



# PORTAGE COUNTY DEMOCRAT

## May 2024 Newsletter

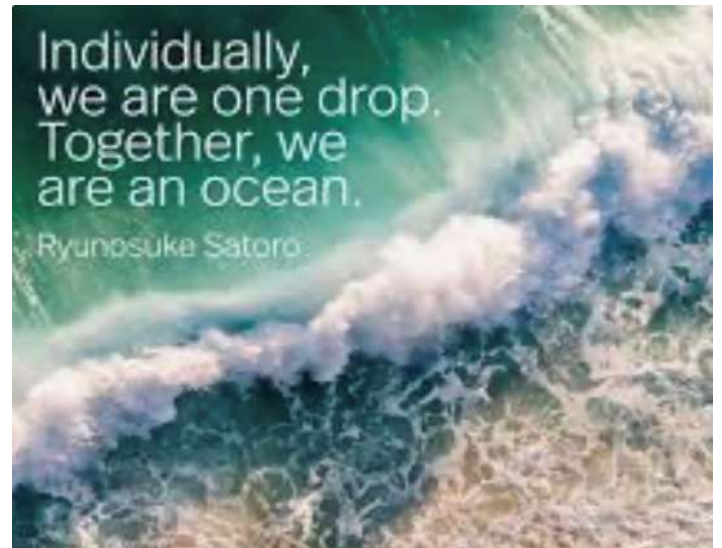
May is "RELATIONAL ORGANIZING" month in the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. [Please bring a friend, relative or neighbor to our General Meeting on May 14, 2024, 6:30pm at Headquarters.](#)

Our program will be presented by our new organizer, Landon Elgersma. He will help us download the REACH APP and explain the



benefits of this useful tool that is being introduced by DPW. The state party would like everyone to get comfortable with the system now so we all become experts before the fall election cycle. It is an

amazing tool that will give us access to county and state party events across the state, the ability to build a network of like-minded contacts, and it will be the source of important campaign information. There will also be a search function and a chat room. Please join us for this important event! As always, food and beverages will be provided. 😊



**On Sunday May 19, PCDP is hosting the 3rd Congressional District Caucuses**, during which delegates to the DNC Convention in Chicago will be chosen. **Registration begins at 1:00pm and closes at 2:00pm, at which time the caucus will begin. It will be held at the BEST WESTERN HOTEL, 5253 Harding Ave PLOVER, WI 54467. We need all 36 delegates elected at the PCDP Caucus on April 28<sup>th</sup> to attend the caucus. If you are a delegate and are unable to attend, contact Gary Hawley (715) 321-0111 immediately so he can advance one of the alternates to delegate position.** In addition to the delegates, **WE ARE IN NEED OF SEVERAL VOLUNTEERS** to help with registration, counting ballots, baking, and serving food. Please contact Joan Garski, (715) 252-6917 to volunteer in whatever capacity you feel comfortable with.

**NOMINATION SIGNATURES CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED** for our national, state, and Portage County candidates to put them on the ballot. **TAMMY BALDWIN** is running for US Senate (against Eric Hovde), **KATRINA SHANKLAND** is running for Wisconsin's 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District (against Derrick Van Orden) At the state level, **COLLIN MCNAMARA** is running for State Senator for District 24 (against Patrick Testin) and **VINCENT MIRESSSE** is running for State Assembly District 71 (Katrina's former seat) Here in Portage County, **CASS COUSINS** is running for District Attorney, **MARIA DAVIS** is running for County Clerk, and **PAM PRZYBELSKI** is running for Treasurer. **For more information call or stop in at Headquarters where you can to sign the forms or volunteer to circulate them. Look for the OPEN SIGN!**

## Let's break Republican Grid-lock in Madison in November and get things done!

Pat Kreitlow posted this article in UpNorthNews



Wisconsin Republican leadership has sent lawmakers home for the rest of 2024 despite a lengthy legislative to-do list: **What Didn't Get Done**

**PFAS Cleanup:** The Legislature allocated \$125 million to combat PFAS in the current state budget. Normally, that would be the end of the involvement by the legislative branch. The money would then be expended by executive branch agencies—in this case, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)—that are staffed with experts rather than politicians. But Republican legislators are refusing to release the funds until a bill is passed that Gov. Tony Evers says would give too many polluters a “free pass” by preventing the DNR from taking enforcement action against those who contaminated a site.

**Health Care:** Wisconsin is now [one of only three states](#) (along with Arkansas and Idaho) that refuses to allow Medicaid to cover healthcare costs for new moms for up to one year after birth. Coverage currently runs out at 60 days postpartum, which health experts say is grossly inadequate to handle the many health challenges faced by women after giving birth. The bill passed the Senate on an overwhelming bipartisan vote, but Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) refused to bring the bill up for a vote. Vos has previously disparaged Medicaid as “welfare,” when it actually covers about 40% of all births in the US.

As has also become an annual Capitol tradition, Republican lawmakers also refused to expand general Medicaid coverage—leaving Wisconsin as [one of only 10 states](#), most of them in the Deep South, to turn down billions in federal healthcare funds to provide more stable health insurance to working families.

**Surplus and Tax Cuts:** Despite a record surplus that had grown to \$7 billion at one point, Republicans refused to pass a tax cut plan that would pass on most of the savings to middle class families. Three different Republican packages put [the bulk of the benefit](#) into some of the state's highest income brackets. Evers vetoed each one, including the [most recent proposal](#) that would have drained state revenue by \$1.4 billion per year. Evers had asked lawmakers to pass a 10% tax credit for single filers with incomes of \$100,000 or less and couples filing jointly with annual incomes of \$150,000 or less—with the size of the cut phasing out at higher levels.

**Child Care:** Despite plaintive requests from childcare providers facing the prospect of closing their businesses, Republicans rejected Evers' call to use part of the surplus to continue the Child Care Counts program of direct assistance that would allow providers to keep rates affordable for working families. [Evers directed \\$170 million](#) in pandemic relief funds to keep the program in place until June 2025. He also [signed](#) a Republican measure that increased a child and dependent care tax credit.

**Absentee Ballots:** There was bipartisan support for a bill that would allow some local governments to begin [processing absentee ballots](#) on the Monday before election days—a proposal [widely praised](#) as a way to reduce the number of late night tabulations and increase public trust in election results. The bill passed the Assembly, but Senate Republican Leader Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) refused to bring up the bill for a vote. Evers had included the measure in his budget proposal, but [Republicans removed it](#).

**Marijuana Legalization:** When it comes to legalizing marijuana, Wisconsin will remain an island surrounded by neighbors that have liberalized rules to some degree. An Assembly Republican proposal that would have brought limited legalization for medical purposes was criticized as too restrictive by some and too liberal by others. Senate Republicans objected to having state-run dispensaries, while Democrats pushed for full legalization.

Other measures that appear dead include: [Evers' workforce plan](#) that would have expanded paid family and medical leave, recruit and train people to fill worker shortages in healthcare and education; a [gun safety proposal](#) for college campuses; reinstating the [comprehensive health and sex education](#) programs that Republicans replaced with an abstinence-only emphasis; creation of a [task force](#) on missing and murdered Black women; and a proposal to change how new electric [transmission line projects](#) are approved across the state.



# April was a jam-packed month for Portage County Dems!

We began with a Victory Party to celebrate big changes on the Portage County Board 😊

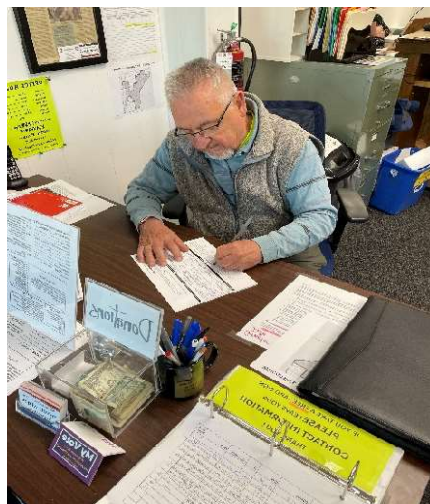


Then we had a surprise visit from Minnesota Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, a proud member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. Jon Greendeer, President of the Ho-Chunk Nation, was also a special guest.

We were well-represented at **TRIVIA 54 Very Superstitious** and were given a warm welcome by OZ! Always a good time!



We hosted two nomination paper signing events at HQ. Senator Tammy Baldwin made a special appearance by ZOOM (she needed to be in Washington to vote on aid for Ukraine)







Just before our 3<sup>rd</sup> CD Forum, **Congressman Ro Khanna (D-CA)** made a stop at UWSP on his **Biden for President** tour. He was well received and stayed to answer questions after his remarks. Rick Christofferson, our 3<sup>rd</sup> CD Rep, planned the Forum. Will Scheder was the moderator and did a fine job. All three candidates for the 3<sup>rd</sup> CD were there: Katrina Shankland, Rebecca Cooke, and Eric Wilson. William Garcia, 3<sup>rd</sup> CD Chair, made introductions. PCDP was well represented.



On April 28<sup>th</sup> the **Portage County 3<sup>rd</sup> CD Caucus** was held at HQ. We had a great turn-out! We elected 36 delegates and 7 alternates to move forward to the May 19<sup>th</sup> Caucus.



At the May 19<sup>th</sup> Caucus delegates will be chosen to represent us at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August. Gary Hawley, Jan Way, and Liz McDonald are in the running. Good luck! 😊



**2024 PCDP  
EXECUTIVE  
BOARD**

**Co-Chair:**

**Gary Hawley**

**Co-Chair:**

**Joan Garski**

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

**Ned Grossnickle**

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

**Karyn Tank**

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

**Jan Way**

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

**Mary Zinda**

**Secretary:**

**Kathy Celer**

**Treasurer:**

**OPEN**

**Statutory Chair:**

**OPEN**

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

**Rick Christofferson**

**At Large:**

**Sam Lang**

**At Large:**

**Rick Wyman**

**At Large:**

**Pat Dreese**

**At Large:**

**OPEN**

**At Large:**

**OPEN**

**At Large:**

**OPEN**

**Newsletter**

**Editor:**

**Lynn Wyman**

**Membership Chair:**

**Karyn Tank**

**Finance Committee**

**Chair:**

**Rick Wyman**

**Events Committee**

**Chair:**

**Joan Garski**

**Communications**

**Chair:**

**Rick Christofferson**

**PCDP HQ Phone:**

**715-544-6323**

**ADDRESS:**

**2220 Division St  
Stevens Point, WI  
54481**

# Did you notice our new LOGO?

PCDP is gearing up for the crucial next 6 months of campaigning for Dems up and down the ballot. You will see this LOGO on our newsletter, letterhead, and elsewhere. There will be more letter campaigns and many other opportunities for you to volunteer and to support our candidates. **NOW is the time to get involved!**



## Sign-up sheets are available at Headquarters for these upcoming events:

Point Pride 2024 is June 15<sup>th</sup> at Dreyfus University Center;  
Juneteenth will be celebrated June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Pfiffner Park;  
**MREA Energy Fair is also on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the MREA campus in Custer;**  
2024 Amherst Fair is July 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> (parade on Saturday).

For those who prefer not to knock doors or phone bank, these are great opportunities to effectively and personally reach voters, and to let others know Dems are good people. 😊 We Dems here in Wisconsin know how to get along with others and have fun!

**(NOTE: you don't have to sign up to participate!!!)**

## Sunday, August the 25<sup>th</sup> is the date for our annual picnic at the Pfiffner Shelter.

Our Events Committee is gearing up for the event. You can expect it to be a festive occasion with lots of candidates and elected officials in attendance and of course they will be making inspiring speeches! We will be serving great food and beverages. The bake sale will have lots of goodies for sale. There will be a silent auction with themed baskets to bid on. And there will be a raffle with bigger prizes. Watch for more information on how you can help with the picnic. **The most important thing you can do is show up!** 😊

## The Biden-Harris Campaign is looking for stories

in a wide array of issue areas, ranging from reproductive rights to democracy/voting rights, but in particular, they are looking for folks who have good stories to tell about the issues below:

- Student loan forgiveness
- Health care and the Affordable Care Act
- Small Businesses
- Agriculture issues, including broadband expansion
- Affordable housing
- Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan Act
- Social Security and Medicare

The contact person is Derrick Honeyman, Wisconsin Deputy Communications Director, Biden for President. His contact information is: [dhoneyman@joebiden.com](mailto:dhoneyman@joebiden.com)





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

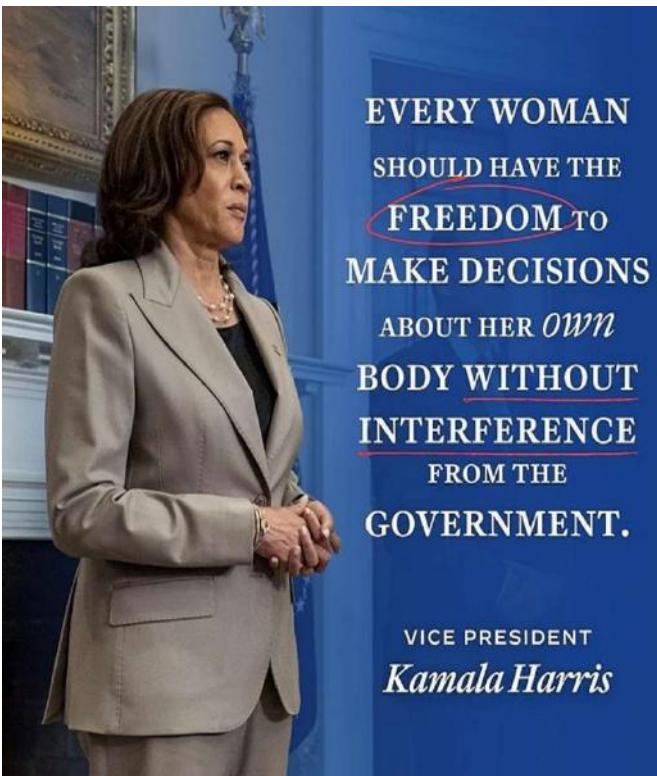
Email: [pcdemupdates@gmail.com](mailto:pcdemupdates@gmail.com)

[www.portagecountydems.org](http://www.portagecountydems.org)

Facebook: PortageCountyWIDems

X (Twitter): PortageCoWIDems@portagecountywidems

Instagram: pocowidems



## PCDP GENERAL MEETING

May 14, 2024, 6:30pm at HQ

Guest Speaker: Landon Elgersma, DPW  
Portage/Wood Organizer

May 19<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> CD Caucus, Portage County

If you are a delegate and cannot attend  
contact Gary Hawley now: 715-321-0111

June 8-9, DPW State Convention  
Milwaukee WI

Aug. 19 -22, DNC National Convention  
Chicago IL

Authorized and paid for by Portage County Democratic Party