



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 2023 and beyond.*

Dear fellow Wisconsin Democrats,

Today is an anniversary that lives in infamy: January 6.

Two years ago today, we watched in horror as a murderous mob overran the cradle of our democracy, brutalized Capitol Police officers, and attempted to destroy the heart of the United States's best tradition: the peaceful transfer of power in a system that aspires to rule by, of, and for the people. We all remember where we were when we saw the mob take over. The dread in the pit of our stomach. The increasingly urgent question—when was Trump going to call this off?

We now know so much more about what happened that day, and how it was the culmination of a months-long plot spearheaded by Donald Trump himself and abetted by a sprawling network of co-conspirators, including far-right Wisconsinites. And we also know that the cynics were wrong: that horror did matter politically, it was not forgotten, and millions of Americans, including conservative independents and Republicans, cast ballots against Republican candidates for office like Tim Michels in no small part because they feared for the future of democracy in America.

And yet, despite those truths, the GOP remains unrepentant.

Wisconsin's own Republican House delegation illustrates this point chillingly. Mike Gallagher,

who was crystal clear that “President Donald Trump bears responsibility for the tragic events of Jan 6.” When did Gallagher say that? [In his speech announcing that he would vote against impeachment](#). Gallagher, who also said “let us start by telling the truth” in that speech, went on to vote against the January 6 Commission—and voted to eject Liz Cheney from GOP leadership. Now he’s a champion of Kevin McCarthy, who [said he’d tell Trump to resign](#) but wound up ringleading the coverup.

Gallagher’s utterly unprincipled response to the single greatest threat to the U.S. Constitution of our era might be sickening, but he’s far from alone.

Scott Fitzgerald aided Trump’s plot to install fake presidential electors by [facilitating access to the Wisconsin Capitol](#) and, with Tom Tiffany, [voted against certifying the 2020 election](#). Fitzgerald’s vote against our democracy was his first vote as a member of Congress. Bryan Steil and Glenn Grothman joined Tiffany, Fitzgerald, and Gallagher in [voting against electoral reform](#) measures designed to prevent future January 6th-style attacks.

And then there’s Derrick Van Orden, who repeatedly pushed the Big Lie, traveled to the Stop the Steal rally to promote “election integrity,” and watched the rioters attack the Capitol from a perch on Capitol grounds. Van Orden now says “[the way that it could be interpreted that I would support political violence — that is regretful](#).” But if he had any genuine regrets, he would have lifted a finger or uttered a single word to support accountability for what his friends perpetrated. Instead, he’s now sitting in Congress, where he could be among those rejecting the certification of the next presidential election.

Let’s make Derrick Van Orden a one-term Congressman.

Let’s defeat all of these Republicans.

And let’s absolutely, certainly ensure that none of them ascends to higher office—something they plainly aspire to do, despite having disqualified themselves already.

The first step in this fight is winning the Supreme Court race on April 4. Both Jennifer Dorow and Dan Kelly [recently voiced their support for Gableman-style investigations and election lawsuits](#). It's not hard to see that either of them would have supported Trump in attempting to overturn the 2020 election result—a fate we avoided by a single vote on our state Supreme Court. And if we defeat them, not only do we protect the possibility of free and fair elections in our state—we open the door to striking down our unconstitutionally gerrymandered maps. Once that happens, Congressional seats that now seem safely Republican could get a whole lot more competitive. And when that happens, the Wisconsin delegation could finally, at long last, face genuine accountability.

The best answer to the question of January 6 is democracy. Let's go make some.

In solidarity,

Ben

FIGHT

Senator Baldwin Secures Over \$255 Million For Wisconsin

Senator Tammy Baldwin secured more than \$255 million for Wisconsin projects under the 2023 omnibus spending bill, delivering critical investments in our roads, bridges, and water infrastructure, workforce development, access to health and child care, improvements for emergency services, and more.

Senator Baldwin has spent the last year working to fund local projects on behalf of Wisconsinites from every corner of the state. Projects that will receive critical funding thanks to Senator Baldwin's efforts include the City of Wausau, which will receive over \$1.6 million to investigate and implement PFAS treatment and provide clean drinking water to residents, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, which will receive over \$1.3 million to construct a new tribal health clinic, and the Department of Workforce Development, which will receive \$5 million to attract and retain more diverse talent in our state.

Constitutional Officials, WisDems Celebrate Inauguration Day

On Tuesday, Gov. Evers, Lt. Gov. Rodriguez, AG Kaul, and Secretary of State Doug La Follette were sworn in at the State Capitol, making the culmination of years of hard work and dedication to building a fairer and more equitable Wisconsin.

Our state has seen remarkable progress over the last four years under Gov. Evers' common sense leadership and AG Kaul's steadfast commitment to defending the will of Wisconsinites in court, and we know that our state will continue to move forward during the next four years. Lt. Gov. Rodriguez will be a dynamite partner for Gov. Evers as they do the right thing for Wisconsin each day, and Secretary of State La Follette will continue to prevent Republicans from turning the Secretary of State office into a vehicle for the GOP's attacks on democracy.

Thank you to our Constitutional Officers for your commitment to our state, and we anticipate the progress we will make over the next four years — together.

Republicans In Disarray: Voting For Speaker Of The House Hits 4th Day

On the second day of voting for Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mike Gallagher delivered a ringing endorsement of Congressional gridlock and Republican disarray, continuing to back Kevin McCarthy's seemingly doomed bid for speaker.

Despite the best efforts of Bryan Steil, Derrick Van Orden, Scott Fitzgerald, Glenn Grothman, Tom Tiffany and Gallagher, McCarthy bled support from his caucus with each round of voting. Adding insult to injury, Gallagher also admitted that the GOP's failure to govern is now preventing him from receiving classified security briefings. While Democrats remain focused on fighting for the issues that matter to working families, like lowering costs and creating jobs, Republicans are fighting with each other.

One thing we know for certain is that however many ballots it takes to elect a Speaker, it'll be the most extreme MAGA Republicans who are truly in charge of the House Republican caucus — and Wisconsin's Republican representatives in Congress appear unable or unwilling to do anything about it.

INCLUDE & RESPECT

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in a Community Near You!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in Brown County

- On Saturday, January 14, the Brown County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee will put on their 28th annual Brown County MLK Celebration, bringing together communities in Northeast Wisconsin to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Wausau Celebration

- Join a first-of-its-kind MLK Jr. Day Celebration UWSP-Wausau on Monday, January 16 from 5:30-8:30 PM! The event will bring the community together in solidarity to honor the life and legacy of Dr. King. This family-friendly event will include a diverse group of individual poetry and spoken word performers representing Black, Hmong, and LGBTQTA+ communities. [You can purchase tickets here](#). Scholarships to waive the cost are available.

Dane County MLK Day Celebration

- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Coalition of Madison and Dane County will hold the 38th Annual MLK Day Observance on Monday, January 16 at the Overture Center for the Arts in Downtown Madison. Join community members from the Madison area to hear from Donzaleigh Abernathy, the goddaughter of Dr. King as we celebrate the life and work of Dr. King.

YMCA of Milwaukee MLK Day Celebration

- The YMCA of Milwaukee will host the 26th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration on Monday, January 16 starting at 7 AM. The event will celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy and honor local community leaders dedicated to serving others. You can [purchase tickets and learn more information about the event here](#).

Eau Claire Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Festivities

- On Monday, January 16, the Pablo Center, Uniting Bridges, UWEC History Department, and Converge Radio will host a day of celebration to commemorate the life and work of Dr. King. The event will feature guest speakers and music performances and is free and open to the public.

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Celebrate the Year of the Rabbit!

Lunar New Year will begin on January 22! Celebrate early at the Inaugural New Year Celebration from the Wisconsin Chinese Chamber of Commerce on January 14 by Mayfair Mall in Wauwatosa. Festivities begin at 1PM and [tickets can be purchased here](#).



EMPOWER The Grassroots

Voter Protection Spring Election Kickoff with Chair Ben Wikler!

Wisconsin's Supreme Court race is the most important election you've never heard of, and the Voter Protection team is gearing up to help Wisconsin voters make their voice heard this spring. Join our staff and WisDems Chair Ben Wikler on Thursday, January 19 at 6pm CT on Zoom to get an inside look at our path to flipping the court and how you can get involved:

<https://www.mobilize.us/dpw/event/545869/>

Listening Sessions with Chair Wikler

As we prepare for the upcoming 2023 spring election, we want to hear from you about what went well in 2022, and how we can improve moving forward. Chair Wikler will be hosting in-person regional listening sessions along with other party leaders over the next several weeks.

Please register for the session using the links below. We hope that you will be able to join us and invite other community leaders to attend. Please note that we will be scheduling additional listening sessions in the coming weeks. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to our Political Director Nick Truog at nicholast@wisdems.org.

Rhineland Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Monday, January 9 at 12:00 PM
- **Location:** Nacho's Mexican Grill, 232 S Courtney St, Rhineland, WI 54501
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Stevens Point Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Monday, January 9 at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Portage County Democratic Party, 2220 Division St, Stevens Point, WI 54481
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Green Bay Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Monday, January 9 at 7:30 PM
- **Location:** 118 S Chestnut Ave, Green Bay, WI 54303
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Fox Valley Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Tuesday, January 10 at 8:00 AM
- **Location:** 480 N Main St, Oshkosh, WI 54901
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Ozaukee Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Tuesday, January 10 at 12:00 PM
- **Location:** 1930 Wisconsin Ave, Grafton, WI 53024
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)
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Waukesha Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Tuesday, January 10 at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** TBD
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Racine Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Wednesday, January 18 at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Kenosha Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 PM
- **Location:** Union Club, 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha, WI 53144
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Eau Claire Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Monday, January 23 at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

La Crosse Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Monday, January 23 at 8:00 PM
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

BIPOC Communities Virtual Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Thursday, January 19 at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

LGBTQ+ Community Virtual Listening Session w/ Chair Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Thursday, January 19 at 6:30 PM
- **Location:** Virtual via Zoom
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Madison Regional Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Monday, January 30 at 5:30 PM
- **Location:** TBD
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Rural Communities (Greater WI) Virtual Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Tuesday, January 31 at 5:00 PM
- **Location:** Zoom
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

BIPOC Communities Virtual Listening Session w/ Chair Ben Wikler

- **Date & Time:** Thursday, January 31 at 6:30 PM
- **Location:** Zoom
- **RSVP:** [Here](#)

Become a Monthly Donor

The easiest way to help support our work across the state is by [signing up to be a monthly donor](#) for the [Democratic Party of Wisconsin](#). These funds **directly** allow us to hire and plan sustainably, work to elect a progressive Wisconsin Supreme Court majority, and save democracy!

Chip in any amount to join the fight!



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

Our mailing address is:

PO Box 1686, Madison, WI 53701

Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](https://www.actionnetwork.org). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from WisDems Comms, please [click here](#).