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Washington County Republican Party

519 Hickory St., P.O. Box 671

West Bend WI 53095

262-334-4150

www.washingtoncountygop.org

Spring 2016

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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. Round Robin at our members' homes from 9 – 10:30 A.M. See Republican Women Now News (newsletter) for schedule of hostess locations.

Monthly business meetings – Every 4th Wednesday of the month followed by a program (if scheduled). Meetings 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

May 13-15, 2016
State GOP Convention,
KI Center, Green Bay

June 25, 2016
We the People Event,
Columbian Banquet Hall

July 26-31, 2016
Washington County Fair

August 9, 2016
Primary Election Day

September 11, 2016
Reagan Day Picnic, Jackson Village Park

November 8, 2016
Election Day



Chairman's Corner

With most of the presidential primaries completed as of this writing, we may be heading into the first contested Republican convention in almost 100 years. The GOP appears to be more divided than ever, with the party split between Sen. Ted Cruz and Donald Trump. If Trump finished strong in the remaining primaries, he is likely to garner the required 1237 delegates to win the nomination outright. However if he cannot reach that level, there may be several ballots at the national convention in Cleveland before a nominee is selected by the party delegates. Whatever the outcome, we have to stay focused on the main goal of defeating Hillary Clinton. A Hillary Clinton presidency for either four or eight years could shift the U.S. Supreme court so far to the left, it may never reverse itself. That needs to be our main talking point as we embark on the campaign this summer, however there is a litany of other reasons to keep her out of the white house. Secondly, and perhaps just as important for us, is the re-election of Ron Johnson as our U.S. Senator. Despite how we may each feel about the eventual GOP presidential nominee, we should all agree that Ron Johnson has been an exemplary senator and richly deserves re-election. Unfortunately that is going to be a difficult task as his opponent has name recognition, a huge campaign war chest (thanks to his own super PAC), and the advantage of running in a presidential election year. Because of this, Ron will need to outperform the presidential candidate in Wisconsin to retain his senate seat. Please remember this when discussing politics this summer with your families, friends and neighbors.

Sometime in the next 4-8 weeks, our campaign office in West Bend will once again become a Victory Center. When that happens, our office will be open all day, every day as we start campaigning for the re-election of Ron Johnson. Our campaign focus has shifted from phone calling to door knocking. We have found this to be a more effective way to spread the word and to connect with folks from Washington County. We do the door knocking in pairs, so I hope many of you will help us again this campaign season. Please call our office or stop by for more information.

I hope to see everyone at our We the People fundraiser June 25 at the Columbian Banquet Hall, as we welcome GOP rising star Congressman Sean Duffy to Washington County!

Jim Geldreich, Chairman,
Washington County Republican Party

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.



WCRW Report

Well, the election cycle is upon us and has already proven to be a crazy and busy one. It is so very important that Senator Ron Johnson is reelected this November, so please do whatever you can to help when the need arises and the pleas for help go out. Many of you have already helped to knock on doors, and we are very appreciative of your time. With your help, we will have a victorious year.

I recently had the opportunity to talk to a visitor from France, explaining our election process and what it means to be a conservative. I found that it was very informative and helpful, both for her and for me, since it gave me a chance to really consider, and then to verbalize, my beliefs and points of reference for them. I can't say that I was able to sway her or her translator to the conservative side of the aisle, but they did tell me that I gave them things to think about, which I considered a "win." I would encourage any of you to jump at the chance to do something similar with friends or neighbors if the occasion presents itself.

WCRW is dedicated to doing whatever we can to thank the men and women who give their all in service to the American people. As our way of expressing our gratitude we have sent packages to military members servicing overseas over the past eight years, we have collected donations for Fisher House Milwaukee, and we have taken treats to local police and fire departments. WCRW is very honored and proud to continue all these projects in 2016. If you would like to help with any of them, please let us know.

We are collecting "Cans for Cancer" as a fundraiser for our Relay for Life team again this year. If you would like to help out, you can drop off your aluminum cans at the WCRP office. Thank you!

I look forward to seeing you at many of our activities throughout the spring and summer! If you want to know more about what we are doing, please check out our website (wcrwomen.org) or our Facebook page (Washington Cty Republican Women WI) for further information. Let's continue to make 2016 a wonderful year for Republicans!

Carolyn Turner, President,
Washington County Republican Women

Alvan E. Bovay Award

Congratulations to the WCRP's Del and Sharon Ellefson for being recipients of the Alvan E. Bovay Award from the 5th congressional district! The Bovay Award is given to one recipient from each congressional district per year. It is essentially a lifetime achievement award from the Republican Party of Wisconsin. Del and Sharon have been heavily involved in the WCRP for 20 years doing office work, organizing events, designing and building the parade float and setup/takedown at every county fair, gun show, and farmer's market event to name just a few. Del has also been known to show up at Democrat events with truck, each time displaying a different GOP themed sign. Thanks to Del and Sharon for all they've done for the WCRP and the Republican Party!



5th Congressional district national delegates and alternates



The WCRP makes their own Rebecca Bradley yard signs



Sen. Ron Johnson visits the WCRP at the West Bend Gun Show



Heidi Cruz meets the WCRP's Kathy Kiernan and Jennie Frederick



The WCRW with Justice Rebecca Bradley

We The People Event

Our annual fundraiser for 2016 has been themed We The People, as we celebrate the Constitution. This event will be Saturday, June 25 at the Columbian Banquet Hall in West Bend. As we've done in recent years, there will be a Chinese raffle and a live auction with celebrity auctioneers Rep. Dan Knodl and Rep. Jim Ott. Our very special guests for the evening are Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner and Congressman Sean Duffy from Wisconsin's 7th congressional district. For those not familiar, Congressman Duffy is a young rising star in the Republican Party and a very entertaining and impassioned speaker. We hope to have a large turnout to welcome him to Washington County. Please watch your mailbox for the invitation to this event later in May. If you are able to donate a raffle prize, please contact Kathy Kiernan at (262) 628-3500 or contact our campaign office at (262) 334-4150. This is our one and only fundraiser, so we greatly appreciate everyone's generosity to help us through this expensive campaign season.



Vice Chairman's Corner

Congratulations to Justice Rebecca Bradley and all the other Spring election winners! In case you are not aware, that didn't include me...I came up a little short in my bid for reelection, but I am choosing to make the self-analysis part of this article.

One important thing that's happening during this Presidential campaign season is that a multitude of people are paying attention. We have non-traditional candidates on both sides of the political spectrum. It's hard for those of us who follow politics on a daily basis to understand that most people tune it out. So, I believe it is positive to get people thinking more...about their country, their rights and where things generally are headed. Unfortunately, the real attention-grabbers so far have not been very substantive – for the most part, they have been a lot of pop-culture-type nonsense – a collection of personal attacks and outrageous statements. My hope is that will change.

When Wisconsin's primary came around, there was tremendous excitement and it brought out more voters than any comparable election in the past four decades. What I noticed (and experienced to my personal detriment) is that many of these voters turned out for only one reason...to vote for President. A fair share of these voters left lower-level choices blank (in my own race, there was about a 32% under-vote) and who knows how many just cast uninformed votes.

Our challenge this Fall, provided the level of engagement and enthusiasm remains high, will be to make sure that as many voters as possible will be well-informed and ready to vote for Republicans – Senator Johnson, Congressman Sensenbrenner, their state legislators and county office-holders. Let's get ready to work for the benefit of the down-ticket races, regardless of the outcome of the present primary circus at the top!

*Randy Marquardt, Vice Chairman
Washington County GOP*



State Senate Report

This week, Governor Walker signed Assembly Bill (AB) 657 and AB 455, two measures advanced by Legislative Republicans to help combat drunk driving in Wisconsin. This session, Republicans focused on long term solutions to our state's OWI problem, advancing proposals to increase funding for treatment and stiffen penalties for repeat offenders.

I was proud to be the lead Senate author of AB 657, a proposal which increases funding for state Treatment and Diversion (TAD) programs by \$2 million each year. This common sense program has been proven effective at treating substance abuse and reducing recidivism. Unlike simply hiking monetary penalties and jail time, the TAD program targets our drunk driving problem at its root, by treating alcohol and drug addiction to reduce the number of impaired drivers on Wisconsin's roads. I believe that this approach will take meaningful steps towards making our streets safer because studies of treatment programs have shown that participants are significantly less likely to relapse or engage in criminal activity.

We have made dramatic strides in the last decade towards reducing the impact of drunk driving on our state. Crashes, injuries and fatalities related to alcohol have been cut in half, and more than two-thirds of drivers who receive a first OWI never reoffend. For those who do not have a substance abuse problem, the high societal and financial costs associated with the first offense are nearly always an adequate deterrent to getting behind the wheel while intoxicated. Alongside stiff penalties, we will continue to focus on making treatment available for those who need it to produce a lasting and meaningful impact on drunk driving in Wisconsin.

Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, Senate Majority Leader

Assembly Report

Wisconsin has a jobs crisis. A lack of workers to fill skilled trades, lofty expectations from recent college graduates and public benefits are stifling a will to work here in our great state. According to a 2012 report produced by the ManpowerGroup, "Wisconsin will have fewer than half the metal manufacturing professionals that it needs by 2021..." Because Wisconsin is still very much a manufacturing center, we must continue to encourage our youth to consider opportunities for skilled-trade apprenticeships to help fill these jobs. It has also become apparent that many recent college graduates feel their degree entitles them to cushy, white collar jobs with \$50,000+ salaries. This is not the real world! In fact, many graduates will often have to begin at the ground floor until they learn the ropes and garner experience. Public benefits are also contributing to our jobs crisis. I recently requested a study from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau which revealed that a family of four, earning \$30,000 per year could receive \$36,000 in state and federal benefits! Some local employers have told me of potential prospects who turned down an offer because additional, non-cash earnings would cut into their benefits. As a state, we must continue to have serious discussions and encourage ideas to reform these social engineering experiments.

The latest Department of Workforce Development report states that Wisconsin ranks 5th nationally, at 3.6 percent, in average weekly private sector wage increases over the same quarter last year. Wisconsin is also one of only ten states with a 2015 average annual unemployment rate (4.6 percent) that was lower than when the recession began in 2007. Wisconsin is making great progress, but there is still a lot of work to be done to solve our jobs crisis.

*Rep. Jesse Kremer
59th Assembly District*



Campaign Report

Congratulations to Washington County voters! Our spring election gave Rebecca Bradley 71.91% of the vote total. This was the highest win in the entire state. Our efforts to get out the vote with phone calls, getting out yard signs, and lit drops around the entire county were

successful. Thank you to our volunteers. The turnout in Washington County was approximately 65%. Now we need to turn our efforts to re-electing Senator Johnson. We are starting to knock on doors in the next few weeks. Please contact our office if you can help with the campaign. Our office number is 262-334-4150. We have found that face to face conversations with our voters in Washington County is the best way to insure a victory for Senator Johnson. Also, all of our state representatives that represent Washington County are up for re-election. This includes: Rep. Gannon, Rep. Kremer, Rep. Brooks, Rep. Knodl, Rep. Brandtjen, Rep. Born and Senators Stroebel and Darling. Please reach out to them to help them get re-elected as well.

Kathy Kiernan, Campaign Chairman

Republican National Convention

The Republican national convention will be held July 18-21 in Cleveland, OH. Washington County recently had two delegates chosen to attend – Jim Geldreich and Kathy Kiernan. Jim and Kathy will be casting two of Wisconsin's 42 votes for president. By state constitution rules, they are bound to support Sen. Ted Cruz, as he won the 5th congressional district. If the convention is contested, they are bound to Sen. Cruz on every ballot unless Sen. Cruz unbinds them, or if he at any point falls below one-third of the total delegate count (823 delegates or below). Should that happen, they would be unbound and free to vote for anyone. Whatever the result, the national convention will likely be an historic event. Jim will be sending daily convention reports to Washington County Insider, as well as posting on the WCRP Facebook page.