: October 22 & 23, October 29 & 30, and November 5, 6, 7, 8. Contact Jack at 913-235-7028, stop in at HQ (see hours below), or call HQ at 715-544-6323.

WE HAVE EXPANDED OFFICE HOURS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 10AM TO 5PM, ALSO WEDNESDAY EVENINGS 5PM TO 7PM.

Wisconsin Public TV will be carrying two live debates on local off-air stations as well as Spectrum channel 8. Wisconsin Broadcasters Association is sponsoring both debates:

US SENATE DEBATE (BARNES VS JOHNSON)

Friday, October 7, 7-8pm on WHRM Channel 20

WISCONSIN GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE (EVERS VS MICHELS)

Friday, October 14, 7-8pm on WHRM Channel 20

And right in the middle of it all, we need to prepare for, and hold an election for members who wish to serve on the 2023 PCDP Executive Board! According to our PCDP constitution, we need to nominate a slate of candidates at our November General Meeting and elect them at our December General Meeting. **Now is the time to consider becoming a member of the Executive Board! We have some empty seats and would welcome your ideas and energy. You would be part of the board as we prepare for the 2024 Presidential election!** Please contact Jan Way, 715-572-5802, or Gary Hawley, 715-321-0111.

Our General Meeting on Oct. 11th will feature the topic of **Ranked Choice Voting** (aka Final Five Voting or “instant run-off voting”) as an option to the two-party system of choosing candidates. Several states have adopted this method of voting for some or all of their elections, including Colorado, Maine, and Alaska. **Sara Eskrich from Democracy Found will be the presenter via ZOOM.**

We will also have the opportunity to learn about the 4 transportation referendums that will be on the November ballot in the city of Stevens Point. To the right is a picture of the postcard that was mailed to residents. **Meleesa Johnson, Stevens Point City Council President, will be on hand to discuss them and will answer questions.** We hope to have a good turn-out for this meeting! Bring your questions! 😊

Question: Shall the City of Stevens Point resurface Bush St from Sunset Blvd to Indiana Ave, Indiana Ave from Bush St to Channel Dr, Channel Dr from Heffron St to its northerly termini, Lindbergh Ave from Bush St to Heffron St, Frontenac Ave from Bush St to Belke St, Soo Marie Ave from Bush St to Belke St, and Belke St from Lindbergh Ave to Frontenac Ave including the replacement of all pavement at an estimated cost of \$2,200,000?

Fact: This is an annual road resurfacing project which the city has does every year in various locations.
Fact: Road resurfacing projects are intended to replace existing roadway pavement but may include some limited curb, gutter, and sidewalk repairs or installation and minor utility improvements.
Fact: The road resurfacing project is part of the annual capital budget and is therefore already accounted for in the city's property taxes.

Question: Shall the City of Stevens Point construct a railroad sidetrack on the southside of the existing CN mainline from approximately Burbank Rd to approximately Brilowski Rd including the installation of all necessary ballast, track, and switchgear at an estimated cost of \$4,100,000?

Fact: This is a unique, not reoccurring, project for the purpose of economic development.
Fact: Funding for this project would not be from general property taxes but rather from the Tax Incremental District (TID).
Fact: Construction will be dependent upon the actual need based upon development within the TID.

Question: Shall the City of Stevens Point reconstruct Minnesota Ave from Clark St to Jefferson St, Algoma St from Minnesota Ave to Texas Ave, and Texas Ave from its north termini to Jefferson St, including the replacement and/or installation of all pavement, curb, gutter and sidewalk at an estimated cost of \$1,900,000?

Fact: This is the annual street reconstruction project which the city does every year.
Fact: Street reconstruction is the complete replacement or installation of all roadway pavement, curb, gutter, and sidewalk as well as all buried utilities.
Fact: The street reconstruction project is part of the annual capital budget and is therefore already accounted for in the city's property taxes.

Question: Shall the City of Stevens Point construct an extension of Badger Ave from EM Copps Dr to County Trunk Highway HH including the installation of pavement, curb, gutter, sidewalk and/or pedestrian path, related stormwater infrastructure and final restoration and landscaping at an estimated cost of \$1,800,000?

Fact: This is a unique project for the purpose of economic development.
Fact: Funding for this project would not be from general property taxes but rather from the TID.
Fact: Construction will be dependent upon the actual need based upon developments within the TID.

Sign Painting is finished and all 460 signs should all be installed soon. A great big **THANK YOU** to all 42 of you who participated, especially to Ray Cal, Karyn Tank, Mary McComb, and Marion Trzebiatowski. Sign painting is a lot more than just painting signs. A streamlined process is as follows: prime 2 coats, paint 2 coats, stencil, prepare routes after calling participants, send out drivers with posts and post pounders, put up signs; THEN, prepare to have them all taken down and stored the day after the election. And that doesn't take into account the preparation behind the scenes of supplies and equipment. It's a lot of work, but it sure is awesome to see those signs all over Portage County!



Our presence at the Rosholt Fair was a huge success, thanks to Joan and Fred Garski, and Mary Vils who put their hearts and souls into this project. Joan says the PCDP Booth was “a big hit”. They gave out lots of yard signs, literature, and buttons, and had lively discussions with passersby. Special interest was generated by a free bike raffle for 3 kid’s bikes. Here are a few pictures of the fair and 2 of the 3 bike winners:



HMONG Pre-New Year’s Celebration, September 10 and 11. In spite of the rain, Joan Garski reports that PCDP Booth was well-received and it was a great event. Katrina Shankland was the featured speaker. Thanks, Joan, for heading up this event!



The Fundraiser for Brad Pfaff at Point Brewery was well attended.



Recent GOTV training at HQ



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

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Facebook: PortageCountyWIDems

Twitter: PortageCoWIDems@portagecountywidems



PCDP General Meeting Oct 11, 2022

Doors open at 6:00, Meeting begins at 6:30

Guest Speaker:

Sara Eskrich, Director of Democracy Found

Topic: Rank Choice Voting; afterwards

Meleesa Johnson will answer questions

about the Nov Ballot referendums in SP

GOTV DATES: Oct. 22 & 23, 29 & 30, and

Nov. 5, 6, 7, 8. To volunteer contact

Jack at 913-235-7028 or stop at HQ

COFFEE on Thursdays 10:00am at HQ

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party