

THE DEMOCRATIC VOICE

February 2022 Newsletter

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

LCDP Endorsement Policy

The LCDP does not endorse in primary elections, per our constitution and by-laws. However, once the candidates for general election are determined, the LCDP will consider endorsing local candidates. Below is the process:

- LCDP only endorses candidates who request an endorsement.
- The LCDP Exec Board will vote on recommendations to endorse at their Monday, February 7 Executive Board meeting. Any endorsement requires a majority of the Exec Board to vote for the endorsement.
- The LCDP Exec Board will then forward their recommendations to the full membership. The full membership will vote on these endorsement recommendations at the Monday, February 21 meeting.
- Candidates will be notified of endorsement decisions on Tuesday, February 22.

Upcoming Events



LCDP Regular Monthly Meeting

Time: Feb 21, 2022 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://zoom.us/j/94140042855?pwd=OEFXOEdlYjJld0Z0SjZuRTI3OVITQT09>

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 941 4004 2855

Passcode: 166352

LCDP Monthly Exec Board meeting

Time: Monday, February 7, 2022 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://zoom.us/j/96620303875>

LCDP Office News: 2318 State Rd.

We will be open beginning February 1 from 2pm - 4pm Monday-Friday and 10am - 2pm on Saturday. Feel free to drop by!

We will be planning a "Grand Opening" event once COVID numbers reduce in the county.

There are lots of bus stops very close to the office, including the #2, #4 and the Circulators.

We need your help to keep the office up and running. Consider volunteering for an hour or two a week. Email edwburgess@gmail.com to sign up. Also, consider giving a monthly donation to help fund the office at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lcdp2022office>.

We also need donations of a foldable chairs, office supplies, and other materials. Contact edwburgess@gmail.com if you have something the office could use.

Vaccines and masks are required at the office.

How to sign up for monthly contributions

Did you know that you can easily set up a monthly donation to LCDP? This is a fast and easy way to help our party, our candidates and our volunteers. Just go to <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lcdp2022office> and select Yes, Count Me In! under the Make It Monthly tab on the donation page. Even \$5 a month is of real help as we work to win in 2022.

February Meeting Speakers



Deb McGrath



Sara Rodriguez

3rd CD Congressional Candidate Deb McGrath (www.debmccgrathforcongress.com) and Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor candidate Sara Rodriguez (www.saraforwi.com).

Platform, Resolution and DPW Constitution Amendment Information

It is once again time to recommend platform, resolutions and DPW Constitution amendments for consideration at the 3rd CD and the DPW State Convention.

Resolutions put forth a position on a specific policy topic, and/or call for action by elected officials and/or the party on a specific issue. They are limited to 100 words at the CD and state conventions.

The platform is meant to be a guiding document that lays out general policy positions on a number of issues, highlighting what the membership believes is important for elected officials to follow. The platform can be up to 2500 words long by DPW rules.

Per DPW rules, platform, resolutions and DPW Constitution amendments go through the following process:

February 21: First reading at the County Party General meeting.

March 21: Second reading and vote at the County Party General Meeting

April 23: Debate and vote of platform, resolutions and DPW Constitution amendments at the 3rd CD Convention. Only the top 10 of each of the platform, resolutions and DPW Constitution amendments will be forwarded to the State party.

June 4 and 5: Debate and voting of platform, resolutions and DPW Constitution amendments at the DPW State Convention.

If you are interested in writing a platform, resolutions and/or DPW Constitution amendment, please submit to chair@laxdems.com by Saturday, Feb. 19. Click here for guidelines on writing Platform amendments, Resolutions and CDPW Constitutional amendments.



The LCDP invites you to participate in one (or more) of our committees as we energize the county for 2022. Working on a committee is a wonderful way to get engaged with the party and to have fun with our wonderful volunteers.

Below are the committee assignments, meeting times and the Exec Board member to contact to get started or to learn more information.

Candidate Recruitment: The third Saturday of the month at 10am. Charged with identifying and recruiting viable candidates for various positions within local, state and national government. This committee also organizes the LCDP Voter Information Guide and handles candidate endorsement requests. To join, contact William Garcia at chair@laxdems.com.

Communications: The second Monday of the month from 7pm - 8pm. Charged with crafting the party message, coordinating dissemination efforts and getting LTEs, radio call-ins, electronic media use, social media, Letters to the Editor and The Democratic Voice podcast. This committee offers many different types of ways to help the party. To join, contact Ron Malzer at ronsaturday@gmail.com.

Community Outreach (including Labor): Fourth Monday of every Month at 6pm. Establish relationships with various segments of the community and generate interest in the LCDP and our activities; and establish and maintain a relationship with unions to set up legal communications during election years. To join, contact Ed Burgess at edwburgess@gmail.com.

Fundraising: Charged with planning and staging various fundraising events. Often works closely with events that overlap into fundraising. To join, contact David Wulf at treasurer@laxdems.com.

Events: Fourth Monday of every Month at 6pm. Responsible for planning, staging, and encouraging participation in events to publicize the LCDP. Disseminate the party message and establish the party brand. Examples include but are not limited to Progesstival in February, June picnic, July Interstate Fair, Fall Dinner, issue events, etc. To join, contact Terry Benson at tltree1921@gmail.com

Membership: Meets Quarterly on the third Thursday of the month (March, June, September, December). Tasked with maintaining and building the membership of the LCDP. Membership has a dual function. One is internal – working with current members and lapsed members. The other is establishing relationships to the larger community via outreach. To join, contact Diane Wulf at eap11111@aol.com.

Take away Ron Johnson's death-promoting megaphone on Election Day

By Ron Malzer, as first appeared in The Cap Times.

On Jan. 9 Ron Johnson announced, shamelessly, that he is asking for yet another term. After 12 years in Washington, he's refusing to let go of his global megaphone.

Never mind that six years ago, he promised that if given a second term it would be his last. His "I am not a career politician" and his no-third-term pledge turned out to be deceit, self-serving declarations to be broken when convenient.

Johnson's global megaphone and deceitfulness can be shut down, but only with a strong pro-democracy turnout on Nov. 8.

Johnson is a self-proclaimed believer in Ayn Rand and the worldview she laid out in "Atlas Shrugged." It's simple: Billions of people on Earth are of no value and just take up space. A few geniuses move civilization forward. Government is evil, because all it does is get in the way of the geniuses.

The 2019 onset of the pandemic gave Johnson the perfect opportunity to showcase his malignant worldview. He wasted no time, advocating pushing workers back on the job prematurely and hazardously. To that end was his "Death is a part of life" USA Today editorial early in the pandemic.

Two days later, Johnson took to Real Clear Politics to publish this deadly piece of disinformation: "COVID-19 is transmitted primarily from the hands to the face. ... (Workers), train yourself NOT TO TOUCH YOUR FACE."

How convenient. Business owners were handed Johnson's life-threatening false information that empowered them to ignore social distancing minimums in their plants and offices. Johnson's dangerous medical quackery enabled them to blame their workers for resulting illnesses and deaths. Within a month of Johnson's cruel campaign, more than 4,000 COVID cases and 20 COVID-related deaths were reported among American meatpacking plants alone.

Johnson also raged very publicly against vaccination and used his Senate committee chair powers to promote the pseudo science-backed deworming agent ivermectin.

The climax to Johnson's war against health and medical science came on Dec. 1, World AIDS day, when, astoundingly, he went after Dr. Anthony Fauci for having "overhyped" the more than 32 million deaths worldwide from COVID-19 and AIDS.

Johnson's lack of shame allows him to call himself "pro-life" and to post on his website, "As a compassionate society we have an obligation to protect life, especially the life of the most vulnerable among us."

Imagine this future scenario: It's January 2023. Sen. Mandela Barnes rises to the U.S. Senate floor declaring that America needs to overhaul its badly broken health care system. Or Sen. Sarah Godlewski is drafting federal tax code changes transferring the tax burden from middle- and working-class voters to those of high income.

Or even: Ron Johnson has been ousted, once and for all, and succeeded by any of the people now campaigning for the Aug. 9 Democratic U.S. Senate nomination on pro-health care, pro-environment, and pro-democracy platforms: Wausau physician Gillian Battino, Milwaukee Bucks executive Alex Lasry, Appleton restaurant owner Kou Lee, Milwaukee Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, or consultant Adam Murphy.

Or that one of these progressives has taken Johnson's seat: Outagamie County Executive Tom Nelson, Millennial Action Project founder Steven Olikara, legal, security, and technology consultant Peter Peckarsky, developmentally disabled community advocate Jeff Rumbaugh, or Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs emergency management administrator Darrell Williams.

The blueprint for victory is clear, but it will require energy and a lot of person-to-person networking to carry out. The messaging: If you want America to keep from descending into an autocracy with single-party rule, vote on Nov. 8, and insist that your family members and friends vote.

Republicans will be tossing out red meat to the resentful, using baseless tropes such as, "They're teaching our kids to hate America." Wisconsin's Republican legislators are also working to create burdensome obstacles to voting for any geographic area or demographic group that votes progressive.

Wisconsin has three pre-November elections in 2022 — February, April and August — and they are all valuable opportunities to get ready for the pivotal Nov. 8 races and to foil the Republicans' anti-democracy campaign.

Johnson is an apologist for the Jan. 6 violent coup, and a spreader of deadly falsehoods about COVID. We can hold him accountable for promoting death in the COVID era, and his pro-violence stance regarding the violent coup last January.

America is not alone in facing the threat of brutal autocracy. In the Philippines, vigilantes receive government blessing to shoot people on sight. In Vladimir Putin's Russia, jailings and killings are used to silence opposition. We must not go down that path.

Let's make a firm commitment: Come what may, we and those we know who value democracy will march to the polls on Nov. 8, and we will defeat Ron Johnson and his right-wing wrecking crew.



The Mountaintop

The La Crosse Community Theatre is producing *The Mountaintop*, by Katori Hall, a fictionalization of Martin Luther King Jr.'s last night on earth. Read more information and get tickets at <https://lacrossetheatre.org/shows/2021-2022/mountaintop>.



UPCOMING ELECTIONS:

February 15, 2022:
Judicial primary

April 5, 2022 :
Judicial general election

August 9, 2022:
Primary

November 8, 2022:
General election



Be a Delegate!

Membership in the LCDP qualifies you to attend the 3rd CD and the State Convention as a delegate. Delegates have voting power over 3rd CD and DPW officers, platform amendment, resolutions, and amendments to the DPW Constitution. The 3rd CD Convention will be online on Saturday, April 23 from 9am-2:00pm. The State Convention will be held right here in La Crosse on Saturday and Sunday, June 4-5. If you would like to sign up to be a delegate, please fill out this form or contact William Garcia at chair@laxdems.com.

Verify your registration and request Absentee Ballot

You can check your voter registration at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Register-To-Vote>. Just fill out your name and birthday and you will see your registration status. If you are NOT registered, Wisconsin allows same day voter registration with a picture ID and proof of residence. Use this checklist to ensure you have the right documents to register.

You MUST request absentee ballots every year, regardless if you used absentee ballots the year before. Use <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Vote-Absentee-By-Mail> to check your absentee ballot status and to request an absentee ballot for 2022.

Local election updates

There will be a primary on Tuesday, February 15 for the following elections. Check vote411.org for candidate information.

La Crosse School Board (8 candidates for 6 seats in the general election).

La Crosse County Board of Supervisors, District 7 (3 candidates for 2 seats in the general election).

Please get out the vote! And get ready for the April 5 general election.

Volunteer Canvassers and Drivers needed for local elections

Want to help out with local elections? We have LCDP members and (soon-to-be) endorsed candidates who need help with door knocking and, especially in this cold weather, driving candidates to knock on doors themselves.

If you would like to help, please contact Chair William Garcia at chair@laxdems.com or call 608-769-5286.

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: Ed Burgess
608-799-1944

Treasurer: David Wulf
608-799-8977

Secretary: Diane Wulf
608-780-7007

At-Large Board Members:
Terry Benson
K.C. Cayo
Fred Giese
Ralph Knudson
Ron Malzer

College Representative: Grace Florence (UW-L)
florence0874@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 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! Or just visit <https://laxdems.com/join-the-party/> and fill out the form (it is the same form to join or renew) and pay online.

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 2022 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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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