

Political Parties

Wisconsin political parties: state organizations and current party platforms

Wisconsin State Capitol from the 200 Block of State Street, 1939



(Wisconsin Historical Society, 1892)

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 2013, Wisconsin had three recognized political parties: Constitution, Democratic, and Republican.

The Wisconsin Statutes define a political party in Section 5.02 (13) as a state committee that is legally registered with the Government Accountability 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 elec-

tion, 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.

Republicans controlled both the senate and assembly under a Democratic governor from 2003 to 2006. In 2006, Democrats won a majority in the senate. In 2008, they took control of the assembly for the first time since 1994. At the beginning of the 2009 session, Democrats controlled the governor's office, senate, and assembly for the first time since 1986. In 2010, a Republican governor was elected and control of the senate and assembly reverted to the Republicans.

Of the state's major elected partisan officers in January 2013, the Republicans held the positions of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and state treasurer, as well as one U.S. Senate seat, five of the eight congressional seats, and majorities in the state senate and assembly. Democrats filled the position of secretary of state, and held one U.S. Senate seat and three congressional seats.

CONSTITUTION PARTY OF WISCONSIN July 2013

Headquarters

State Headquarters: P.O. Box 070344, Milwaukee 53207-1918.

Telephone: (877) 201-2441.

State Internet Address: <http://wisconsinconstitutionparty.com>

State E-mail: cpowchairman@yahoo.com

National Office: P.O. Box 1782, Lancaster, PA 17608.

National Internet Address: <http://www.constitutionparty.com/>

State Committee – Officers

Chairman: RILEY J. HOOD, Milwaukee.

Vice Chairman: NIGEL BROWN, Janesville.

Chairman of Committees: ANDREW ZUELKE, Ripon.

Secretary: S. KENT STEFFKE, Milwaukee.

Treasurer: RALPH DENSON, Milwaukee.

State Committee – Congressional District Representatives

1st District

Grant Gillepsie

vacancy

2nd District

Mike Tuttle, Newark (township)

vacancy

3rd District

Lorraine Decker

Spring Raine Decker

4th District

Janice Hood

vacancy

5th District

William J. Hemenway, Waukesha

vacancy

6th District

Dino Bohlman

vacancy

7th District

Larry Oftedahl, Barron

vacancy

8th District

Mark Gabriel, Appleton

Brian Farmer, Appleton

Source: Constitution Party of Wisconsin

Membership. Individual membership in the Constitution Party of Wisconsin is based on statewide affiliation. Anyone who is in good standing with the state party and has paid the annual membership fee may attend the state convention and participate in lesser party committees.

Lesser Committees. Members in congressional districts, state senate and assembly districts, and county and election districts may form party committees affiliated with the state committee. The purpose of the lesser committees is to help build the party and aid its candidates seeking election.

State Committee. The Constitution Party of Wisconsin is headed by a state committee composed of 22 members: 6 state officers and 2 representatives elected by the members in each of the 8 congressional districts. The state officers are the chairman, vice chairman, chairman of committees, secretary, treasurer, and parliamentarian. The state chairman serves as the party's executive and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the party. The officers are elected in odd-numbered years and serve 2-year terms. The congressional district representatives are elected in caucuses prior to the state convention each year.

CONSTITUTION PARTY OF WISCONSIN PLATFORM

As modified and adopted in Constitution Party National Convention, April 26, 2008
And amended in Constitution Party of Wisconsin State Convention, April 24, 2010

Preamble

The Constitution Party of Wisconsin gratefully acknowledges the blessing of the Lord God as Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the Universe and of this Nation. It recognizes Jesus Christ as transcendent King over all nations and hereby appeals to Him for aid, comfort, guidance and the protection of His Divine Providence as we work to restore and preserve this nation as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The U.S. Constitution established a republic under God, rather than a democracy.

Our republic is a nation governed by a Constitution, which is rooted in Biblical law, administered by representatives who are constitutionally elected by the citizens.

In a republic governed by Constitutional law, rooted in Biblical law, all life, liberty, and property are protected.

We affirm the principles of inherent individual rights upon which these United States of America were founded:

- That each individual is endowed by his Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are the rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of the individual's personal interest;
- That the freedom to own, use, exchange, control, protect, and freely dispose of property is a natural, necessary, and inseparable extension of the individual's unalienable rights;
- That the legitimate function of government is to secure these rights through the preservation of domestic tranquility, the maintenance of a strong national defense, and the promotion of equal justice for all;
- That history makes clear that left unchecked, it is the nature of government to usurp the liberty of its citizens and eventually become a major violator of the people's rights; and
- That, therefore, it is essential to bind government with the chains of the Constitution and carefully divide and jealously limit government powers to those assigned by the consent of the governed.

The Constitution Party of Wisconsin calls on all who love liberty and value their inherent rights to join with us in the pursuit of these goals and in the restoration of these founding principles.

Abortion, Euthanasia, and Bio-research

The Constitution Party of Wisconsin calls upon our state officials to fulfill their obligations as lesser magistrates to uphold the U.S. Constitution and the state constitution by taking immediate action to end the practice of abortion in Wisconsin.

We further call upon our state legislators to amend the Wisconsin Constitution to recognize personhood from the moment of fertilization.

We condemn the practice of so-called "assisted suicide" and call upon our state legislators to resist any and all attempts to legalize euthanasia.

Sanctity of Life

The Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Preamble of the Constitution states a purpose of the Constitution to be: "Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

We declare the unalienable right of Life to be secured by our Constitution "to ourselves and our Posterity." Our posterity includes children born and future generations yet unborn. Any legalization of the termination of innocent life of the born or unborn is a direct violation of our unalienable right to life.

The pre-born child, whose life begins at fertilization, is a human being created in God's image. The first duty of the law is to prevent the shedding of innocent blood. It is, therefore, the duty of all civil governments to secure and to safeguard the lives of the pre-born.

To that end, the Constitution of these United States was ordained and established for "ourselves and our posterity." Under no circumstances may the federal government fund or otherwise support any state or local government or any organization or entity, foreign or domestic, which advocates, encourages or participates in the practice of abortion. We also oppose the distribution and use of all abortifacients.

We affirm the God-given legal personhood of all unborn human beings, without exception. As to matters of rape and incest, it is unconscionable to take the life of an innocent child for the crimes of his father.

No government may legalize the taking of the unalienable right to life without justification, including the life of the pre-born; abortion may not be declared lawful by any institution of state or local government — legislative, judicial, or executive. The right to life should not be made dependent upon a vote of a majority of any legislative body.

In addition, Article IV of the Constitution guarantees to each state a republican form of government. Therefore, although a Supreme Court opinion is binding on the parties to the controversy as to the particulars of the case, it is not a political rule for the nation. *Roe v. Wade* is an illegitimate usurpation of authority, contrary to the law of the nation's Charter and Constitution. It must be resisted by all civil government officials, federal, state, and local, and by all branches of the government — legislative, executive, and judicial.

We affirm both the authority and duty of Congress to limit the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in all cases of abortion in accordance with the U.S. Constitution, Article III, Section 2.

In office, we shall only appoint to the federal judiciary, and to other positions of federal authority, qualified individuals who publicly acknowledge and commit themselves to the legal personhood of the pre-born child. In addition, we will do all that is within our power to encourage federal, state, and local government officials to protect the sanctity of the life of the pre-born through legislation, executive action, and judicial enforcement of the law of

the land.

Further, we condemn the misuse of federal laws against pro-life demonstrators, and strongly urge the repeal of the FACE Acts as an unconstitutional expansion of federal power into areas reserved to the states or people by the Tenth Amendment.

In addition, we oppose the funding and legalization of bio-research involving human embryonic or pre-embryonic cells.

Finally, we also oppose all government "legalization" of euthanasia, infanticide and suicide.

Agricultural Freedom

Every producer of any agricultural product shall be at liberty to sell the product to any consumer, or consumers in aggregate, at any level, stage or condition of processing. We oppose government intrusion into the private and business life of farmers and farming.

Congressional Reform

"The Senators and Representatives ... shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution ..."

— U.S. Constitution, Article VI, Clause 3

With the advent of the 17th Amendment, a vital check on Congress was removed. Since then, Congress has usurped power relatively unchecked, where today, very few members of Congress make it through a single session without violating their oath of office to the Constitution.

The Congress of the United States has become an overpaid, overstuffed, self-serving institution. It confiscates taxpayer funds to finance exorbitant and unconstitutionally determined salaries, pensions, and perks. Most members of Congress have become more accountable to the Washington establishment than to the people in their home districts. Both houses of Congress are all too often unresponsive and irresponsible, arrogantly placing themselves above the very laws they enact, and beyond the control of the citizens they have sworn to represent and serve.

We seek to abolish Congressional pensions.

It is time for the American people to renew effective supervision of their public servants, to restore right standards and to take back the government. Congress must once again be accountable to the people and obedient to the Constitution, repealing all laws that delegate legislative powers to regulatory agencies, bureaucracies, private organizations, the Federal Reserve Board, international agencies, the President, and the judiciary.

The U.S. Constitution, as originally framed in Article I, Section 3, provided for U.S. Senators to be elected by state legislators. This provided the states direct representation in the legislative branch so as to deter the usurpation of powers that are Constitutionally reserved to the states or to the people.

The Seventeenth Amendment (providing for direct, popular election of U.S. Senators) took away from state governments their Constitutional role of indirect participation in the federal legislative process.

If we are to see a return to the states those powers, programs, and sources of revenue that the federal government has unconstitutionally taken away, then it is also vital that we repeal the Seventeenth Amendment and return to state legislatures the function of electing the U.S. Senate. In so doing, this would return the U.S. Senate to being a body that represents the legislatures of the several states on the federal level and, thus, a tremendously vital part of the designed checks and balances of power that our Constitution originally provided.

We support legislation to prohibit the attachment of unrelated riders to bills. Any amendments must fit within the scope and object of the original bill.

We support legislation to require that the Congressional Record contain an accurate record of proceedings. Members of Congress are not to be permitted to rewrite the speeches delivered during the course of debates, or other remarks offered from the floors of their respective houses; nor may any additional materials inserted in the Record, except those referred to in the speaker's presentation and for which space is reserved.

Cost of Big Government

James Madison said (Federalist Papers #45):

"The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined."

—The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.1 (Amendment X).

A legitimate and primary purpose of civil government is to safeguard the God-given rights of its citizens; namely, life, liberty, and property. Only those duties, functions, and programs specifically assigned to the federal government by the Constitution should be funded. We call upon Congress and the President to stop all federal expenditures which are not specifically authorized by the U. S. Constitution, and to restore to the states those powers, programs, and sources of revenue that the federal government has usurped.

Budget considerations are greatly impacted by the ever rising national debt. Interest on the debt is one of the largest expenses of government, and unless the interest is paid, the debt will continue to grow as interest is added to interest. If we are to get rid of the debt, a time needs to be set within which the debt will be funded, and then pay it off within that period. Whatever the payoff period may be, three things must happen within that time:

- The annual reductions have to be made without fail.
- All interest must be paid as it accrues; and
- The government must not spend more than it takes in during the payoff period.

One of the greatest contributors to deficit spending is war. If the country is to get rid of debt, the United States cannot become gratuitously involved in constant wars. Constitutional government, as the founders envisioned it, was not imperial. It was certainly not contemplated that America would police the world at the taxpayers' expense.

We call for the systematic reduction of the federal debt through, but not limited to, the elimination of further borrowing and the elimination of unconstitutional programs and agencies.

We call upon the President to use his Constitutional veto power to stop irresponsible and unconstitutional appropriations, and use his Constitutional authority to refuse to spend any money appropriated by Congress for unconstitutional programs or in excess of Constitutionally imposed tax revenue.

The debt could be more rapidly eliminated if certain lands and other assets currently held by the federal government were sold, and the proceeds applied to the debt. This policy should be employed, and funds from the sale of all such assets should be specifically applied to debt reduction.

We reject the misleading use of the terms “surplus” and “balanced budget” as long as we have public debt. We oppose dishonest accounting practices such as “off-budget items” used to hide unconstitutional spending practices.

We call for an end to the raiding by the federal government of the Social Security, Railroad Retirement and Medicare funds. We believe that over a protracted period the Social Security system may be privatized without disadvantage to the beneficiaries of the system. However, the program has been in place since the 1930s, and workers and their employers were taxed for the program and paid in good faith. The government promised to deliver the benefits, and must meet this commitment.

We call for the abolition of the Civil Service system, which is perceived to confer on government employees a “property right” regarding their jobs.

Crime

The amount of crime in a society is directly related to the level of moral restraint of its citizens. Government is a reflection of that moral restraint, not its legislator. Increasing the amount of moral restraint in our society is not the responsibility of government, but of those called to that mission; namely the family, and the clergy and their congregations. We call upon these to fulfill their mission, renewing the souls of our citizenry, thereby increasing the amount of moral restraint, which will result in a reduction of crime.

We assert that upon completion of his sentence, the person convicted of a crime shall be fully restored to society with full exercise of all rights of citizenship.

Defense

The very purpose of Government, as defined in the 2nd paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, is:

“... to secure these [unalienable] rights, Governments are instituted among Men ...,” “that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness ...”

To fulfill this obligation, the Preamble of the Constitution states one of the duties specifically delegated to the Federal Government is to “Provide for the common defense.”

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clauses 11-16 give Congress further direction and authority in this area, including the power “To raise and support Armies” and “To provide and maintain a Navy.”

It is a primary obligation of the federal government to provide for the common defense, and to be vigilant regarding potential threats, prospective capabilities, and perceived intentions of potential enemies.

We oppose unilateral disarmament and dismemberment of America’s defense infrastructure. That which is hastily torn down will not be easily rebuilt.

We condemn the presidential assumption of authority to deploy American troops into combat without a declaration of war by Congress, pursuant to Article I, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution.

Under no circumstances would we commit U.S. forces to serve under any foreign flag or command. We are opposed to any New World Order, and we reject U.S. participation in or a relinquishing of command to any foreign authority.

The goal of U.S. security policy is to defend the national security interests of these United States. Therefore, except in time of declared war, for the purposes of state security, no state National Guard or reserve troops shall be called upon to support or conduct operations in foreign theatres.

We should be the friend of liberty everywhere, but the guarantor and provisioner of ours alone.

We call for the maintenance of a strong, state-of-the-art military on land, sea, in the air, and in space. We urge the executive and legislative branches to continue to provide for the modernization of our armed forces, in keeping with advancing technologies and a constantly changing world situation. We call for the deployment of a fully-operational strategic defense system as soon as possible.

We believe that all defense expenditures should be directly related to the protection of our nation, and that every item of expenditure must be carefully reviewed to eliminate foreign aid, waste, fraud, theft, inefficiency, and excess profits from all defense contracts and military expenditures.

We reject the policies and practices that permit women to train for or participate in combat. Because of the radical feminization of the military over the past two decades, it must be recognized that these “advances” undermine the integrity, morale, and performance of our military organizations by dual qualification standards and forced integration.

We fully support well regulated militias organized at the state level. Further, we fully support and encourage the restoration of unorganized militia at the county and community level in compliance with our patriotic and legal responsibilities as free citizens of these United States.

Under no circumstances should we have unilaterally surrendered our military base rights in Panama. The sovereign right of the United States to the United States territory of the Canal Zone has been jeopardized by treaties between the United States and Panama. Inasmuch as the United States bought both the sovereignty and the grant ownership of the ten-mile-wide Canal Zone, we propose that the government of the United States restore and protect its sovereign right and exclusive jurisdiction of the Canal Zone in perpetuity, and renegotiate the treaties with Panama by which the ownership of the canal was surrendered to Panama.

It should be a priority goal of the President and Congress to insist on enforcement of that portion of the 1978 Panama Canal Neutrality Treaty which prohibits control of the entrances to the Panama Canal by any entity not part of the Republic of Panama or these United States of America. By this standard, the award of port facilities at the entrances to the Panama Canal to Hutchison Whampoa, a Hong Kong company closely linked to the Chinese Communist People’s Liberation Army, must be overturned. Similarly, Congress and the President should take advantage of Panama Canal treaty provisions to negotiate the return of a U.S. military presence at the Isthmus of Panama. At a time when the U.S. Navy is one-third its former size, it is essential that rapid transit of U.S. military vessels between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans be assured.

Education

Education should be free from any State Government subsidy and government interference. The State Government has no legitimate role in either subsidizing or regulating education. To that end, the CPoW supports amending the Wisconsin Constitution to remove the State of Wisconsin from any role in education.

We support an orderly transition to free market education including Home Education and Private Schools (for profit and non-profit) and encourage benevolence to provide effective education for those in need.

Energy (with CPoW addendum)

James Madison said (Federalist Papers #45):

“The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined.”

—The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. (Amendment X).

We call attention to the continuing need of these United States for a sufficient supply of energy for national security and for the immediate adoption of a policy of free market solutions to achieve energy independence for these United States. We call for abolishing the Department of Energy.

Private property rights should be respected, and the federal government should not interfere with the development of potential energy sources, including natural gas, crude oil, coal, hydroelectric power, solar energy, wind generators, and nuclear energy.

Family

The CPoW calls upon our national and state officials to oppose any action by the U.S. Courts that would establish any recognition of “same-sex marriage.”

We call upon our Wisconsin legislators to uphold the recent Wisconsin Constitutional Amendment that defines marriage as the —union of one man and one woman and prevent the establishment of any counterfeit, such as — domestic partnerships.

We call upon all state officials to outlaw all acts of sodomy.

We further call upon the Wisconsin State Legislature to repeal the provisions in the Wisconsin State Statutes that allow for “no fault divorce”.

Gun Control

The 2nd Amendment strictly limits any interference with gun ownership by saying: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

The right to bear arms is inherent in the right of self defense, defense of the family, and defense against tyranny, conferred on the individual and the community by our Creator to safeguard life, liberty, and property, as well as to help preserve the independence of the nation.

The right to keep and bear arms is guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the Constitution; it may not properly be infringed upon or denied.

The Constitution Party upholds the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms. We oppose attempts to prohibit ownership of guns by law-abiding citizens, and stand against all laws which would require the registration of guns or ammunition.

We emphasize that when guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have them. In such circumstances, the peaceful citizen’s protection against the criminal would be seriously jeopardized.

We call for the repeal of all federal firearms legislation, beginning with Federal Firearms Act of 1968.

We call for the rescinding of all executive orders, the prohibition of any future executive orders, and the prohibition of treaty ratification which would in any way limit the right to keep and bear arms.

Health Care and Government

James Madison said (Federalist Papers #45):

“The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined.”

—The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. (Amendment X).

The Constitution Party opposes the governmentalization and bureaucratization of American medicine. Government regulation and subsidy constitutes a threat to both the quality and availability of patient-oriented health care and treatment.

Hospitals, doctors, and other health care providers should be accountable to patients — not to politicians, insurance bureaucrats, or HMO Administrators.

If the supply of medical care is controlled by the federal government, then officers of that government will determine which demand is satisfied. The result will be the rationing of services, higher costs, poorer results — and the power of life and death transferred from caring physicians to unaccountable political overseers.

We denounce any civil government entity using age or any other personal characteristic to: preclude people and insurance firms from freely contracting for medical coverage; conscript such people into socialized medicine, e.g., Medicare; or prohibit these people from using insurance payments and/or their own money to obtain medical services in addition to, or to augment the quality of, those services prescribed by the program.

We applaud proposals for employee-controlled “family coverage” health insurance plans based on cash value life insurance principles.

The federal government has no Constitutional provision to regulate or restrict the freedom of the people to have access to medical care, supplies or treatments. We advocate, therefore, the elimination of the federal Food and Drug Administration, as it has been the federal agency primarily responsible for prohibiting beneficial products, treatments, and technologies here in the United States that are freely available in much of the rest of the civilized world.

We affirm freedom of choice of practitioner and treatment for all citizens for their health care.

We support the right of patients to seek redress of their grievances through the courts against insurers and/or HMO's.

We condemn the misrepresentations made by the Federal Administration in securing passage of the recently enacted Medicare prescription drug bill, and the use of such legislation to secure government subsidies to special interests, such as the HMOs, and to protect the artificially high cost to consumers of prescription drugs.

Immigration

U.S. Constitution, Article V., Section 4:

The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and Shall protect each of them against Invasion: ...

James Madison:

“When we are considering the advantages that may result from an easy mode of naturalization, we ought also to consider the cautions necessary to guard against abuses. ... aliens might acquire the right of citizenship, and return to the country from which they came, and evade the laws intended to encourage the commerce and industry of the real citizens and inhabitants of America, enjoying at the same time all the advantages of citizens ...”

We affirm the integrity of the international borders of the United States and the Constitutional authority and duty of the federal government to guard and to protect those borders, including the regulation of the numbers and of the qualifications of immigrants into the country.

Each year approximately one million legal immigrants and almost as many illegal aliens enter the United States. These immigrants — including illegal aliens — have been made eligible for various kinds of public assistance, including housing, education, Social Security, and legal services. This unconstitutional drain on the federal Treasury is having a severe and adverse impact on our economy, increasing the cost of government at federal, state, and local levels, adding to the tax burden, and stressing the fabric of society. The mass importation of people with low standards of living threatens the wage structure of the American worker and the labor balance in our country.

We oppose the abuse of the H-1B and L-1 visa provisions of the immigration act which are displacing American workers with foreign.

We favor a moratorium on immigration to the United States, except in extreme hardship cases or in other individual special circumstances, until the availability of all federal subsidies and assistance be discontinued, and proper security procedures have been instituted to protect against terrorist infiltration.

We also insist that every individual group and/or private agency which requests the admission of an immigrant to the U.S., on whatever basis, be required to commit legally to provide housing and sustenance for such immigrants, bear full responsibility for the economic independence of the immigrants, and post appropriate bonds to seal such covenants.

The Constitution Party demands that the federal government restore immigration policies based on the practice that potential immigrants will be disqualified from admission to the U.S. if, on the grounds of health, criminality, morals, or financial dependence, they would impose an improper burden on the United States, any state, or any citizen of the United States.

We oppose the provision of welfare subsidies and other taxpayer-supported benefits to illegal aliens, and reject the practice of bestowing U.S. citizenship on children born to illegal alien parents while in this country.

We oppose any extension of amnesty to illegal aliens. We call for the use of U.S. troops to protect the states against invasion.

We oppose bilingual ballots. We insist that those who wish to take part in the electoral process and governance of this nation be required to read and comprehend basic English as a precondition of citizenship. We support English as the official language for all governmental business by the United States.

Money and Banking

Article I, Section 8, Clause 5 grants only to Congress the power —To coin money [and] regulate the Value thereof ...! with no provision for such power to be delegated to any other group. Congress began immediately to fulfill this obligation with the Mint Act of 1792, establishing a U.S. Mint for producing Gold and Silver based coin, prescribing the value and content of each coin, and affixing the penalty of death to those who debase such currency.

Article I, Section 10:

—No State shall ... coin Money; emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; ...

Thus, the Constitution forbade the States from accepting or using anything other than a Gold and Silver based currency.

Money functions as both a medium of exchange and a symbol of a nation's morality.

The Founding Fathers established a system of “coin” money that was designed to prohibit the “improper and wicked” manipulation of the nation's medium of exchange while guaranteeing the power of the citizens' earnings.

The federal government has departed from the principle of “coin” money as defined by the U.S. Constitution and the Mint Act of 1792 and has granted unconstitutional control of the nation's monetary and banking system to the private Federal Reserve System.

The Constitution Party recommends a substantive reform of the system of Federal taxation. In order for such reform to be effective, it is necessary that the United States:

- Return to the money system set forth in the Constitution;
- Repeal the Federal Reserve Act, and reform the current Federal Reserve banks to become clearing houses only; and
- Prohibit fractional reserve banking.

It is our intention that no system of “debt money” shall be imposed on the people of the United States. We support a debt free, interest free money system.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN May 2013

Headquarters

State Headquarters: 110 King Street, Suite 203, Madison 53703.

Telephone: (608) 255-5172; *Fax:* (608) 255-8919.

Executive Director: MAGGIE BRICKERMAN.

Political Director: JAKE HAJDU.

Membership and Conventions Director: SEAN BERGER; CASSI FENILI, *deputy membership director.*

Compliance and Operations Director: AMANDA BRINK.

Research and Digital Director: MELISSA BALDAUFF.

Finance Director: JULIE BENKOSKE; AMBER GRANT, *deputy finance director.*

Data and Analytics Director: BRYAN POST.

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

State Administrative Committee

Chair: MIKE TATE, Milwaukee.

First Vice Chair: MELISSA SCHROEDER, Merrill.

Second Vice Chair: JEF HALL, Oshkosh.

Secretary: MEG ANDRIETSCH, Racine.

Treasurer: MICHAEL CHILDERS, La Pointe.

National Committee Members: CHRISTINE BREMER MUGGLI, Wausau; ROLLIE HICKS, Eau Claire; MARTHA LOVE, Milwaukee; JASON RAE, Milwaukee.

College Democrats Representative: COLLEEN CULLEN, Milwaukee.

Milwaukee County Chair: SACHIN CHHEDA, Milwaukee.

At-Large Members: ADA DEER, Fitchburg; NIKIYA HARRIS, Milwaukee; BRYAN KENNEDY, Glendale; GRETCHEN LOWE, Madison; ARVINA MARTIN, Madison; BETHANY ORDAZ, Madison; DIAN PALMER, Brookfield; CRIS SELIN, Middleton; MARY LANG SOLLINGER, Madison; ADAM WARPINSKI, Green Bay; JOCASTA ZAMARRIPA, Milwaukee.

County Chairs Association Chair: GARY HAWLEY, Stevens Point.

Congressional District Representatives:

1st District

Melissa Lemke, chair, Racine
Mike Southers, Janesville

2nd District

Erik Paulson, chair, Madison
Laurene Bach, Waunakee

3rd District

Lisa Hermann, chair, Eau Claire
Gary Hawley, Stevens Point

4th District

Terrell Martin, chair, Milwaukee
Stephanie Findley, Milwaukee

5th District

Michael Schlotfeldt, chair, West Bend
Kristin Hansen, Waukesha

6th District

Bob Schweder, chair, Princeton
Jessica King, Oshkosh

7th District

Paul Knuth, chair, Rhineland
Kelly Westlund, Ashland

8th District

Dottie LeClair, chair, Appleton
Thomas Marlier, Shawano

Source: Democratic Party of Wisconsin, May 2013.

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 and work with the county parties in their district. An executive committee directs each congressional district organization.

State Convention. The party holds its annual state convention in June. Each year, the convention considers resolutions, amendments to the state party constitution, and other 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 number of delegates that represent each county is 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 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. At each of the 8 congressional district conventions, 2 representatives are selected 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 at-large administrative committee members.

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 party.

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..

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF WISCONSIN 2012 PLATFORM **Adopted by Convention on June 9, 2012 in Appleton, WI**

Preamble

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

Justice, Human Concerns, and Democracy

Our government must support the values of freedom, family, fairness, and responsibility to community and to all persons.

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, class, religion, actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, age, occupation,

national origin, physical disabilities or appearance, or political beliefs. We support marriage equality for all couples. We will work to ensure that basic civil liberties are forever preserved.

It is vital that government respect, support, and protect freedom of expression. When government attempts to limit the rights of its citizens, the fundamental philosophy on which our nation was established is destroyed. We hold sacrosanct our civil liberties, including but hardly limited to freedom of speech, the right to privacy, the presumption of innocence, the principle of habeus corpus, and due process under law. Nothing less than humane treatment of our fellow human beings is acceptable. Our government, with its checks and balances among the three branches, serves us, and protects our constitutional rights.

We must fully fund our state and local protective services. The men and women who serve us protect our lives and property and are our first line of defense, and we must provide for them.

We 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. We recognize that minorities, senior citizens, and the poor often face formidable challenges, including obstacles to voting. Many citizens also suffer inadequate access to nutritious food, healthcare, education, and housing. We shall work to eliminate those obstacles.

We shall pursue legislation and cultural change that end racial and ethnic profiling, respect the sovereignty of our indigenous Native American host nations and ensure equality between men and women. We shall work for gender-balanced, qualified representation at all levels of government.

Empowerment of citizens in all civic affairs strengthens our nation. Government must be an open institution that people trust, complying with open meeting and public record laws and elected through transparent, publicly-funded state and national elections. We support a fair, non-partisan redistricting process.

Every citizen is guaranteed the right to vote and equal access thereto, including non-incarcerated felons. We support same-day registration and early voting. We oppose voter ID requirements as discriminatory, equivalent to a poll tax, a voter suppression tactic, and a fraudulent solution to exaggerated voter fraud. We have the right and duty to inspect and count all votes and to have a voter-verified paper ballot that guarantees accurate vote counting. The President should be elected by popular vote.

Our goal is a government and an electoral process free of the corrupting influences of money and power. We strongly oppose the decision of the US Supreme Court to allow unlimited campaign advertising by corporations, foreign and domestic. A new Amendment to the Constitution must be adopted to make clear that Corporations are not People and that money is not speech.

We expect the swift impeachment and removal from office of officials who commit high crimes and misdemeanors. Access to accurate information and a diversity of viewpoints are essential to citizen empowerment. The broadcast spectrum belongs to all citizens. Therefore we will work to ensure diverse local ownership of media outlets. We will provide strong support for public broadcasting and other community-owned media outlets. We support free and equal access to news media for all candidates for public office.

We respect the religious liberties of all people and welcome them into the Democratic Party. It is vital that we observe separation between government and religion. It is imperative to the survival of our Democratic Republic that the rights of citizens to choose their own religious and philosophical beliefs remain intact.

We require a fair immigration policy providing a reasonable legal path to residency and citizenship. The policy must include a fair opportunity for current undocumented residents to achieve legal status. All people should be afforded the same basic principles of life, liberty, justice, and fair access to economic security.

It is important to care for all generations. We need affordable, quality, licensed daycare centers and government support to pay for childcare. We cannot neglect our nation's future. We need health education and disease prevention programs concerning smoking, alcohol, drug abuse, and sexually transmitted infections.

It is essential that we preserve Social Security programs for our elderly, disabled, and eligible children. Privatizing Social Security threatens the financial security of the most vulnerable. We must enhance programs for the aging and disabled, including subsidized long-term in-home or nursing home care.

We believe access to affordable, quality health care is a right and that the best solution to our national health care crisis is a single-payer system. Such a system must provide universal access for individuals of all ages, promote preventive measures, provide medications, therapy and cover all physical and mental illnesses equally. Until that system is available, we support broader coverage and increased funding for the current health care programs on local, state and national levels, including BadgerCare and Medicaid.

Personal moral, religious, and medical decisions should be left up to the competent individual. We believe in freedom of reproductive choice, as well as the individual's right to choose death with dignity. Everyone has the right to timely obtain medications, properly and legally prescribed by their health care provider, from any licensed pharmacy. Funding for stem-cell research should not be influenced by religious beliefs but supported on its scientific merits.

Considering Wisconsin's high rate of incarceration, associated correctional costs, and long-lasting effects of incarceration, we support responsible alternatives to prison.

We oppose the death penalty as an inhumane and ineffective means of punishment. We believe in equitable sentencing standards and increasing the authority of judges to modify sentences.

The war on drugs is a colossal failure. We must discourage dangerous drug use without criminalizing the user and provide rehabilitative treatment to addicted persons. We encourage non-penal sanctions for initial minor drug violations. Marijuana should be legal and regulated like tobacco and alcohol.

We support reasonable firearms regulations to ensure the safety of citizens and law enforcement officials. We support the right to hunt, to bear arms, and a concealed carry ban.

Education, Labor, and Economics

Quality public education for all is critical to a healthy democracy and economy. Public funding for private schools diverts resources from and adversely impacts public schools. Increased governmental funding and financial aid is essential for all levels of public education. Nobody should be denied a quality education because of a personal 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. We support fair and equitable funding for all elements of the curriculum, including the arts and physical education.

Wisconsin's current educational funding system has failed. Teacher and support staff compensation must keep pace with costs of benefits and inflation.

Revenue caps on school districts and other local governments must be eliminated. State or federal governments must fully fund their mandates.

Public investment in arts and humanities promotes healthy communities and a healthy economy. We support increased local, state, and federal funding of arts and humanities.

A strong and secure nation depends on sound economic policy that promotes and sustains full, meaningful employment. Business, labor, and the public must work together to re-establish American jobs on American soil. We support small business as a means of economic growth. We must resist outsourcing, thus reinvigorating domestic industries.

The Federal government should fund a safety net of transitional jobs for all individuals who cannot find work and have no unemployment compensation.

Public and private workers have rights to safe and equitable workplaces, living wages, pay equity for women, and secure benefits. Workers' rights to organize, bargain collectively, and strike without fear of reprisal must where lost be restored and otherwise be strengthened. Election by card check is supported to reduce employer intimidation of employees' choice of representation. Employees who benefit from union contracts should pay fair-share dues. We support public employees' rights to speedy mediation and binding arbitration of labor disputes. Businesses must be held accountable for contracts with their employees. "Right-to-work" legislation and the hiring of strikebreakers are anathema to a strong, justly-compensated workforce. Pension and other retirement funds must be strictly safeguarded and responsibly managed through regulation. In the event of bankruptcy, workers' unpaid wages must be the first claim on remaining assets.

We support a tax system that is based on ability to pay. It is immoral to overtax those less able to pay while the wealthy are taxed too little as a percentage of income. The Federal budget must reflect responsible spending and fair taxation. We call on the State Legislature to make corporate taxes on par with the national average.

Financial markets should be more effectively regulated to prevent fraud, excessive speculation, inappropriate compensation, predatory lending, and the need for taxpayer bailouts of mismanaged firms. The needs of Main Street should supercede the needs of Wall Street.

Mining authorizations should provide adequate tax revenue to support the affected communities.

America must invest in a healthy economy by supporting worker training, affordable tuition at our state supported universities and technical colleges and ample funding for research.

American companies have an obligation to our nation to be established here at home, follow our labor and environmental laws, and pay taxes for the good of the commons. Furthermore, we must protect our industries from competition by enforcing tariffs against nations that tolerate unfair worker conditions and environmental degradation.

Our wealth should be measured not only by the GDP but also by broader 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

We must preserve family farming by creating market systems that assure a fair return to both farmers and processors. True Cooperatives and family farm subsidies are essential to the economic viability and quality of life in rural areas. In addition we support value-added agriculture which includes farming endeavors outside traditional forms of agriculture. Regulations controlling environmental pollution from agriculture should be strengthened.

We support farming systems that are humane to animals, preserve our soil, water and forest resources, and produce wholesome, safe food for consumers. We support agricultural sustainability through growth in "buy fresh buy local" practices which insure markets for local farmers and save fuel by eliminating costly transport. We also support truth in labeling of conventional, organic, and genetically modified food.

We oppose practices by genetically modified seed producers which attempt to monopolize the seed business by requiring that all seed be purchased from them.

Protecting the ecological systems of our planet is essential to the economic and social welfare of our state and nation and to the future of humanity. Our legislators and leaders must pay heed to soil, water, and atmospheric pollution; scientific evidence of climate change; all invasive species; and decreasing biodiversity while enacting appropriate legislation to safeguard our environment. We must maintain the integrity of the vast fresh water supply in the Great Lakes. We must expand our recycling efforts.

We support retaining and expanding publicly-owned recreational and wild lands.

We must reduce greenhouse gases by developing alternative and sustainable fuels and energy sources without relaxing regulation of nuclear energy; increase production of fuel-efficient vehicles; reduce urban sprawl on prime agricultural soils; improve and expand local, regional and national mass transportation systems; and increase recycling and waste management, all while maintaining biodiversity. We support 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 industrial settings and mining natural resources and the enforcement 1 and strengthening of safety and environmental regulations. To ensure the protection of our state's valuable natural resources, we support the re-establishment of a Public Intervener's Office and an independent Department of Natural Resources.

Foreign Affairs

We stand for human rights, social and economic justice, the rule of law, and popularly adopted democratic government worldwide. Our leaders and policies must honor international law and honor and promote international agreements that provide groundwork for a just, prosperous, environmentally healthy, and peaceful world. Our United

Nations dues must be fully paid.

We call on our government to be a cooperative and effective leader, a partner in the pursuit of global accords to improve the human condition and protect the environment. We encourage international efforts to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, discrimination, genocide, torture, genital mutilation, human slavery and trafficking, capital punishment, pollution, and climate change. We support expansion of the Peace Corps.

We oppose unfair trade and immigration policies that undermine our economy, harm working people in our country and elsewhere, and harm the environment.

We oppose unfettered international arms trade, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, land mines, radioactive materials in conventional munitions, ballistic missile defense systems, cluster bombs, militarization of space, American-run or funded internment camps, and torture.

We support a military sufficiently strong to safeguard national security. We must provide amply for the health and well-being of members of the military during and after their service. We support efforts to eliminate the use of National Guard troops in undeclared wars.

Our military budget is disproportionately large compared to all other nations. With only 5% of the world's population we make nearly 50% of the world's total military expenditures. Our military budget should be reduced with greater emphasis placed on economic development and diplomacy to achieve global security and curtail the undue influence of the "Military Industrial Complex."

War must always be a last resort. We must address the grievances that foster terrorism rather than fight wars that perpetuate them. We must abide by the Geneva Conventions.

Preemptive war without direct threat to our country is fraudulent, illegal, and disastrous. Congressional action to stop funding for pre-emptive wars and end military assistance to nations conducting preemptive war is long overdue.

We call upon Congress to pass laws displaying visions and values that uphold our Constitution, reverse the failures and illegalities of the executive branch, and maintain the global community's respect and admiration of our country.

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 outlined herein. We expect all candidates supported by the Democratic Party to support this Platform and, when elected, to work to implement it.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN May 2013

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: JOE FADNESS.

Political Director: JONATHAN SCHMIEDER.

Press Secretary: JESSE DOUGHERTY.

Controller/Operations Director: ANDREW GOWDY.

Finance Director: DAN MORSE.

IT Coordinator: JOSEF LEVERATTO.

Telemarketing Manager: RICHARD DICKIE.

Executive and District Leadership

Chairman: BRAD COURTNEY, Whitefish Bay.

Vice Chairmen: 1st – BRIAN SCHIMMING, Madison; 2nd – CRYSTAL BERG, Hartford; 3rd – LAURIE FORCIER, Eau Claire; 4th – KATIE MCCALLUM, Middleton.

At Large Member: MARIPAT KRUEGER, Menomonie.

Finance Chairman: BILL JOHNSON, Hayward.

Secretary: DAVID ANDERSON, Wausau.

Treasurer: MIKE JONES, Milwaukee.

National Committeeman: STEVE KING, SR., Janesville.

National Committeewoman: MARY BUESTRIN, Mequon.

Immediate Past Chairman: REINCE PRIEBUS, Kenosha.

Wisconsin African American Council: GERARD RANDALL, Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Republican Labor Council: MIKE SANDVICK, Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Hispanic Heritage Council: JOE MEDINA, Waukesha.

Congressional District Chairmen and Vice Chairmen:

1st District

Kim Travis, Williams Bay
Jan Deters, Janesville

2nd District

Kim Babler, Madison
Tim McCumber, Merrimac

3rd District

Brian Westrate, Fall Creek
Julian Bradley, La Crosse

4th District

Bob Spindell, Milwaukee
Michael Murphy, Milwaukee

5th District

Kathy Kiernan, Richfield
Tom Schreiber, Hartland

6th District

Dan Feyen, Fond du Lac
Tyler Vorpapel, Fond du Lac

7th District

Jim Miller, Hayward
Jesse Garza, Hudson

8th District

Bill Berglund, Sturgeon Bay
Kevin Barthel, Lakewood

Source: Republican Party of Wisconsin at wisgop.org, May 2013.

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 31-member state executive committee, consisting of the 10 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 Labor Council, and an at-large member. State committee vacancies are filled by the committee. Five of the 10 party officers – the chairman, first and second vice chairmen, secretary, treasurer – are selected by the state executive committee at an organizational meeting within 60 days following the last general election in the even years. An at-large member of the State Executive Committee is also elected at the organizational meeting. 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 10 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 10 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 and considers the endorsement of statewide candidates. 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

Adopted by Convention on May 13, 2012, Green Bay, WI

Preamble

For eight long years the state that once led the nation in meaningful reforms and innovation has floundered under a Democrat administration. Sadly, our state motto, *Forward*, has become a symbol of the past instead of the beacon that reflected our people's traditional passion and potential for the future.

We know Wisconsin deserves better. As Republicans, 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. The soul of that spirit embodies certain principles and values that unite us; among these:

We want to strengthen and revitalize America's core values which unite a large majority of Americas.

We encourage proposals to enhance Wisconsin's job climate such as reducing the tax burden and we encourage proposals that support the free markets and minimize government interference in the marketplace.

We believe our nation's debt and spending are out of control and reforms are needed in order to curb spending and stop pushing the burden of an expanding government onto the next generation of taxpayers thereby imposing an immoral obligation on our children and grandchildren.

We support proposals to lower the rising costs of health care that can burden many families and employers.

We believe in freedom-of-choice learning environments by supporting a variety of educational options including, but not limited to, charter schools, home schooling, virtual schools, and a school choice voucher program. We believe that the academic freedom of every student must be protected.

We believe that our natural rights as embodied in the Constitution begin at conception and continue until death.

We oppose efforts to restrict the ownership, manufacture, carry, or sale of firearms and ammunition by law-abiding citizens.

We have an obligation to be good stewards of God's creation for future generations.

We believe our current dependence on foreign energy threatens our national security and economic prosperity, therefore we support the elimination of the Department of Energy and the development of free market energy resources.

We believe that federal income tax system is unfair and cumbersome.

We believe it is important for the President and Congress to fix the broken Social Security system.

We recognize the hazard created by the Federal Reserve and the eminent danger of a collapse in the value of the dollar; therefore, we can support a full audit of the Federal Reserve to support sound money.

We believe the United States should grant citizenship only to those who want to embrace and defund American values and culture.

We believe English language instruction should be available to all who need it and we support English as the official language.

We believe separation between Church and State does not mean there can be no references to God in government-sanctioned activities or public buildings.

We believe we must help defend America and Her allies and defeat our enemies.

As Republicans, we can and will make Wisconsin and our country better for future generations.

American Values and American Solutions

We want to strengthen and revitalize America's core values, life, liberty and property, which unite a large majority of Americans. Our goal is to provide long-term solutions instead of short-term fixes.

We believe government needs to reform the way it operates by bringing in ideas and systems currently employed in the private sector, to increase productivity, accountability and effectiveness, and shall utilize private solutions when appropriate.

We believe changes in government have to occur in all elected offices throughout the country and cannot be achieved by focusing only on Washington.

Wisconsin's Economy

We encourage proposals that support free markets and minimize the level of government interference in the marketplace.

We oppose policies that could penalize employment or make the state less competitive in the global marketplace.

Reducing the Federal Deficit and Spending

Our nation's debt and spending are out of control and reforms are needed in order to curb spending and stop pushing the burden of an expanding government onto the next generations of taxpayers, which is imposing an immoral obligation on our children and grandchildren.

We believe federal government spending should be transparent, earmarks should be eliminated, programs should be carefully and regularly audited, and waste should be identified and eliminated within government agencies.

We believe our elected officials should develop a roadmap for fiscal responsibility by balancing the budget, reducing and eliminating the deficit, and building a surplus in the Treasury to provide a buffer for economic downturns.

Health Care

We support proposals to lower the rising costs of health care that can burden many families and employers.

We believe in free market solutions to bring down the cost of health care such as transparency, charity, portability, competition among insurers, tort reform, and wellness incentives should be implemented to address the underlying problems driving up the cost of health care.

We believe individuals should not be subject to government health care mandates or face penalties, and the federal government should not violate the doctor-patient relationship.

Education

We believe that every student in every educational setting should receive a quality education. We believe in freedom-of-choice learning environments by supporting a variety of educational options including, but not limited to, charter schools, home schooling, virtual schools, and a school choice voucher program.

We support reinstating state and local control of education and reducing the size and authority of the U.S. Department of Education.

We believe academic freedom of each student must be protected so that every student has the right to study without fear of reprisal. We believe public schools should develop curriculum which is content rich, fact-based and encourages critical thinking.

We believe history courses should include the study of the founding fathers, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers and natural law.

We support the expansion of educational options that meet the needs of students and the marketplace through technical training opportunities.

We believe we should dramatically increase our emphasis on math and science education.

Constitutional Rights

We believe that our natural rights as embodied in the Constitutional begin at conception and continue until death.

We believe it is important to have references to God in the Pledge of Allegiance. As it states in the Declaration of Independence, "we are endowed by our Creator with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" which makes clear that certain rights can't be taken away by government.

We believe statements regarding religion and morality made by the Founding Fathers are as important today as

they were over 200 years ago.

We believe the language in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Declaration of Independence are very important and must be protected. We reject the idea that because the times change so must the meaning of the language in the Pledge of Allegiance, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Right to Keep and Bear Arms

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 therefore oppose all efforts to restrict the ownership, manufacture, transfer, carry, or sale of firearms and ammunition by law-abiding citizens.

We believe we cannot ignore the clear lessons of history regarding the tyranny and suffering imposed upon a disarmed people.

Energy and National Security

We believe our current dependence on foreign energy threatens our national security and economic prosperity by making us vulnerable.

We support the elimination of the Department of Energy and we support the development of free market energy resources.

Environment

We support the protection of Wisconsin natural resources from any non-sovereign entity.

We have an obligation to be good stewards of God's creation for future generations and believe that no one will better care for Wisconsin's lands and natural resources than the citizens of Wisconsin.

We believe we can solve our environmental problems more quickly and cost-effectively with innovation and new technology than with more litigation and more government regulation.

We believe entrepreneurs are more likely to solve America's environmental problems than bureaucrats.

We support measures to encourage businesses to voluntarily cut pollution.

Taxes

We believe the federal income tax system is unfair and cumbersome.

We believe the tax code should be simplified and without exceptions.

We acknowledge the United States has one of the highest corporate tax rates in the industrialized world making it difficult for U.S. corporations to compete internationally and giving incentives for companies to move overseas. Therefore, we favor the option of a single simplified tax rate that closes the loopholes that some corporations use to pay less in taxes. This plan will make America the most attractive place for businesses that provide good paying jobs.

Social Security and Retirement

It is important for the President and Congress to fix the broken Social Security system.

We believe the current Social Security system is broken and if it isn't reformed, future generations will no longer have it as a retirement supplement.

We favor a Social security proposal in which personal social security savings accounts would be optional, with workers given the choice of continuing to depend on the current system with current benefits and able to pass benefits on to family members.

Supporting Sound Money

We recognize that our Founding Fathers warned of the dangers of allowing central bankers to control our currency, and because of this we believe we need transparency and stronger Congressional oversight of the Federal Reserve. We recognize that inflation is robbing Americans of their savings.

Because we recognize the hazard created by the Federal Reserve and the eminent danger of a collapse in the value of the dollar, we support a full audit of the Federal Reserve to support sound money.

Immigration and Assimilation

The United States should grant citizenship only to those who want to embrace and defend American values and culture.

We believe, along with the majority of the American people, that border control is a national security issue and current laws must be vigorously enforced.

We believe illegal immigrants who commit or have committed felonies should be deported.

We respect the efforts of legal immigrants who have gone through the legal process to make the United States of America their home. A standardized process for individuals currently with illegal status in the United States needs to be implemented in order for them to become citizens or legal residents.

We support a worker visa program, making it easier for people who work legally in the United States. When applying for a temporary worker visa, each worker should take an oath to obey American law. In a worker visa program, each worker will receive a secure identification card that will allow the government to locate him or her.

We believe there should be heavy monetary fines against employers and businesses who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, and we must make efforts to prevent abuse and exploitation of all workers.

English as Official Language

English should be the official language of government. All election ballots and other government documents should be printed in English.

We believe immigrants should be required to learn English.

We believe government should make available English language instruction to all who need it.
We believe businesses should be able to require employees to speak the English language while on the job.

Freedom of Religion

Separation between Church and State does not mean there can be no references to God in government sanctioned activities or public buildings.

We believe statements regarding religion and morality made by the Founding Fathers are as important today as they were over 200 years ago.

We believe the phrase – ‘One nation under God’– in the Pledge of Allegiance is perfectly in line with the United States Constitution, protected by the First Amendment.

We believe the Founding Fathers understood that religion and morality were important to creating and building this country and talked about it regularly.

We believe the best way to ensure religious freedom is to protect all religious references and symbols; including those on public buildings, lands, or documents. This includes prayer in public schools, thanking God in a graduation speech, and religious symbols being placed on public property during their appropriate holiday season.

We reject that this violates the U.S. Constitution and discriminates against those who are of other faiths or are not religious.

Defending America

We must help defend America and Her allies and defeat our enemies. America should take the threat of terror seriously.

We believe individuals suspected of terrorist acts should be tried in a military court. There should be a death penalty for someone convicted of carrying out a terrorist attack in the United States regardless of country or origin.

We believe a foreign policy based on weakness and engagement with totalitarian regimes is dangerous to America. We should go back to the principles of the Founding Fathers and adopt a non-interventionist foreign policy that first and foremost protects Americans and American interests.
