

THE **D**EMOCRATIC VOICE

February 2023 Newsletter

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

3rd CD Convention Has Been Announced

The 2023 3rd CD Convention will be in-person only on Sunday, April 30 from 9am-4pm in Black River Falls.

Registration information is forthcoming, but please consider attending as a delegate. This year, the convention will consider new officers for the 3rd CD and will pass resolutions to send to the DPW State Convention. We will also hear from numerous elected officials.

Being a delegate at the 3rd CD Convention automatically enrolls you as a delegate to the state convention.

Resolutions for the 2023 3rd CD and State DPW Convention

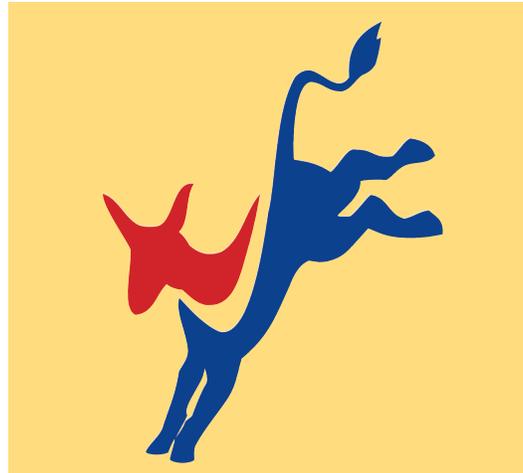
The La Crosse County Democratic Party is allowed to send up to ten (10) Resolutions to the 3rd CD Convention, to be held on Sunday, April 30. Resolutions are statements of policy and ideology that direct our party.

If you would like to submit a resolution, you need to send your resolutions to William Garcia at chair@laxdems.com by Sunday, February 19. Per LCDP Constitution, all resolutions must be read TWICE in order to be voted on (once at the February meeting, once at the March).

Rules for Writing Resolutions:

Resolutions must be reasonable in length, but no more than one hundred (100) words in length; must be a standardized format, that is each resolution must start with a paragraph beginning "Whereas," and end with a paragraph "Resolved". The "Whereas" is WHY a new policy should be enacted. The "Therefore" is the policy you are suggesting.

If adopted by the county, it will go to the



Upcoming Events

LCDP February Executive Board Meeting, Monday, February 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m. In-person at the LCDP Office or on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3902738956?pwd=TnFjcGpxRWREek5NaVlOL1I2dDRndz09>

LCDP Regular Meeting, Monday, February 20, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. In-person at the LCDP Office or on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3902738956?pwd=TnFjcGpxRWREek5NaVlOL1I2dDRndz09>

Spring Election Primary, Tuesday, February 21

Spring General Election, Tuesday, April 4

3rd CD. If adopted by the 3rd CD, it will go to the State convention for a final vote.

Here is a link to last year's resolutions. Resolutions are good for four years, so there is not need to repeat a resolution that was passed last year.

The linked resolutions should help with proper writing and formatting.

February Meeting

February Meeting featuring Judge Chris Taylor, candidate for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, District IV. She will be speaking on her candidacy and the importance of the April election.

We will also be planning our March Membership drive and hearing resolutions to send to the DPW 3rd CD Convention.



The LCDP needs to open the office for regular hours in the run up to the April Supreme Court election. If you would be willing to staff the office for a few hours once or twice a week, please contact William Garcia at chair@laxdems.com. Responsibilities would be giving out literature and information on races to anyone who arrives at the office.



The LCDP is planning a membership drive for March. Please let us know if you have any questions or ideas for how to bring new members into the party.

We are also looking for a dynamic speaker for the March meeting to serve as a draw to people in La Crosse County. If you have any ideas of speakers, let us know! Email chair@laxdems.com with any suggestions or opinions.

Kevin McCarthy Is Not To Be Trusted

by Ron Malzer

Now that the 3 1/2-day marathon to choose a House Speaker has ended, it's time to focus on this question: What is Rep. Kevin McCarthy's track record? His actions during his time in Congress indicate that he is not to be trusted.

Kevin Owen McCarthy was born on Jan. 26, 1965, in Bakersfield, California. From 2002 to 2006 he served in the California state Legislature and then won election to the U.S. House of Representatives. During the last 16 years, he has served as both House Republican minority and majority leader.

McCarthy was a very active participant in Donald Trump's Big Lie campaign. Two days after the Nov. 4 election he told Fox News, "President Trump won this election," instructing the viewers, "don't be quiet." What is far worse is that McCarthy actually voted to throw out the presidential votes of the states of Arizona and Pennsylvania as part of the Trump-led plan to "decertify" all the electors of eight states won by Joe Biden. Had this plan succeeded, Trump would have been certified as the winner of a second term, completely illegitimately. A constitutional crisis would have ensued, with the potential for nationwide violence in the streets instead of the orderly transfer of power.

A reasonable House of Representatives would have taken under consideration the possibility of expelling McCarthy for violation of his oath of office, which requires him to defend the Constitution.

McCarthy has also worked to protect Donald Trump from accountability for Trump's pro-Putin, anti-Ukraine policy. Remember that in 2019 Trump was caught by a whistleblower demanding that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy launch an investigation of Hunter Biden. When Zelenskyy refused, Trump cut off military aid to Ukraine for 55 days.

The U.S. House voted to impeach Trump for this solicitation of foreign influence in an American election and disloyalty to an ally. The impeachment vote passed; McCarthy, however, voted "no." McCarthy's desire for popularity within his party had overwhelmed his commitment to the national interest. It is noteworthy that when Putin subsequently invaded Ukraine, an emboldened Trump called the brutal invasion "genius."

On several social justice issues, McCarthy's record indicates a willingness to protect the wealthy while opposing support for struggling families. He voted for the Trump tax cuts of 2017. He worked hard to repeal

Obamacare. He voted against a 2020 resolution to condemn racist framings of COVID in ways that put Asian Americans at risk. He is strongly anti-environment and helped prepare legislation to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from doing its job.

McCarthy has been caught twice lying to the public about important matters. The first was his claim, completely untrue, that he had done nothing to overturn the results of the 2020 election. The second was when he denied telling fellow Republicans that Trump had voiced to him some responsibility for the violence of Jan. 6. Unfortunately for McCarthy, the New York Times went public with a recording of McCarthy saying exactly that.

McCarthy also has on his record the leadership of a \$7 million investigation, conducted at taxpayer's expense, of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's actions regarding four American deaths in Benghazi. Through deceptive insinuations, he convinced a majority of Republicans in America that Clinton knew in advance of the attack on "the Benghazi embassy." For the record, there is no U.S. embassy in Benghazi, only a CIA-supervised compound, and there is not a shred of evidence that anyone had advance knowledge of the attack. McCarthy took pride in this charade, pointing out that it pulled down Clinton's polling numbers.

What can we expect from Kevin McCarthy's House based on his track record? Many hyperpartisan, taxpayer-funded investigations for political purposes along the lines of the Clinton probe. Among the likely targets: President Biden, Hunter Biden, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the IRS, and possibly the Jan. 6 bipartisan panel that so brilliantly documented the Trump-led coup attempt. The group of potential targets constitutes an "enemies list" compiled by Kevin McCarthy's Republicans, much as Richard Nixon had drawn up a list of his opponents for the IRS to investigate.

Kevin McCarthy has been put on a short leash by antigovernment extremists in the Republican-controlled House. Expect lots of threats to break down America's democratic institutions, and "hostage-taking" of the democratic process during debt ceiling time and during the budget process.

Do not expect candor from Kevin McCarthy. His record, as shown above, demonstrates considerable deception.

Most serious of all is McCarthy's conduct following the 2020 presidential election and the Jan. 6 coup attempt, which demonstrates that McCarthy, in order to advance his personal and party ambitions, is willing to strike a dagger into the very heart of democracy.

Ron Malzer is a freelance writer who lives in La Crosse.

Join a COMMITTEE



The La Crosse County Democratic Party does not work without a lot of people pitching in to help. One great way to help is to join one of our standing committees. Mostly, the committees meet once a month for one hour, so the time investment is minimal, but the assistance you give is massive.

Please email William Garcia, chair@laxdems.com, if you have any interest in joining a committee or have any questions. The committees have not set meetings times yet for 2023.

The committees are:

Candidate Recruitment – Charged with identifying and recruiting viable candidates for various positions within local, state and national government, as well as recruiting future LCDP officers.

Communications - Charged with crafting the party message, coordinating dissemination efforts and getting LTEs, radio call ins, electronic media use.

Community Outreach (including Labor) - Establish relationships with various segments of the community and generate interest in the LCDP and our activities

Constitution and By-Laws - Responsible for maintaining the C&B, following approved procedures for amendments, when deemed constitutionally necessary

Fund Raising - Charged with planning and staging various fundraising events, often works closely with events that overlap into fundraising

Events - Charged with 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. The proposed Racism book discussion project could fall under this committee.

Membership - 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.



Every other Friday at 9 a.m. LCDP will begin hosting every-other-Friday coffees with elected officials from the La Crosse County area.

Coming Up:

Friday, February 10 at 9 a.m.: Rep. Jill Billings

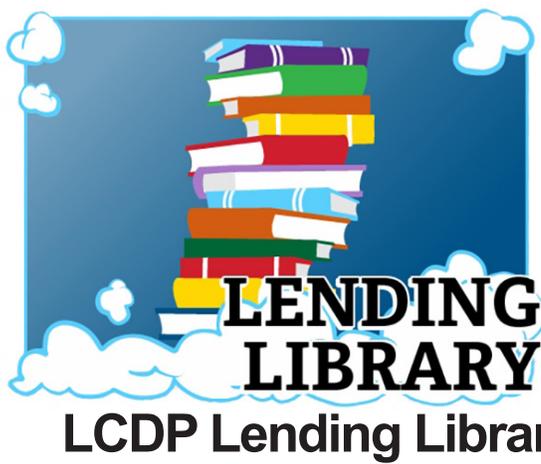
Friday, February 24 at 9 a.m.: Rep. Steve Doyle

2023 LCDP Office Support

For the first time, the LCDP is keeping its office during the off year election cycle. We think a year-round office is vital to achieving our goals of more activism, more membership and more community engagement. But we can not do it without you.

For 2023, please consider a monthly donation that might go towards funding our office. Even \$10 a month would go a long ways towards building up the crucial infrastructure we need to support our local, state and federal candidates.

Just go to <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/lcdp2022office>, select an amount and then select Yes when asked if you would like to make the donation recurring, Thank you so much for your support.



Several LCDP Executive Board members have been working hard to create a Lending Library at the LCDP offices. We have books on politics, democracy, social justice, anti-racism and more. Visit the LCDP office to borrow any of our books. Or, consider donating books to expand our library and help other members and friends understand what is at stake.

Bios of the Two Progressive Supreme Court Nominees



Janet Protasiewicz
janetforjustice.com

Judge Janet Protasiewicz is a community leader, a veteran prosecutor, and a lifelong advocate for victims of crime. In nearly a decade as circuit court judge, she has earned the respect of the community, developing a reputation for being fair and impartial.

Raised in a working-class family, Judge Protasiewicz worked her way through college and law school as a waitress and nonprofit administrator. She earned her bachelor's degree at UW Milwaukee and her law degree at Marquette University, where she later served as Adjunct Professor of Law. Before being elected to the bench, she served more than 25 years as Assistant District Attorney, where she prosecuted serious crimes, and successfully argued in front of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Throughout her career, Judge Protasiewicz has been deeply involved in the community. She has served on the boards of the Association of Marquette University Women, the American Red Cross-Wisconsin Chapter, the Polish Heritage Alliance, and Marquette University Law School Alumni Association. She belongs to the Association of Women Lawyers, TEMPO, Professional Dimensions, Serjeants Inns of Court, Foley Inns of Court, and Fairchild Inns of Court.

Judge Protasiewicz's work has been recognized throughout the state. In 2017 she received the Community Involvement Award from the Association of Women Lawyers, and in 2018 the Wisconsin Law Journal presented her with the Women in the Law Women of Influence Award.

Judge Protasiewicz has been elected to the bench twice without opposition. She currently serves in Family Court and has also presided over homicide, sexual assault, misdemeanor, domestic violence, and drug courts. She and her husband, Gregory Sell, live in Franklin.



EMPOWER the Grassroots

Upcoming Spring Election Weekends of Action

We are getting ramped up for the Spring Election. We need all hands on deck to elect candidates up & down the ticket. Head to <https://www.mobilize.us/wisdems/> to find a volunteer opportunity near you. Here are our Weekend of Action dates:

60 Days to Victory Day of Action: February 4th

Primary GOTV: February 18th & 19th

GOT(E)V 1: March 18th & 19th

GOT(E)V 2: March 25th & 26th

GOTV: April 1st - 4th



Judge Everett Mitchell
judgeeverettmitchell.com

The Honorable Reverend Everett Mitchell was elected to the Dane County Circuit Court and presides over the Juvenile Division in Branch Four. As a juvenile court judge he hears cases involving family re-unification, juvenile delinquency, and other civil and criminal proceedings. He also oversees Dane County's High Risk Drug Court Program.

Judge Mitchell is a graduate of Morehouse College, Princeton Theological Seminary, and University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School and is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Currently, he is an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School where he teaches courses on "Race, Racism and the Law" as well as the "Foundational Principles of the Juvenile Justice System."

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Mitchell has worked with colleagues to change courtroom policies to reflect trauma-informed practices, such as removing restraints and handcuffs on youth during hearings. He joined several judges in petitioning the Wisconsin Supreme Court to support changing the presumption to ensure that children in Wisconsin can attend their court hearings without restraints and handcuffs.

Judge Mitchell worked with the Madison Metropolitan School District, the second-largest district in the state, to create an Office of Youth Engagement that provides a bridge for youth involved in the criminal justice system to educational programming. Judge Mitchell works tirelessly to ensure the youth under his jurisdiction are treated with respect and dignity. While this may be common sense, it is not always common practice.

Judge Mitchell has lectured or spoken at colleges and universities, national conferences, community events, corporate events, professional development workshops, and in front of many other diverse audiences. Judge Mitchell's social justice lens is steeped in his calling and commitment to justice and equity.

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 Derrick Van Orden (R)
1513 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-4903
Ph: 202-225-5506

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
(512) 660-2610

Vice Chair: Kristie Tweed
(608) 317-1331

Treasurer: Cathy Van Maren
(608) 317-9003

Secretary: Carla Peña
(608) 783-3981

At-Large Board Members:

Bob Freedland
Fred Giese
Tara Johnson
Paul Kruse
Tina Pohlman

College Representative: Jake Williams

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.

Follow the LCDP on



twitter

@lacrossedems

and



Instagram

@lacrossedems

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 County. <https://www.wizmnews.com/the-democratic-voice-with-william-garcia/>

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.

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
 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.

Membership in the La Crosse County Democratic Party ensures we have candidates who share our values, the infrastructure they need to campaign and the support they need to win elections. Consider joining the party today!

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.

Received _____
 Renewal Month _____

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

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 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.

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