

## April 2019 Newsletter

### 3rd Congressional District Convention in La Crosse!

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin 3rd Congressional District Convention (3rd CD) will be held on May 4, 2019, at the Lunda Center, Western Technical College, in La Crosse. Registration is from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. with the call to order promptly at 10:00 a.m.

La Crosse is allotted 61 delegates to the 3rd CD and State and conventions. As of April 1, thirty LCDP members have notified the LCDP chair of their intent to be a delegate. This does not include the five auto-delegates of our elected officials and the LCDP chair. A candidate for delegate or alternate must be a party member at least 14 days before the opening of the convention. For the 3rd CD Convention that date is Friday, April 19, 2019.

Thirty-one delegate slots remain. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact [chair@lax.dems](mailto:chair@lax.dems) or leave a message at 608-769-5286 or 608-784-4219 by Thursday, April 11, 2019. Delegates to the 3rd CD Convention are automatically delegates to the DPW State Convention at the Potawatomi Hotel and Casino in Milwaukee on Saturday, June 1 & Sunday, June 2, 2019.

If the number of delegate nominees is less than the 61 delegate



### Upcoming Events

**LCDP Executive Board Meeting**  
Monday, April 1, 2019, 6:00 p.m., Ho-Chunk Three Nations House, 724 Main St., La Crosse

**Spring Election for Wisconsin Supreme Court, local elections, and referendums**, including a La Crosse County advisory referendum on directing the Wisconsin legislature to create a non-partisan redistricting procedure. Tuesday, April 2, 2019, Polls open 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

**Budget Listening Session with WI Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling and WI Assembly Rep. Jill Billings**, Thursday, April 4, 2019, 5:30 p.m., at the Northside Policing Center, 713 St James St., La Crosse

**LCDP Regular Meeting**  
Monday, April 15, 2019, 6:30 p.m., Ho-Chunk Three Nations House, 724 Main St., La Crosse

**LCDP Volunteer Team at Habitat for Humanity Neighbor's Day**  
Register at Myrick Park, Saturday, April 27, 2019 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Work locations vary. See the information on p. 3.

**Democratic Party of the 3rd Congressional District of Wisconsin Annual Convention** Saturday, May 4, 2019, Western Technical College, Lunda Center, 319 7th St N, La Crosse, WI 54601, Registration, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Call to Order at 10:00 a.m.

allotment, all will automatically be delegates to the 3rd CD Convention and the State Convention. If the number of candidates for delegates

is greater than the 61 delegates allotted, members present at the April 15, 2019 LCDP regular meeting will vote for all the non-automatic delegates.

At the 3rd CD Convention, election of 3rd CD officers and committee representatives will take place. Other business will include adoption of resolutions to forward to the State Convention. It is also possible that the candidates for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Officers will be in attendance. Delegates will soon receive via email a packet information about the 3rd CD Convention.

**Volunteers to assist on various tasks are also needed. The LCDP needs at least six La Crosse volunteers to help with early morning room organization & set up, registration, monitoring the doors**



- To all the individuals who participated in canvassing or phonebanking related to the April 2 spring election.



April 2, 2019, is the Spring Election. Polls open 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Cast your ballot for the Wisconsin Supreme Court, local municipal and school board elections, and referendums, including a La Crosse County advisory referendum calling for a non-partisan redistricting procedure. The wording is “Should the Wisconsin legislature create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional district plans and maps?”

Go to <https://myvote.wi.gov> for an inclusive search tool that provides information regarding your municipal clerk's hours, polling location, and a sample ballot based on where you live.

## Leadership Development for Students of Color

Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes was the keynote speaker on February 23, 2019 at the annual Reflections of Ebony celebration on February 23, 2019, that the UW-L Black Student Unity sponsors. He spoke about the importance of students assuming leadership roles. Ticket proceeds for the dinner support funding for students to attend conferences developing their leadership skills as well as supporting a new scholarship for women of color.

So, if you want to support leadership development for students of color, please consider a donation to for students to attend the American Multicultural Student Leadership Conference (AMSLC) or the Multicultural Leadership Development Weekend. Make your check out to Office of Multicultural Student Services and write bsu/leadership in the memo line. Clip or print this paragraph and mail with the check to UW-L La Crosse, 1725 State St., Office of Multicultural Student Services, 1101 Centennial Hall, La Crosse, WI 54601.



## Governor Evers at the Bodega Brewpub!

Governor Tony Evers stopped at the Bodega Brewpub in La Crosse on Friday, March 8, 2019, to thank us for our hard work in electing him governor, as well as electing our statewide ticket of Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes, Attorney General Josh Kaul, and Treasurer Sarah Godlewski. Approximately 75 individuals greeted Governor Evers with an enthusiastic welcome.





## LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

### Restore tax fairness to middle class

By WI Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling  
(Reprinted from the La Crosse Tribune, February 24, 2019)

Wisconsin families are working harder than ever. But many are finding that no matter how much they sacrifice or how many hours they put in, they live every day on the verge of economic and financial insecurity.

The burden of rising student loan debt, the outsourcing of jobs and the ever-increasing costs of health insurance and child care are making it difficult for families to get ahead.

Despite these challenges, we know a path to success, and we don't have to look far for solutions.

It starts with restoring tax fairness for the middle class, closing tax loopholes for the wealthy and eliminating tax breaks for corporations that lay off workers and ship jobs out of state.

Gov. Tony Evers has made it clear that his state budget will include real tax relief for hardworking families by rolling back Republican tax giveaways to millionaires and corporations.

At a time when infant care costs more than tuition at a University of Wisconsin school, Republicans continue to defend tax giveaways for corporations that don't pay a single dollar in income taxes.

Think about that for a second: Corporations can claim a tax credit that isn't tied to job creation, and they pay nothing in income taxes. These are the same corporations that rely on Wisconsin's workforce, roads, hospitals and community services. Yet this credit lets them avoid their fair share of investments in our state.

Another loophole that has plagued municipalities of all sizes across the state is the dark-store loophole. This loophole allows large corporate retailers to shift their tax liability onto Main Street businesses and local homeowners. It's one of the reasons we saw a jump in property taxes last year.

Gov. Evers has vowed to close this loophole in his budget and prioritize tax fairness for seniors and working families.

Our economy works best when we level the playing field, strengthen communities, support local businesses and expand economic opportunities.

As we seek to build a brighter future for everyone in our state, Democrats are focused on the important issues at hand: sustainable tax relief for working families, seniors, small-business owners and family farms.

It's refreshing to be in a new era with a governor who is listening to the people and working to make our state a place where the next generation wants to live, work and raise a family.



### Habitat For Humanity

## NEIGHBORS DAY 2019 VOLUNTEER LCDP DAY OF SERVICE

Team leader: Pete Klitzke [plklitzke@gmail.com](mailto:plklitzke@gmail.com) or 608-780-6037. Please email, text or leave a voice message.

It's been a long cold, snowy winter!

Join other LCDP members, friends, and neighbors to clean up the yard of someone with a disability, help clean up the La Crosse River Marsh, or both!

Dress for the weather. Bring sturdy gloves and footwear.

#### Schedule

8:00am-9:00am	Registration at Myrick Park Center
8:00am-1:00pm	Work on assigned projects
11:30am-1:00pm	Lunch served at Myrick Park Center
1:00pm-3:00pm	Work on assigned projects

You can sign up for the morning, the afternoon, or the whole day. Sign up and bring a friend. There will be an LCDP get together at The Bodega immediately following Neighbors Day.



In

Memoriam

John Jenks

John Jenks, 86, of La Crosse died peacefully at home Sunday, March 17, 2019, surrounded by his family. He was a member of the La Crosse County Democratic Party. Our condolences to Rita, his wife, and family members. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. You can read the complete obituary at <https://obituaries.lacrossetribune.com/obituary/john-jenks-1932-2019-1073479667>

# What Is the Green New Deal? A Climate Proposal, Explained

(originally published in the NY Times, February 21, 2019;  
edited for space considerations)

By Lisa Friedman, a former editor at Climatewire, who reports  
on climate and environmental policy in Washington.

## What is the Green New Deal?

The Green New Deal is a [nonbinding] congressional resolution that lays out a grand plan for tackling climate change. ... [T]he proposal calls on the federal government to wean the United States from fossil fuels and curb planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions across the economy. It also aims to guarantee new high-paying jobs in clean energy industries.

## Will there be a vote on it?

Yes.

## What problem is the Green New Deal addressing?

The goal of the Green New Deal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to avoid the worst consequences of climate change while also trying to fix societal problems like economic inequality and racial injustice.

The resolution uses as its guide two major reports issued last year by the United Nations and by federal scientists who warned that if global temperatures continue to rise, the world is headed for more intense heat waves, wildfires and droughts.

The research shows that the United States economy could lose billions of dollars by the end of the century because of climate change. Currently, carbon emissions are rising, by 3.4 percent last year in the United States and by 2.7 percent globally, according to early estimates.

Supporters of the Green New Deal also believe that change can't just be a technological feat, and say it must also tackle poverty, income inequality and racial discrimination.

## What are its main provisions?

[H]ere, but here are the essential elements: ... the entire world needs to get to net-zero emissions by 2050 — meaning as much carbon would have to be absorbed as released into the atmosphere — and the United States must take a “leading role” in achieving that.

The Green New Deal calls on the federal government to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create high-paying jobs, ensure that clean air, clean water and healthy food are basic human rights, and end all forms of oppression.

To achieve those goals, the plan calls for the launch of a “10-year mobilization” to reduce carbon emissions in the United States. It envisions sourcing 100 percent of the country's electricity from renewable and zero-emissions power, digitizing the nation's power grid, upgrading every building in the country to be more energy-efficient, and overhauling the nation's transportation system by investing in electric vehicles and high-speed rail.

To address social justice, the resolution says it is the duty of the government to provide job training and new economic

development, particularly to communities that currently rely on jobs in fossil fuel industries.

## What doesn't it say?

Senator Tom Cotton of Arkansas has said the deal would force Americans to have to “ride around on high-speed light rail, supposedly powered by unicorn tears.” President Trump has claimed the Green New Deal will take away your “airplane rights.” ... And Senator John Barrasso, Republican of Wyoming and chairman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, warned that ice cream, cheeseburgers and milkshakes would be a thing of the past because under the Green New Deal, “livestock will be banned.”

The resolution doesn't do any of those things....The resolution does call on the federal government to make investments in policies and projects that would eventually change the way we design buildings, travel and eat. For example: cows. To reduce methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that cows and other livestock emit, the resolution proposes “working collaboratively with farmers and ranchers in the United States to eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural sector as much as is technologically feasible.”

## What's with the name?

The Green New Deal takes its name and inspiration from the major government makeover, known as the New Deal, launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to help the United States recover from the Great Depression. ...Like the original New Deal, the Green New Deal is not a single project or piece of legislation.

## What are the costs?

That's not clear yet....For now it's impossible to pin down dollar figures on the plan. ... Converting the country to 100 percent clean power? In Vermont alone, which has a goal of achieving 90 percent renewable energy by midcentury, the cost is estimated at \$33 billion. Yet the state is seeing job growth in clean energy sectors and expects the transition will spur cost savings for consumers.

Modernizing the electrical grid across the United States could cost as much as \$476 billion, yet reap \$2 trillion in benefits, according to a 2011 study issued by the Electric Power Research Institute....

## Do critics offer alternative proposals?

Some Republicans have called for a technology-oriented solution to climate change, but so far no critic has come out with an alternative that matches the scale or scope of the Green New Deal.

## How will the Green New Deal shape the debate?

There is going to be a lot more political jockeying around the Green New Deal in coming weeks and months. Republicans have already launched video ads trying to tie Democrats to the proposal, which they have described as “radical.”... At the same time, all of the attention on the Green New Deal has put new pressure on Republican critics to come up with their own plan for cutting greenhouse gases.

## Our Elected Officials

### **Governor Tony Evers**

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

### **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

## LCDP Executive Board Officers

### **Chair: Michael Smuksta**

608-784-4219

### **Vice Chair: Peter Klitzke**

608-780-6037

### **Treasurer: Cathy Van Maren**

608-315-2693

### **Secretary: David Wulf**

608-799-8977

### **At-Large Board Members:**

**Sara Bentley**

**Ed Burgess**

**Obbie King**

**Mark Neumann**

**Avery Van Gaard**

**Past Chair: Peter Gorski**

**College Representative: Adam Vlach (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, David Wulf, at davidpwulf@aol.com or 608-799-8977. He 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 Cathy Van Maren, your current LCDP treasurer, at 608-315-2693, or at treasurer@laxdems.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 David Wulf at 608-799-8977 or davidpwulf@aol.com.



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

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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

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

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

\*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.

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).

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I recommend contacting as a possible member:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_