



Best wishes to you and your families this holiday season. It has been a historic, busy year, but things will not slow down in 2009.

Early next year there will be a Wisconsin Supreme Court race in which Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson is being challenged by a candidate funded by the extreme right wing. We cannot let the right wing win a third consecutive Supreme Court race. All the work of a Democratic legislature may be undone by a rabidly right-wing state Supreme Court. The fair application of law is what is at stake in this election. Please get involved individually in this race — it is as important as a race for Governor or U.S. Senate.

In addition, the 2010 races in essence begin now. Senator Feingold, Governor Doyle, Congressman Kind and Representative Shilling will all be up for re-election in addition to the race in the 94th Assembly District. On a state level, this campaign will present more challenges than 2008. Off years may not have the glamour of presidential years, but they are just as important.

As the article on page 2 demonstrates, what we did on the local level in Wisconsin allowed Barack Obama to focus on other swing states. We cannot let the gains of 2008 get reversed in just two short years. No one person can substitute for a collective effort. **We need more people to get involved in off years, not less.** I especially hope that those of you who got involved in 2008 continue to stay involved for the next two years.

On a personal level, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support, hard work and kindness over the past two and a half years. I have had a wonderful time and am grateful for all the people I have met and friendships I have made. I have been lucky to work with an energetic board and party members. It has been a rewarding experience not just because of election wins, but because of the people involved.

Fabio Burgos
Chair
La Crosse County Democratic Party

UPCOMING COUNTY PARTY EVENTS

Holiday Party
Monday, December 15th
5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Chris Kahlow Residence
2525 King St., La Crosse

January General Party Meeting
Monday, January 26th
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Ho Chunk 3 Rivers House
724 Main St., La Crosse

La Crosse County Inauguration Party
Tuesday, January 20th
Location TBA

MIND THE MAP

by Mark Schmitt
via The American Prospect

On election night, our eyes were glued to the "battleground states" that would decide the presidential election -- not just the traditional swing states of Ohio and Florida but Virginia and Indiana as well, on this new electoral map where all things had become possible.

But let's take a moment to respect some states that weren't considered battle-grounds. Wisconsin, for example, had been decided by the closest margins in the country in both of the previous presidential elections, 2000 and 2004. On Nov. 4, 2008, Barack Obama won Wisconsin by 14 points. Or Colorado, which had been an anchor of the Reagan-era "Sagebrush Rebellion," home of conservative powerhouses like the Coors family and James Dobson. Bush won the state twice by solid margins, but John McCain, a senator from a neighboring state, gave up on it well before the election. Obama took Colorado by seven points.

The strong progressive majorities in these former swing states or Republican strongholds are not the accomplishment of the Obama campaign alone; they are more like a gift the campaign was given. Nor did political or partisan work entirely lay the groundwork for the transformations. Colorado and Wisconsin are arguably the best examples of successful progressive efforts to build capacity at the state level. These long-term efforts strengthened think tanks, issue advocacy groups, and community organizations and coordinated them around a common agenda and an awareness, within legal constraints, of elections and their consequences.

Some of the work began in the wake of the 2004 election, when donors recognized what activists had been telling them -- that there was more to conservative dominance than writing checks to

candidates -- and turned their attention to building progressive infrastructure. Some of the work goes back even further, such as to the unprecedented coordination of funding in Colorado that led to the Democratic takeover of the legislature and one U.S. Senate seat in 2004 and then to the modification of the state's crippling tax limitation known as TABOR, which had bankrupted public services, in 2005.

This painstaking work paid dividends in 2008. Taking states like Wisconsin and Colorado off the board entirely gave Obama even more time, money, and human resources to concentrate on genuinely competitive states. And in addition to electoral votes, Obama's agenda will now have the backing of two Democratic senators from Colorado -- a first since 1979 -- and Congress will be rid of the odious Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, who once said that no issue was more important than banning gay marriage.

At times of liberal ascendancy, we risk forgetting these long-haul investments and organizing in the states. Liberals think of concerted federal action as essential to progress and fairness, an idea quite legitimately rooted in the civil-rights movement and progressive victories like Medicare. And all our thoughts right now are on the transformative possibilities of an Obama administration and supportive Congress. But after three decades of devolution, there's no turning back from the reality that states, their governors, legislators, and parties will play a central role in our country's political future.

Further, the conservative comeback, if there is to be one, will take hold in the states, not in Congress. The recession will devastate state finances, and Democratic governors will be vulnerable. A wave of Republican governors with the good luck to be in office on the other side of the economic cycle

could look like geniuses and might even revive the now thoroughly discredited idea that conservatives can govern. Conservative success in the 1990s and into the Bush years had far more to do with the big-state Republican governors who were seen as successful -- George Voinovich in Ohio, Tommy Thompson in Wisconsin, Bill Owens in Colorado, John Engler in Michigan -- than with the impeachment-crazed congressional Republicans. And ideas like welfare reform and standards-based education were made credible by state experience.

Financial support for state and local governments should be a central component of any economic stimulus, because it both provides a bigger boost than other spending and will help these states manage through the crisis. But it's also essential that the work of building progressive infrastructure at the state level -- which is really in its infancy -- continues, for all the reasons that conservatives invested in state and regional think tanks and organizing efforts. The states are where ideas are generated and tested, where programs really succeed or fail in helping improve lives, and, incidentally, where elections of the future will be won or lost.

2009 Executive Board

Congrats to those elected at the November 17th to the 2009 Executive Board:
Co-Chairs: **Vicki Burke, Pablo Ruiz**
Vice-Chair: **Isaac Rebout**
Treasurer: **Leandra Dahlin**
Secretary: **Richelle Zimmerman**

At large members: **Rachael Collins, BobFreedland, Matt Landi, Kris Troyanek & JD Wine.**

Thanks to our outgoing board members **Matt Ullsvik** and **Marcia Wine** for their tremendous effort. And although she will remain on the board, special thanks to **Kris Troyanek** for her work as treasurer in very financially complicated election year.

PAC, PARTY & NATIONAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Wisconsin State Senate Democrats

<http://www.ssdw-wi.org/>

3rd Congressional District Democratic Party

Melanie Franklin, Chair
(715) 659-4964
www.3rdDems.net

Wisconsin Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee

www.AssemblyDemocrats.com

Democratic National Committee (DNC)

430 S. Capitol St. SE
Washington, DC 20003
(tel)202-863-8000
www.Democrats.org

Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW)

222 W. Washington Ave. Suite 150
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 255-5172 (tel) - (608) 255-8919 (fax)
w.wisdems.org

Ron Kind for Congress

P.O. Box 184 - La Crosse, WI 54602-0184
608.782.3444 (Tel) - 608.782.4433 (fax)
www.kindforcongress.org

Progressive Patriots Fund (Russ Feingold, Chair)

PO Box 628008 - Middleton, WI 53562
(608) 831-1308 (Tel) - (608) 831-1348 (Fax)
www.progressivepatriotsfund.com

Coulee Progressives

www.couleeprogressives.org

2009 LCDP EXECUTIVE BOARD

Executive Officers:

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Isaac Rebout, Vice-Chair, 931-1357
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Leandra Dahlin, Treasurer, 788-7294
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Richelle Zimmerman, Secretary 317-9717
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Board Members:

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Justin Fons (262)424-4704
UWL College Dems Rep
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LA CROSSE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Our Elected Officials

Governor James Doyle

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Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-1212 / (608) 267-8983 Fax
Email: wisgov.state.wi.us/contact.asp,
www.wisgov.state.wi.us

Lt. Governor, Barbara Lawton

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www.ltgov.state.wi.us

Senator, Russ Feingold:

716 Hart Senate Office Building
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(202) 224-5323 / (202) 224-2725 Fax
Email: russ_feingold@feingold.senate.gov
<http://www.feingold.senate.gov>

Senator, Herb Kohl:

330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-5653 / (202) 224-9787 Fax
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Webpage: <http://www.kohl.senate.gov>

Congressman, Ron Kind:

1406 Longworth House Office Building
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Ph: (202) 225-5506, Fax: (202) 225-5739
Email: ronkind@mail.house.gov
Web page: <http://www.house.gov/kind/>

Assembly Representative, Jennifer Shilling:

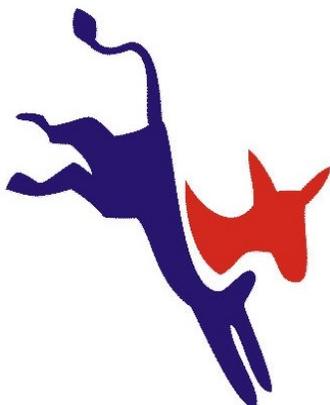
State Capitol 120 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53703-8953
Ph: (608) 266-5780
Local: (608) 788-9854
Email: rep.shilling@legis.wisconsin.gov

94th Assembly District Repre- sentative Mike Huebsch

Room 215 West, State Capitol,
P.O. Box 8952 Madison, WI 53708
Phone (608) 266-2401 or (888) 534-0094
(608) 786-3512 / (608) 282-3694 Fax
email: rep.huebsch@legis.wisconsin.gov

State Senator Dan Kapanke

Madison Office, Room 104 South,
State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882,
Madison 53707-7882
Phone (608) 266-5490 or (800) 385-3385
Fax (608) 267-5173,
Local, (608) 782-3975
email: sen.kapanke@legis.wisconsin.gov



'We've come to help you pack.'

La Crosse Dems Holiday Party/ Inauguration Party/ Janaury General Party Meeting

Please join the La Crosse Dems for a Holiday Party on December 15, 2008, from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at Chris Kahlow's residence, 2525 King St., in La Crosse. Please bring an appetizer to pass. Alcoholic beverages will not be provided — please bring your own. Please also bring a non-perishable food item for donation to local food pantries. Thanks very much to Chris for hosting this event.

We will have an Inauguration Party on January 20th. Precise time (it will be evening) and location will be determined. Please watch your email for details. Contact any executive board member if you wish to volunteer. Please come and celebrate this historic day among friends and fellow Democrats.

General Party Meetings will resume on January 26, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the Ho Chunk 3 Rivers House, 724 Main St. in La Crosse. We will be discussing the possibility of a permanent party office that night — ALL members are encouraged to attend.

La Crosse County
DEMOCRATIC PARTY
P.O. Box 1861
La Crosse, WI 54602-1861

*Authorized and paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party,
 Fabio A. Burgos, Chair; Kris Troyanek, Treasurer
 The content herein is not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.*

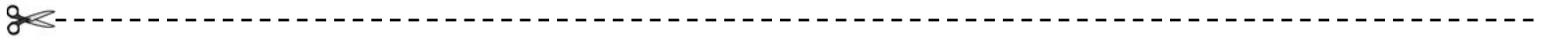
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Attention all Party Members:

The Newsletter is now online. If you don't receive the online newsletter and haven't received online updates through the campaign, please email laxdems.com.

REMINDER REGARDING MEMBERSHIPS

If you renew or sign up for membership **after October 1, 2008**, you are a member of the La Crosse County and State of Wisconsin Democratic Parties **through December 31, 2009**. If you haven't done so already, please fill out membership form below and send back in the return envelope provided.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009!



*Yes please enroll me, and/or my family, as a member of the
 La Crosse County Democratic Party for 2009!!
 Enclosed is payment for dues according to type of
 membership requested.*

Please Check Due Structure that applies

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home/Cell Phone _____
 Work Phone _____
 Email Address _____
 Occupation _____
 Assembly District: 94th _____ 95th _____ Ward _____

- ___ \$25 General Membership
 (\$10 each for up to 3 additional members)
- ___ \$ 10 Senior Citizen
- ___ \$35 Pairs (Up to Two Memberships)
- ___ \$45 Activist (Up to 3)
- ___ \$75 Family Membership
- ___ \$120 Supporting Membership
- ___ \$240 Friend
- ___ \$600 Patron
- ___ \$1200 Investor
- ___ \$2400 Benefactor

*Make checks payable to;
 The La Crosse County Democratic Party
 P.O. Box 1861
 La Crosse WI 54602-1861*

I recommend contacting as a possible member

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

YES! I am interested in volunteering for party activities!