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GOP REPORT

Washington County Republican Party
 519 Hickory St., P.O. Box 671
 West Bend WI 53095
 262-334-4150

www.washingtoncountygop.org

Winter 2019

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Paid for by the Republican Party of Washington County,
 Diane Ambroziak, Treasurer

Washington County Republican Women

Every 2nd Saturday – Breakfast and political talk. Programs several times a year. Held at restaurants around the county as well as several members' homes 9:00-10:30am. Locations listed in monthly newsletter.

Monthly Executive Board Meetings – 1st Wednesday of the month at GOP office, 519 Hickory St., West Bend.

For updated information and events please go to the Wisconsin Federation of Republican Women's website – www.wifrw.org. Click on counties, then click on Washington to see our site information.

The GOP Report is a quarterly publication of the Republican Party of Washington County. Its purpose is to publicize the actions of the executive committee and upcoming events and activities of the party as well as to provide a forum for elected officials to report business and inform members of pertinent issues.

Please forward any comments, articles or upcoming events to Jim Geldreich jgeld@charter.net with a subject line GOP Newsletter or leave a message at our office phone 262-334-4150.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 31 – February 2, 2020**
Bob & Rocco Gun Show, Washington County Fairgrounds
-
- February 9, 2020**
Lincoln Day Brunch and Caucus, Columbian Banquet Hall
-
- February 18, 2020**
Primary Election Day
-
- March 27-29, 2020**
Bob & Rocco Gun Show, Washington County Fairgrounds
-
- April 7, 2020**
General Election Day, Presidential Primary
-
- April 26, 2020**
5th Congressional Caucus, Hilton Garden Inn, Milwaukee
-
- May 15-17, 2020**
RPW State Convention, KI Center, Green Bay
-
- October 24, 2020**
Annual WCRP Fundraiser, Columbian Banquet Hall

Chairman's Corner



Without surprise, 2020 is a pivotal year for us in Wisconsin and nationwide. As it stands now, Wisconsin is likely the top targeted state in the country for the presidential election. Neither party sees a path to victory without winning the Badger state. You can certainly bet the Dems will pour tons of resources into Wisconsin in an effort to remedy their blunders from 2016. There have already been several visits from their candidates, and I suspect this will ramp up even more as we approach the Democratic National Convention which will be in Milwaukee, as well as beyond. What does this mean for us? As I research the 2016 election results, Washington County got our voters to the polls as usual, but there was an undervote for President Trump. Senator Ron Johnson got 5,242 more votes in Washington County than President Trump. There are many reasons for this – uncertainty about Trump, never Trumpers, etc. But the fact remains that more votes are out there for us to attain for President Trump. It is my belief that most if not all the folks who voted for Ron Johnson and didn't vote for President Trump in 2016, will indeed vote for him in 2020. However it is our mission to connect with those voters to be sure that is exactly what they do.

Being a significant battleground state, Trump Victory 2020 has already assembled a sizeable staff here in Wisconsin. Work on the campaign has already begun. The strategy will be different than in the past, as the campaign will use a "bottom up" approach to the Trump campaign here in Wisconsin. That means it all starts on the county party level, and then goes up from there. It is incumbent upon us to formulate our campaign team here, and that will consist of a base of leaders in each community who will be responsible for campaign work in their part of the county. We will be doing just that in the first quarter of 2020, and will be reaching out to many of you to assist us in the campaign.

Another issue I'd like to briefly address is our support for the President. Historically, Republicans aren't overly vocal compared to the Dems. However I'd like to suggest that we take a "bolder" approach to the 2020 campaign. Let's not be apprehensive about outwardly supporting President Trump. Don't be afraid to openly discuss the many great accomplishments of President Trump's first term. Don't be afraid to place a yard sign. Don't be afraid to wear a MAGA hat or Trump T-shirt. Don't be afraid to proclaim your support for President Trump on social media. The other side doesn't expect that type of behavior from us, and it's high time that changes. I hope you are all with me!

I want to wish everyone a blessed and Happy New Year, and I look forward to working together throughout 2020.

Jim Geldreich, Chairman • Washington County GOP

WCRW Report



"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

-Isaiah 9:6

I hope your Christmas seasons was filled with family and friends. I hope the new year will bring wonderful new beginnings for everyone. We will be met with a lot of adversity until the November election. It is good to be a Republican, a Conservative, someone who loves this great country, some one who respects the constitution our founding fathers gave us. As the Democrats throw punches we need to be prepared to stand up and fight back at the poles. For Wisconsin it starts in April. It is the primary for the Democrat nominee for president, and more important the re-election of Justice Kelly and putting Judge Bugenhagen on the Court of appeals. Please don't sit this one out. We need everyone at the poles. Bring your family and friends with you.

As the Christmas season closes and the new year begins. Please take the time to remember our first responders, fire, police, sheriff departments, soldiers, our legislators both state, and federal along with our President in your thoughts or prayers.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Maryann Rathke, President
 Washington County Republican Women*

2020 LINCOLN DAY BRUNCH

Invitation will be sent out in early January for the 2020 Lincoln Day Brunch, which is Sunday, February 9 at the Columbian Banquet Hall in West Bend. Our invited speakers include Senator Ron Johnson, Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, State Supreme Court Justice Dan Kelly and Scott Fitzgerald who is at the moment the only candidate for the open 5th Congressional seat. We are expecting this to be a special event as it will be Congressman Sensenbrenner's last Lincoln Day Brunch with us as our congressman. In addition, he will likely have some interesting perspectives on the impeachment proceedings to share with us. Our annual caucus will immediately follow the program. Please return your RSVP's promptly as we will need to call in our head count near the end of January.

WCRP Executive Committee

Chairman: Jim Geldreich **Vice-Chairman:** Randy Marquardt
Secretary: Helen Trudeau **Treasurer:** Diane Ambroziak

Meetings are held monthly on every third Tuesday at 7 pm at county party headquarters, 519 Hickory St., West Bend. Any party member is welcome to attend.



Mike Nichols from the Badger Institute speaks to the WCRP



The WCRP legislators speak to the WCRP at Pints & Politics



Jim and Kathy attend the RPW Kick Off to 2020 in Wausau



Congressional candidate Scott Fitzgerald speaks to the WCRP

Campaign Report



Nonpartisan office candidates started collecting signatures on December 1. You can only sign one candidate's forms. Please follow the rules regarding signatures or they can be deleted from the candidates count. The spring primary election is February 18 and the spring election is April 7. At the state level, Justice Daniel Kelly is running for State Supreme Court. He is the conservative candidate on the ballot and the Republican Party is supporting him. He was appointed to the court by Governor Walker. There are two other candidates that will likely be on the ballot. Please check your local area to be sure you know what candidates are on your ballot. There are several races for Wisconsin Court of Appeals Judges. In Washington County – Paul Bugenhagen Jr. is running for WI Court of Appeals, District 2. Please look at the State of Wisconsin website – elections.wi.gov to see all of the seats that will appear on your ballot. After all the nomination papers have been verified – you can also go to the website – myvote.wi.gov to see exactly what is on your ballot. Remember – these local spring elections are when you vote for school board members, county supervisors, trustees, alderman, etc. These offices are very important at the local level. If you can help with any of these campaigns, please contact Kathy Kiernan (262) 628-3500.

Kathy Kiernan, Campaign Chairman

Vice Chairman's Corner



A new year is upon us and with it the dawn of another major election year. As in many recent years, we'll need to remind others of the importance and impact of these choices on our future. During the holidays, I witnessed first-hand the challenge we'll have this Fall. My sister-in-law, a suburban woman whose politics normally coincide with mine, has very strong opinions...against party politics. Early in the year, we will have a challenge to keep the focus on our local races. With the deafening noise of impeachment emanating from Washington DC, people will certainly be distracted away from our very important state Supreme Court race. And, as the circus of the other party's Presidential primary race comes to our state, who knows what will be happening and who will be paying attention. What we do know is that we'll need to work hard to motivate our voters to turn out in a otherwise quiet Spring election.

Once the spring election is over, our attention will turn to the Presidential campaign, with the conclusion of the primaries and the conventions, including the Democrat "circus" coming to Milwaukee in July. If their current candidate's performances are any indication, it should be quite a sight to see! We'll need to point to them and say, "Is this what you want?"...should be an easy contrast to make and sell. Meanwhile, we will find out if a primary is needed for our Congressional seat. For a significant portion of our membership, this is unknown territory...selecting a new congressman for the first time in over 40 years.

Finally, the fall campaign season will be here before we know it...along with all the expectations and pressures. We'll need all the help we can get to make voter contacts and motivate them to turn out. We'll also need to devise good strategies to reach voters...some are already committed, some are torn between personalities and results, and others (like my sister-in-law) may have been turned off by the rough-and-tumble nature of national politics over the past couple years. My thought is to try to skip the banter, ignore all the "white noise" coming from the media (and frankly, from Trump himself), and focus on the true success of this first term. Absent the personalities, the actual accomplishments are HUGE and irrefutable.

*Randy Marquardt, Vice Chairman
Washington County GOP*

WCRP NEWSLETTER/ SOCIAL MEDIA

In an effort to control expenses and move toward a paperless world, we would like to transition from a paper newsletter to an electronic one. Starting with the spring 2020 newsletter, if we have an email address on file for you, you will receive your newsletter via email. Of course, if you would like to continue receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, you can let us know and we can mail it to you. The newsletter is one of our largest annual expenses, and sending it electronically would save us hundreds of dollars annually. The WCRP Facebook page is nearing 1000 likes. We typically have 2-4 postings per day on the page. Please engage in the posts by clicking on them, or liking them. Also please invite your conservative friends to like our page, so we can grow our following and increase our membership. Our FB page can be found at "Washington County Republican Party WI". We are also in the process of starting an Instagram account as well. More details on that later.

Senate Report



I have worked to create economic opportunities, hold the line on spending and restrict the growth of government in 2019. This year started with the legislature working to improve Governor Evers' first budget. Through the legislative process we reduced spending, cut taxes and removed many bad policies from the budget. The list below is just some of Governor Evers' proposals that we rejected:

- Repeal Right-to-Work
- Reinstate prevailing wage
- Access to driver's licenses and in-state tuition for illegal immigrants
- Eliminate drug testing and work requirements for welfare recipients
- Cap enrollment at successful choice schools
- Increase gas tax
- Increase taxes on manufacturers
- Repeal Voter ID
- Increase Minimum Wage
- Redirect tax dollars to Planned Parenthood
- Legalize recreational marijuana use

After the budget was signed into law, my focus shifted to the bills I authored this session. Several of these bills have been signed into law. Some of these included:

9/11 Memorial Highway – Act 20: A dedicated group of volunteers in Kewaskum are building a 9/11 Memorial and Education Center. This new law recognizes that effort and designates a portion of State Highway 28 near the memorial as Wisconsin's 9/11 Memorial Highway.

Transfer Credits – Act 46: This new law makes it easier for students at technical colleges and in the UW-System to transfer credits between different institutions. Credits that aren't able to be transferred cost students both tuition dollars and time. This change increases the number of transferable credits in the UW-System from 30 to 75. The law also creates a framework for the Technical College System and UW-System to work together to further increase the amount of transferable credits.

Motor Vehicle Immobilization Devices – Act 5: Current law allows municipalities to immobilize the vehicles of habitual parking violators. This is done with a "boot" that is attached to the wheel of a car. This new law allows the use of a windshield barnacle, as an alternative, an option that is both cheaper and easier for municipalities to use.

Senator Duey Stroebel

2020 CAMPAIGNS

Early 2020 will be a very busy time for campaigns here in Washington County. As mentioned in other articles, we have an extremely important state Supreme Court election for incumbent Dan Kelly, and an election for Appeals Court where Judge Paul Bugenhagen will be trying to unseat liberal Lisa Neubauer from the court. Beyond that, there are many local and county non-partisan races beginning with the newly formed County Executive position, as well as county board, town board, city board, West Bend Mayor and various school board seats. Some of our WCRP members have stepped forward to run for some of these positions. Spending decisions are being made by these local boards that affect all of us, and it is imperative that we have conservative folks representing us at all levels. The WCRP thanks those who are willing to serve their communities, and we thank those who have served and are now retiring.