

THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE

LAXDEMS.COM

March 2018 Newsletter

Vice Chair's Message

by Dave Wulf

For my message, I don't want to talk about my upbringing nor discuss my professional career. I would rather talk about what I am politically and what I believe is an important topic. The topic is radical centrism. Say what? I bet most of you have never heard of this term.

Why is this topic important? While no independent radical-centrist presidential candidate emerged in 2012, John Avlon (editor-in-chief of The Daily Beast), emphasized the fact that **independent voters remain the fastest-growing portion of the electorate**. Not to mention a polarized U.S. Congress where nothing meaningful (in a good way) is getting done. I would also argue that more could have been done when Democrats were in control of Congress and the White House in 2009-2010. Such as strengthening Social Security by substantially raising the limit on annual earnings subject to SS taxes, phasing in an increase of the federal tax on gasoline and diesel fuel, and more.

Per Wikipedia, the "radical" in the term refers to a willingness on the part of most radical centrists to call for fundamental reform of institutions. The "centrism" refers to a belief that genuine solutions require realism and pragmatism, not just idealism and emotion. Thus one radical centrist text defines radical centrism as "idealism without illusions", a phrase originally from John F. Kennedy.

Most radical centrists borrow what they see as good ideas from left, right and wherever else they may be found, often melding them together. Most support market-based solutions to social problems with strong governmental oversight in the public interest. Many radical centrists work within the major political parties, but also support independent or third-party initiatives and candidacies.

Principles of Radical Centrism

➤ Our problems cannot be solved by twiddling the dials; substantial reforms are



Upcoming Events

March 5, LCDP Executive Board Meeting, Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., La Crosse @ 6:00 p.m.

March 10, Democratic Party of the 3rd Congressional District of Wisconsin Convention, American Legion Hall, 1116 Angelo Rd., Sparta WI.

March 17, LCDP St. Patrick's Day Social, 5-8 p.m., Earl's Grocery and Saloon, 401 3rd St. S., La Crosse. Bring an appetizer to share. There is no admission fee, but donations are gratefully accepted.

March 19, LCDP Meeting, Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., La Crosse @ 6:00 p.m. Three Candidates for Governor - Michelle Doolan, Matt Flynn, and Jeff Rumbaugh - will speak at the meeting.

April 3, Spring Elections – Amy Twitchell, Democratic candidate for La Crosse County Treasurer and LCDP members for La Crosse County Board of Supervisors.

Copy and paste the links in your browser:

- Check your voter registration @ <https://myvote.wi.gov>
- General information @ <http://www.cityoflacrosse.org/elections>
- Sample ballots @ <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/countyclerk/docs/Web%20Page%20Sample%20Ballot%20Feb%202018.pdf>
- Polling places <http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/countyclerk/docs/PollingPlaces.pdf>

needed in many areas.

➤ Solving our problems will require drawing on the best ideas from left and right and wherever else they may be found. Focus on the future.

➤ It will require creative and original ideas

– thinking outside the box. RC seeks to focus on creative ideas that can actually be implemented in the real world.

➤ Political process reform is also important. For example, implementing rank-order voting in elections and providing free media time to candidates

➤ An overriding commitment to fiscal responsibility, even if it entails means-testing of social programs.

➤ An overriding commitment to reforming public education, whether by equalizing spending on school districts, offering school choice, hiring better teachers or empowering the principals and teachers we have now. (I am not a fan of school choice as it undermines public schools).

➤ A commitment to market-based solutions in health care, energy, the environment, etc., so long as the solutions are carefully regulated by government to serve the public good.

➤ A commitment to provide jobs for everyone willing to work, whether by subsidizing jobs in the private sector or by creating jobs in the public sector.

➤ Allowing people to maximize the amount of choice they have in their lives.

➤ Giving people a fair opportunity to succeed in the new world they are entering.

➤ Placing a premium on education as a general rule which applies specifically to politics. "Research" assumes serious thinking, testing ideas, and all the rest.

➤ There is a premium on civility among Radical Centrists. RC requires that all issues anyone champions should be moral.

➤ When Radical Centrists arrive at new ideas which the Constitution does not address, or when functional problems with the Constitution or its amendments are identified, it is always acceptable to suggest new amendments.

➤ Radical Centrists take the view that

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Ron Kind's Message

Now that Congress is back in session, it remains to be seen if the Republican leadership will take steps to protect our children and enhance gun safety. When I was home traveling throughout western and central Wisconsin, I heard from many of you about the need to work together and find solutions.

As a hunter myself, I know we can address gun safety and still be respectful of second amendment rights. A good place to start is passing universal background checks, banning bump stocks, addressing the size of ammunition clips, lifting restrictions on gun research and creating a nonpartisan commission on gun safety who can recommend effective steps to take.

We also need to address mental health screening and ensure those who shouldn't possess a weapon can't. That means enhancing mental health services and not trying to repeal them.

But as long as there is a Republican in the White House and Republican majorities in Congress, I'm not optimistic.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Ron Kind

Please Join Tawni Kind and Family For a Special Birthday Party Honoring Congressman Ron Kind

Date: Monday, March 12th

Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Place: 4 Sisters Wine Bar & Tapas

100 Harborview Plaza

La Crosse, Wisconsin

Refreshments and Hors D'oeuvres Provided

To RSVP, please call Erica Hougen

at (608) 782-3444 or

email houden.erica@gmail.com

"We are up here standing together because if all our government and President can do is send thoughts and prayers, then it's time for victims to be the change that we need to see."

~ Emma Gonzalez, student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

Co-chair's message continued

the First Amendment is inviolable and essential to any kind of valid politics. People should be free to express their honest thoughts.

Minimum compromise. This does not mean we never go halfway to meet other people with other political objectives, but it definitely does say that Radical Centrism is about staying true to our sense of morality, and to everything we cherish and regard as crucial to our integrity. Compromise may be a necessary evil but we try to avoid any such thing whenever possible.

If you haven't figured it out already, the values and policies of the radical center lean more toward the Democrats than Republicans. Republicans occasionally have good ideas but they are few and far between and rarely altruistic. It is my belief that for Democrats to win majority seat elections in the future, Democratic candidates in "purple and red" states/districts should embrace radical centrism. This not mean abandoning progressive ideas - far from it. It is about pursuing creative solutions to solve problems with realism and pragmatism.

Any Graphics People Out There?

The LCDP is fortunate that Marcia Horvath produces the LCDP monthly newsletter. She has asked the Executive Board of the LCDP if they can find a back-up individual to have on call in the future in case she is unable to do it for some reason. So, does any member have access to the desktop publishing software Adobe InDesign and Adobe Photoshop (or a similar graphics editing program)? If you are interested in being on-call to produce the newsletter, please contact one of the co-chairs at chair@laxdems.com.

**MARCH
FOR OUR
LIVES** 

March 24, 2018

The LCDP encourages its members to become involved in this important cause to take action on gun violence. Copy and paste the links to check for updates and information about the marches in these locations.

La Crosse, WI, 10 a.m. Location TBD

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2088125148089381/>

Madison, WI, 10 a.m. Location TBD

<https://www.facebook.com/events/565814710447294/>

St. Paul, Minnesota, 10 a.m.

Minnesota State Capitol

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd,

<https://www.facebook.com/events/408242742955428/>

April 3, 2018 Spring Election Information

Amy Twitchell, Democratic candidate for La Crosse County Treasurer and LCDP members for La Crosse County Board of Supervisors and Onalaska Common Council.

Rebecca Dallet is seeking a ten-year term to the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

There are numerous LCDP members who are candidates in county and municipal elections. If we missed any LCDP members, our apologies in advance. Contact the co-chairs.

La Crosse County Board of Supervisors

District 4: Maureen Freedland

District 8 Peg Jerome Isola

District 11: Patrick Scheller

District 12: David Holtze

District 15: Monica Kruse (opponent on ballot)

District 16: Connor Nagy (opponent on ballot)

District 20: Steve Doyle

District 21: Vicki Burke

District 24: Leon Pfaff (opponent on ballot)

Onalaska Common Council

1st District Alderperson: Joe Etten (opponent on ballot)

2nd District Alderperson: Diane Wulf (opponents on ballot)

Wisconsin United to Amend Resolution

For City of La Crosse residents, Wisconsin United to Amend was successful in placing on the ballot a referendum supporting an amendment to the US Constitution to end “corporate personhood” and that money is not speech.

Constitutional Amendment

At the April 3 Spring Election, voters will be asked to vote on the question: “Elimination of state treasurer. Shall sections 1 and 3 of article VI and sections 7 and 8 of article X of the constitution be amended, and section 17 of article XIV of the constitution be created, to eliminate the office of state treasurer from the constitution and to replace the state treasurer with the lieutenant governor as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands?”

For more information about this question, see **Constitutional Amendment 2017 Joint Resolution 7.pdf**. @ http://elections.wi.gov/sites/default/files/page/constitutional_amendment_2017_joint_resolution_7_p_11179.pdf

To double-check your voter registration, find your polling place, see your April sample primary ballot, or request an absentee ballot, go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> and click on the appropriate links.

If you are not registered to vote, register as soon as possible. For the April 3 election, the last day to register to vote online or by mail is March 14, 2018. The following information is from the City of La Crosse website at <https://www.cityoflacrosse.org/content/407/437/1252/1262/default.aspx>

Anyone wishing to vote in the State of Wisconsin, where they are required to register, has four options to register:

1. By Mail: Download the Application for Voter Registration (EL - 131). Complete the form and mail it to your municipal clerk's office up to 20 days before the election (5:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday before the election).

Proof of Residence is required for any elector, who is not a military or permanent overseas elector, who registers by mail. If registering by mail, a copy must be included when submitting the registration application.

2. Online: Register online at My Vote Wisconsin up to 20 days before the election. Voters who have a valid State of Wisconsin Driver License or State of Wisconsin ID card issued by the Wisconsin Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) can register to vote online.

3. In Person: Register in the municipal clerk's office up to 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election.

Proof of Residence is required for any elector, who is not a military or permanent overseas elector, who registers in person at the Municipal Clerk's Office.

4. At the Polling Place on Election Day: If you wish to register to vote at your polling place, you must bring proof of your residency.

Proof of Residence is required for any elector who is registering to vote on Election Day. See below for acceptable forms.

In-Person Absentee Voting at your Municipal Clerk's Office (Early Voting)

You can also vote absentee at your local municipal clerk's office. If you apply for an absentee ballot in your municipal clerk's office, or another designated location for in-person absentee voting, you will vote your ballot immediately in the clerk's office, seal your ballot in the proper envelope, and return it to a member of the clerk's staff. No ballots may be taken out of the clerk's office.

You will need to show your acceptable photo ID for voting when voting by in-person absentee ballot. More information about acceptable photo IDs can be found at www.bringit.wi.gov.

When can I Vote an In-Person Absentee Ballot?

Each city, village and town in Wisconsin is responsible for setting the dates and hours of in-person absentee voting for their municipality. To find the dates and hours for in-person absentee voting where you live, contact your municipal clerk.

Who is my Municipal Clerk?

The municipal clerk is the clerk for the City, Village or Town in Wisconsin where you reside. If you do not know who your municipal clerk is, or where the clerk's office is located, please use the MyVote Wisconsin website, myvote.wi.gov, to locate your clerk's contact information. You can also find your clerk by searching a list of all Wisconsin Municipal Clerk Contact Information.



LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

WISCONSIN
UNITED
TO
AMEND

We the People
insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote
and our Liberty, all order and establish this Constitution for the

La Crosse United to Amend – Overturn Citizens United

by Pamela and Gary Knudtson

La Crosse United to Amend is a local group working with Wisconsin United to Amend to bring the “We the People” resolution to a vote on the April 3, 2018 election. La Crosse United to Amend collected over 3600 signatures to call for this referendum and provide the residents of the city of La Crosse the opportunity to join 110 governments in Wisconsin, 760 communities across America, and 19 state legislatures to pass a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United.

The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution starts with the words, “We, the People.” However, Supreme Court decisions over the past 132 years have given personhood and “free speech” constitutional rights meant only for individuals to corporations, unions, nonprofits and super PACs. In addition, money spent to influence the political process cannot be limited. If we are truly to govern ourselves, we must remove the corrupting influence of big money (Think Koch brothers and Americans for Prosperity) on our political system. This goal of removing big money from politics aligns with the values and principles of the La Crosse County Democratic Party.

The goal of United to Amend is to reclaim our republic by placing limits on how much money can be contributed and spent in American elections to achieve a government of, by, and for the people. The amendment must make clear that corporations are not people, despite Mitt Romney’s famous statement in the 2012 presidential campaign. Only individual human beings enjoy constitutional rights. Furthermore, money is not speech, so limiting political spending levels the “playing field” to allow all Americans to participate more fully in the democratic process.

Finally, a special invitation: Wisconsin United to Amend-La Crosse and Viterbo University present an evening with Frances Moore Lappé on Monday, March 5, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the Viterbo University Fine Arts Center Main Theater. Ms. Lappé will discuss her 2017 book *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want*, coauthored with Adam Eichen. They tell the story of how our democracy has succumbed to the effects of money in politics and provide inspiring advice on the ways ordinary citizens can work to revitalize it. This event is free and open to the public and no reservations are required.

For more information about Wisconsin United to Amend, resources, and how to become involved, visit <http://wiuta.org/>.

3rd Congressional District Convention

LCDP delegates to the 3rd Congressional District Convention Delegates, Saturday, March 10, 2018, in Sparta are Sara Bentley, Jill Billings, Rosie Brooks, Vicki Burke, Steve Doyle, Peter Gorski, Loren Kannenberg, Ron Kind, Obbie King, Paul Cruse, Richard Morehouse, Rita Morehouse, Jennifer Schilling, Carolyn Smith, Kris Smuksta, Michael Smuksta, Jessica Thill, Cathy Van Maren, Jeff Wildt, J.D. Wine, Marcia Wine, David Wulf, Diane Oldani Wulf, and Xong Wiung.

Reduce the carbon footprint. Contact one another and carpool.

2018 3rd CD Elections

A member does not have to be present to be nominated or elected however, these particular positions do require convention attendance for both the CD and state conventions. The newly elected member will assume their duties following the state convention in June.

Elections for the following committee representatives to the DPW Platform and Resolutions Committee:

Committee Member for a 3-year term (inc. Jim Camery)

Committee Member – alternate for a 1-year term (inc. Craig Brooks, Buffalo Co)

Platform and Resolutions Committee Member & Alternate

These positions work mainly in the spring, collecting and preparing resolutions for discussion at our convention and then conducting that discussion. As part of the state P&R Committee, this same work is done for the state convention. This position requires attendance at the state level meetings, at the conventions, and at the 3rd CD Executive Committee meetings. The alternate attends when the other committee members cannot.

COME KICK UP YOUR HEELS AT THE LCDP ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOCIAL

Saturday, March 17th, 2018

5:00-8:00 p.m.

Earl's Grocery and Saloon
401 3rd Street South, La Crosse

Bring an appetizer
to share.

There is no
admission fee,
but donations are
gratefully accepted.



Our Elected Officials

Senator Tammy Baldwin

717 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: 202-224-5653, Fax: 202-224-9787

Senator Ron Johnson (R)

328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. Office Building
Ph: 202-224-5323

Congressman Ron Kind

1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: 202-225-5506, Fax: 202-225-5739

State Senator Jennifer Shilling

State Capitol 106 South
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53703-7882
Ph: 608-266-5490, Local: 608-782-2785

94th Assembly District Representative Steve Doyle

Room 124 North, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Ph: 608-266-0631 or 888-534-0094
Fax: 608-282-3694

95th Assembly District Representative Jill Billings

Room 4 West, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708
Ph: 608-266-5780

Governor Scott Walker (R)

Office of the Governor
115 East State Capital
Madison, WI 53702
Ph: 608-266-1212

LCDP Executive Board Officers

Co-Chairs: Michael Smuksta & Peter Gorski

608-784-4219 / 312-231-9884

Vice Chair: Dave Wulf

608-799-8977

Treasurer: Diane Oldani Wulf

608-780-7007

Secretary: Avery Van Gaard

608-769-1034

At-Large Board Members:

Sara Bentley
Austin Goodrich
Obbie King
Peter Klitzke
Greg Schams

Past Chairs: Susan Goeldner, J.D. Wine

College Representative: Stephanie Boebel (UW-L)



- Amy Twitchell won the Spring Democratic primary for the La Crosse County Treasurer's position. Congratulations to Amy and her opponent and fellow LCDP member Chad Hawkins. Don't forget to vote for Amy in the spring election, either by early voting or on Tuesday, April 3.
- Roz Schnick, LCDP liaison with the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW), for inviting Martha Laning, DPW Chair, to her New Direction meeting. It was a good discussion on many topics.
- Molly Ingalls, Regional Organizing Director, Southwestern WI, and the Onalaska Team of LCDP members who engaged in phone banking on Wednesday evening, February 21, in preparation for March canvassing.

Some Facts On Your LCDP Membership

The best and easiest way to renew your La Crosse County Democratic Party membership is through your local county treasurer. Once you are a member of the county, you are automatically a member of the 3rd Congressional District (3rd CD) and the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW). You need to submit membership dues only once a year to be a member of all three. It is unnecessary to submit duplicate memberships through the county and also through the state. If you have questions about your membership, please contact Diane Oldani Wulf, your current LCDP treasurer, at 608-780-7007, or at eap11111@aol.com.

We Welcome Your Input

Any thoughts or suggestions you may have for your Executive Board are greatly appreciated. You can express them by contacting any board member, either by phone or email.

Renewing Your Membership!

You can renew your membership using the membership form found at the end of this newsletter. If you are receiving this newsletter via mail, please look at your mailing label to see when your membership expires. Thank you for your continued support!

If you are receiving this newsletter in the mail and would prefer to receive it via email instead, please contact Diane Oldani Wulf at 608-780-7007 or eap11111@aol.com.



La Crosse County Democratic Party
P. O. Box 1861
La Crosse, WI 54602 -1861

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Authorized and paid for by the
La Crosse County Democratic Party,
Diane Oldani Wulf, Treasurer.
The contents herein are not authorized by
any candidate or candidate's committee.

For the LCDP to do the activities we want to do this year, we are going to need funding and volunteers. The party is only as strong as the engagement of its members and friends. And that is where you come in. We need you to volunteer and contribute. Please consider a contribution of any amount to help us provide the activities and events and broaden our base to prepare for 2018.

You may send a contribution to:
LCDP, P. O. Box 1861, La Crosse, WI,
54602-1861.
For online contributions go to our website
www.laxdems.com.

Thank you.

Become a member of the La Crosse County Democratic Party. Clip bottom of page and send to LCDP.

Received _____
Renewal Month _____

Please check the dues structure that applies:

- ☐ \$10 Senior, Student, Limited Income
- ☐ \$25 General Membership (1 member)
- ☐ \$35 Pairs (up to two members)
- ☐ \$45 yearly Activist (up to 3 members)
- ☐ \$75 yearly (family)
- ☐ \$120 Supporting Membership
- ☐ \$240 Friend
- ☐ \$600 Patron

I would like to support the LCDP with a donation of
\$ _____

Total Amount Paid \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

La Crosse County Democratic Party
P. O. Box 1861

La Crosse, WI 54602-1861

You may also donate online: www.laxdems.com.

Authorized and paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party, Diane Oldani Wulf, Treasurer

Name(s) _____
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Phone () _____
Email _____
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*Employer _____

Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Your contribution may be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

*Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

I recommend contacting as a possible member:

Name _____
Phone _____
Email _____