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Washington County Republican Party
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www.washingtoncountygop.org

Spring 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

May 17-19, 2019 – RPW State Convention
Best Western Convention Center, Oshkosh

June 19, 2019 – WCRP General Membership Meeting
location TBA

June 15, 2019 – West Bend Farmers Market

**July 4, 2019 – West Bend, Germantown
& Hartford Parades**

July 17, 2019 – West Bend Farmers Market

July 23-28, 2019 – Washington County Fair

August 17, 2019 – West Bend Farmers market

August 18, 2019 – Allenton Parade

August 25, 2019 – Richfield Parade

September 21, 2019 – WCRP Annual Fundraiser
Columbian Banquet Hall

Chairman's Corner



A heartfelt thanks to all of you who worked with us on the Hagedorn for Supreme Court campaign. We really worked it from all angles and managed to run up the score to 75% of the vote, which allowed us to retain our moniker of "reddest county in the state" Other counties throughout the state mirrored our efforts and rolled up their sleeves and got to work. This was a critical win for the conservative movement in Wisconsin. Being a ten year term, it virtually assures us that the Walker/GOP reforms will stay in place for the foreseeable future. An awakening of conservatives such as this was badly needed, as we will soon segue into presidential campaign mode. No doubt the Trump campaign has taken notice as they have already scheduled a rally with the President April 27, which will likely be the first of several appearances in Wisconsin between now and November, 2020.

Looking locally across the county, several WCRP members ran for local offices and were victorious. Congratulations to Tim Ramthun, Jennifer Guslick, Jeff Geib, Troy Zagel, Rock Brandner, Tina Pridemore, Rick Gundrum, Tim Michalak, Chris Jenkins and Roger Kist. Thank you all for your service to your communities and for spreading the conservative message locally. In addition, the West Bend school referendum was soundly defeated which saved the area from an enormous amount of additional debt.

The WCRP was well represented recently at the 5th district caucus with 57 delegates in attendance, more than Milwaukee and Waukesha counties combined! Our own Kathy Kiernan was re-elected to another term as 5th district chairman, and we heard speeches from Sen. Ron Johnson, Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner and Judge Brian Hagedorn. I'd also like to remind everyone of Congressman Sensenbrenner's town hall meetings throughout the district this spring/early summer. I urge you to attend these meetings when he is in your community, as he really needs our support to combat the nutjobs who always attend. On the horizon is the West Bend Town Hall meeting, Sunday, May 5 at 1:00 PM.

Finally, I would ask that everyone mark their calendars for September 21 as that is our annual fundraiser at the Columbian Banquet Hall. This year's theme is a Birthday Party for the Republican Party. We are working on securing a very special guest for the event, but it isn't confirmed yet. I will keep you posted. I'd like to wish all our WCRP moms a Happy Mother's Day!

Jim Geldreich, Chairman • Washington County GOP

WCRW Report



It is Easter weekend as I am sitting down to draft this article for the Newsletter. I am reflecting on what Easter represents, the Risen Lord. We live in a great country that allows us to celebrate him. Today in Sri Lanka Christians' were killed for celebrating the Risen Lord. In America we have a freedom of Religion. This is a freedom to practice any religion. The government cannot tell us what religion to practice. The older I get and the more knowledgeable I am on what is happening in politics, I am thankful of the vision our founding fathers had. Living under the rule of a King, being over taxed, fighting for their freedom of speech, and religion, just making a change. When freedom was won, they drafted the Declaration of Independence, a document that represented what they fought for and what we must cherish. As the 2020 elections start to take shape and we see this smattering of Socialist thoughts trying to take over, we need to reflect on why our founding fathers gave us the Declaration of Independence and continue to fight to maintain these freedoms.

One way to keep these freedoms is to keep the Supreme Court. We need to continue to elect Justices that do not have a social agenda. I want to thank all the volunteers with the amazing grass roots passion that elected Justice Brian Hagedorn. We will need this passion again in April 2020 when Justice Daniel Kelly will be up for re-election. We need to continue to fight for our freedoms. We know that if the Democrats do not like a law that is passed they will take it to court. This happens on both the state and federal level. We can control what happens in the state, on the Federal Supreme court, we control it by the president we elect. We will have an opportunity to be heard again at the ballot box in 2020, the grass roots must be at it again to re-elect President Trump.

Thanks again for the 119 members strong we are Washington County Republican Women. Staying active and making a difference in elections. Our monthly breakfasts keep us up to date on Madison and when we can help in the Presidential Election in 2020. Please join us.

Maryann Rathke, President
Washington County Republican Women

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.



Judge Brian Hagedorn greets WCRP members at the 5th district caucus.



The WCRP makes its own Hagedorn for Supreme Court yard signs.



Vice Chairman's Corner

If you are reading this update, you're among the 1-percenters...unfortunately not in wealth, but of the politically-aware. So, as we review a very gratifying, but narrow victory in the Supreme Court race, I am puzzling over what motivates people to turn out and vote. Spring elections are especially unpredictable, varying from around 15-percent turnout to over 65-percent during a Presidential primary year. We need to try to understand these dynamics to make sure that our voters are fully informed and do show up at the polls.

So what were the factors that led to a 7.5% increase in turnout and an additional 8,500 votes between last years' and this years' spring elections? The highest profile race, for Supreme Court, could not have been more similar on its face - a liberal female judge vs. a conservative male judge. Last year, it did not go our way; despite a fairly typical law-and-order campaign by Judge Screnock, we saw our margin in several areas drop below 60-percent. Our voters were motivated this year and those margins all rose back over the 2/3 margin that we expect. One thought is that is was a backlash against anti-religious rhetoric, essentially questioning whether devout Christians can serve as judges - if so, that in itself would be positive. Another thought is that local issues like referendums or contested races bring out more voters - this also appears to have some validity.

Whatever the case, we know we can have a big impact in these smaller elections. Sharing our views and reminders with others, and targeting locations with information can maximize that impact. Even though this was a "non-partisan" election, it was important for us to be involved as these positions and issues affect our members at least as much, and arguably more, than state and federal ones.

*Randy Marquardt, Vice Chairman
Washington County GOP*

Senate Report

As the legislature begins its work on the state budget, it's important to note that the top line numbers for both spending and taxing in Governor Evers' proposed budget are very concerning.

Governor Evers has proposed \$6 billion in new spending, an 8.3% increase over the last budget. To fund this dramatic increase, Evers spends \$2 billion in new revenue and nearly \$700 million from the last budget's surplus. After spending those dollars, the Governor still has more proposals to fund. He plans to raise taxes by about \$1.2 billion and borrow over \$2 billion to fund the remaining spending. This increase in spending will grow state government by 700 new full time employees. Governor Evers also proposed rolling back several key reforms of the last eight years, reducing the accountability and effectiveness of many programs. For example, his budget re-establishes prevailing wage, a move that increases costs for state and local projects, reducing the number of road and building projects that can be completed or repaired. Additionally, Governor Evers' budget eliminates the work and drug testing requirements for welfare recipients. He also proposes in-state tuition and drivers licenses for illegal immigrants. These moves are wrong for Wisconsin families and our economy. I know these policies are not what my constituents want in their next state budget, so I plan to work with my colleagues to eliminate these proposals. I intend to advance a budget that prioritizes responsible spending levels and the kind of conservative reforms that have helped Wisconsin's economy prosper.

Senator Duey Stroebel



Assembly Report

Over the past few weeks, I circulated two additional bills for co-sponsorship in the legislature.

The first bill (LRB-1054/2477) would modernize and simplify the process a school district clerk or school district president must follow to call school board members to a special meeting (e.g., a teacher/student disciplinary matter). Current law requires that notice be given to members through the personal delivery of written correspondence or by sending a notice via first class mail to each member's place of residence. The bill eliminates this outmoded provision with a requirement that school board members be notified in a manner most likely to give each member notice of the meeting (e.g., an email, text, or phone call), which more closely aligns the requirement with our state's open meetings law. Senator Luther Olsen (R - Ripon) is the lead author of the bill in the Senate.

The second bill (LRB-1135) would create an optional biennial budget procedure for cities, counties, villages and towns. Under current law, these political subdivisions are only provided with express authorization to adopt an annual budget. By providing local governments with the flexibility to transition to a two-year budgeting arrangement, the hope is that certain benefits and efficiencies would be created through the longer-term perspective associated with biennial budgeting. Proponents of biennial budgeting at the state level have cited the advantages of devoting the first year of the biennium to budget action, while reserving the second year for strategic planning and program oversight and review. The bill provides local governments with the option of transitioning back to an annual budget if they find it to be more advantageous than a biennial budget. The lead author of LRB-1135 in the Senate is Sen. Dale Kooyenga (R - Brookfield), who worked on this issue for several years during his time in the State Assembly.

Please note the Highway 164 Rehabilitation Project is underway south of Slinger and will be closed through August. Highway 167 will also be under construction. My Capitol office is here to help you with general inquiries as well as questions and concerns regarding any legislative matters. Feel free to reach out to me or my staff.

*Rick Gundrum, State Representative
58th Assembly District*



Campaign Report

First - a big thank you to everyone who helped with the Hagedorn campaign. Washington County had the highest county percent win in the state at 75%. Our voter turnout was 44%. We increased our vote total by about 8,000 votes! We had about 100 volunteers helping in our county. We distributed approximately 13,000 pieces of literature, made phone calls and some knocked on doors. This is what a grassroots win looks like. Brian Hagedorn was a great candidate with a great message and worked very hard to win this election. It was an honor for us to do our part to help. Thank You again - Washington County!

Kathy Kiernan, Campaign Chairman



5th district chairman Kathy Kiernan was reelected to another term as chairman.

POLL WORKERS

The WCRP will be reviewing and updating our poll worker lists for every municipality in the county this summer. Many of you already work at the polls, but if anybody is interested in being a paid poll worker, please call our office at (262) 334-4150. To be a paid poll worker, you must be a paid member of the WCRP. More than ever, it is critical that we have our own people working at the polls. Each municipality must staff their polling place with people from the list we submit to them, and we have a one person majority at each polling location. Thanks to our precincts and wards chairman Sandy Banovich for submitting our lists biannually.

SUMMER EVENTS

Despite this being an off election year, the WCRP has an event-filled summer ahead. We will have a Pints & Politics/General Membership meeting on Wednesday, June 19, with location and special guest yet to be decided. Stay tuned. We will also be at the West Bend Farmers Market again this summer on the third Saturday of each month June-August. Our location is in front of the Exclusive Company, so please stop down and visit us there. Parade season starts on July 4 in West Bend, Germantown and Hartford. We will also be in Allenton August 18 and in Richfield August 25. Any member is welcome to walk with our parade float! On July 23-28 we will have our usual double booth at the Washington County Fair. Anyone interested in working a two hour shift, please contact Kathy Kiernan or leave a message at (262) 334-4150. And finally, the summer ends September 21 with our annual fundraiser at The Columbian. Our theme is Happy 165th Birthday to the Republican Party. We are working on a very special guest for the evening, and will publicize that when we get a confirmation. But mark your calendars now.



WCRP at the West Bend Gun Show.

RPW State Convention

All delegates should've received their invitations to the RPW State Convention a few weeks ago already. There is still time to register, either online or you may mail your hard copy back. The convention is convenient for us, as it is in Oshkosh this year. Friday night is a beer & brat reception with Sen. Ron Johnson. Saturday's convention proper begins at 9:00 AM. The WFRW luncheon is Saturday noon, and requires a separate registration payment. Saturday evening is the chairman's banquet, which any delegate can pay for and attend. Sunday morning is the prayer breakfast. There are hospitality suites both Friday and Saturday nights. As for the rumors that Candace Owens from Turning Point USA will be at the convention, as of this writing it has not been confirmed. We will keep everyone posted. Let's have another strong showing from Washington County as this year's convention!

RPW Report

The RPW Executive Committee unanimously elected Andrew Hitt as our RPW Chairman on April 13. Andrew has been on the Executive Committee for several years. He is married and has three children and makes his home in Appleton, Wisconsin. We are all very excited sharing his vision of leadership looking forward. Senator Johnson has personally taken a leadership role in our state and has worked to create and advise a 360 committee to perform a deep analysis of last November's election. The analysis has been completed and a document was prepared and approved by the executive committee to be distributed with the results. This will continue to be a work in progress to move our party forward. It was a very productive process.

The Trump campaign will be in Wisconsin soon. We had two Trump campaign officials at our executive committee meeting a couple weekends ago. They will appoint a State Director soon and a few staff members as well. Get ready!

Kathy Kiernan, 5th C.D. Chairman