

THE D EMOCRATIC VOICE



Absentee Voting by Mail Has Started – Make a Plan to Vote!

By Cathy Van Maren

Election day is November 3, but RIGHT NOW is the time to start Make a Plan for voting!

1. Make sure you're registered. Register completely or get started at myvote.wi.gov.
2. If you have not yet done so, request an absentee ballot now at myvote.wi.gov or mail the request form you can get at myvote.wi.gov to your municipal clerk.
3. When your ballot arrives via mail, take care of it right away. Read the instructions. Get the right kind of pen and identify who will be your witness. Mark it correctly. Seal it. Sign it. Date it. Have your witness sign on the witness line and put her or his COMPLETE address on the witness address line.
4. Return it. You can mail your ballot (you don't need a stamp) OR drop it in your municipality's ballot drop box if one's available. For city of La Crosse residents, the green ballot drop box is located on the north side of City Hall and west of the steps into City Hall.



For City of Onalaska residents, there is a white metal drop box in the east parking lot of City Hall or to the right of the east entrance door of City Hall.

October 2020 Newsletter

Note: if a link doesn't open, simply copy and paste in your browser.

Upcoming Events



Monday, October 5, LCDP Virtual Zoom Executive Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7, Vice-Presidential Debate, 8:00 p.m. CT

Tuesday, October 15, Second Presidential Debate, 8:00 p.m. CT

Monday, October 19, LCDP Virtual Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 22, Third Presidential Debate, 8:00 p.m. CT

Live Streaming – All the major news networks will offer a free live stream as will YouTube and Twitter.

TV Channels – Each debate will be broadcast live on C-SPAN, ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC, as well as all cable news channels including CNN, Fox News, Fox Business Network, and MSNBC among others.

5. TRACK your ballot on myvote.wi.gov until receipt by your clerk is confirmed.

6. Absentee in-person early voting. for the November 3 General Election begins Tuesday, October 20 through Friday, October 30, 2020. Each city, village and town are responsible for setting the dates and hours of in-person absentee voting for their municipality, though it can begin no earlier than 14 days before the election and ends no later than the Sunday before the election. To find the dates and hours for in-person absentee voting where you live, contact your municipal clerk. [https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk](http://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk)

By voting absentee or in-person early voting, you can take care of this very important civic duty easily and securely. And you can free your schedule to help others vote before or on November 3, Election Day.

If you have questions, CONTACT YOUR MUNICIPAL CLERK. (Find yours at [https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk](http://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/MyMunicipalClerk))

Other links with voter information:
<https://www.vote411.org/wisconsin>

League of Women Voters in La Crosse <https://www.lwv lacrosse.org/voter-information>

Driftless Voter Coalition-<https://www.driftlessvotercoalition.org/wi-voter-faq>

This non-partisan group can assist with voter registration, absentee voting, and being a witness to an absentee ballot. Scheduled events include:

Saturday, Sep. 26, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at City Hall Farmers Market: <https://facebook.com/events/s/register-request-witness/383626879700590>

Saturday, Oct. 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Riverside: <https://facebook.com/events/s/register-request-witness-morni/1009593236146763>

Saturday, Oct. 3, 4 p.m. -8 p.m. at Riverside: <https://facebook.com/events/s/register-request-witness-after/2751001911837175>

Call 608-620-3991 to arrange an absentee ballot witness if you can't come to these events.

LCDP Regular October 19 Meeting

Time: Oct 19, 2020 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)



Special Guest is
Felesia Martin,
DPW 1st Chair

There are Executive Board openings for officers (Treasurer, Secretary) and at-large positions. Nominations for the 2021 LCDP Executive Board will take place at the October meeting. The Nominating Committee will report the names of individuals who are willing to serve on the 2021 Executive Board. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the regular October meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86145301476?pwd=aCtZZ0J3TzhLQjZRcW9Yb0JvWE9uZz09>

Meeting ID: 861 4530 1476
Passcode: 286873
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,86145301476# US
(Germantown)
+13126266799,,86145301476# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/k7ZZpW7Hh>

Why We Fight

By Dave Wulf, LCDP Secretary

After 240 years of being a republic, you'd think by now that civility and fairness would be the norm. Unfortunately, beginning with Newt Gingrich in the 1990s, Republicans have devolved to a lower level of political conduct which is undermining the very foundations of our democracy. Lying and cheating to get their way is accepted practice. Woe to the ethical Republican office holder who speaks up against their leaders.

Republicans are drumming up age-old forms of hate to sow division among us. From ripping babies away from their parents and imprisoning families seeking asylum in horrible conditions, to referring to white supremacists as "very fine people" — and that's just from the President.

It's easy to feel deterred and defeated by it all. We must never shy away from doing what's right. That is why we must fight injustice and unfairness. It's unfortunate we have to fight to keep our basic right to vote, keep political interference out of the justice system and every other key government institution. The corruption by Donald Trump and his lackeys is outrageous. It will take years to clean up the mess he's made.

We have to fight for our American way. An America where we lift each other up instead of putting people down. An America where we cherish human rights around the world and at home.

Democrats have always been what we're fighting *for*, not *against*.

- We're fighting *for* health care for all because no one should ever be forced to choose between putting food on the table and critical, life-saving medication and care.
- We're fighting *for* an economy that works for working families not just the rich and powerful.
- We're fighting *for* safer communities, clean water and air, better education, immigration reform, reproductive freedom, and every child to have a shot at a happy, healthy life.
- We're fighting *for* our values and promises of truth, justice, decency, equality, and freedom.

If you don't fight against the forces of tyranny you'll get rolled over. Former Senator Paul Wellstone was a fighter for the common man and a hero. We keep his legacy alive by putting up the good fight.

2020 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Debate Schedule

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

8 pm to 9:30 pm CT

Vice Presidential Debate

Moderator: Susan Page (USA Today)

Vice President Mike Pence and Sen. Kamala Harris

The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Thursday, October 15, 2020

8 pm to 9:30 pm CT

Second Presidential Debate

Moderator: Steve Scully (C-SPAN)

President Trump and Former Vice President

Joe Biden

The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Miami, FL

Thursday, October 22, 2020

8 pm to 9:30 pm CT

Third Presidential Debate

Moderator: Kristen Welker (NBC News)

President Trump and Former Vice President

Joe Biden

Belmont University, Nashville, TN

Live Streaming – All the major news networks will offer a free live stream as will YouTube and Twitter.

TV Channels – Each debate will be broadcast live on C-SPAN, ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC, as well as all cable news channels including CNN, Fox News, Fox Business Network, and MSNBC among others.

Congressional and State Races Are Also Important

The presidential election garners the most attention in Wisconsin given the state's reputation as a battleground state. Nevertheless, there are important down ballot races that will affect Western Wisconsites directly in their every day lives. In the 3rd Congressional District, re-electing Rep. Ron Kind will prevent a Trump-supporting Republican extreme conservative from reducing the Democratic majority in the House.

There are three very important races at the state level: Steve Doyle's re-election to the 94th Assembly District, Jill Billings' re-election to the 95th Assembly District, and Brad Pfaff's election to the 32nd Wisconsin Senate District. If the Republicans flip just three Assembly and three Senate seats from Democratic to Republican, they will have a supermajority that can override any vetoes of Gov. Evers, including an even more gerrymandered map for the next 10 years.

Vote the down ballot races: Kind for Congress, Billings and Doyle for Assembly, and Brad Pfaff for the State Senate. And don't forget Ginny Dankmeyer for La Crosse County Clerk, Amy Twitchell For La Crosse County Treasurer, and Tim Gruenke for La Crosse County District Attorney.

America's Elections Demand Integrity

By Edward Johnson, LCDP Member

The cornerstone of a democracy is the people's right to elect their leaders. It is vital that our elections are safe and secure.

We expect that the government will disclose information and not lie to us. However, Donald Trump has told over 23,000 lies while he's been in office. He has used two methods to sow deceit. Misinformation is false information which might seem credible on the surface but does not hold up to further scrutiny. An example is when Trump says that it is safer to early vote than to vote absentee. It is actually the same thing. What is even more dangerous in an election year, is Disinformation. When Trump says that mail-in voting will produce fraud, he is undermining the integrity of our elections and setting the stage for a contested election. Every eligible voter should have the right to determine how they will exercise their right to vote, whether by absentee ballot by mail, absentee in-person early voting, or in person on election day. Trump is aware that most of the mail-in voting is done by Democrats. He wants Democrats to believe their vote won't count.

The truth about voter fraud is that it is essentially non-existent. In April 2020, a 20-year voter fraud study by MIT University found the level of fraud "exceedingly rare" since it occurs only in "0.00006 percent" of instances nationally, and, in one state, "0.000004 percent — about five times less likely than getting hit by lightning in the United States.

In this campaign season, we have to be on the lookout for what could be disinformation and misinformation. This especially important as many individuals get their news from social media that are often rife with hoaxes, rumors, conspiracy theories and misleading news.

It's important for us to be vigilant. We should be able to recognize misinformation and disinformation when we see, hear, or read them. We can read beyond the headlines. We can check more than one source or go to sites like snoops.com and factcheck.org. Because our democracy demands a free press, we need to take the time to sift through the news to determine what is really the truth. By doing this, you will vote responsibly, ethically, and morally and fulfill your civic duty.

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

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

La Crosse County Clerk
Ginny Dankmeyer (Democrat)
(608) 785-9581

La Crosse County District Attorney
Tim Gruenke (Democrat)
(608) 785-9604

La Crosse County Treasurer
Amy Twitchell (Democrat)
(608) 785-9711

LCDP Executive Board Officers

Chair: Michael Smuksta
608-769-5286

Vice Chair: Ed Burgess
608-799-1944

Treasurer: Cathy Van Maren
608-315-2693

Secretary: David Wulf
608-799-8977

At-Large Board Members:

William Garcia
Obbie King
Peter Klitzke
Ralph Knudson
Avery Van Gaard

College Representative: Savannah Zuzick (UW-L)



Office Cubicles for Sale or Donation

The LCDP has a set of cubicles that were used in past election years. We need to remove them from Steve Doyle's garage where the cubicles were stored. If anyone is interested or knows a business or organization that might have a use for the cubicles, contact the chair at 608-769-5286 or lcdpwi@gmail.com.

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

Paid for by the La Crosse County Democratic Party. The contents herein are not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

For the LCDP to build upon its success in 2019 and continue activities into 2020, 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.

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)
2. Visit 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.

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