

## December 2018 Newsletter

### Mid-term Election Analysis

Democrats swept the statewide offices in the November 6 midterm election, with Sen. Tammy Baldwin winning reelection in a double-digit victory over Leah Vukmir, and Tony Evers (governor-elect), Mandela Barnes (lt. governor elect), Josh Kaul (attorney general-elect), and Sarah Godlewski (treasurer-elect) ousting Republican office holders. Also, Doug La Follette won re-election as Secretary of State. Assembly representatives for La Crosse County, Jill Billings and Steve Doyle won re-election. Unfortunately, although Democrats received 54% of the total votes cast for major party Assembly candidates, Republicans won 63 of the 99 Assembly seats - the result of the Republican gerrymandering after 2010.

At the national level, Democrats had a net loss of two Senate seats. In the House, Democrats won the popular vote 55 percent to 45 percent, gained 40 seats and the majority. Only Republican gerrymandering prevented larger Democratic House gains.

At the November LCDP meeting, Joe Heim, Professor Emeritus of Political Science / Public Administration at UW-L, provided an analysis of the 2018 midterm election results.

First, voter turnout was extremely high for a mid-term election in Wisconsin. Nearly 2.7 million individual's voters, approximately 60% of the voting age population, cast ballots. Higher turnout typically favors Democrats, and suggests that Democratic enthusiasm was higher than Republican enthusiasm. In La Crosse County, 85.41% of registered voters cast ballots.

Second, in the senate race, Sen. Tammy Baldwin ran an effective campaign that countered Vukmir's ads attempting to blame Sen. Baldwin for the VA Tomah opioid crisis. Baldwin focused on health care and Wisconsin issues. Baldwin's 55 percent to Vukmir's 45 percent provided some coattails for Evers and Barnes, and especially for Josh



### Upcoming Events

**The LCDP Holiday Social** will be held on Tuesday, December 18, at Earl's Grocery and Saloon back room, 401 3rd St. S., La Crosse, WI 54601 at 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Please bring a food item (e.g., appetizer, holiday cookies) to share with others. And, the LCDP will be paying for the first \$100 in drinks! Hope to see you there! Donations are gratefully accepted.

**LCDP Executive Board Meeting**, Monday, January 7, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., La Crosse

**LCDP Regular Meeting**, Monday, January 21, 2019, 6:30 p.m., Ho-Chunk Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., La Crosse

Kaul in the Attorney General's race.

As for the governor's race, Evers and Barnes outperformed Democrat Mary Burke's candidacy in 2014 in key Democratic counties of Dane, Milwaukee, and La Crosse. Evers / Barnes carried La Crosse County 56.24% to 41.23%. In contrast, Walker underperformed in the traditional Republican "WOW" counties of Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington in the Milwaukee suburbs. Evers also ran

a smart campaign focusing on health care, education, and infrastructure, issues of importance to Wisconsinites.

This pattern continued in down ballot races as well. Josh Kaul won La Crosse County 56.35% to 41.50% for Schimel in the Attorney General's race, and Sarah Godlewski defeated her Republican opponent in La Crosse County in the Treasurer's race, 57.43% to 39.91%.

Other interesting observations of the data nationwide show promising trends for Democrats heading into 2020. Women turned further away from the Republican Party. The change in women's vote, by party, from 2016 (vote for president) to 2018 (vote in House races) showed shifts of 6% to Democrats for all women, 10% for unmarried white women, and 13% for both white women with a college degree and white working-class women. As significant, Democrats gained 14% among white working class men. First time voters and millennials and Gen-Xers also broke for Democrats. So this is a solid base upon which to expand Democratic voter turnout.

### LCDP Executive Board Election

At the LCDP regular meeting on Monday, November 19, 2018, at the Ho-Chunk Nation Three Rivers House, 724 Main St., La Crosse, the 2019 Executive Board was elected.

Officers for 2019 are Michael Smuksta (Chair), Peter Klitzke (Vice Chair), David Wulf (Secretary), and Cathy Van Maren (Treasurer).

Elected to the five at-large seats for 2019 are Sara Bentley, Ed Burgess, Obbie King, Mark Neumann, and Avery Van Gaard. Peter Gorski, as co-chair in 2018, remains on the 2019 Executive Board, as does Stephanie Boebel, College Representative.

Thanks to outgoing Executive Board members Susan Goeldner, JD Wine (past chairs), Diane Oldani Wulf (treasurer), Austin Goodrich (at-large) and Greg Schams (at-large) for their service. Welcome to new board members Ed Burgess, Mark Neumann, and Cathy Van Maren.

# 2018 Year in Review

When the 2018 Executive Board assumed office, we were often asked, what does the LCDP stands for. The Executive Board made minor revisions to the principles written in 2017 and categorized these principles related to community, common good, and constitutional rights. The principles are posted on a revolving banner on the LCDP homepage, were printed on a 3' x 4' tri-fold for table displays, and several principles were included on "I'm a Democrat Fan" promotional material. Two by three foot copies of the principles were made and posted in entry windows to the LCDP office on 5th Ave S. These principles were important in highlighting how Democrats differed from Republicans by standing for the middle-class.



The LCDP increased its visibility in the community in many ways. The downtown office had a grand opening with Martha Laning, Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin, as guest. The LCDP participated in numerous tabling events, including Progresstival, a well-received booth at the LA Crosse Interstate Fair, Pride in the Park and Juneteenth Day on September 22 at the Southside Neighborhood Center, to name a few. We purchased and distributed promotional items,



including 1,000 silicone wristbands and 1,000 "I'm a Democrat Fan" handfans at community area parades, passing out 400 of these handfans at the



To everyone who participated in Get Out the Vote Weekend, a heartfelt thanks for all your hard work. This includes, but not limited to, canvassers, phone-bankers, working the reception desk, training canvassers, organizing the comfort station with food, donating food and beverages, driving voters to their polling location, delivering signs, or making a cash donation.

A special thanks to those who helped close down the office after Nov. 6. We left the office cleaner than when we moved in!

Maple Leaf Parade in September.

Our most important focus was on the 2018 midterm elections. Crucial to our success was the support of our membership. Our "Office for a Day" fundraiser covered almost two months rent of our downtown space. This freed up funds for promotional items as well as donations to the UW-L College Democrats and neighboring Democratic Wisconsin Assembly and Wisconsin Senate candidates. Invitations were sent to all the candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and treasurer to speak at our regular monthly meetings, the June picnic, the Grand Opening and our Fall Dinner. Members had the opportunity to engage in retail politics and ask questions of the candidates.



Sarah Godlewski, Democratic candidate for Treasurer, was our special guest at the Annual Fall Dinner in October.



The LCDP responded to many Baldwin and Evers campaign requests to have individuals speak or stand behind speakers on numerous occasions. We used our social media to encourage individuals to attend these events as well as the various fundraisers. Thanks to all who participated in any of the following: a Baldwin opioid event at Copeland Park, a Baldwin early vote press conference outside City Hall, an Evers Tour the State rally at the Pearl Street Brewery after the August primary, an Evers education media event at the LCDP office, an Evers appearance at the LCDP Office at the Grand Opening, and an Evers - Barnes - Kaul - Godlewski GOTV rally at UW-L, with 200 people in attendance.

Our hard work led to our success – a Democratic sweep of the statewide offices!

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## 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)**

## Posting of Unapproved Minutes

A couple of LCDP members have expressed an interest in receiving regular minutes prior to the next regular LCP meeting. If you want to receive the minutes early, please contact the LCDP secretary, Avery Van Gaard, at [averyvangaard@gmail.com](mailto:averyvangaard@gmail.com) or 608-769-1034. She will mail them as a PDF with an UNAPPROVED watermark. No hard copies will be sent.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 build upon its success in 2018 and continue activities into 2019, we are going to need volunteers and funding. The party is only as strong as the engagement of its members and friends. And that is where you come in. We have many opportunities for you to volunteer your skills. Also, please consider a contribution of any amount to help support activities and events to broaden our base.

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](http://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](http://www.laxdems.com).  
 Authorized and paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party, Diane Oldani Wulf, Treasurer

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

\*Contributions are not tax deductible for federal tax purposes. State law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, and occupation of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

I recommend contacting as a possible member:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_