

THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE

February 2021 Newsletter

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

LCDP Membership Is a Worthwhile Investment

by Dave Wulf

Strong efforts by the LCDP were key to Democrats sweeping the top four statewide offices in 2018 as well as securing narrow Wisconsin victories for Biden/Harris and Brad Pfaff (SD-32) in 2020. The LCDP also helped elect progressives Rebecca Dallet and Jill Karofsky to the WI Supreme Court to counter the conservative tilt of the court.

If you like having good public schools, good roads, clean air and water, affordable health care, unsuppressed voting rights, women's rights, et al, then an annual membership in the LCDP is a low-cost investment to fight for the above. Unfortunately, all of the above things, and more, are under constant attack by conservative Republican legislators and their special interest supporters. The Democratic party can stand up to these assaults on good governance with your help.

Membership Benefits

Turning Wisconsin Blue. Party members care about electing Democrats at all levels, in all corners of the state. Since the Party works on behalf of all Democratic campaigns, large and small, every membership helps turn Wisconsin blue. Let's work to defeat terrible Republican senator Ron Johnson in 2022!

Staying Informed. Be among the first to hear about local, state, and national issues affecting Democrats. However you like to access information – online, by letter or via your cellphone – we will help you stay informed and engaged in a way that speaks to you. As a member, you will have access to an ever-growing amount of exclusive content.

Joining the Community. Your membership instantly adds you to a community of like-minded individuals, giving you access to thousands of other Wisconsinites who have similar points of view. From County Party meetings to the State Convention, members are provided with a variety of opportunities to connect

Upcoming Events



LCDP Executive Monthly Board Meeting, Feb 1, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94686543184?pwd=RnRCVUdUVGVVHQ092VkJ2SXBMd0FCZz09>

LCDP Regular Monthly Meeting, Feb 15, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada) Register in advance for this meeting: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtcu6vrDwjHNEicIsT7jEjouY9MlzREYgc>

LCDP Exploration of Racism Discussion Group, Feb 22, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada) Register in advance for this meeting: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtcu6orDguGdRqkdCKstbugDDEfUB7adpa>

with one another.

Getting Involved. Members have access to activist trainings, volunteer opportunities and avenues for making their voices heard. We'll provide you with ways to get involved, and you choose what is right for you. Members also help shape the Party's future by choosing its Platform and voting in Party elections.

Your membership fee supports Democrats on all levels, in all corners of the state. A portion of your membership goes straight to your local County Party, directly benefiting Democrats in your area. Membership fees help the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) keep Party offices open year-round and our organizers working around the state. DPW depends on memberships to fund their daily operations, even in off-election years.

To renew your membership or join the LCDP, please refer to the back of this newsletter.

Our Legislature is Failing Us

By Ron Malzer

"Republicans (in the Wisconsin legislature) haven't taken COVID-19 seriously from the beginning, and they still aren't now more than 280 days since they last sent a bill to the governor's desk." *Britt Cudaback, spokesperson for Gov. Tony Evers, on January 22.*

"I haven't seen anything that I'm real excited about. ... I'm not real keen about that stuff." Incoming Senate President Chris Kapenga (R-Delafield), explaining in November to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel why he would not even consider Gov. Evers' \$541 million proposal for COVID-19 impact relief.

Last November, Gov. Tony Evers proposed a critically-needed economic relief package. It was immediately blocked by then-incoming State Senate President Chris Kapenga, and GOP State Assembly Leader Robin Vos. On the day prior to the Republicans' announcement of refusal to consider this relief measure, 92 Wisconsin residents died of COVID-19. Unemployment here and throughout the country has been spiraling out of control in 2020; as of December, nearly ten million people had been added to the ranks of the unemployed. COVID was and is wreaking havoc on restaurants and other small businesses.

Yet despite impassioned pleas from both President-Elect Biden and Governor Evers for all of us to work together to save lives and protect family livelihoods, Republican leaders continue to play the politics of anti-government. President Biden took office to find that the preceding administration had never developed a vaccine distribution strategy, instead putting full energy into disseminating falsehoods about the pandemic and the election.

This "anti-government" approach claims the following as "successes": getting the four conservative Wisconsin Supreme Court justices to strike down an

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Evers public health protection decree; nine months of doing nothing to write their own bill; and, taking their cue from Senator Ron Johnson, working to undermine all science-backed COVID prevention strategies.

Just this passed, another anti-masking bill.

Actions based on extreme anti-government ideology have cruel consequences, for red and blue voters alike. Most Wisconsinites reject the Republican anti-masking policy as failing to meet common sense. Economic relief is badly needed by many, but Republicans in the legislature are nearly immune from being voted out of office. In 2011, they created, behind closed doors, a districting map using “cracking and packing”, insulating most current Wisconsin Republican politicians from the will of the majority.

Blocking COVID relief action has not been the only destructive item on the agenda of our GOP legislators. Brought into special session November 2019 by Governor Evers to close wide loopholes in our gun background-check provisions of the law, Republicans arrogantly chose to close the session without a single minute of debate. The vast majority of Wisconsinites want weapons out of the hands of those with a history of dangerous and threatening behavior. The Republican legislators went home pleased that they had once again “succeeded” in preventing our state government from doing what is reasonable and necessary to make us safer.

We as members of the public whose lives and livelihoods are at risk need to do two things. First, we need to contact Senate President Chris Kapenga and State Assembly Leader Robin Vos to demand that they switch from working against the public health, to following the impassioned plea of the Wisconsin State Medical Society to work for it.

And second, we need to join in the work of Wisconsin Fair Maps, to assure that we are not once again stuck for a decade with a legislature that neither represents the interests of its citizen constituents, nor works to protect the lives and livelihoods of those of us who live anywhere in this great state.

Let the Wisconsin Medical Society have the final word: We need to do all we can to prevent more deaths and help our economy return to normal. “We ask all of our government leaders to support physicians and other front-line health care workers by promoting mask-wearing as an effective tool against COVID-19.”

Municipal Primary elections will be held Tuesday, February 16. See the La Crosse County Clerk Elections Page for more information. <https://www.lacrossecounty.org/countyclerk/elections.asp>

The Fair Maps Coalition is working to ensure that the new election maps in Wisconsin are not gerrymandered in 2021. Check out more of their excellent work at <https://www.fairelectionsproject.org/fair-maps-wi/>

The La Crosse County Democratic Party created a Voter Guide for the 2021 La Crosse Mayoral Candidates. While the LCDP does not endorse in non-partisan primaries, we created this guide to allow our members and community to hear each candidate’s vision for La Crosse. You can find the 2021 LCDP La Crosse Mayor Voting Guide at <https://laxdems.com/la-crosse-mayoral-information-guide>



• We would like to thank LCDP members Jan Fischer, Janis Hanson, and Margaret Wood for helping audit the party's 2020 financial records. The auditors found the 2020 financial records to be true and accurate.



EXECUTIVE BOARD SPOTLIGHT



RON MALZER

I’m Ron Malzer. I’m new to the Executive Board of the Democratic Party, but not at all new to promoting Democratic candidates and principles.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, I started my political involvement at age 14, knocking on doors for a Democratic gubernatorial candidate. During my junior year of high school, I

took advantage of the opportunity of a lifetime to see and hear a speech at Villanova University by Dr. Martin Luther King. In the summer of 1968, just after graduating high school, I headed to Chicago in 1968 as a volunteer of the “Clean for Gene” McCarthy presidential campaign and the anti-Vietnam War movement.

After graduating college from the University of Pennsylvania in 1972, life took me to Berkeley, California for two years, and then to Chicago, where I lived for 19 years. There I was pleased to volunteer for the campaign of Harold Washington, who became Chicago’s first African-American mayor.

My wife, my two children, and I came to La Crosse in 1993, where I took a position as a psychologist and family medicine educator at St. Francis/Mayo, and where my wife worked as an Employee Assistance counselor. My son, after graduating from Central High School, went on to become an attorney, and works now as a project leader for an international consulting firm. My daughter is in her second year as a family medicine resident.

If you are a reader of the La Crosse Tribune or the Madison Cap Times, you may recognize my name or my picture: the two outlets between them publish about 15 Op-Ed columns of mine each year. I look forward to bringing my writing skills to the La Crosse County Democratic Party, as well as working in synch with a group of great people pushing hard to get and keep people in power who will work for racial, social, and environmental justice.

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

32nd District State Senator Brad Pfaff

State Capitol 22 South
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707
Ph: 608-266-5490, Sen.Pfaff@legis.wisconsin.gov

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: William Garcia

608-769-5286

Vice Chair: David Wulf

608-799-8977

Treasurer: Merry Kocar

608-512-5253

Secretary: Diane Wulf

608-780-7007

Past Chair: Michael Smuksta

At-Large Board Members:

Terry Benson

Ed Burgess

Fred Giese

Ralph Knudson

Ron Malzer

College Representative: Savannah Zuzick (UW-L)

Follow the LCDP on



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@lacrossedems

and



Instagram

@lacrossedems

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 lcdpwi@gmail.com or 608-769-7286. A PDF of the minutes with an UNAPPROVED watermark will be sent to you. 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 lcdpwi@gmail.com or 608-769-7286.

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 lcdpwi@gmail.com or 608-769-7286.



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.

As the LCDP prepares for 2021 and beyond, your membership and participation are more important than ever. Your membership fees help fund the LCDP office and infrastructure, community outreach, candidate recruitment and campaign assistance up and down the ballot. Membership also gives you a voice in the operations and policy of the Wisconsin Democratic Party and the National Democratic Party platform. There is always a need for volunteers, and we can always find a way for you to help.

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