

THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE

September 2021 Newsletter

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

Democrats Promote Infrastructure, Celebrate Medicare Anniversary

by Ron Malzer

President Biden & Senator Schumer Advance Infrastructure Deal

Democratic President Biden and a bipartisan coalition of U.S. Senators have reached an agreement on the details of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal — a once-in-a-generation investment in our country's infrastructure. It will represent an investment in our future of about \$1 trillion.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal represents the largest federal investment in public transit ever, the largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak, and makes the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. The legislation will create good paying union jobs, deliver clean drinking water to millions of families, and ensure every American has access to reliable high-speed internet.

President Biden's bill builds on Gov. Evers' historic investments in Wisconsin's infrastructure. Between 2019 and 2020 alone, there were repairs made to over 1,000 miles of highway and more than 800 bridges have repairs completed or underway.

There is a group of Republicans, thankfully too small to mount a filibuster, determined to grandstand for the Trump-dominated GOP and create pointless delays in the passage of the bill. Their position: If Democrats are for something, no matter how

Upcoming Events



LCDP Executive Committee Meeting:
Sep 6, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96620303875>

Pride in The Park, Saturday, September 11 beginning at 11am Riverside Park. Join us at the LCDP Booth

LaX Waking Up White Collaborative Events:

Racial Healing Across Segregated Places and "Midwest Nice" Faces

Follow Amanda on her journey of navigating, naming, and disrupting the polite racism that is seeped into every corner of the most racially segregated state of Wisconsin. From colorblindness to conflict-averse culture, Amanda will highlight barriers for achieving racial justice and the collective healing that must take place along the way.

Sunday, September 12 at 1 p.m. at the Weber Center for the Performing Arts, 428 Front St. S., La Crosse, WI. Presentation in person and streaming will be available.

LCDP Monthly Membership Meeting
Time: Sep 20, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada) at the Concordia Ballroom or Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/94140042855?pwd=OEFXOE dlYjJld0Z0SjZuRTI3OVITQT09>

vitaly needed it is in America, we are against it. Their mindless opposition to upgrading our infrastructure is a threat to the quality of life of us all.

Message to the US Senate on the infrastructure bill: "Get 'er done." Then on to the larger, more transformative part of the package.

This month's Monthly Membership meeting will be held In-Person as well as via Zoom!

The Monday, September 20th meeting of the LCDP will be held in-person at the newly-remodeled, historic Concordia Ballroom at 6:30pm. The meeting will also be broadcast over Zoom, allowing for greater flexibility of access.

Please, make sure you have waited 10 days past your final vaccination shot before attending in person. We will also ask everyone to wear masks per CDC guidelines.

Register for the Zoom here: <https://zoom.us/j/94140042855?pwd=OEFXOEdlYjJld0Z0SjZuRTI3OVITQT09>



LCDP Fall Dinner and Fundraiser!

The LCDP Fall Dinner and Fundraiser will be held Saturday, October 30 from 5-9 pm at the newly remodeled, historic Concordia Ballroom. Our featured speaker will be Rep. Francesca Hong; the first, and only, Asian-American elected to serve in the Wisconsin Legislature. Also featured will be the Democratic Elected Officials from around La Crosse County.

Tickets are \$25 each and include dinner. Vegetarian, Vegan and Gluten-Free options will be available. RSVP at this link: <https://forms.gle/3Ci19bUhYMBXDX5WA>



Afghan Refugee Assistance

As Fort McCoy continues to receive Afghan refugees, many people have wondered how they can help. It appears 1300 Afghans have already arrived at Ft. McCoy, with many others coming this way very soon. This guide is what I know so far about ways we can help. I will update this list as new information becomes available:

Financial Contributions:

The Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse is the best place for up to date information. Their website is: <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance>.

The Catholic Charities have set up the following links to help raise money and materials. Donated items will be necessary in the future, but, right now, the Red Cross is only accepting new items. At the Catholic Charities website above you will find links to:

- Give a financial contribution to Catholic Charities' Afghan mission.
- An Amazon Shopping list, built by Catholic Charities, which allows you to buy needed material and have it shipped directly to those in need.
- Target Gift Registry, built by Catholic Charities, which allows you to buy needed materials and have them shipped directly to those in need.

Money is especially needed, but other items in high demand are Underwear (women & children), Socks (women & children), Sweatpants (men, women, & children), Prayer mats (can be yoga mats), Ponchos, Clothespins, Diapers, Backpacks for Children, Flashlights and Baby onesies and sleepers.

Othman bin Affran Mosque

Othman bin Affran is a mosque in Onalaska, and they are accepting financial contributions to help with the spiritual needs of the incoming Afghans. They will be in need of copies of the Koran and prayer rugs.

Send donations to : Othman bin Affran Mosque. PO Box 275. Onalaska, WI. 54650
Or Venmo: @OBA-Mosque-LaCrosse

Rotary in Wisconsin has established the Wisconsin Afghan Fund. Donations can be sent to Rotary District 6250 Foundation Inc. % Treasurer Val Schroeder. 1723 Chadbourne Ave. Madison, WI. 53726. Indicate on the check the funds are for the Wisconsin Afghan Fund.

Nooneleft.org is a non-profit working to get Afghan allies to safety. You can contribute at their website.

Volunteering:

You can sign up with Catholic Charities to volunteer at this link: <https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?ap=624214508>. Right now, they are requesting that volunteers be willing to give at least a week's work of time, as the background check to get onto Ft. McCoy is extensive.

Ugetconnected.org is a website set up by the La Crosse United Way to find volunteers in the area.

Other information and possible action steps:

City and County Officials in La Crosse, Viroqua and La Crosse County are working on resolutions welcoming Afghans to our community. Please contact your elected officials and ask that they support these resolutions.

Now is the time to start thinking about LCDP Officers for 2022

Every year, LCDP elects a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and 5 At-Large members of the Executive Board.

The Chair typically forms a nomination committee in September to recruit candidates for LCP officers and presents these recommendations to the LCDP Membership at the October monthly meeting.

Additionally, LCDP rules state that nominations for LCDP Officers and the Executive Board will occur at the October meeting, with voting happening at the November meetings. A person may nominate themselves or another person for a position, and all nominations require a second to be placed on the ballot. All nominees for office are given an opportunity to speak at the November meeting, right before the election.

If you are interested in running, joining the nomination committee or would like more information, call William Garcia at 608-769-5286 or email chair@laxdems.com.

Letter Writing Initiative



LCDP Executive Board Member Ron Malzer is spearheading an Op-Ed/Letter to the Editor initiative with LCDP. We will be having weekly (at a minimum) articles that discuss news and opinions about La Crosse and Wisconsin politics. See the articles on our social networks or at <https://laxdems.com/category/news>.



LCDP Podcast

Have you checked out The LCDP podcast, The Democratic Voice, produced in conjunction with WIZM news? Listen and subscribe for opinions and updates of what is happening in La Crosse. <https://www.wizmnews.com/the-democratic-voice-with-william-garcia/>



From Exec Board Member Ralph Knudson

During the first half of 2021, a small group of La Crosse County Democrats has been looking at racism and antiracism by reading and discussing books. The monthly focus on this important issue has helped us look at how we have helped perpetuate a system that advantages some and deeply disadvantages others and how we can take action, individually and collectively, to dismantle this system.

Our group will now fold into an ongoing regional initiative, developed and led by the Waking Up White Collaborative, to learn about racism, white privilege, and antiracism. The Waking Up White Collaborative is comprised of leaders within our local community; people of color and white people who have worked together for the last 2 years to develop and implement this initiative.

On August 16, the La Crosse Waking Up White Collaborative and the La Crosse Public Library kicked off a Regional Community Read of the book, *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving. The book focuses on Irving's growing awareness of her white privilege, our national history of racist policies which have created it, and her thoughts, insights and responses to that challenge. It's a powerful, compassionate book which raises further interest and questions. From September through November, the Waking Up White collaborative will host a series of book discussions and programs to help community members learn and grow a healthier multicultural community.

We urge all La Crosse Democrats to participate in this important program. The issues and values are entirely consistent with Democratic values and affect political policy in many crucial areas; locally, regionally and nationally. The opportunity to show up and interact for meaningful learning, and to build important alliances towards justice action within our community has unique potential with this initiative. If not now....when?

We can all start by acquiring and reading the book, now available in local bookstores. Books will be available at regional libraries beginning August 16, including book club kits for those wishing to join with others. Programs will start in mid-September, some led by LCDP members.

For more details, please visit <https://www.laxwakingupwhite.com/waking-up-white-regional-read.html>

"Not everything we face can be changed. Nothing can be changed until we face it". James Baldwin.



Pride in the Park

Join the 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection for their Pride in the Park event. Saturday, September 11 at Riverside Park, beginning at 11am. More information can be found at <https://fb.me/e/2kPSWTBqQ>

The LCDP will have a booth for the event. Come say hello or email chair@laxdems.com if you would like to volunteer to work a shift at our booth.

Get Your LCDP T-Shirt



We have ordered another batch of our wonderful T-Shirts, as they have been selling so well. Super comfortable and with an excellent message. The cost is \$10 per shirt and we have sizes from S-4XL. Order yours today by visiting <https://forms.gle/k1Xkn9sEdJNqnXYM7>. Fill out the form and we will contact you ASAP to arrange shirt drop-off.

Upcoming DACA Scholarship Fundraiser

Lots more details to come but make a note that on September 26th from 12 to 4pm, there will be a fundraiser to support scholarships for DACA students at Western Technical University. The fundraiser will take place at Mexical Restaurant downtown. This is a joint program between Region 5 and the Coulee Region Immigration Task Force.

Justice Delayed for Trump is Justice Denied

By Dave Wulf

During his four years as America's clown President, Donald Trump was shielded from prosecution by the office of the presidency. Those protections legally went away once he became a civilian again. In addition to an open investigation into potential financial crimes in New York City, there are a number of potential criminal acts for which Trump could be prosecuted at the federal level. These include obstruction of justice, tax evasion, bribery and campaign finance law violations. Despite seven months having passed since Trump left office, he has not been indicted on a single charge.

No former president has been prosecuted in American history which may explain why Attorney General Merrick Garland has yet to announce a criminal indictment of Trump who fomented an angry mob insurrection on January 6, 2021. Even today, he maintains the election was stolen from him which stokes dangerous divisions in our country.

Advocates for prosecuting Trump say his actions threatened the stability of U.S. democracy and cannot go unpunished. They argue moving on for the sake of national unity would undermine the American ideal that no person is above the law and may set the stage for even more egregious criminality by presidents in the future.

Opponents (you guessed it – Republicans) say prosecuting Trump would set off a partisan circus that would further divide the country and make it impossible for Congress to get anything else done. Biden was elected on a message of healing a fractured nation. To do that, he must resist the pressure from within his party to settle old scores, they say. There are also legal questions as to whether some of Trump's most controversial acts actually amounted to crimes that would result in federal conviction. Former federal prosecutors have stated on CNN and MSNBC, however, that Trump clearly cross the line into criminal behavior.

Why Trump must be prosecuted:

- A pattern of executive corruption must be broken
- Future presidents would see themselves as immune if Trump isn't punished
- The president isn't above the law
- Laying out Trump's misdeeds would weaken his hold over the U.S. electorate
- The American public expects Biden to hold Trump accountable
- Investigations must go beyond just Trump

This was the most corrupt Administration in American history. No one is above the law. Our democracy is on the line. If we don't prosecute Trump and his allies for blatant misbehavior, future Presidents will be emboldened to weaken democratic norms with autocratic behavior.

W I S D E M S

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN

From WisDem Chair Ben Wikler

If you care about American democracy, here's why you should be obsessed with Wisconsin:

Trump's plan for 2024 involves stealing or overturning the election results. And he knows he can't do that without Wisconsin.

The first thing to understand is that Trump is, in fact, laying the groundwork to run for president again in 2024... and then to take office even if he loses. The key to this plan involves passing anti-democracy laws ahead of 2024 – in Wisconsin and other states – to make overturning the nationwide election results possible.

But in Wisconsin, Trump's plan runs into a pro-democracy brick wall by the name of Governor Tony Evers. Gov. Evers vetoed the GOP's voter suppression bills earlier this month – effectively puncturing the GOP's coup balloon. This decisive veto by Governor Evers potentially saved American democracy. But it also has Republicans in a frenzy.

The Wisconsin GOP's attacks on the 2020 election have become a grim circus. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos hired a team of conspiracy theorist ex-police officers and a right-wing former state Supreme Court justice to "investigate" the election. Then, GOP Rep. Janel Brandtjen issued unenforceable subpoenas & announced her own sham review. And if that weren't enough, two other "investigations" are also underway, equally driven by the Big Lie.

Here's the thing to remember: these "investigations" are not about uncovering the truth. They're about creating a pretext to pass anti-democracy laws. These sham investigations won't change any reasonable voter's mind. But they do essentially guarantee that if a Republican becomes governor in Wisconsin, they'll sign bad bills into law.

Rebecca Kleefisch – the Walker-warmed-over former Lt Governor – has already vowed as much.

This makes Wisconsin's 2022 Governor's race one of the country's most vital races. If we don't reelect Gov. Tony Evers, small-d democracy will be in jeopardy across the entire United States.

Donate now to protect democracy in Wisconsin (and the United States)

Wisconsin Democrats are committed to reelecting Governor Evers and protecting voting rights for every Wisconsinite. Our year-round organizing strategy is already in full-swing. We've got dozens of organizers on the ground across the state, today, working with local neighbor-to-neighbor teams to build a grassroots juggernaut for next year. But we need to grow our team even more, and your support helps us do that.

The stakes are high, but if we can stop the GOP here, they won't be able to overturn 2024.

Thank you for supporting democracy here and across the nation.

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: Vacant

Treasurer: David Wulf

608-799-8977

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: Jenna Dinkel (UW-L)

dinkel4642@uwlax.edu

Follow the LCDP on



twitter

@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 608-769-5286. 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 608-769-5286.

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 608-769-5286.

La Crosse County Democratic Party



LaxDems.com

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.

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

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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