

POLITICAL PARTY ORGANIZATION IN WISCONSIN

What Is a Political Party?

A political party is a private, voluntary organization of people with similar political beliefs that vies with other parties for control of government. Political parties help voters select their government officials and create a consensus on the basic principles that direct governmental activities and processes.

Political parties in the United States have traditionally provided an organized framework for the orderly performance of several basic political tasks necessary to representative democracy. Parties act to:

- Provide a stable institution for building coalitions based on shared principles and priorities.
- Recruit and nominate candidates for elective and appointive offices in government.
- Promote the election of the party's slate of candidates.
- Guard the integrity of election procedures and vote canvassing.
- Educate the voters by defining issues, taking policy positions, and formulating programs.

U.S. parties offer a marked contrast to the party apparatus in other nations. In many parts of the world, political parties begin with defined ideologies and programs. Their members are recruited on the basis of these ideas, and there is not much room for disagreement within the ranks. In other cases, parties represent regional interests or ethnic groups. By contrast, parties in the United States are loosely organized groups reflecting a broad spectrum of interests. They are truly populist parties in the sense that they accommodate diversity and are instruments of party activists at the grass roots level. Political ideology, as stated in a party's national platform, is formulated first at the local level and then refined through debate and compromise at meetings representing successively larger geographic areas.

Depending on the time, place, and circumstances, political party labels in the United States may have widely different meanings, and within a single party there may be room for members whose ideologies span a wide political spectrum. Individual Republicans or Democrats, for instance, are often further identified as "liberal", "conservative", "right-wing", "left-wing", or "moderate".

Despite the diversity within a party, specific philosophies are generally associated with the various political parties. In the public's perception, the name of a particular party conjures up a surprisingly distinct set of economic, social, and political principles.

Political Parties in Wisconsin

Throughout its history, the United States has operated with a two-party political structure, rather than single-party or multiparty systems found elsewhere. Although minor parties have always been a part of American politics, few have gained the support necessary to challenge the two dominant parties at the national level. Those that did lasted only briefly, with the predominant exception of the Republican Party, which replaced the Whig Party in the 1850s. The same cannot be said of politics on the state level. In Wisconsin, for example, the Socialist Party regularly sent one or more representatives to the legislature between 1911 and 1937, and the Progressive Party was influential between 1933 and 1947, capturing a plurality of both houses of the 1937 Legislature. Third parties were relatively quiet in Wisconsin in the 1950s, but the last 30 years have seen more activity with more parties officially recognized on the ballot.

Under Wisconsin law, a "recognized political party" is a political party that qualifies for a separate ballot or column on the ballot, based on receiving at least 1% of the votes for a statewide office at the previous November election or through acquiring the required number of petition signatures (10,000 electors, including at least 1,000 electors residing in each of at least three separate congressional districts). At the beginning of 2007, Wisconsin had four recognized political parties: Democrat, Libertarian, Republican, and Wisconsin Green.

The Wisconsin Statutes define a political party in Section 5.02 (13) as a state committee that is legally registered with the state Elections Board and "all county, congressional, legislative, local and other affiliated committees authorized to operate under the same name". It must be a body "organized exclusively for political purposes under whose name candidates appear on a ballot at any election".

The delegates from the political party's local units meet in an annual state convention to draft or amend the party's state platform (a statement of its principles and objectives), select national committee members, elect state officers, consider resolutions, and conduct other party business. Every four years, party delegates from throughout the United States meet in a national convention to nominate their candidates for president and vice president and to adopt a national platform for the next four years. In Wisconsin, the slates of national convention delegates are usually based on the April presidential preference primary vote.

Statutory and Voluntary Organizations

Wisconsin law provides that each major political party must have certain local officers and committees, but over the years, these statutory organizations have been merged within the voluntary party organizations that are governed by their own constitutions and bylaws. The actual power is found in the voluntary structures.

In the case of the majority parties, voluntary organizations are composed of dues-paying members, who are affiliated with Wisconsin chapters of the national political parties. Third parties vary in the amount of regional autonomy and/or national control allowed. Given minor organizational differences, voluntary parties operate to tend to their party's interests, collect money to finance campaigns, maintain cooperation between the various county and congressional district organizations, and act as liaison with national parties. (Currently recognized parties and their voluntary organizations are discussed in the party descriptions that follow this introduction.)

The History of Wisconsin's Political Parties

In *How Wisconsin Voted*, Professor James R. Donoghue divided Wisconsin's political history into four eras. From statehood in 1848 until 1855, the Democratic Party was the dominant political party, and the Whig Party provided major opposition. This was a continuation of the party alignment that had prevailed during the state's territorial period.

The second era was one of Republican domination from 1856 to 1900. The birth of the national Republican Party is attributed to a meeting in Ripon, Wisconsin, in 1854. Its founding was based on the conditions and events that eventually led to the Civil War, and within Wisconsin these same circumstances contributed to the rapid growth of the Republican Party and the demise of the Whigs.

The second era ended at the turn of the century with the election of Governor Robert M. La Follette. The third era, from 1900 to 1945, was a time of great stress and change, encompassing the Great Depression and World Wars I and II. Until 1932, the major political battles usually occurred not between two parties, but between two factions of the Republican Party – the conservative “stalwart” Republicans and the “progressive” (La Follette) Republicans. The Democratic Party was in eclipse, and election contests tended to be decided in Republican primary elections.

The third era also saw the high point of third party influence in Wisconsin. The progressive faction formally split from the Republicans to form its own party in 1934. The new Progressive Party won gubernatorial elections in 1936 and 1942 and a plurality in both houses of the legislature in 1936. Declining popularity, however, led to its dissolution in 1946, and Progressive Party leadership urged its members and supporting voters to return to the Republican Party. The period from 1900 to 1937 was also the time of greatest strength for the Socialists.

The fourth era, from 1945 to the present, witnessed a realignment of the major parties. A resurgence of the Democratic Party ended the long Republican domination, turning the state to a more balanced, two-party, competitive system. In the late 1940s, some former Progressives, Socialists, and others began moving into a moribund Democratic Party. This influx both revitalized the party and made it more liberal. In the following decade, the Democrats worked at uniting their party and building their strength at the polls. Meanwhile, the conservative faction solidified its control of the Republican Party with the departure of more liberal-minded Progressives and addition of conservative Democrats fleeing their former party as it became more liberal.

In the years following World War II, the resurgent Democratic Party began seriously challenging the majority Republicans. Steady Democratic growth culminated in the 1957 election of William Proxmire to the U.S. Senate, the first “new” Democrat to win a major statewide election, followed by the election of Gaylord Nelson as governor in 1958. These elections marked the

emergence on Wisconsin's political scene of a Democratic Party fully capable of competing successfully with the long dominant Republicans for public office. During this period, third party and independent candidates usually failed to garner any significant support on a statewide level.

The hallmark of contemporary Wisconsin politics is a highly competitive, two-party, issue-oriented system. At the beginning of the 1995 session, Republicans gained control of both houses for the first time since 1969. In 1993, 1995, and 1997, the majority party in the senate shifted during the session. Democrats controlled the senate in 1999 and 2001, while Republicans retained the control of the assembly they had won in the 1994 elections. For the first time since 1982, a Democrat was elected governor in November 2002.

Of the state's major elected partisan offices in January 2007, the Democrats held the positions of governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and state treasurer, as well as both U.S. Senate seats, four of the eight congressional seats, and a majority in the state senate. Republicans filled the position of attorney general, held four congressional seats, and controlled the assembly.



Robert M. La Follette, Sr. may be considered the father of Wisconsin's Progressive Movement. Elected as a Republican to the Office of Governor and U.S. Senator, he ran for President as a Progressive in 1924. His sons, Robert Jr. and Philip, founded Wisconsin's own Progressive Party that flourished from 1934-1946. (1907 Wisconsin Blue Book)

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN**June 2007****Headquarters***State Headquarters:* 222 West Washington Avenue, Suite 150, Madison 53703.*Telephone:* (608) 255-5172; *Fax:* (608) 255-8919.*Executive Director:* MICHAEL MURPHY.*Compliance Director:* LARHONDA WELLS.*Membership Director:* MARY TRICK.*Political Director:* JASON STEPHANY.*Communications Director:* JESSICA ERICKSON.*Internet Address:* <http://www.wisdems.org>**State Administrative Committee***Chair:* JOE WINEKE, Verona.*First Vice Chair:* LENA TAYLOR, Milwaukee.*Second Vice Chair:* JEF HALL, Oshkosh.*Secretary:* ANGELA SUTKIEWICZ, Sheboygan.*Finance and Development Director:* ELIZABETH SCHILLING, Madison.*National Committee Members:* STAN GRUSZYNSKI, Porterfield; JASON RAE, Rice Lake; MELISSA SCHROEDER, Merrill; PAULA ZELLNER, Shawano.*Legislative Representatives:* SENATOR JUDY ROBSON, Beloit; REPRESENTATIVE GARY SHERMAN, Port Wing.*College Democrats President:* AWAIS KHALEEL, Kenosha.*Milwaukee County Chair:* MARTHA LOVE, Milwaukee.*At-Large Members:* GWEN CARR, Madison; LYNN DAVIS, Racine; DIAN PALMER, Brookfield; MARIANA STOUT.*Congressional District Representatives:**1st District*

Ray Rivera, chair

Mike Nemeth, Racine

2nd District

Margaret McEntire, chair, Madison

Tim Sullivan, Verona

3rd District

Margaret Baecker, chair, Independence

Bob Johnson, La Crosse

4th District

Stephanie Findley, chair, Milwaukee

5th District

Bill Elliott, chair, Shorewood

Chris Marshall, Thiensville

6th District

Gordon Hintz, chair, Oshkosh

Jan Banicki, Montello

7th District

Marlys Matuszak, chair, Wausau

Gary Hawley, Stevens Point

8th District

Jack Krueger, chair, Green Bay

Dottie LeClair, Appleton

Source: Democratic Party of Wisconsin at: www.wisdems.org, March 20, 2007.

County Organization. The county organization is the basic unit of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. In each county, the membership elects the county officers. They include a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, and treasurer (or secretary/treasurer). Their terms of office are usually one year, but some county organizations may provide for 2-year terms.

Congressional District Organization. Congressional district organizations function mainly as a base of support for Democratic congressional candidates. They also select representatives to the state administrative committee. An executive committee directs each congressional district organization.

State Convention. The party holds its annual state convention in June. Each year, the convention considers amendments to the state party constitution and other resolutions and party business. State party officers are elected in odd-numbered years, and state party platforms are adopted in even-numbered years. State convention delegates elect Democratic National Committee members every four years.

Each county unit elects delegates to the state convention, and all party members are eligible. The state administrative committee determines the number of delegates that represent each county by using a formula based on the number of party members and the percentage of the vote cast for the Democratic candidate in the most recent U.S. Senate election. In addition to the regular quota, certain Democratic officeholders are automatically delegates to the state convention.

State Officers and Administrative Committee. The Democratic Party of Wisconsin is headed by a state administrative committee, composed of 32 party officials chosen in a variety of ways. Delegates to the state convention elect the 5 party officers and the 4 Democratic National Committee members. The 8 congressional district conventions each select 2 representatives to serve on the state administrative committee in the spring of each odd-numbered year: the district chairperson and an additional representative of the opposite sex. The remaining voting committee members include the County Chairs Association chairperson; the Milwaukee County chairperson; a representative of the College Democrats; 2 state legislative representatives, elected by their house caucuses prior to the beginning of the new legislative term; the immediate past state chairperson and an at-large administrative committee member.

The party officers are the state chairperson, first vice chairperson, second vice chairperson, treasurer, and secretary. The chairperson and first vice chairperson must be of the opposite sex. Party officers are elected in the odd-numbered year for 2-year terms. Democratic National Committee members are elected each presidential election year and serve 4-year terms. The state chairperson and the first vice chairperson are also *ex officio* members of the Democratic National Committee.

Whenever a vacancy occurs, the chairperson, with the concurrence of the entire state administrative committee, appoints a successor to serve until the next annual convention, where the delegates elect an individual to fill the position for the remainder of the unexpired term.

National Committee. The Democratic National Committee is composed of the chairperson and the highest ranking officer of the opposite sex in each recognized state Democratic Party. In Wisconsin these are the chairperson and the first vice chairperson of the state administrative committee. An additional 200 committee memberships are apportioned to the states on the same basis as delegates to the national convention, and other specified members are appointed. Wisconsin's Democratic National Committee members are selected every 4 years at the annual state conventions held in presidential election years.

WISCONSIN DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM

As Adopted at State Convention, La Crosse, June 9, 2006

Preamble

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin strives to build a strong, just and open society where all citizens are respectful of one another and have equal opportunities to live meaningful, secure lives. We work actively for open and honest government that is responsive and accountable to the needs and the will of the people.

JUSTICE, HUMAN CONCERNS, AND DEMOCRACY

Our government must support values common to all people, which include freedom, family, fairness, responsibility, and community.

One of the primary jobs of government is to ensure that everyone can lead dignified, healthy, and fulfilling lives. We value love, commitment, stability and nurturing of all family members. Our Constitution guarantees that we are all equal regardless of race, color, religion, actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, age, occupation, national origin, physical disabilities or appearance, or political beliefs. We fight to ensure that these basic civil liberties are forever preserved.

The federal and the state Constitutions, as originally drafted, were intended to grant rights to individuals. These documents were never intended to impose restrictions on citizens. We are adamantly opposed to amending either Constitution in a way that limits the rights of any citizens. Any freedom lost due to government restrictions imposed on any of us, violates and endangers all of us.

It is vital that government respect, support, and protect freedom of expression in our democracy. When government attempts to limit the rights of its citizens, the fundamental philosophy on which our nation was established is destroyed. We oppose legislation that would try to limit, or take away, any of our civil liberties. No branch of government has the right to unilaterally take away our civil rights. No branch of government is above the law. We must maintain checks and balances among the three branches of government.

Government must protect the constitutional rights of citizens while effectively reducing crime and fighting terrorism. Adequate funding is necessary for law enforcement and emergency response activities. These men and women are a community's first line of defense. The defense of our country should never be dependent on most of our resources fighting foreign wars, but rather primarily be focused on guarding the gates here at home. Security cannot be achieved if we turn over our ports or cargo inspection to foreign governments. Neither can it be achieved if the resources of our National Guard and Homeland Security are not available or properly deployed to respond to natural disasters, which have destructive power greater than any act of terrorism. Security cannot be achieved by bankrupting us with endless wars.

We are committed to the idea of fairness and will work to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed, an equal voice in government, and fair and equal treatment under the law. Fairness requires that governments are responsible and accountable to people. We recognize that minorities often face unreasonable challenges. We pursue legislation and cultural change that will end racial and ethnic profiling, respects the sovereignty of Native American nations, and ensures equality between men and women. We shall work for gender-balanced, qualified representation at all levels of government in order to eliminate inequities and improve governmental decision-making and problem solving. Equal opportunities that lead to widespread prosperity help to assure freedom and security.

Increased empowerment of citizens in all civic affairs makes our nation a true democracy. The government must be an open institution that people trust. The government must comply with open meeting and public record laws, enact legislation for full public funding for all state and national elections, while ensuring that every citizen has a guaranteed right and equal access to vote. We have the right to inspect and count votes and have a paper ballot to insure voting accountability.

We respect the rights of all people to their religious beliefs and welcome all citizens into the Democratic Party regardless of their beliefs. It is vital that we observe a strict separation between government and religion. It remains the right of citizens to choose their own religious and philosophical beliefs rather than the government imposing any upon them.

We must develop a fair immigration policy providing a reasonable and legal path to residency and citizenship and a fair opportunity for current undocumented residents to achieve legal status. All people should be afforded the same basic principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is important to care for all generations. We need affordable, quality, licensed daycare centers and government support to pay for childcare. We cannot afford to neglect our nation's future leaders. We need health education and disease prevention programs concerning smoking, alcohol, and sexually transmitted infections. By making people aware of high-risk behaviors, they will be better able to adequately care for themselves.

Rather than abandoning our older generation, it is essential that we preserve Social Security. Privatizing Social Security threatens the financial security of those who are most vulnerable. It is important that we enhance programs for the aging and disabled, including subsidized long term in-home or nursing home care. We firmly believe access to affordable health care is a national right and that the best solution to our national health care crisis is a single-payer system that provides universal access, promotes preventive measures, and covers all physical and mental illnesses equally. Until that necessary system is made available, we support broader coverage and increased funding for the current health care programs on local, state and national levels, such as BadgerCare and Medicaid.

Personal moral, religious, and medical decisions should be left up to the individual. We believe in complete freedom of reproductive choice, as well as the individual's right to choose death with dignity. Everyone has the right to obtain medications, prescribed by their physician, from any licensed pharmacy in a timely manner. It is neither the role of the pharmacist nor the government to interfere in the private, personal decisions of its citizens. Funding for stem cell research should not be influenced by religious beliefs, but this research, which would benefit all of mankind, should be supported on its scientific merits.

We oppose the death penalty as an inhumane and ineffective means of punishment. We believe in equitable sentencing standards and increasing the authority of duly elected judges to modify sentences. Further, minor marijuana offenses should be processed as local ordinance violations.

We support reasonable firearms regulations to ensure the safety of citizens and law enforcement officials. We support the right to hunt and bear arms. We support safety measures and Wisconsin's concealed carry ban.

We advocate strengthening consumer protection laws and returning enforcement authority to the Wisconsin Department of Justice. We support accurate, understandable labeling of food and medicinal products.

EDUCATION, LABOR, AND ECONOMICS

Quality public education for all is critical for a healthy democracy. Any form of public funding for private schools diverts resources from and adversely impacts public schools. Increased governmental funding is essential for all levels of public education, from early childhood programs to programs providing financial aid for attendance at UW and Technical College Systems. No child should be denied a quality education because of a lack of financial resources.

We believe that students have the right to receive their education in a safe, respectful, and nurturing environment, free from harassment or discrimination by teachers, staff, parents, or other students. A strong public education system in Wisconsin prepares our youth to be the next generation of leaders.

Wisconsin's educational funding system has failed. The law allowing a limited qualified economic offer (QEO) has caused decreasing compensation for teachers. Teacher compensation should keep pace with the costs of benefits and inflation. Public school teachers must not be taken for granted. They deserve tremendous respect for their work educating our youth under challenging circumstances.

A strong and secure nation depends on sound economic policy including meaningful full employment. Business, labor, and the public must work together to re-establish American jobs on American soil and resist outsourcing, thus reinvigorating domestic industries. With a strong economy including high employment and fair wages that provide stable housing and encourage strong family units for all families, we can have functional communities, a properly educated workforce, and a tax base that can pay for the infrastructure needed to keep our communities safe and secure.

We believe workers have rights to safe and equitable workplaces, living wages, and secure benefits. They must be guaranteed the right to organize, bargain collectively, and strike in order to secure those rights, without fear of reprisal. We support public employee's rights to speedy mediation and binding arbitration of labor disputes. In addition, businesses must be held accountable for contracts with its employees. We oppose right-to-walk legislation. Hiring strike-breakers must be prohibited. Pension funds must be regulated in order to be responsibly managed and strictly safeguarded. In the event of bankruptcy, workers are entitled to the first claim on remaining assets.

In addition, it is crucial that we support a tax system that is based on ability to pay. It is immoral to increase the tax burden on the lower and middle classes by cutting taxes for the wealthiest among us. This fails to spur economic and job development, and hurts those who have the least income. Furthermore, we must balance the Federal budget through wise spending and fair taxation. We believe this generation should be responsible for paying its own debts rather than saddling future generations with the consequences of irresponsible budget practices.

America must invest in a healthy economic future by funding basic research and worker training. American companies have a duty to our nation to be established here at home, follow our environmental and labor laws, and pay taxes. Furthermore, we must protect our industries from competition by enforcing tariffs against nations that tolerate unfair worker conditions.

Our wealth should be measured not only by the GDP but also by broad measures of well being, such as the United Nations Human Development Index, that incorporate factors like health, education, literacy, employment and wages, and environmental quality.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wisconsin is, and always will be, America's Dairyland. We must preserve family farming by creating market systems that assure a fair return to both the farmer and the processor, support value added agriculture, and provide price supports for true family farms. We encourage legislators and Democratic Party leaders to support farming management systems that are humane to animals, protect our environment, preserve our soil, water and forest resources, and produce wholesome food for consumers. We advocate place of origin and organically produced foods labeling.

We support affordable quality health care, public education and social services for all citizens in rural Wisconsin. Excessive development of corporate animal mega-farms is detrimental to the health and quality of life in rural areas and must be controlled.

Protecting the ecological systems of our planet is essential to the economic and social welfare of our state, our nation and to the future of humanity. Our legislators and leaders must pay heed to scientific evidence of global warming; soil, water, and atmospheric pollution; and decreasing biodiversity. We must enact legislation and provide adequate funding to protect and preserve our environment.

There is much to be done that has been ignored for too long. We must reduce greenhouse gases by developing alternative fuels and energy sources, increase production of fuel efficient vehicles, reduce urban sprawl onto prime agricul-

tural soils, improve and expand local, regional, and national mass transportation systems and increase recycling and waste management, all while maintaining biodiversity. We will restore responsible environmental regulations affecting open space, wilderness areas, soil conservation, forest management, toxic and hazardous waste disposal and cleanup, and watershed protection. We call for the use of advanced technology and environmentally friendly practices to be implemented in mining domestic natural resources, and the enforcement and strengthening of safety regulations. To ensure the protection of our state's valuable natural resources, we support the re-establishment of a Public Intervener's Office and the creation of an independent Department of Natural Resources.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Our nation must seek to befriend others and encourage the growth of democracy worldwide. We must address the grievances and problems that foster terrorism, rather than fight wars that perpetuate them. America must work with other nations to end hunger, disease, illiteracy, and unemployment around the world. As the world's only remaining superpower, we have an obligation to lead by example rather than by force. We pledge the United States to be a cooperative and effective leader and partner with allied nations in the fight against terrorism and the pursuit of global accords on human rights, economic justice, ecological protection and alleviation of disease.

We respect the religions of other cultures and will not use religious beliefs as a rationale for going to war. A pre-emptive war is against our nation's principles and harms our credibility and standing in the world. A decision to go to war should always be thoughtful and considerate of different points of view. War must always be a last resort. All branches of our Government and military must conform to the Geneva Conventions and not tolerate the use of torture.

We must do everything possible to prevent our enemies from attacking us, but we believe that this can be done without sacrificing the civil rights guaranteed under the Constitution. Therefore, we call upon Congress to begin impeachment proceedings immediately against President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld.

We call for American occupation forces in Iraq to be withdrawn at the earliest possible time. Multi-lateral reconstruction of Iraq can be achieved with American participation and international participation so that the Iraqi people can freely and peacefully determine their own future.

All countries that we trade with must offer wages, benefits and work and environmental standards comparable to our own, because it is the right thing to do, and should be done in order to protect the rights and jobs of workers here at home. We do not support fast track trade authority in order to enrich corporations at the expense of American families and the financial stability and security of our nation.

We support working with nations and organizations that support fair trade. Fair trade is vital in providing all people with the opportunity to work at occupations that provide a fair living wage, health benefits, safe working conditions, and the right to collective bargaining, while enforcing environmentally friendly policies. We support cooperative efforts to eliminate global pollution and mitigate the effects of global warming.

CONCLUSION

The membership of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin has crafted and adopted this platform. Our state and our country will become stronger and better by following the principles, in line with our values, outlined herein. We expect all candidates supported by the Democratic Party to support this Platform and, when elected to office, to work to implement it.

WISCONSIN GREEN PARTY June 2007

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Coordinating Council

Co-Chairs: BOB POESCHL, Oshkosh; RUTH WEILL, Milwaukee.

Corresponding Secretary: BOB VEITH, Madison.

Recording Secretary: CINDY STIMMLER, Dresser.

Treasurer: GINNY BORMANN, Madison.

Diversity Caucus: WINSTON F. SEPHUS, JR., Milwaukee.

Lavender Caucus: MONTE LETOURNEAU.

Women's Caucus: DEBBY RUDDOCK.

Youth Caucus: BRAD KARAS, NICKI ORLANDO.

Council Members:

1st District

Bill Hensley, Kenosha

Pete Karas, Racine

2nd District

Bill Anderson, Madison

Saul Wolf, Madison

3rd District

Andrew Posselt, Cheseburg

vacancy

4th District

Tommy King, Milwaukee

Bryce Ruddock, Milwaukee

Claude VanderVeen, Milwaukee

5th District

Tom Depies, Oconomowoc

Bruce Hinkforth, Oconomowoc

6th District

Jo Ellen Gramling, Oshkosh

Ronald Hardy, Oshkosh

7th District

Jeff Peterson, Luck

Doug Stingle, Stevens Point

8th District

Chris Burkley, Waupaca

Taku Ronsman, Green Bay

Source: Wisconsin Green Party at wisconsinsegreenparty.org, March 20, 2007.

Officers. Officers include two spokespersons, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, and a treasurer. The spokespersons serve staggered 2-year terms and may not be reelected for successive terms. The other officers serve one-year terms and may be reelected. Elections are held at the fall meeting.

Coordinating Council. The Wisconsin Green Party Coordinating Council includes all of the officers plus two members from each of the eight congressional districts in Wisconsin, as well as a representative from each statewide caucus. The officers and members are elected each fall at the membership meeting.

State Convention. State conventions are held in the spring and fall of each year. Officers are elected at the fall convention.

PLATFORM OF THE WISCONSIN GREEN PARTY

(Amended May 23, 2007)

Preamble

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that we must treat each other with love, respect and fairness, and that we must protect the earth for future generations.

The crises of our times demand a fundamental shift in human values and culture, and in our social, economic and political institutions. The way we live today is based on using things up: our air, our water, our natural resources, and our people. We need a new way of doing things that is sustainable, that will allow our people and our environment to flourish now and in the future. We can't keep spending today what we – and our children and their children – will need tomorrow.

The Wisconsin Green Party offers a new vision for change, for a sustainable future. We recognize that one of the greatest obstacles to that change is the fact that government no longer responds to the needs of citizens. Only by building grassroots democracy can we be sure that changes will be real, not just appearances or promises. Since neither the Democratic Party nor the Republican Party has shown a real commitment to running government in the public interest, the Wisconsin Green Party believes another political party is needed, one that people can believe in and trust.

Our vision is of a sustainable society in harmony with the environment, one that meets all people's needs for security, self-respect, freedom, creativity, and community. We recognize that personal, cultural, social, economic, political and ecological problems are interconnected. We reject the current simplistic solutions to these problems. New, creative solutions are needed which allow us to live well and happily without destroying our environment or our society. We are confronted with the challenge of letting go of old ways and creating a new vision and a new way of life.

Ecological Wisdom

The Wisconsin Green Party believes that Ecological Wisdom has a direct effect on quality of life. Only by practicing sound stewardship and ecological responsibility can we stop the degradation of the life-giving relationships that exist between humankind and the earth. The "public trust doctrine," which holds that public land, water, minerals, forests, and other natural resources are held in trust for the public and used for the common good, must be enforced. The precautionary principle must be applied to public policy decisions, especially those concerning the approval of drugs, pesticides, and genetically modified organisms, to protect the public from practices of uncertain consequence.

Agriculture

1. State government should provide subsidies to make the change from petrochemical-based to organic farming methods that are economically feasible for small-scale farmers.

2. The state should develop the necessary infrastructure to support the regionalization of food production and distribution systems, such as urban farms, farmers markets, community-supported agriculture and regional food processing facilities.

3. Wisconsin should establish a system of subsidies and tax incentives to protect family farms as an indispensable component of a healthy and sustainable agricultural economy.

4. A state land banking system of prime farmland to prevent diversion to non-farm use through first-option state acquisition of the land should be created.

5. The Wisconsin Green Party supports the renewal of Wisconsin's agricultural hemp industry, providing opportunities for commercial production of nutritional supplements, oil, household products, fiber and biofuel products.

Chemical Use

6. The State should create and maintain a citizen-accessible central database of the products used, concentration applied, chemical contents, health effects, and company responsible, for any private or commercial pesticide application.

7. Pesticides should not be used on or in public property, except as a last resort after the failure of organic alternatives has been demonstrated. Tax incentives should reward the use of organic pest control methods.

8. Communities in the state should have the right to pass stronger controls on pesticides than those specified in state and federal regulations.

Forest, Wetlands, and Water

9. The Department of Natural Resources should maintain forests, wetlands and all other ecological communities in a manner that will protect biodiversity and allow future generations to benefit.

10. We support a general moratorium on the draining of wetlands and on road building in public forests.

11. Under Green Party leadership, the DNR water quality rules will be stiffened to require absolute non-degradation of existing water bodies.

Energy

12. The Public Service Commission should not grant licenses to new nuclear facilities or the renewal of licenses for existing facilities.

13. We support higher average miles per gallon requirements and stricter emission control requirements on new vehicles, as well as "gas guzzler" taxes and renewable fuel and "gas sipper" rebates on new car purchases.

14. As a response to oil production having reached its peak, we support building and promoting mass transit infrastructure for light rail, high-speed rail and commuter rail, as well as intra- and intercommunity bicycling and walking trails.

15. Community owned utilities and decentralized, neighborhood networks should receive financial aid for the purchase and installation of renewable energy technology such as wind, solar and biomass. The Public Service Commission should require that the electric grid be reconfigured to accept power from widely distributed, diverse sources.

16. We will work towards statewide energy independence, and will promote, encourage and fund energy research that brings Wisconsin closer to a self-sustaining energy system.

17. Under Green Party leadership, the state of Wisconsin will independently implement the terms of the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

18. Green Party leaders will enact policies that significantly reduce the release of gases that deplete the ozone layer, contribute to global warming and cause acid rain.

Waste

19. The Wisconsin Green Party will apply the principles of “reduce, reuse and recycle” to policies in order to reduce waste streams, reduce demands on natural resources and reduce the generation of pollutants.

20. Regional high level nuclear waste dumps should not be located in Wisconsin.

21. Tipping fees at Wisconsin landfills should be increased for commercial haulers. Haulers should be required to bill their commercial customers on a per weight basis.

22. High-level radioactive and highly toxic waste storage should only be for waste generated in Wisconsin.

23. The history and environmental record of recycling or waste disposal firms should be used as major criteria in awarding contracts for municipal services.

24. We will require the DNR and state attorney general to be more vigorous in prosecuting corporate offenses and will hold individuals accountable when appropriate. Corporations that engage in gross violations will have their corporate charters revoked.

Social and Economic Justice

While the Wisconsin Green Party understands and applauds the initiative and ambition shown by people who seek financial security or self-improvement, we believe that it is the role of government to ensure that the financial security and social status of one group does not come via the exploitation and marginalization of others. Additionally, common methods of measuring the economy view production for its own sake as a positive while low unemployment, a condition that favors the majority, is viewed as a threat to economic health. Clearly, new economic paradigms are needed that regard measurements for quality of life and the environment and the full employment of the population as a positive. Lastly, the Wisconsin Green Party asserts that it is the duty of government to earn the allegiance of its citizens by protecting the public from threats “economic and physical” as well as “foreign and domestic.”

Economic Justice

25. Laws regarding articles of incorporation should be revised to make executives and board members more accountable for the effects of their decision making.

26. Under a Green Party government the right of people to form unions, bargain collectively and strike will be upheld. We oppose “union-busting” tactics. The state should assist management in working more closely and cooperatively with unions.

27. Green Party plans for economic development will focus on jobs that are based in the community and that have a vested interest in the community where their employees live – especially small businesses.

28. The Wisconsin Green Party supports family leave legislation, paid vacation time, job sharing, and the involvement of workers in decision making, management, and scheduling.

29. Green elected officials will emphasize and promote regional trade, emphasizing stronger ties with our Canadian neighbors who share the Great Lakes basin. State trade missions should promote “fair trade” over “free trade” with specific countries that are moving toward more equitable, sustainable economies.

Criminal Justice

30. The Wisconsin Green Party opposes reinstatement of the death penalty in Wisconsin.

31. Crimes against people and communities should be punished through restitution and/or jail time. Alternative sentencing should be emphasized for victimless crimes and nonviolent offenders. Ex-offenders should be prepared to come out into a healthy community that both supports them and holds them accountable.

32. We oppose the privatization of the prison system.

33. Our justice system should attach equal importance to prosecuting white-collar criminals, including environmental violators of our common property. Corporate executives should be held personally responsible for the consequences of their corporate actions.

34. Community members should be involved directly in crime control in their own communities through citizen police boards and neighborhood watch programs.

35. The Wisconsin Green Party supports the legalization of marijuana use, possession, and cultivation.

Education

36. We oppose the corporatization of education in all its forms, including corporate school vouchers, promotional deals, subcontracting, outright privatization, and the use of standardized tests as the primary determinant for grade advancement, graduation or teacher pay.

37. The Wisconsin Green Party will repeal laws that prevent faculty and staff from engaging in collective action, slowdowns, and strikes, and will eliminate laws that harm educational quality and interfere with collective bargaining such as Qualified Economic Offer or QEO.

38. We will work to redraw district boundaries to promote decentralization of schools and an appropriate scale for school districts. The transportation of students over great distances is already a burden on the budgets in many rural districts, and the size of some school districts presents a real barrier to meaningful participation by parents, students, and community members in school board elections.

39. We recognize that an educated citizenry is both a public good and a social right, and that tuition today represents the greatest obstacle to educational access. We will work with student, alumni, administration and community leaders to gradually phase out tuition at Wisconsin's public universities, community, and technical colleges, beginning with an immediate reduction in tuition to levels comparable to the 1950's, adjusted to inflation.

40. The Wisconsin Green Party's education policy will foster an understanding of Native Sovereignty, the history of our conflicts and treaties with Wisconsin's tribes, and a respect for native cultures. We support the right to use, teach, cultivate and preserve indigenous languages and cultures for future generations.

41. We will work to expand, where needed, weekend, second shift and third shift educational opportunities.

Health Care System

42. The Wisconsin Green Party will implement a universal, single-payer system that will be funded through state taxes. The system will be designed to allow citizens to select health care providers and treatment.

43. The state should promote the revitalization of public health care clinics and school nurses to provide necessary health services and counseling, preventative care and instruction in hygiene, nutrition, contraception and wellness.

44. The state should promote the chartering of nonprofit and not-for-profit hospitals.

45. The state should establish work rules that abolish mandatory overtime for nurses and other paraprofessionals in hospitals.

46. We will fund the University of Wisconsin system to develop new programs to provide paraprofessionals required to expand the public health service.

47. Drug abuse of all kinds should be treated as a disease rather than a criminal offense.

48. We defend a woman's right to make reproduction choices affecting her own body. Birth control prescriptions should be covered by all health care plans and/or subsidized by the state.

Racial Justice, Civil and Equal Rights

We are committed to establishing economic, governmental and social relationships that honor diversity; and that support the self-definition and self-determination of all people. We will work to consciously confront the barriers that discrimination against any group or individual creates. We acknowledge that our Nation has a history of oppression, discrimination and violence against Native Americans, people of color, women, LGBT people, working class, youth, religious minorities, differently abled and immigrants. Discrimination, racial violence, harassment and sexual assault continue to be major social problems.

49. The Wisconsin Green Party supports and will defend the right of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people to be treated equally with all other people in all areas of life, including housing, employment, civil marriage, benefits, and child custody. We will also recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere.

50. We will work with civil rights agencies and community leaders to establish a system for the ongoing review and investigation of racial profiling.

51. We will work to end racial discrimination in the criminal justice system by conducting a systematic review of drug convictions, examining the disparate rate of conviction and incarceration between whites and people of color.

52. We will establish a system of reparations for the genocide perpetrated against Wisconsin's native peoples and for the lingering effects of slavery and segregation.

53. We will enact state level guarantees of equal pay for equal work.

54. We will guarantee the civil rights of all Wisconsin citizens, regardless of Federal citizenship or immigration status.

55. We will expand affirmative action for underrepresented and disadvantaged groups in all areas of state government.

Grassroots Democracy

Democracy and self-governance are dependent on the public being fully informed, and on all political parties having access to the ballot and public debate and discourse. Additionally, since the voter is consenting to being governed, the full will of the voter should be expressed and reflected in election results. To this end the Wisconsin Green Party will work to implement policies that result in the public being fully informed about issues and policies that remove the barriers between the voters and the government that represents them.

Taxation

56. The Wisconsin Green Party will institute a progressive method of taxation that shifts the tax burden away from those that can least afford it. We will eliminate the income tax for households making less than \$20,000 a year and reduce the income tax for households making between \$20,000 and \$30,000 a year.

57. We will direct a portion of funds from an increase in the motor fuel tax to the development of alternative transportation such as mass transit and bicycle trails.

58. We will eliminate tax loopholes for corporations and the wealthy, including the state capital gains deduction and the exemption of manufacturing machinery and equipment from property tax.

59. Independent businesses that are locally owned and not affiliated with any out-of-state entity should be taxed at a lower rate than franchises that export local dollars out of the community.

60. The Wisconsin Green Party opposes state caps on local property tax levies.

Home Rule

61. We will challenge attempts by the state and federal governments to preempt and prevent local people from making the economic decisions that matter most to them, such as municipal minimum wage laws and community cable utilities.

62. We will work to expand the principle of Home Rule to include limited forms of sovereignty for municipal, town, tribal and county governments.

63. We will establish and enforce state law that affirms constitutional rights are granted to natural persons, not corporations.

Electoral Reforms

64. We support the adoption of preferential voting as the ballot counting procedure that ensures the fullest expression of voter will and eliminates the cost of primaries in non-partisan local elections.

65. We support the gradual transition to a system of proportional representation for legislative offices.

66. Ballot access laws should assure that access thresholds are set low enough to reflect emerging shifts in voter preferences.

67. Voters should not be denied access to the views of any candidate or political party. The Wisconsin Green Party believes that all registered candidates should be invited to participate in any public forum that includes other candidates for the same office. We insist on the inclusion of the registered candidates from all ballot-qualified political parties in all debates conducted over the public airwaves and will work to provide free and equal media access to all ballot-qualified candidates in state elections.

68. We will work to remove corruption from campaign financing by creating a statewide system of publicly and fully funded elections based on the Maine model.

69. The Wisconsin Green Party opposes term limits as they are restrictions on the will of the people.

Open Government

70. We will bring decision-making down to the most appropriate level by replacing unaccountable rulemaking, budgeting, and permitting with participatory democratic processes that are open to the public.

71. We will increase public funding for public print, radio, internet and television, and invest in the creation of more free public spaces for civic and political dialogue such as kiosks and meetings spaces.

72. We will ensure the full and timely enforcement of local and state sunshine laws, and that all meetings subject to the open meetings law are indeed open, publicized and accessible to the public.

73. We will expand the mission and funding of the Legislative Reference Bureau to provide for direct assistance to private citizens interested in researching or drafting state rules or legislation.

Nonviolence

Reducing violence in all its manifestations is a core motive of the Green Party. We refuse to advocate or use violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree. Instead we promote a diversity of techniques – including civil disobedience, nonviolent resistance, noncooperation, strikes, noncompliance and persuasion – to achieve social change. We believe that reducing social inequality is the most effective means of achieving a lasting peace and that economic justice, education and programs that create opportunity have the greatest potential to reach that goal [see planks #26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 40, 47 and 49 – 55]. The Wisconsin Green Party emphasizes that solutions to poverty, alienation, anger and political inequality are the key to solving the problems of crime, violence, conflict resolution and punishment in our society. Our belief in non-violence and respect for each other must include all animals, humans and non-humans. Others animals, like humans, experience pain and pleasure, and should be allowed to live without suffering, abuse and exploitation.

Teaching Non-violence

74. Beginning in early elementary school and continuing into high school, lessons to teach non-violent conflict resolution will be integrated into the curriculum and reinforced by teachers through daily interactions. We will also work to establish a non-violent conflict resolution class requirement in all UW System undergraduate degrees.

75. The Wisconsin Green Party will develop school based initiatives to address bullying and peer intimidation in our schools.

76. The Wisconsin Green Party recognizes that proposed “concealed carry” laws will not address the root problems of violence and crime in our communities. We therefore oppose passage of such laws.

Violence Toward Non-human Animals

77. The Wisconsin Green Party will work to reduce or eliminate animal suffering associated with human activities in all sectors of society including food, clothing and cosmetics production, research, entertainment, the pet industry and recreation.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN June 2007

Headquarters

State Headquarters: P.O. Box 20815, Greenfield 53220-0815.

Telephone: (800) 236-9236.

Internet Address: <http://www.lpwi.org>

State Executive Committee

Chair: LINDA STURTZEN, Greenfield.

Vice-Chair: JACOB BURNS, Oregon.

Secretary: JOHN GATEWOOD, Madison.

Treasurer: MARKUS ROSTIG, Memphis.

Past Chair: DAVE REDICK, Madison.

At-Large Member: DAVE HENDRICKSON, Milwaukee.

At-Large Member: KEVIN SCOTT SCHULTZ, Glendale.

Congressional District Representatives:

1st District: James J. Sewell, Racine

 Alternate: Nick Rajnovic, Kenosha

2nd District: Stu Seffern, Madison

 Alternate: Ben Masel, Madison

3rd District: Randy Palmer, Altoona

 Alternate: Ken Van Doren, Mauston

4th District: Mike McKenna, Milwaukee

 Alternate: vacancy

5th District: Timothy Peterson, Oconomowoc

 Alternate: Leroy Watson, Oconomowoc

6th District: vacancy

 Alternate: vacancy

7th District: vacancy

 Alternate: Jim Maas, Rothschild

8th District: Ralph Klingsporn, Green Bay

 Alternate: vacancy

Source: Libertarian Party of Wisconsin at www.lpwi.org, June 2007.

State Convention. The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin holds its state convention in the spring of each year to adopt a state party platform and resolutions and conduct other party business. In even-numbered years, the convention selects delegates to the national convention and may endorse candidates for election. In odd-numbered years, it elects party officers and members-at-large to the executive committee.

State Officers and Executive Committee. The party is headed by an executive committee consisting of the 4 party officers, the immediate past state party chair, a representative and alternative from each of the 8 congressional districts, and 2 members-at-large.

The 4 party officers and the 2 members-at-large serve 2-year terms, which begin at the end of the convention at which they are elected. Party officer or member-at-large vacancies are filled by a vote of the committee.

Congressional district members are not assigned fixed terms but generally serve for one year. Congressional district conventions meet annually, although state party members within a congressional district may hold an election at any time. Any vacant congressional district position is filled by a vote of state party members residing within that congressional district. A party member receiving the most votes at a congressional district election becomes a representative when the executive committee accepts his or her credentials.

National Committee. The Libertarian National Committee is composed of the 4 national officers, the immediate past chair, 5 members-at-large, and 9 regional representatives. A state's affiliation with a region is determined by the convention delegates from that state and is often the subject of negotiations before and during the national convention. Members of the Libertarian National Committee are selected at each biennial national convention and serve for 2 years from one national convention to the next. The Libertarian National Committee addresses national issues and serves, but does not control, the state parties.

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN PLATFORM

As Adopted at State Convention, Madison, April 8, 2006

PREAMBLE

As Libertarians, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest and we welcome the diversity that freedom brings. We seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals control their own lives and are never forced to compromise their values or sacrifice their property. We believe that no conflict exists between civil order and individual rights and that individuals, groups, or governments should not initiate force against other individuals, groups, or governments.

PRINCIPLES

LIFE: We believe that all individuals have the right to control their own lives and live in whatever manner they choose, as long as they do not interfere with the identical rights of others.

LIBERTY: The only proper functions of government are the protection of the people from actual foreign or domestic threats to their lives and freedoms; and the protection of their individual rights, namely – life, property, and liberty of speech and action.

PROPERTY: The only economic system compatible with the protection of individual human rights is the free market; therefore, the fundamental right of individuals to own property and to enjoy the rewards of their just earnings should not be compromised.

PREFACE:

While members of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin advocate abolishing laws governing certain voluntary behaviors, this does not necessarily imply endorsement of such behaviors. We only make the statement that in such matters an individual's right to free choice must be recognized and the morality of such choices is not a concern of government. It follows that our silence regarding any other government activity should not be interpreted as implying our approval of such activity.

TAXES:

We advocate phasing out taxes on incomes, personal property, and real property, along with corresponding decreases in the size of government.

TERM LIMITS:

We advocate limits on the time any elected official may serve in office.

ELECTIONS:

We advocate election law reforms that make it easier for the people to nominate and finance the election of the candidates of their choice.

TREATING ADULTS AS CHILDREN:

We believe laws mandating automobile insurance, use of seat belts and helmets, minimum wage, and curfews hamper individual freedom and the responsibility that must go with it. We further believe that laws restricting such things as cruising and tattoos trivialize the law and breed disrespect for it.

STATE MANDATES:

We believe that state mandates, such as the Binding Arbitration Law, are unreasonable burdens on those who must comply with and pay for them. They only represent the desires of special interest groups and their advocates in the legislature. When these mandates are unfunded they become even more unacceptable.

GUN OWNERSHIP:

We believe the right to keep and bear arms should not be infringed. We therefore oppose all laws which tax or otherwise restrict the ownership, open or concealed carry, manufacture, transfer, or sale of firearms or ammunition. We further oppose all laws requiring registration of firearms. We also cannot ignore the clear lessons from history of the suffering which can fall upon a disarmed people.

CHILDREN AND THE FAMILY:

We believe that children are a special group of citizens possessing fundamental rights involving their life and health. However, until they reach the age of legal responsibility, their other rights are limited and their parents or guardians are responsible for their actions and upbringing. Therefore, the rights and authority that parents or guardians need to fulfill their child raising responsibilities must be respected, but never at the expense of the child's life and health.

EDUCATION:

Since private education is today outperforming public education at half the cost, we call for the phase out of all state and federal involvement in education. We therefore endorse "School Choice".

GOVERNMENT WELFARE:

Today's confusion between a person's material needs and that person's rights has led to our current system of taxpayer provided, government welfare programs. These programs often invade privacy and have proven to be demeaning and inefficient. Welfare is not charity. Charity must be freely given. More charity needs to be substituted for welfare. It is also good to remember that for people to be truly free they must become responsible for their own welfare and actions.

FEDERAL “STRINGS”:

The federal government often uses the threat of withholding “federal” funds to coerce states into specific actions. We strongly urge elected officials of Wisconsin to resist such pressure and applaud them when they do.

ENVIRONMENT:

A clean environment is in everyone’s interest. Our legal system should protect public and private property from pollution. However, a balance must be found between environmental regulation and the long term economic health of a free society. The right of property owners to prosecute any polluter under trespass, nuisance, and negligence laws should be reinstated. It follows that bureaucracies should not be allowed to harass alleged environmental violators or restrict their direct access to just treatment under the judicial system.

TRANSPORTATION:

We support the maximum possible privatization of all publicly owned transportation systems and therefore oppose the creation of any new publicly funded or managed transportation systems.

VICTIMLESS CRIME:

Because only actions that infringe on the rights of others can properly be termed “crimes”, we favor the repeal of federal, state, and local laws restricting our fundamental freedom to govern our own lives.

In particular, we advocate: The repeal of laws restricting the production, sale, possession, or use of prohibited drugs and medicines. The repeal of laws regarding a minimum drinking age which are in conflict with the legally recognized age for maturity and responsibility. The repeal of laws restricting consensual sexual relations between adults. The repeal of laws regulating or prohibiting gambling. The decriminalization of assisted suicide.

HEALTH CARE:

We believe the problems with our current health care system are due to government interference and mandates and that any government program to “provide” health care to some at the expense of others will most certainly reduce the overall quality, responsiveness, and individuality of health care for everyone. It would also reduce the influx of the most talented people our society has to offer into the medical profession and diminish the exemplary worldwide progress and leadership our medical system has demonstrated. For these reasons, we advocate the free enterprise system as the only system capable of making quality, affordable, individualized medical care available to all.

PRIVACY:

We believe that free individuals may not be compelled to authorize the assignment, collection or dissemination of personal and private information on themselves; nor may any rights and privileges available to others be denied to them for using such discretion.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN June 2007

Headquarters and Staff

State Headquarters: 148 East Johnson Street, Madison 53703.

Telephone: (608) 257-4765; *Fax:* (608) 257-4141.

Internet Address: <http://www.wisgop.org>

Executive Director: MARK JEFFERSON.

Member Relations Director: SHERRIE OSEGARD.

Political Director: JUSTON JOHNSON.

Communications Director: KIRSTEN KUKOWSKI.

Controller: KATIE MIZE.

Finance Director: KIM JORNS.

IT Coordinator: BRIAN KIND.

Telemarketing Manager: RICHARD DICKIE.

State Executive Committee

State Chairman: REINCE PRIEBUS, Kenosha.

Finance Chairman: MICHAEL MARTIN, Antigo.

Vice Chairmen: 1st – BILL JOHNSON, Hayward; 2nd – DARLENE ROSS, Shawano;

3rd – TODD LOHENRY, Algoma; 4th – TROY FULLERTON, Waukesha.

Secretary: DAVID ANDERSON, Malone.

Treasurer: CATHY STEPP, Sturtevant.

National Committeewoman: MARY BUESTRIN, Mequon.

National Committeeman: MARK GREEN, Oneida.

Wisconsin African American Council: HATTIE DANIELS-RUSH, Milwaukee.

Republican Heritage Council: CAMILLE SOLBERG, Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Labor Council Chairman: JOHN RUDIG, Wauwatosa.

Immediate Past Chairman: BRAD COURTNEY, Whitefish Bay.

Congressional District Chairmen and Vice Chairmen:

1st District

Robert Trapp, Salem

Bob Geason

2nd District

Kim Babler, Madison

Regina Schaar, Lake Mills

3rd District

Gary Arneson, La Crosse

Jerry Nauman, Norwalk

4th District

Bob Spindell, Milwaukee

Doug Haag, Milwaukee

5th District

Crystal Berg, Hartford

Curt David, Brookfield

6th District

Rod Nelson, Sheboygan

David Vlietstra, Elkhart Lake

7th District

Sean Duffy, Ashland

Mike Monson, Antigo

8th District

William Ross, Shawano

Mary Ellen Ramstack, Sturgeon Bay

Source: Republican Party of Wisconsin at: www.wisgop.org. May 18, 2007.

County Organization. County party organizations are the basic building blocks of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. County party leaders are elected in county caucuses prior to April 1 of the odd-numbered year. Each committee has a chairman, first vice chairman, secretary, and treasurer.

Congressional District Organization. Each congressional district has an organization that coordinates the activities of the county organizations in the district, with special emphasis on the election of Republican congressional candidates. The district organization is directed by a committee consisting of district members of the state executive committee and, at minimum, an

elected chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and treasurer. Committee officers are elected in odd-numbered years prior to the state convention.

State Officers and Executive Committee. Party leadership is vested in a 32-member state executive committee, consisting of the 11 party officers (including the chairman of the county chairmen's organization and the chairman of the Young Republicans Professionals, who are designated respectively as the third and fifth vice chairmen of the committee); the immediate past state party chairman; the chairman and vice chairman from each of the state's 8 congressional district organizations; and the Wisconsin Republican African American Council, the Wisconsin Heritage Council, the Wisconsin Senior Citizen Council, and the Wisconsin Labor Council. State committee vacancies are filled by the committee.

Five of the 11 party officers – the chairman, first and second vice chairmen, secretary, and treasurer – are selected in odd-numbered years by the state executive committee at an organizational meeting within 30 days following the state convention. Their 2-year terms begin upon adjournment of the organizational meeting. The persons holding those offices and the immediate past state party chairman may not vote in the selection of the new officers.

The national committeeman and committeewoman are included among the 11 state executive committee officers and are elected for 4-year terms by state convention delegates in presidential election years. They serve from the adjournment of one national party convention to the end of the next and must be approved by the assembled delegates at the party's national convention.

The party finance chairman is also included among the 11 party officers. The finance chairman serves at the pleasure of the newly elected state chairman and is appointed with the consent of the committee to a term that continues until a successor is named.

State Convention. The party holds its state convention in May, June, or July of each year to pass resolutions and conduct other party business. In even-numbered years, the convention adopts a state party platform. A national committeeman and committeewoman are selected in those years in which a national party convention is held.

National Convention and National Committee. The Republican National Committee consists of a committeeman, committeewoman, and a chairman from each state, plus American Samoa, Washington, D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Each state and territory has its own method of electing representatives. National committee members serve from convention to convention. The national committee is led by a chairman and cochairman, who serve 2-year terms.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN PLATFORM

As Adopted at the State Convention, Appleton, May 2006

“Ours will be a campaign of ideas with a focus on our future, starting with the simple premise that we should not settle for anything less than greatness.” – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

It’s time to Make Wisconsin Great Again.

The State of Wisconsin and its citizens are at a critical crossroads in 2006. For three long years the state that led the nation in meaningful reforms and innovation has floundered under the failed leadership of Democrat James E. Doyle. Sadly, our state motto, *Forward*, has become a symbol of the past instead of the beacon that reflected our people’s passion and potential for the future.

As Republicans, we know Wisconsin deserves better. And we will strive to ensure the *Wisconsin Spirit* is no longer held in check, but flourishes to lift the hearts and minds of every Wisconsin family.

We will take strength from our Republican principles of personal responsibility, smaller government and less taxes to reshape our future into one that empowers people to reach their full potential.

We will harness the power of bold ideas to enrich our classrooms and inspire our young people to achieve.

We will take as our duty the validity of the electoral process.

We will hold true to our values and traditions that strengthen families, builds moral character and protects the innocent.

We will remain stewards of the land, while safeguarding our property rights.

We will defend our right to protect family and home.

We will demand accountability in all public institutions and at all levels of government.

We will reinvigorate the entrepreneurial spirit to create jobs, ensure economic vitality and more vibrant communities.

We will lead our state into a new era of prosperity, innovation and opportunity for all.

As Republicans, we will Make Wisconsin Great Again.

AGRICULTURE

“My wife Sue grew up on a farm, so I understand the long hours and hard work it takes to make a farm run. I will work closely with Wisconsin farmers and will continue to dedicate myself to ensuring that they have the tools they need to prosper.” – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We recognize the Wisconsin farmer as individual entrepreneurs have built this state and can continue to do so through a pro-growth farm policy, reasonable regulation, and an equitable tax and fee policy.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

“As someone once said, the best antiseptic to scandal is sunshine.” – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We support the right of individuals to freely express their political opinions through their financial contributions, with full, prompt disclosure. We insist that neither employers nor unions should force individuals to contribute to political causes against their will. We oppose public financing of all campaigns.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

“Unlike the governor, I trust the people of Wisconsin with the right to carry a firearm to protect themselves from those who seek to do us harm.” – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

The Republican Party of Wisconsin is a vigilant supporter of the right of individuals to keep and bear arms embodied in both the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and Article I, Section 25, of the Wisconsin Constitution. We fully endorse the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, support its broad interpretation as an individual right and oppose restrictive legislation. We cannot ignore the clear lessons of history regarding the tyranny and suffering which can fall upon a disarmed and vulnerable people.

EMINENT DOMAIN

“The right to own your own property is one of the fundamental freedoms we enjoy as Americans.” – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We support fair market compensation for individuals when their property is taken or its value is reduced by government actions.

ENVIRONMENT

“Because I’m a hunter and fisherman, and hope to pass that tradition on to my kids, I’d work each day to make sure we have access to healthy streams and forests teeming with wildlife of all kinds.” – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

Republicans believe a balance must be struck between protection of our resources and protection of private property rights. It is the Republican viewpoint that Wisconsin can have a strong economy and protect the environment at the same time. Both private and public interests have a responsibility to preserve the rich heritage that our state has been blessed with, both in its great natural beauty and precious resources.

We support the development of viable domestic renewable and non-fossil fuel energy programs.

EQUAL TREATMENT FOR EVERYONE

"I find it ironic and unfortunate that as our nation mourns the loss of one of history's heroes and celebrates Rosa Parks' life and her commitment to equality, Governor Jim Doyle is turning a blind eye to the needs of Milwaukee's young people. The Milwaukee Parental Choice Program is a ray of hope for many families who simply want a better life for their children." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

The Republican Party of Wisconsin believes that all human beings are created equal in the eyes of God, that all human beings have inherent civil rights and that government should promote equal opportunity for all. We believe that individuals should be allowed to succeed or fail based upon their own merits, not because they are members of particular subgroups. We therefore support an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution that would prohibit the state or any of its political subdivisions or agents, from using race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, or religion as criterion for discriminating against or granting preferential treatment including the lowering of standards to any individual or group with regard to public education, government employment, or government contracting.

ETHICS

"Because of the dark cloud the Doyle administration's ethical lapses have cast over our state government, I want to raise the bar even higher, and to make it clear that I will bring a new day, and a new way, to Wisconsin government." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We are committed to maintaining the highest standard of ethics and integrity for all of our citizens including our elected officials. We expect all public officials and party officials to place public service ahead of personal gain.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

"As I said, our campaign is about Wisconsin's future, and nothing is more important to that future than giving our young people the educational opportunities they need and deserve." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

Parental involvement is the key to successful education. Parents must be given the ability to choose where their children go to school, whether public, private or religious, through a comprehensive school choice plan in which funding follows the students. We support expansion of school choice throughout Wisconsin. We also advocate the right of parents to homeschool their children.

Republicans seek policies and programs that will unleash the independence, innovation and creativity of individual teachers, administrators and school boards. We condemn compliance with state and federal mandates as a substitute for local accountability. We will promote local control of public schools while demanding accountability for results and high standards.

We urge Wisconsin's education system to teach the basic skills and traditional family values as defined by the local community, and to use technology to prepare students to compete in the global economy.

FAMILY VALUES

I believe that family is the central unit of a healthy society, and marriage should be clearly defined in our law. I believe that human life is a gift from God, and deserves protection. – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We commit ourselves to the values that strengthen our culture and sustain our state and nation: faith, family, personal responsibility, and a belief in the dignity and value of human life. Prosperity with a purpose and compassionate conservatism bind us together in a great enterprise for the future of our children.

We continue to believe that traditional families, homes and communities are the foundation of strength in our society and we reaffirm our commitment to them. Parents should be responsible for the overall sex education of their children and schools should teach abstinence and monogamy. We specifically pledge to support marriage as a union between one man and one woman only.

Republicans support legislative and judicial efforts that would affirm legal protection for all innocent human beings from conception until natural death and affirm our support for the Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We strongly support a ban on human cloning and we oppose all research that relies on the destruction of human life, including the unborn.

FREEDOM AND DISCRIMINATION OF RELIGION

"And because I believe so strongly in the work of projects like Rawhide, Urban Hope in Green Bay and Mother Kathryn Daniels Community Center in Milwaukee ... my administration will break down the unnecessary barriers that impede faith-based organizations in their efforts to lift lives and heal neighborhoods." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We call for an end to governmental discrimination against religion and interference with the free practice of religion.

GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE

"Under Governor Doyle, taxes are up, spending is up, borrowing is up, debt is up, tuition is up, fees are up, and for lots of folks, hope seems to be on the way down." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

Governments are a necessary part of society. They have vital functions in providing us with security and services that would otherwise not be possible. They provide us with the framework for improving our lives and protecting our

traditions and freedoms. Governments should exist only to serve the needs of their citizens and must continue to be accountable to them. Our leaders need to be the best people that we have; they need to be scrupulously honest. Governments must limit themselves to only those functions that cannot be fulfilled by other means. They must act with fiscal responsibility to prevent unnecessary taxation, regulation and interference in the lives of our citizens.

GROWING WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY

"I'll make this pledge to all of you. Elect me as your governor and the Wisconsin's tax burden will get better or I won't run for reelection. I'll keep my promise ... or step aside for someone who will.

"For each year I've been in Congress, Americans for Tax Reform has named me a 'Hero of the Taxpayer.' I plan to be a hero to taxpayers as governor too." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

Growing Wisconsin's economy is a high priority for Wisconsin Republicans as we continue to build Wisconsin through economic development and job creation.

Recognizing that Wisconsin taxes are too high, we oppose any net increases in taxes and call for significant tax relief immediately. Because Wisconsin citizens still carry a heavier tax burden than citizens of other states, we call for a State constitutional amendment to limit government growth. We support the concept that the free market, and not governmental mandates, dictate economic outcomes as much as possible.

HEALTH CARE

"In so many ways, Wisconsin is a leader in medical research and health care delivery. Elect me as your governor, and we'll build on that solid foundation." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We are committed to maintaining high quality health care in the State of Wisconsin. We insist on a fair and balanced legal system to prevent undue insurance liability on our doctors and nurses so as to encourage them to stay in Wisconsin.

We encourage laws and regulations, including allowing for Health Savings Accounts, and for volume purchasing of medical insurance and health care risk pools for Wisconsin businesses and the self-employed.

IMMIGRATION

"As the son of immigrants, I believe strongly that America should remain the great melting pot ... a welcoming nation that embraces new arrivals who legally come here to pursue the American dream." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We are committed to being an open and welcoming society. As in our past, we continue to welcome any and all immigrants who legally enter our country to work, participate as a citizen, become an asset to society, and uphold the values and traditions that have made this country great. We welcome all these new citizens to participate in the Republican Party and uphold its values of hard work and personal responsibility.

INDIVIDUAL STATES' RIGHTS

"... the powers of government are derived from the people first, and then from the states and only then finally from the federal government." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We believe our citizens and the fifty states must continue to vigorously reclaim all power not expressly given to the federal government as guaranteed through the Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution. We oppose all efforts of an activist judiciary to usurp these powers.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

"I was proud to support the PATRIOT Act reauthorization because I know it will help make more of our communities safe from the scourge of terrorism, and save countless American lives." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

America must remain a strong force in the world through example, education and assistance to other governments. It must encourage the development of democracy, equality and respect for humanity throughout the world and, when necessary, it must protect itself and its allies from the forces of evil through military means. To that end we support the continued maintenance of a strong national defense with the most modern of weapons and the best training that can be provided for our troops. We support the continued development of homeland security against attack by all reasonable means that do not infringe upon our constitutional freedoms. We wholeheartedly support our troops abroad and our military and political leaders who direct their efforts.

PROTECTING THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

"Elect me governor, and the very first bill I sign will be one that restores faith in our electoral system ... and 2006 will be the last time you don't have to show a photo ID to vote." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We support the formation of a voter identification system, including government issued photograph identification, that will protect the integrity of our state election process to promote free and fair elections.

TORT REFORM

"If I am elected governor, I'll make stopping lawsuit abuse one of my top priorities, and I will never choose trial lawyers over Wisconsin families." – Congressman Mark Green, Republican candidate for Governor

We support a continuous effort in regard to tort reform in order to create an environment of business growth.