



DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN

Weekly News From Your Wisconsin Democratic Party Chair

*Follow this newsletter to keep current on the events shaping our state and the work our party
is doing to win in 2022 and beyond.*

Dear fellow Wisconsin Democrats,

We've fought for fair maps. We will never stop fighting for fair maps. But last Friday night, the Wisconsin state Supreme Court chose to inflict a set of GOP-drawn legislative maps on our state that are anything but fair.

Our job is to channel our outrage at this travesty into fuel to renew our fight for democracy.

Normally, when courts choose maps, they go with a middle path—neither gerrymandered to favor Republicans nor Democrats. Not here, and not this time. As democracy scholar Rob Yablon [wrote](#), “the new legislative maps from the WI Supreme Court look to be far and away the most politically skewed court-imposed maps anywhere in the country for at least 20+ years.”

Yablon went on to write that, when federal courts last redistricted Wisconsin, “they stressed that judges ‘should not select a plan that seeks partisan advantage,’ and they cast aside maps with evident ‘partisan origins.’”

Not here. And not this time. After the US Supreme Court's deeply controversial shadow-docket ruling that, in a severe blow to the Voting Rights Act, struck down the previous set of maps adopted by our state legislature ([read an excellent analysis of that ruling here](#)), the

GOP-backed 4-3 majority on our state Supreme Court chose a set of maps created by Republican politicians with the sole goal of protecting their political power against accountability to voters.

This makes our battle that much harder. And it makes it that much more important.

If you were thinking about running for state legislature but wanted to wait until you saw the maps—run. We need candidates everywhere. To fight and win districts. To demonstrate, through the vote totals, how skewed these maps are. And to turn out voters who can help us reelect Governor Evers and AG Kaul, beat Ron Johnson, and win statewide victories that will be critical to democracy. Democratic state legislative candidates in 2020, win or lose, helped us beat Donald Trump. We all owe them a debt of gratitude. To save democracy in our state, we need your help now.

What's more—I was grateful for the feedback after 2020 that candidates in every district needed support. So this cycle, I'm proud to share that—on top of the in-kind organizing and other support that the party provided to every Democratic candidate last year—**this year, the party will also be investing directly in the candidacy of every non-incumbent Democratic nominee.**

If you know someone who is thinking about running—urge them to get off the fence, and promise to them that you'll help however you can. Check in with the Assembly or Senate Democratic Caucus about their work to ensure there is a candidate in your district. If you're in a place with an incumbent Democrat, check in with friends in other areas to see if you can help them. It's go time.

The extraordinary movement that has been fighting for fair maps for the last decade has made enormous progress in redefining this issue and raising it to public awareness. [I tweeted about this movement's critical work here](#), and I will keep lifting it up. The state Supreme Court's outrageous decision must not only energize our work this fall, but also next spring—when it's critical that we win a majority on that crucial body.

It's beyond clear that the foes of democracy will not give an inch. They will go to extreme lengths to lock in their own power and avoid any iota of public accountability. But they underestimate our resolve. They underestimate the fury of voters. They underestimate the strength inherent in the ideals of democratic self-government. They may not realize it—but we will win. Our belief in the power of the people cannot be deterred—and you, and I, and all of us in this movement will never stop marching forward.

In solidarity,

Ben

FIGHT

Ron Johnson's Disastrous Tax Day

This Tax Day, while Ron Johnson was doubling down on defending a special tax break that he now admits [benefited](#) himself and his biggest donors, Rep. Gordon Hintz, Chair Wikler and Wisconsin voters braved the weather to rally outside Johnson's Oshkosh office. The Tax Day rally protested Johnson's support of the GOP's 2022 agenda, which would raise taxes on [32% of Wisconsinites](#) and sunset Medicare and Social Security.

While Democrats in Congress have worked to pass critical legislation supporting local businesses, cutting taxes for working families and capping insulin costs, Ron Johnson and his fellow Republican politicians have worked to rig the tax code in a way to [benefit himself](#) and his biggest donors.

News also broke this week that two of Johnson's biggest donors, Liz and Dick Uihlein – the same donors who claimed hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks thanks to Johnson's efforts – [donated another \\$280,000 to Johnson's re-election efforts](#). Hard working Wisconsinites are sick of Johnson's self-serving agenda and voters in his hometown made sure to convey the message to him through their Tax Day rally.



State Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh): “Time after time, Ron Johnson has treated people under two systems: one that doesn't have to pay taxes – one that gets out of it – and the rest of us. The fact that we are seeing – just when you thought it couldn't get any worse – Ron Johnson endorsing a GOP plan proposed to go after the middle-class and working-class and raise taxes on 32% of all Wisconsinites...”

WisDems Chair Ben Wikler: “On this Tax Day, we can all agree that working Wisconsinites shouldn't be paying for billionaires' tax bills...We can all agree that politicians like Ron Johnson, who give themselves giant tax cuts and give giant tax cuts to billionaires, should be out of a job come this November.”

[Watch the full event here](#)

Rebecca Kleefisch’s History of Failing Wisconsin Students and Workforce
Thanks to Governor Tony Evers’ leadership and investment in our workforce, Wisconsin’s unemployment rates are at a record low, sitting at [2.8% after March](#). Despite the challenges of COVID-19 to Wisconsin’s economy, thanks to Gov. Evers’ leadership, Wisconsin’s unemployment rate is below the national average.

This is in strong contrast to Rebecca Kleefisch's record of failure on workforce issues. Though Kleefisch lists building a worker pipeline as part of her campaign platform, as lieutenant governor,, Kleefisch supported a \$7.1 million cut to Wisconsin's technical college system's funding — a cut that's [30% of their funding](#). This was on top of her support for a \$250 million cut from the UW system.

Kleefisch was also happy to support tax breaks for wealthy donors and large corporations. She even told them, behind closed doors, "[we want to know how we can love you more](#)." It's clear where Kleefisch's priorities are and they're certainly not supporting the next generation entering the workforce.

Gov. Evers' understands that Wisconsin colleges are at the forefront of filling jobs across the state and recovering from the pandemic. His latest budget proposed an [increase of \\$36 million in technical colleges over the next two years](#) and secured an increase for technical schools, universities and and K-12 education.

Despite what Rebecca Kleefisch might claim, it's clear from her record of failure on workforce issues where she really stands.

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg Visits Coloma, Wisconsin

This week, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg visited Wisconsin, highlighting the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's once-in-a-generation investment to our state's infrastructure. [Over the next five years, the state is expected to receive over \\$5 billion](#) from the Biden-Harris administration which will rebuild roads and bridges, ensure clean drinking water to every home across the state and deliver high-speed internet to rural communities.

Secretary Buttigieg [met](#) with Governor Evers, union leaders and high school students in Coloma, discussing how [the infrastructure law will build upon the work Gov. Evers' has done in Wisconsin to improve infrastructure and create good-paying jobs in Wisconsin](#). The combined effort of the Biden-Harris administration and Gov. Evers is setting the Badger State

to be more competitive in the 21st century.



INCLUDE & RESPECT

AAPI Caucus Town Hall with Attorney General Josh Kaul



Join us at the AAPI Caucus Town Hall with Attorney General Josh Kaul on Wednesday, April 27 at 7 PM!

The Asian American and Pacific Islanders Caucus is thrilled to invite you to a conversation with [Attorney General Kaul](#), Wisconsin's highest ranking Asian American elected official! Since his election in 2018, AG Kaul has fought for public health, reproductive rights, and

environmental protections. He has also been instrumental in defending democracy and protecting voting rights in WI—and we are thrilled to support him in his re-election campaign!

We want to hear from you! Audience members can submit their questions by Fri, April 22 here: wisdems.org/agkaulqs. We will notify those whose questions are selected by Mon, April 25.

RSVP here!

All In Wisconsin Fighting Against Dog Whistles, Disinformation & More

Each month, **All In Wisconsin** shares how they are building a collective coalition to build a Wisconsin for all of us — whether Black, brown, white, Native or newcomer. All In Wisconsin is a [great resource for messaging](#) and content to combat GOP dog whistles, disinformation and more.

Sign up for their newsletter [here](#).

EMPOWER The Grassroots

Become a State Convention Exhibitor

This June, over 1,500 Democratic activists from all across Wisconsin will gather in La Crosse for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin's [2022 State Convention](#). Don't miss this opportunity for your campaign or organization to make a big impression on the Party faithful.

The exhibitor package and a la carte options [outlined in the exhibitor guide](#) are designed to give campaigns and organizations of all sizes maximum exposure to convention-goers from across the state throughout the weekend. As an exhibitor at Convention, you can choose from buying an advertisement in our Convention program, a booth at our Unity Fair, a late-night or early-morning hospitality suite or all the above!

Please note that space at the convention site is **limited**, so be sure to reserve your spot sooner rather than later. We are eager to provide you with the best possible experience, so please don't hesitate to reach out to our team's exhibitor contact, Grace Zitzler, at

grace@wisdems.org with questions or to discuss your convention needs.

Assembly Democrats are Looking for Candidates to Run in 2022

The Wisconsin GOP is bending over backward to push an anti-Wisconsin, anti-worker, and anti-family agenda. Now more than ever, we need Democrats who are ready to take up the fight to run for office!

You can learn more at **assemblydemocrats.com/RUN** or share their video on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) to help spread the word.

WisDems Voter Protection Training

Join WisDems for **Voter Protection 101 Training: Intro to Voting & Election Law in Wisconsin!** The training takes place **every other Thursday at 5 pm CT**.

The training will cover everything you need to know to be an informed voter in every Wisconsin election this year, including how you can get involved protecting voting rights in your community. **Sign up for trainings here!**

Call our **Voter Assistance Hotline anytime at 608-336-3232** with voting questions, and visit **vote.wisdems.org** for more information on casting your ballot this year!

Calling all Rural WisDems Party Unit Leaders!

WisDems is proud to work again with [Movement Labs](#) to offer significant support to county parties in rural and exurban areas through their Rural Power Lab program for the 2022 election cycle!

Rural Power Lab helps Democratic County Parties' organizing efforts to improve the Democratic brand in rural areas and works alongside our existing county parties and year-round organization program.

[Sign up here for an open house to learn more](#) and **[read about the programs and tracks in](#)**

[this application memo.](#)

County parties have the option to [apply for volunteer recruitment and training \(track 1\) AND training and quarterly \\$500 grants for completing monthly actions \(track 2\)](#) or can [opt out](#) of the program if you don't think it's a good fit for your county. **The deadline to opt out or apply for the program is April 27th.**

You can apply through application memo & form linked below:

Application Memo: [CLICK HERE](#)

Application Form: [CLICK HERE](#)

Open House: [CLICK HERE](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to team@ruralpowerlab.org. You can also visit www.ruralpowerlab.org for more information and easy access to the application materials.

Free Candidate Resource Portal

In preparation for an exciting election year, WisDems has launched a **free 2022 Candidate Resource Portal** to support candidates across the state with a variety of campaign resources.

If you're interested in accessing the Candidate Resource Portal, you can request access at [this link](#) or by going to the Candidate Resources button at the bottom of [our website](#). Each member of your campaign team must fill out the form individually to receive an access password.

In addition to these incredible resources, don't forget to check out the resources below, as

well:

- **VAN Access.** VAN or VoteBuilder is our database of voter file information, plus the tools to make phone banks, maps for canvassing, mailing lists, and more. Candidates can apply for access [here](#).
- **Candidate Question Form.** [This form](#) is the best place for candidates to go if they have any questions or requests for our candidate services team.

Become a Monthly Donor

The easiest way to help support our work across the state is by signing up as a **monthly donor** for the **Democratic Party of Wisconsin**. These funds **directly** allow us to hire and plan sustainably, working to defeat Ron Johnson, re-elect Gov. Evers, and save our democracy!

Chip in any amount to join the fight!



Paid for by the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, Ben Wikler, Chair

Our mailing address is:

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