

## June 2019 Newsletter

### The State Budget

Gov. Evers' budget is the People's budget for a reason -- this administration had hours upon hours of conversations with Wisconsinites in every part of the state to hear what everyday working people needed from their government.

Republicans in the legislature have dismissed much of Gov. Evers' proposals out of hand. So, in order to remind Republican legislators that the Gov. Evers' People's Budget is what their constituents want them to do based on the 2018 election, we are asking members to write Letters to the Editor about budget issues for the month of June. Two issues of importance are Medicaid expansion and increased funding for public education.

See the Spotlight feature on "Tips on Writing Letters to the Editor" on page 3. Some points to include in your letter are:

#### Medicaid Expansion

- In a recent Marquette Poll, 70% of Wisconsinites say they support Medicaid expansion, which would:
- Reinvest \$1.6 billion in federal dollars and state savings toward essential initiatives, such as maternal and infant health, expanding dental care, and



### Upcoming Events

**LCDP Potluck Picnic Fundraiser**  
Monday, June 17, 2019, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m., Copeland Park Enclosed Shelter

**Democratic Party Presidential Debate**, Wednesday and Thursday  
June 26-27, 2019, 8:00 p.m., NBC and MSNBC

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

increasing caregiver wages

- Save the state \$324 million while expanding BadgerCare eligibility to 82,000 Wisconsinites, fund mental

health initiatives, and implement the hub-and-spoke addiction treatment model

- Improve dental care access for low-income individuals and individuals with disabilities
- Enhance the health outcomes for mothers and infants

#### Education

- Republicans cut \$900 million from Gov. Evers' Education budget.
- Gov. Evers' proposed a \$1.4 billion investment in education, including a much-needed \$600 million investment in special education (which hasn't seen a funding increase since 2009).
- 55% support increasing funding for K-12 education.
- 73% of Wisconsinites support an increase in special education funding
- School districts around the state have had to pay for the increasing cost of special education services, in turn forcing local property owners to raise their own taxes.

- Sen. Chris Kapenga from Delafield stated that children with disabilities don't belong in our public schools



## 3rd Congressional District Convention in La Crosse

The Third Congressional District of the Wisconsin Democratic Party held its annual convention on Saturday, May 4, at the Lunda Center on the Western Technical College campus in La Crosse. One hundred and sixty-five delegates attended from 18 counties in the district.

Several elected officials from the Third Congressional District spoke to the delegates, including Rep. Steve Doyle, Wisconsin State Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shillings, and Wisconsin State Senator Jeff Smith. Candidates for the position of Chair of the Third Congressional District and candidates for the Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin also spoke to the delegates. Delegates also proposed and voted on resolutions to forward to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Convention which will be held in Milwaukee on June 1-2, 2019. These included support for non-partisan redistricting, Medicare for All, federal funds for Medicaid expansion, automatic voter registration, the repeal of corporate personhood, passing red flag laws, background checks on gun sales, expanding broadband coverage, funding public education, and raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour.

Newly elected officers are the following:

Chair - Bobbi Green (Eau Claire)

Admin Representative - Gary Hawley (Portage)

Secretary - David Wulf (La Crosse)

Treasurer - Dale Larson (Eau Claire)

Northern Section Vice-Chair - Ann Francis (Eau Claire)

Central Section Vice-Chair - Vicki Burke (La Crosse)

Southern Section Vice-Chair - Scott Champion (Vernon)

Eastern Section Vice-Chair - Marlo Fields (Portage)

(Section vice-chairs represent 4 or 5 counties.)

Platform & Resolution (3yr) - Judith Grose (Dunn)

Platform & Resolution Alt (1yr) - Craig Brooks (Buffalo)

They will officially take over immediately following the Wisconsin Democratic State Convention on June 2, 2019.



Sen. Jennifer Shilling at Third Congressional District Convention

### FIRST DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE OF THE 2020 ELECTION

— ★ —  
**JUNE 26 & 27  
LIVE FROM MIAMI, FL**

 NBC NEWS  MSNBC  TELEMUNDO

The first Democratic Party presidential debate will take place over two nights on NBC and MSNBC on Wednesday and Thursday, June 26-27, at 8:00 p.m. Consider inviting some friends for a debate watch get-together. Here are some websites with information about the candidates:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/us/politics/2020-presidential-candidates.html>

<https://publicintegrity.org/topics/federal-politics/elections/presidential-profiles-2020/>

<http://www.4president.us/2020websites.htm>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/04/29/us/politics/democratic-primary-debates-2020.html>

It is the policy of the LCDP to share area events from all primary candidates without endorsement.

If you know of any candidates' events taking place in our area, please send them to [chair@laxdems.com](mailto:chair@laxdems.com)



## LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

### Tips of Writing Letters to the Editor

**The goals.** Letters can impact public opinion about a bill under consideration, actions and statements by a politician, and general issues. But they also pressure politicians by shaping public opinion and making them accountable for their actions. This lays the groundwork for future elections.

**Be focused.** Write on one issue or topic.

**Be timely.** Respond promptly to an event or to an article just published in the paper, or refer to an upcoming event such as a vote. A response to an article is most likely to get published if it was on the front page and you disagree with what was said. If you do respond to an article, identify the date and the title.

**Be succinct.** The fewer words you can use to make your points the better. Make only a few points about the topic. This is particularly true since most papers have strict word limits, anywhere from 150 to 400 words. (Be sure you know what that limit is.)

**Be clear.** Make your point in a way that your position is easily understood. And this means using fairly simple sentences and vocabulary, in short paragraphs. Avoid jargon and acronyms, and be direct: avoid the passive voice.

**Be compelling.** You do this by being reasonable and informed, including one or two key, verified facts. At the same time, express some feeling about the topic and if possible bring in personal experience or human consequences to humanize your statement. Avoid personal attacks, exaggerations, and rants, which detract from your argument and make the letter less likely to be published.

**Name names.** If you refer to an elected official, give their full title and name. Or specify a particular corporation or government agency. If your letter mentions a politician gets published, send it to them with a brief cover letter.

**Structure.** There are various ways to organize a letter, but a good basic structure is the following:

- Make your first sentence fifteen words or less, state the

issue and your position and attitude.

- Make several points that support your position. It is often good to enumerate them: “First, . . .” These points may include refuting what someone else has said.

- Have a clear, simple conclusion. Usually it is best to conclude positively, placing your position within commonly held, American values. Also at the end, you may want to include some action that a politician or the readers should take.

**Identify yourself.** Include your name, address, and phone number.

**Be persistent.** Some excellent letters don't get published for various reasons. The more letters on a topic, and the more letters with a particular position on that topic, the more likely the editor will include one or more of them – so your letter maybe helped someone else get published. The smaller and more local the paper is, the more likely you will get published. Many papers limit writers to one published letter a month. Keep writing!

David Barnhill

“Patriotism is the exact opposite of nationalism. Nationalism is a betrayal of patriotism. In saying, 'Our interests first, whatever happens to the others,' you erase the most precious thing a nation can have, that which makes it live, that which causes it to be great and that which is most important: its moral values.”

~ *French President  
Emmanuel Macron*





Join us at

**The La Crosse County Democratic Party  
Potluck Picnic Fundraiser  
Monday, June 17 from 5 to 8 p.m.  
Copeland Park Enclosed Shelter**

Bring some food to share. Brats/Veggie Dogs/Beverages provided.

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$10/person (age 6 and under FREE)\*

**SPECIAL! Bring a NEW MEMBER and get TWO FOR ONE!**  
(\$10 donation for a current member and a new member)

**MUSIC \* GAMES \* 50/50 RAFFLE \* DOOR PRIZES \* MORE!**

If you want CHANGE in 2020 and beyond,  
NOW IS THE TIME to join the party and make change happen!

To reduce single use plastic, please **BRING YOUR OWN** tableware  
- plate, utensils, cup/water bottle

AUTHORIZED AND PAID FOR BY THE LA CROSSE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



- To the members who brought finger food and beverages for the social before the May 20th LCDP meeting.
- To Barb Clark for donating a basket and arranging the products from La Crosse County that the LCDP is providing for the DPW basket raffle at the DPW state convention.



July 17 - July 21, 2019

Sign up for a shift at the LCDP booth, at

<https://tinyurl.com/DemsAtFair-2019>

## Display Structures for Fairs and Tabling Events

We are planning to make some structures for displaying materials that are easy to assemble and take apart for use at the Interstate Fair and other tabling events. Ed Burgess, a union carpenter, is taking the lead on this project. If anyone has some of the following items and is willing to donate them to the project, contact Ed at [edwburgess@gmail.com](mailto:edwburgess@gmail.com):

2x3s x 8'

1x4s x 5' or 1x4s x10'

20 - 1/4" carriage bolts and wingnuts

## 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.

There are three ways to join through the LCDP:

1. Print and mail your check and the form (available also at [tinyurl.com/lcdpmbform](http://tinyurl.com/lcdpmbform))
2. Visit [laxdems.com/join-the-party](http://laxdems.com/join-the-party) and complete your application and payment online.
3. Come to a LCDP event and complete the process and payment in person.

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).

Paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party.

Received \_\_\_\_\_  
Renewal Month \_\_\_\_\_

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'm interested in learning more about DPW caucuses:

- ☐ American Indian Caucus  
☐ Black Caucus  
☐ Environmental Caucus  
☐ Labor Caucus  
☐ Latinx Caucus  
☐ LGBT Caucus  
☐ Progressive Caucus  
☐ Rural Caucus  
☐ Veterans' Caucus  
☐ Women's Caucus