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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 2017

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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 2nd 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

January 29, 2017
 Lincoln Day Brunch & Caucus,
 Scenic View CC, Slinger

February 21, 2017
 Spring Primary Election Day

April 2, 2017
 General Election Day

April 4, 2017
 Spring General Election Day

May 12-13, 2017
 RPW State Convention,
 Chula Vista Resort, WI Dells

September 23, 2017
 Annual Fundraiser Event,
 Columbian Banquet Hall



Chairman's Corner

Happy New Year to all of you and your families! It is so much better ringing in the new year knowing we will be bidding farewell to President Obama later this month and inaugurating a new Republican president! My congratulations to President-elect Donald Trump and his campaign staff who together pulled off a stunning victory on November 8.

Special thanks to Pete Meacham and Vince Trovato who managed the Wisconsin campaign, effectively turning Wisconsin presidential red for the first time since 1984 – which was the first year I was able to vote for president. Closer to home, Washington County temporarily lost our “reddest county in the state” moniker to Forest and Taylor counties. However they are sparsely populated northern Wisconsin counties. Aside from that, I would definitely say we led the way yet again with 66.7% for Donald Trump, which was five points higher than Waukesha County. Our 72.3% for Ron Johnson was the highest county percentage in the state! I want to express my sincere thanks to our campaign chairman Kathy Kiernan and to everyone who knocked on doors, made phone calls, worked events, wrote LTE's and worked on the recount. The campaign had a different feel from past presidential elections. Washington County did its part to ensure Hillary Clinton would not become president, and that Russ Feingold would not be allowed back into the US Senate.

I believe we can now say that Wisconsin is a totally red state! In reviewing election results from other parts of the state, Wisconsin congressional Republicans won by very large margins. Congressmen Sensenbrenner, Ryan, Duffy and Grothman all won by 20 point margins or higher. In the open 8th congressional district, newcomer Mike Gallagher soundly defeated Democrat Tom Nelson by a whopping 25 point margin! Three of these five congressional seats were held by Democrats at one time in the not so distant past, and at the very most were 50/50 districts. It is an astounding change of political landscape that has occurred in Wisconsin over the past few election cycles. President Obama leaves office with his party in the minority, with 2018 looking like a great opportunity to gain more seats nationwide.

A “heads up” for 2017 is that our annual fundraiser which has been in June the past several years, will be held on September 23 this year at the Columbian Banquet Hall. Please mark your calendars now for this event. I hope to see all of you at our 2017 Lincoln Day Brunch and Caucus on Sunday, January 29 at Scenic View Country Club.

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

I would like to begin by thanking Carolyn Turner for her years of leadership as President and Vice President. Our club ended the year with 142 members. We hosted eleven breakfasts, which were very well attended including most of our legislators. A big thank you to all of them for keeping us well informed.

We are continuing to support our troops by sending packages of personal items as well as food and fun items. Thanks to Sandy Banovich for her effort and time. Another very popular program that began in 2015 is “Treats for First Responders”. Thanks to Wendy Moser for the great idea and everyone who has donated to make this a big success. We have provided goodies for most all of the Washington County police and fire stations. We are simply thanking them for their service. Our Relay for Life team led by Diane Ambroziak raised \$3095 for the fight against cancer. Our members also donated \$320 to Fisher House. The house is in full operation serving families of veterans who are hospitalized. Continuing funds for maintenance is ongoing. Our Fall Gala this year featured Peggy Grande. Peggy was President Reagan's personal executive assistant. Please look for her book “The President Will See You Now” in bookstores very soon. Thank you to Carolyn Turner and Jennie Frederick for working with me to make this a wonderful evening. We also donated women's items for Christmas for the Vets this year. Last, by not least, thank you to everyone who helped with all the campaigns this past year. What an exciting election night. After 32 years of a “blue” state, we finally turned our state “red” by electing Donald J. Trump for President and Mike Pence for Vice President. The re-election of Senator Johnson was really the sweetest victory of all. Thank you to all our officers and members for their time and dedication to our club. Happy New Year everyone!

Kathy Kiernan, President
 Washington County Republican Women

Spring Election

The spring elections are around the corner. There will be a primary on Feb. 21, 2017 for DPI Superintendent. There are several candidates for this position, one of whom has been attending our WCRP events the past several months. The field will be whittled down to two candidates on Feb. 21. The general election will be April 4. There will be several local elections on this date, including Brian Hagedorn for WI Court of Appeals – District II. Brian was appointed by Gov. Walker in 2015 and is now running for a full term. We also have the re-election of State Supreme Court Justice Annette Ziegler.



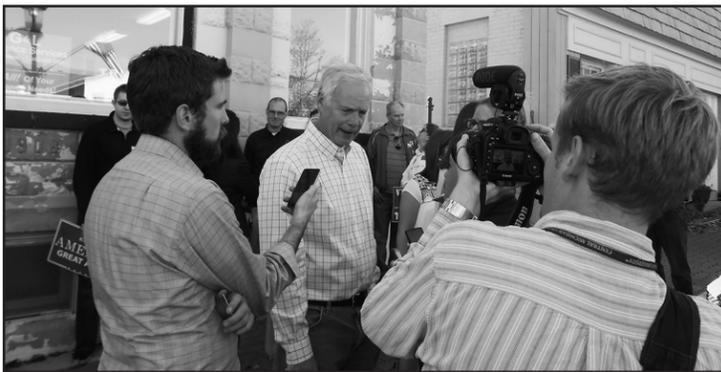
Kathy Kiernan serves as an elector for the official WI electoral college vote



WCRW at the December breakfast at Johnny Manhattan's



Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch speaks at the WCRP office



Sen. Ron Johnson speaks to the media at the WCRP office



Sen. Ron Johnson greets WB Mayor Kraig Sadownik

Assembly Report



Last week, we discussed the status of transportation funding as well as transportation projects across the state. In that update, I solicited feedback on how you believe we should handle transportation funding moving forward. To be clear, I was not advocating for any particular solution, but was trying to engage constituents to see how they believe we should address our current situation.

Responses varied widely and of the 62 responses, 28 believed we should increase the gas tax, seven believed we should create a user fee based on mileage, and 10 believed we should increase the registration fee. Others believed we should require the Department of Transportation to operate at current funding levels and prioritize projects of importance and delay other projects that are of lower priority. Another idea was to increase the fee on hybrid and electric vehicles. This could help compensate for their lower use of motor fuel resulting in less gas tax paid while they are still utilizing the roads. Advocates of toll roads also responded. Toll roads could help capture dollars from all users of the roads, not just Wisconsin residents who use the roads in our state. Still others felt that there is ample waste at the Department of Transportation and quantifiable savings can and should be found before having any discussions about funding specific projects. The majority of respondents believed there is no silver bullet to address our current situation. If you have yet to respond with your suggestions on how to address funding our transportation infrastructure I would like to hear from you.

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts and I look forward to continuing the dialogue as we move into the budget process starting early next year.

Rep. Dan Knodl

Todd Martens for County Judge



I am Todd Martens, Branch 3 Circuit Judge for Washington County since 2010. I am running for re-election and ask you to vote for me April 4. As you may know, I was Washington County District Attorney from

1999 to 2010. Holding a non-partisan judicial office does restrict my participation in GOP activities. But prior to becoming a judge, my wife Lori and I were long-term active members of the Washington County GOP. Lori has maintained her party membership.

After graduating from UW—Madison (undergraduate and masters degrees) and Harvard Law School, I worked at a large Milwaukee law firm for three years before starting my 19 year career as a prosecutor. I tried hundreds of cases to juries, prosecuted dozens of homicide cases, and was widely known as a tough but fair prosecutor.

Since taking the bench I have designed and implemented a “fast-track” program for repeat drunk drivers which reduced the average time from arrest to court from 137 days in 2015 to just over 5 days in 2016. I helped design the new County Treatment Alternatives and Diversion program aimed at getting heroin and opioid abusers into mandatory treatment with frequent drug testing. And I formed and Chair the County’s new Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee. All this while efficiently and fairly handling a full case load.

I believe I have earned another term as Washington County Circuit Judge. I have a great deal of County-wide support from Judges, County Board Supervisors, Law Enforcement, and Attorneys. I consider it a great privilege to serve, and I promise to continue to work hard to advance the cause of justice in our great County. Please vote for me April 4! Thanks so much.

Judge Todd K. Martens

Vice Chairman's Corner



If you're like me, you might still be pinching yourself to make sure the results of November 8th were real. Thankfully, the answer is “yes” – we still have a Senator named Johnson, plus we can even say we live in a red state again! Then, because our liberal friends do not know how to lose gracefully, we had to endure an expensive and completely pointless

recount effort – but can now rest assured that our voting processes and equipment are both trustworthy and incredibly accurate.

In the last newsletter, I said I was still unsure of what to make of the campaign season we had just seen, but that something had changed. Turns out what we saw was the silent majority reasserting its voice after being brow-beaten for decades by political correctness – the censorship created through the liberal educational establishment and reinforced by the entertainment culture and media – designed to make us all think and act alike, in a manner acceptable to them. It took the brash and shameless personality of Donald Trump to break through that veil – to let us know it was still OK to speak frankly in public, even as we did amongst our friends. The true measure of freedom of speech is when it's something disagreeable that requires extensive rebuttal, not when it's milquetoast stuff we all agree on.

Now that we have regained the majorities in Washington, we have to hope our newly-elected leaders take charge – just like six years ago when we dramatically shifted the culture in Madison. We have to be encouraged by the team being assembled by President-Elect Trump and the way business-as-usual has been shunned during the transition period. Here at the state level, we simply have to guard against complacency in our success and continue to push reforms, even if they affect some of our traditional supporters, like the road builders...because crony capitalism has no place in conservative government. Finally, let's support our leaders at the local level and get ready to work to re-elect Justice Annette Ziegler this spring!

*Randy Marquardt, Vice Chairman
Washington County GOP*

Campaign Report



November 8 - What a great day for our country, our state and our county. That will be an election night we will all savor for years to come. We have the opportunity to take our country back. So far, I think everyone is very pleased with the people President Elect Trump has chosen as his nominees for cabinet positions as well as his other appointments.

For the record – Here are the election results for Washington County: Voter turnout – 89.57%; President – Trump – 66.7%, Clinton – 26.89%; Ron Johnson – 72.25%, Feingold – 25.6%; Sensenbrenner – 75.61%. Many of our women were part of the Women for Trump Coalition. Washington County was chosen as one of the locations for a visit from Donald Trump, along with many surrogates. The final results of the election recount changes for Washington County:

Trump +11, Clinton -3, Johnson +2, Stein -5, McMullin +53. There were 4 or 5 other candidates that had 0 changes or 1 or 2 vote difference. Lastly, I was honored to be one of the 10 electors to cast a ballot for Donald Trump and Mike Pence on December 19.

Kathy Kiernan, Campaign Chairman

Lt. Governor Report



You know I've been studying the issue of homelessness in Wisconsin for some time now and the time (and resources) have come to do something meaningful about it. Along with the Secretaries of the Department of Administration and the Department of Veteran Affairs, I traveled Milwaukee, Green Bay, Wausau and La Crosse this week to announce

a new initiative aimed at helping homeless veterans get a hand up back onto the tightrope of prosperous life. “Welcome Home Vets” is going to take \$5 million in extra low income energy assistance funds left over from a mild winter and direct those funds toward the security deposits and first month's rent for veterans struggling to find a place to call home. There are about 2,000 homeless veterans across the state in a given year and stable housing is foundational to success in every other area of life. A veteran may qualify for educational benefits at UW or our tech colleges, but they aren't much good if he's moving from one friend's basement to another family member's couch in different cities. An employer may be willing to hire one of our heroes for a permanent job, but for the vet doesn't have a place to shower or get a good meal before the interview, it likely won't go well. Homelessness is a daily battle for survival, but victory is possible. If you know of a veteran in crisis, please refer them to the state's Energy Help hotline at (608) 267-3680.

Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch

Lincoln Day Brunch & Caucus

Our next big membership event is the Lincoln Day Brunch and Caucus, Sunday, Jan. 29 at the Scenic View Country Club in Slinger. Among the invited guests are Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, Sen. Ron Johnson and Attorney General Brad Schimel. We may also have a few surprise guests as well. In addition to the usual business, we will also have officer elections. Invitations went out in early January, so please return them ASAP if you haven't already done so. Please call our office at 334-4150 with any questions.

2017 MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals for 2017 were mailed out in late November. We have gotten a heavy return already, so thanks to everyone for that. If you haven't renewed yet, please return your form ASAP. A prompt return makes it easier on the membership committee and our treasurer. You may also renew online by going to our website and clicking on Join Us. That will take you to our secure renewal portal on the Patriot site. The WCRP relies on our membership base to help us get through the year financially, in particular our Lincoln/Reagan/Washington members. Our annual budget fluctuates from \$22,000 - \$25,000 per year, so we need a strong membership base to help us pay our bills. If you are a delegate, you must be renewed by the Lincoln Day Brunch and Caucus. The WCRP must submit its delegate list to the RPW in early 2017. Unpaid members cannot be delegates, nor can they attend the 5th district caucus or the state convention. Please call our office at 334-4150 with any questions.