

# THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE

## October 2021 Newsletter

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

### Elections for the 2022 La Crosse County Democratic Party Officers and Board Are Fast Approaching!

Please consider joining us as we work in 2022 to ensure Democratic victories in this crucial election year. If you have any questions, or would like to be considered, contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee.

#### 2022 Officers:

All officer and executive board positions will be up for election. These include four Officer positions: Chair (Co-Chairs), Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary; as well as five At-Large Executive Board members.

#### The 2021 Nominating Committee:

William Garcia - [chair@laxdems.com](mailto:chair@laxdems.com) - 512-660-2610

Diane Wulf - [secretary@laxdems.com](mailto:secretary@laxdems.com) - 608-780-7007

Ron Malzer - [ronsaturday@gmail.com](mailto:ronsaturday@gmail.com) - 608-498-9002

#### The Process:

September 27 - October 11: Anyone interested in serving on the 2022 Board should contact one of the members of this year's nominating committee. The committee will verify that you meet the qualifications for office and are interested in being on the ballot.

**Monday, October 18:** At the October LCDP Regular meeting, the Nominating Committee will present the names of all people interested in running for LCDP office to the full membership. The membership is also able to nominate members from the floor at this time. No nominations will be considered after the

### Upcoming Events



**LCDP Monthly Exec Board meeting**  
Oct 4, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)  
<https://zoom.us/j/96620303875>

**LaX Waking Up White Collaborative**  
LCDP members wishing to continue or begin their exploration and education about racism and antiracism are encouraged to register for one or more of the programs offered through November by the La Crosse Waking Up White Collaborative: <https://www.laxwakingupwhite.com/>

**Local Policing Lunch and Learn**  
Tuesday, October 12 11:30-1 pm, Zoom  
Join the League of Wisconsin Women Voters of the La Crosse Area as they host Sheriff Jeff Wolf and Chief Shawn Kudron to discuss challenges, opportunities, and future directions for policing in the La Crosse Area.  
**WUW Note:** Prior to attending the event, you may want to read up on the history of contemporary policing and the roots of white supremacy and racism. Below are a few reading suggestions:

- Race and White Supremacy in American Policing
- What 100 Years of History Tells Us About Racism in Policing

**LCDP Monthly Membership Meeting**  
Oct 18, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)  
<https://zoom.us/j/94140042855?pwd=OEFXOEEdlYjJlId0Z0SjZuRTI3OVITQT09>

meeting is adjourned.

**Monday, November 15:** At the November LCDP Regular meeting, all nominees will be given three minutes to speak to the membership about their reasons for

joining the 2022 Board. These speeches will be followed by a vote using the Ranked Choice Election model. The Secretary will announce the results at the November meeting, as soon as the votes have been tabulated.

**All LCDP meetings will be returning to online only during the current COVID-19 outbreak. We are monitoring the situation closely and hope to return to in-person meetings in the near future.**

The Zoom link for all regular meetings is: <https://zoom.us/j/94140042855?pwd=OEFXOEEdlYjJlId0Z0SjZuRTI3OVITQT09>

### LCDP Fall Dinner and Fundraiser

Due to the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases, and following La Crosse County Health Board's Guidelines, we will be canceling the 2021 Fall Dinner and Fundraiser.

We are very sad to miss this opportunity to celebrate our successes and prepare for 2022, but the LCDP wants to ensure we are doing everything possible to protect our members and our society. If you were considering attending, please consider donating the price of a ticket to LCDP. We are in the process of securing a physical office for the 2022 election, a very important, and expensive, endeavor.

This office is crucial to our plans to protect Governor Evers, replace Senator Ron Johnson and maintain the 3rd CD for the Democratic Party. All eyes will be on La Crosse in the 2022 election cycle, and we must be prepared.

Donate at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lcdp2022office> or mail a check to LCDP. PO Box 1861, La Crosse, WI, 54602-1861.

# The Urgency of Defeating Rebecca Kleefisch

by Ron Malzer

As printed in the Madison Cap-Times Editorial Section: [https://madison.com/ct/opinion/column/opinion-the-urgency-of-defeating-rebecca-kleefisch/article\\_fbe1421d-a02a-599d-b6c3-5b37a17afc18.html](https://madison.com/ct/opinion/column/opinion-the-urgency-of-defeating-rebecca-kleefisch/article_fbe1421d-a02a-599d-b6c3-5b37a17afc18.html)

Picture a world in which no Wisconsin physician could legally perform an abortion. Picture a situation where only unlicensed practitioners, operating in secrecy and under fear of legal consequence, could act on a woman's decision to end her pregnancy. And picture a Wisconsin law stating that anyone who drove a pregnant teenager or sexual assault survivor to an abortion provider in Minnesota or Illinois could be dragged into court by a money-seeking vigilante and fined \$10,000.

For Wisconsin, this would be a nightmare. For one politician — Rebecca Kleefisch — it would be the fulfillment of a dream. And she is running for governor to make it a reality.

Former Lt. Gov. Rebecca Ann Kleefisch served loyally for the eight years of Scott Walker's disastrous tenure as Wisconsin's governor. She accepted both his union busting and his attempt to make what appears to be the largest taxpayer payout to a single corporation in American history, a liability of up to a \$3 billion to the aptly named "Foxconn."

Kleefisch, in addition to Walker's pro-big business, anti-worker stances, would bring right-wing extremism and intolerance to the governor's office. One need only look at a thunderbolt comment she made on Sept. 9, shortly after announcing her run for governor. "I will sign a heartbeat bill" she told a radio show host, making clear her intent to bring Texas-style anti-abortion vigilantism to Wisconsin.

Fanaticism is nothing new for Kleefisch. Campaigning along with Walker in 2010, she publicly opposed same-sex partnership — a very limited set of rights for same-sex couples — saying: "At what point are we going to OK marrying inanimate objects? Can I marry this table or this, you know, clock? Can we marry dogs?"

Kleefisch is also a militant climate change denier. In 2009 she took to YouTube to declare

that there is no scientific consensus that human activity is producing climate change, and to suggest that the EPA's carbon emission efforts foreshadowed the agency's interest in regulating people's ability to exhale.

Her views on health care access are callous and cruel. The Walker-Kleefisch regime refused to accept for eight years the substantial annual federal dollars for assisted Medicaid enrollment, with Kleefisch denouncing the Affordable Care Act as an "abomination" and supporting Walker's participation in the GOP lawsuit to overturn the ACA.

She is no stranger to falsehood. In 2018 Kleefisch claimed, falsely, that her campaign opponent Mandela Barnes had knelt during the U.S. national anthem at the Wisconsin State Fair.

Not surprisingly, Kleefisch has refused to denounce the GOP's "Big Lie" campaign, choosing instead to curry favor with Donald Trump. After the January assault on the Capitol launched by then-President Trump, and the announcement by 12 Republican U.S. senators, including Wisconsin's Ron Johnson, of their intent to commit sedition by overturning the outcome of the 2020 presidential election, Kleefisch could see only a "terminology issue" and threw her support behind voter suppression efforts.

Voter suppression, using the Big Lie, threatens to replace America's struggling democracy with single-party rule, and with a U.S. president installed for life.

Democrats won Wisconsin's statewide midterm elections in 2018, as well as the presidential election in 2020. They can do so again in November of 2022. Gov. Tony Evers' record of standing firm against GOP right-wing extremism is solid. But the margin of error for another solid blue year in the upcoming midterms is small, and the stakes are enormous.

A functioning Republic, Ben Franklin warned us, will last only as long as the people work to keep it. Every progressive, and everyone in the pro-environment, pro-democracy and pro-inclusion camp, has to be ready to mobilize, register — be sure you have an up-to-date photo ID — and vote in next year's November elections.

It's either that, or prepare to live in a Wisconsin-turned-Texas dystopia, and accept Wisconsin as a springboard for those seeking to end our aspirations for an American democracy.



## WOMEN'S MARCH: RALLY FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Join Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin and YWCA-La Crosse in a rally for reproductive rights. Please note we will **NOT be marching** due to Oktoberfest festivities. We will meet in the park near the shelter for a rally with speakers, then move to Cass Street to hold signs emphasizing the importance of reproductive freedom. Bring your own sign, or grab one of ours! This is a peaceful, family friendly event. Weigent Park. 1500 Cass Street. La Crosse, WI 54601. Saturday, October 2, 3:30 p.m

W I S D E M S

### HOW MAKING THE CHILD TAX CREDIT PERMANENT WOULD HELP WISCONSINITES:



- PUTS HALF OF YOUR CHILD CARE COSTS BACK IN YOUR POCKET.
- FAMILIES RECEIVE THE SAME TAX CREDIT ACROSS INCOME GROUPS.

## Afghan Refugee Assistance



Catholic Charities of La Crosse is collecting volunteer information for the coming influx of Afghan refugees. Visit: <https://cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance> for more information.

### 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.

# Beware of Getting Caught in the Monkey Trap

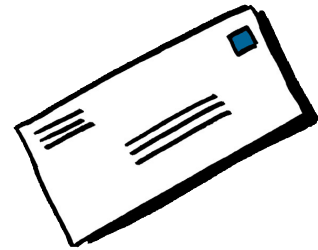
By Dave Wulf

In many parts of the world, monkeys are pests and hard to catch due to their agility. The only way to catch them is to use traps. A commonly used method is to create a small hole in a gourd or termite hill and fill the inside with something the monkey desires. The hole is such that a monkey's hand will fit through it but a clenched fist cannot be withdrawn unless the monkey releases what it is holding onto which they won't.

The monkey is trapped. Not by anything physical but trapped by an idea, unable to see that a principle that served him well – “when you see rice, hold on tight!” – has become lethal. This is a great analogy to how the world is handling climate change. Take Australia, Alaska and Oklahoma for example. Australia exports a lot of coal. They've declined to sign onto phasing out its use. Alaska and Oklahoma are heavily reliant on oil extraction to support their economies. Republican Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma has been an ardent climate science denier for decades. Countries like Poland, China and Indonesia are addicted to coal fired power plants. We're so attached to a certain notion of progress that we can't let go when it turns against us. The difficulty lies not in new ideas, but in escaping from the old ones. Like the monkey who won't let go of something that will result in its demise, stubbornness by humanity to hold onto the status quo will have a bad outcome. The United States and European Union must lead the world to change the status quo. Failure is not an option.

“No woman should be told she can't make decisions about her own body. When women's rights are under attack, we fight back.”

~ *Kamala Harris*



## 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/>

## 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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

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

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_
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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