

Political Parties

Wisconsin political parties: state organizations and current party platforms

Edward Blake



(Wisconsin Veterans Museum)

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, with little 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 state-wide 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 2015, Wisconsin had five recognized political parties: Constitution, Democratic, Green, Libertarian, 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 major 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. This period marked 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 and competitive two-party 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.

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 2015, 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 2015

Headquarters

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

Telephone: (877) 201-2441.

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

State E-mail: thecpowmessenger@gmail.com

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

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

State Committee – Officers

Chairman: ANDREW ZUEKLE, Ripon.

Vice Chairman: JERRY BROITZMAN, Milwaukee.

Chairman of Committees: NIGEL BROWN, Janesville.

Secretary: S. KENT STEFFKE, Milwaukee.

Treasurer: RALPH DENSON, Milwaukee.

Parliamentarian: vacancy.

State Committee – Congressional District Representatives

1st District

vacancy

2nd District

vacancy

3rd District

vacancy

4th District

Janice Hood, Milwaukee

5th District

Crispian Trehwella, Richfield

6th District

Dino Bohlman, Eden

Jose Figueroa, Waldo

7th District

Larry Oftedahl, Barron

8th District

Mark Gabriel, 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 24 members: 6 state officers and 2 representatives elected by the members in each of the 8 congressional districts. The state officers are the chairman, first 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 to: "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, overstaffed, 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. (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

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 totally oppose any action by U.S. Courts that would in establish or recognize “same-sex” marriage.

We also call upon the Wisconsin legislature to uphold and defend the state constitutional amendment which defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman and prevent the establishment of any counterfeit such as domestic partnerships.

We recognize that parents have the fundamental right and responsibility to nurture, educate, and discipline their children. We oppose the assumption of any of these responsibilities by any governmental agency without the express delegation of the parents or legal due process. We affirm the value of the father and the mother in the home, and we oppose efforts to legalize adoption of children by homosexual singles or couples.

We further call upon the Wisconsin legislature to repeal the provisions in the Wisconsin State Statutes which 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

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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.

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 2015

Headquarters

State Headquarters: 15 North Pinckney Street, Suite 200, Madison 53703.

Telephone: (608) 255-5172.

Executive Director: JAKE HAJDU.

Political Director: BRITA OLSEN.

Membership and Conventions Director: SEAN BERGER; MACKENZIE CARROLL, *deputy membership director.*

Operations and Compliance Director: AMANDA BRINK.

Communications Director: MELISSA BALDAUFF.

Finance Director: TIERNAN DONOHUE.

Organizing Director and Voter File Manager: WILL HOFFMAN.

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

State Administrative Committee

Chair: MIKE TATE, Milwaukee.

First Vice Chair: MELISSA SCHROEDER, Merrill.

Second Vice Chair: JEFF CHRISTENSEN, 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; MELISSA SCHROEDER, Merrill.

College Democrats Representative: PHOENIX RICE-JOHNSON, Madison.

Milwaukee County Chair: MARLENE OTT, Milwaukee.

At-Large Members: BRYAN KENNEDY, Glendale; GRETCHEN LOWE, Madison; ARVINA MARTIN, Madison; JUSTIN NICKELS, Manitowoc; BETHANY ORDAZ, Madison; DIAN PALMER, Brookfield; CRIS SELIN, Middleton; MARY LANG SOLLINGER, Madison; RANDY UDELL, Fitchburg; ALLIN WALKER, Egg Harbor.

County Chairs Association Chair: TANYA LOHR, West Bend.

Assembly Representative: JoCASTA ZAMARRIPA.

Senate Representative: NIKIYA HARRIS DODD.

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

Rebecca Bonesteel, Hudson

8th District

Dottie LeClair, chair, Appleton

Travis Bille, Kaukauna

Source: Democratic Party of Wisconsin, May 2015.

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 chairper-

son, 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 2014 PLATFORM

Adopted by Convention on June 7, 2014

Preamble

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin strives to build an open, just, and strong society where all citizens have equal rights and 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.

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 advocate for comprehensive immigration reform 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.

Access to affordable, quality health care is a right and 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, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Personal moral, religious, and medical decisions should be left up to the competent individual. We believe in freedom of reproductive choice, family planning, and the individual's right to choose death with dignity including physician-assisted end-of-life. 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 be supported on its scientific merits. Considering the high rate, associated costs, and long-lasting adverse effects of incarceration, we support effective alternatives and oppose privatization of prisons.

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 the right to hunt, to bear arms, a concealed carry ban, background checks on all gun sales, banning the sale of assault weapons, and limits on the size of magazines.

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 quality education because of 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 by eliminating tax breaks to employers who ship jobs overseas and creating incentives to bring jobs back to the U.S.

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 living wages, pay equity for women, safe and equitable workplaces, and secure benefits. Workers' rights to organize, bargain collectively, and strike without fear of reprisal must, where lost, be restored and otherwise strengthened. Election by card check reduces 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 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

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.

Climate change poses an existential threat to life on Earth. There must be aggressive action to mitigate its effects. We must cut carbon emissions. Protecting ecological systems is essential to the economic and social welfare of our state, nation, and 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. Ecological sustainability requires a stable population and responsible consumption.

We must maintain the integrity of the vast fresh water supply in the Great Lakes. We support retaining and expanding publicly-owned recreational and wild lands.

We must develop clean, renewable, and sustainable energy sources without relaxing regulation of nuclear energy; increase production of fuel-efficient vehicles; reduce urban sprawl onto 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, industry, toxic and hazardous waste disposal and cleanup, and watershed protection.

We must prioritize public health, environmental protection, and the land and water treaty rights of native communities in the planning and implementation of all mining projects, including frac sand extraction. To ensure the protection of our state's valuable natural resources, we support the reestablishment 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 verified direct threat to our country, including the use of drone strikes, 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.

WISCONSIN GREEN PARTY May 2015

Headquarters

State Headquarters: P.O. Box 1701, Madison 53701-1701.

Telephone: (608) 204-7336.

Internet Address: <http://wignp.nationbuilder.com>

E-mail Address: info@wisconsinngreenparty.org

Cochairpersons: DAVE SCHWAB, vacancy.

Secretary: MIKE MCCALLISTER.

Treasurer: BOBBY GIFFORD.

National Committee Delegates: GREG BANKS, BRUCE HINKFORTH, DACE ZEPS.

National Committee Alternates: GEORGE MARTIN, JIM O'NEIL, MICHAEL SLATTERY.

Coordinating Council District Representatives:

1st District

2 vacancies

2nd District

Dace Zeps

David Soumis

3rd District

2 vacancies

4th District

2 vacancies

5th District

Bruce Hinkforth

Jeanette McCallister

6th District

Ron Hardy

vacancy

7th District

Jim Olmsted

vacancy

8th District

2 vacancies

Source: Wisconsin Green Party

Membership. Membership dues rates shall be established at least annually by the Members in a Membership meeting. Any Wisconsin resident who cannot afford the established dues for membership may be granted a waiver of payment of dues for any year by the Coordinating Council.

All members of the organization are entitled to participate in all of the activities of the organization and to attend any meeting of the organization or its committees and councils.

There shall be meetings of the Members at least biannually at locations in Wisconsin to be determined by the Coordinating Council. One of the Membership meetings shall be convened in the fall of each year and shall have as part of its agenda the selection of Co-Chairs, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Elections Treasurer and Operations Treasurer for the following year. Member meetings shall be held in different locations in Wisconsin with a view toward development of a local Green group in that location and assistance on a local issue in keeping with our Key Values. Minutes of all Membership meetings shall be kept by the recording secretary and all policy decisions and resolutions published thereafter in the organization's newsletter.

Coordinating Council. The WI Green Party Coordinating Council shall consist of up to 25 members. All members must be members of the WI Green Party, and all efforts will be made to maintain gender-balanced, and ethnic-balanced representation. Five (5) members are the officers of the WI Green Party (two Co-Chairs, Elections Treasurer, Operations Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary). The responsibilities of officers are outlined in Article 4 of the Constitution. Up to 16 members are nominated and elected from the eight WI congressional districts. Up to two members are from each of the eight congressional districts. Each member serves a 2-year term. (Members will serve 1-year and 2-year staggered terms in first year). These 8 (16 in first year) members will be nominated in their district meetings at the Fall Gathering. The election will take place at the full membership meeting. Notification will be sent

out three times (in the newsletter, via email, and with Fall Gathering information) that nominations for the congressional district representation will take place at the WI Green Party Fall Gathering. If someone would like to be nominated but cannot attend the gathering, they should send a brief written statement with another member, who will speak on behalf of the member. Up to four (4) members are nominated and elected from caucuses. One each from the following caucuses: Women, Diversity, LGBT and Youth. These are 1-year terms. These 4 members will be nominated in their caucus meetings at the Fall Gathering. The election will take place at the full membership meeting.

Officers. The Officers of the organization shall be two Co-Chairs, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, an Operations Treasurer and an Elections Treasurer. The Officers shall be Members of the Coordinating Council and of the Wisconsin Green Party. All efforts shall be made to balance the Officers regionally and by gender. Officers will be responsible for granting access to specific internal documents such as membership records and databases.

Each Co-Chair shall serve for two years with staggered terms so that there is a senior and junior Chair. All reasonable effort shall be made to rotate the Chair role throughout the membership of the organization. All other Officers shall serve one-year terms. All Officers, except for the Co-Chairs, may be reelected for successive terms.

WISCONSIN GREEN PARTY PLATFORM

(Revised 11/11/2006, 4/17/2007, 5/23/2007, and 11/9/2013)

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 Greens offer a new vision for change, for a sustainable future. We recognize that one of great 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 Greens believe another political party is needed: one that people can believe in; one that they can 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. The state government should provide subsidies to make the change from petrochemical-based to organic farming methods 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.

Chemical use

5. The state will 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.

6. Pesticides will not be used on or in public property, except as a last resort, after the failure of organic alternatives

has been demonstrated. Tax incentives will reward the use of organic pest control methods.

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

Forest, Wetlands, and Water

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

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

10. DNR water quality rules will be stiffened to require absolute non-degradation of existing water bodies.

11. Enact rigorous environmental safeguards to protect communities and prevent contamination of our air, land, and water from mining pollution, including arsenic, asbestos, mercury, silica, and other known toxins.

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, commuter rail, as well as intra and intercommunity bicycling and walking trails.

15. Community owned utilities and decentralized, neighborhood networks will receive financial aid for the purchase and installation of renewable energy technology such as wind, solar and biomass. The Public Service Commission will 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 Greens 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 will not be located in Wisconsin.

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

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

23. The history and environmental record of recycling or waste disposal firms will be used as major criteria in considering 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 charter 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 another group. Additionally, common methods of measuring the economy view production for its own sake as a positive and 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. Increase the state minimum wage to a living wage of \$15 per hour, adjusted annually to inflation.

26. Charter a publicly-owned Bank of Wisconsin to hold public funds, provide affordable credit to local governments and private businesses, invest in needed infrastructure, and avoid the risks and profit-taking associated with holding public funds in private banks.

27. Laws regarding Articles of Incorporation will be revised to make executives and board members more accountable for the effects of their decision-making.

28. 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.

29. 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.

30. The Wisconsin Greens support family leave legislation, paid sick and vacation time, job sharing, and the

involvement of workers in decision-making, management, and scheduling.

31. 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.

Education

32. The Green Party will repeal laws that prevent teachers from striking or laws that interfere with collective bargaining such as a Qualified Economic Offer or QEO.

33. The Wisconsin Greens oppose the use of ‘high stakes’ standardized tests as the primary determinant for grade advancement, graduation or teacher pay.

34. The state should 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.

35. For parents to have a meaningful impact on school board policies, district boundaries should be redrawn taking into account the ratio of electors to school board and reduced to defined, equitable limits.

36. Green Party education policy will foster an understanding of the history of our conflicts and treaties with Wisconsin’s tribes and a respect for native cultures.

37. Wisconsin Greens support fully-funded public education, and so oppose the voucher system of public funding for private schools.

Health Care System

38. The 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.

39. The state shall 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.

40. The state shall promote the chartering of non-profit and not-for-profit hospitals.

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

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

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

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

Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Individuals

45. Wisconsin Greens will defend the rights of all individuals to freely choose intimate partners, regardless of their sex, gender or sexual orientation.

46. Wisconsin Greens support the right of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to be treated equally with all other people, in all areas of life, including in housing, employment, civil marriage, benefits, and child custody.

Grassroots Democracy

Democracy and self-governance are dependent on the public being fully informed and 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 must 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 tear down the barriers between the voters and the government that represents them.

Taxation

47. Wisconsin Greens 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 \$20,000.00 a year and reduce the income tax for households making between \$20,000.00 and \$30,000.00 a year.

48. A portion of funds from an increase in the motor fuel tax will go for development of alternative transportation such as mass transit and bicycle trails.

49. 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.

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

51. The Greens oppose state caps on local property tax levies.

Electoral Reforms

52. Enact Instant Runoff Voting (also known as Ranked Choice Voting) for executive offices such as mayor, governor, and other single-seat elections, to ensure the full expression of voter will and to eliminate the cost of primaries in non-partisan local elections.

53. Enact Proportional Representation for legislative offices on the municipal, county, and state levels.

54. Ballot access laws will assure access thresholds that are set low enough to reflect emerging shifts in local voter will.

55. Create an independent, non-partisan redistricting commission to draw districts for the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate, as well as U.S. House districts.

56. Voters will not be denied access to the views of any political party or candidates. We will insist on the full inclusion of all political parties in all public debates regardless of candidate will.

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

Nonviolence

The problem of violence in society is complex and multifaceted and must be addressed on different fronts. For this reason we regard economic justice, education and programs that create opportunity to have as much potential at decreasing the incidence of crime and violence as traditional punitive measures. Greens emphasize that the solutions to violence, poverty, alienation, anger and political inequality are the key to solving the dilemma of crime and punishment.

Crime & Punishment

58. Legalize and regulate the cultivation, sale, possession, and use of marijuana.

59. The Green Party will continue to oppose the death penalty in Wisconsin.

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

61. We oppose the privatization of the prison system.

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

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

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF WISCONSIN 2015

Headquarters and Staff

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State Administrative Committee

Chair: JOSEPH KEXEL, Kenosha.

Vice Chair: DEAN TROY, Little Chute.

Secretary: ANDY CRAIG, Milwaukee.

Treasurer: JON AUGELLI, Verona.

At-Large Members: STEPHEN NASS, Middleton; KAY HAGERTY, Hudson.

Congressional District Representatives:

1st District

Jim Sewell, Racine

George Meyers (alternate), Racine

2nd District

Terry Gray, Madison

Peter Augelli (alternate), Verona

3rd District

Candice Wirkus, Chippewa Falls

Scott Kenneth Noble (alternate),
Junction City

4th District

Ken Morgan, Milwaukee

Diane Mielke (alternate), Milwaukee

5th District

Jeff Kortsch, Oconomowoc

Leroy Watson (alternate), Oconomowoc

6th District

Richard Martin, Jr., Neenah

Gus Fahrendorf (alternate)

7th District

Robert Burke Hudson

Nathan Gall (alternate), Hayward

8th District

vacancy

Source: Libertarian Party of Wisconsin.

State Convention. The Libertarian Party of Wisconsin holds its state convention in the spring of each year to conduct party business. In even-numbered years, the convention adopts proposed changes to the party platform and selects delegates to the national convention. It may also endorse candidates for election. In odd-numbered years, it adopts proposed changes to the Constitution and/or bylaws and elects party officers and members-at-large to the executive committee. The Congressional district representatives and alternates are also elected in odd-numbered years by a caucus of members from the particular district.

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 who is willing to serve, a representative and alternate 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 elected by a caucus of members from that district and generally serve for two years as well. Congressional district conventions may 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. If no congressional district election is held, the executive committee may fill a vacant congressional district position by a majority vote.

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 2015 PLATFORM

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. We advocate phasing out taxes on corporations and businesses.

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. This belief also applies to education and the free market.

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 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. We believe that Wisconsinites are generous and with their taxes returned to them would invest in the health and welfare of their communities and their neighbors.

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. We believe that this threat violates the U.S. Constitution and the concept of a Republic.

Environment

A clean environment is in everyone's interest. Our legal system should protect public and private property from pollution. 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 May 2015

Headquarters and Staff

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Office Manager: PATRICK GEHL.

Operations Director: BEN HEATH.

Finance Director: JIMMY SAPP.

Data Director: MARTHA GRAVLEE.

Telemarketing Manager: RICHARD DICKIE.

Executive and District Leadership

Chairman: BRAD COURTNEY, Whitefish Bay.

Vice Chairmen: 1st – TOM SCHREIBEL, Hartland; 2nd – CRYSTAL BERG, Hartford; 3rd – LAURIE FORCIER, Eau Claire; 4th – ANDREW DAVIS, Milwaukee.

At Large Member: MARIPAT KRUEGER, Menomonie.

Finance Chairman: BILL JOHNSON, Hayward.

Secretary: KATIE MCCALLUM, Middleton.

Treasurer: MIKE JONES, Milwaukee.

National Committeeman: STEVE KING, SR., Janesville.

National Committeewoman: MARY BUESTRIN, River Hills.

Immediate Past Chairman: REINCE PRIEBUS, Kenosha.

Wisconsin African American Council: GERARD RANDALL, Milwaukee.

Wisconsin Republican Labor Council: VAN WANGGAARD, Racine.

Wisconsin Hispanic Heritage Council: JOE MEDINA, Waukesha.

Congressional District Chairmen and Vice Chairmen:

1st District

Kim Travis, Williams Bay
Carol Brunner, Franklin

2nd District

Kim Babler, Madison
Tim McCumber, Merrimac

3rd District

Brian Westrate, Fall Creek
Julian Bradley, La Crosse

4th District

Bob Spindell, Milwaukee
Doug Haag, Milwaukee

5th District

Kathy Kiernan, Richfield
Keith Best, Waukesha

6th District

Dan Feyen, Fond du Lac
Janet Reabe, Green Lake

7th District

Jim Miller, Hayward
Jesse Garza, Hudson

8th District

Kevin Barthel, Lakewood
Bill Berglund, Sturgeon Bay

Source: Republican Party of Wisconsin at wisgop.org, May 2015.

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 county party has, at minimum, a chairman, 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 the county chairmen and vice chairmen and, at minimum, an elected chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and treasurer. District party officers are elected at a District Caucus in the 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 at 2014 RPW State Convention

Preamble

Generations of Americans have fought to preserve our Republic – our lives, our liberty, and our ability to pursue happiness.

Today our Constitution, our republic, and our liberty are threatened by a failure to adhere to the original principles and intent put forth in our founding documents. It is only by restoring the principles and values of our founders as expressed in these documents – that we can prevent the moral and economic collapse of our nation.

We proclaim allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the State of Wisconsin. All legislation and regulation must adhere to the framework of both of these documents. Progressive, anti-liberty principles are incompatible with the principles of the Republican Party of Wisconsin.

For over 150 years Wisconsin's motto has defined the passion of her people and the values they hold dear. The drive to move ever onward, righting wrongs and growing through innovation and hard work has defined our state, and been a beacon to the nation. Wisconsin's people look to the future. In order to define the specific policies encompassed by said constitutional principles, and to build on our state motto – *Forward* – we want to strengthen and revitalize the core values that unite Americans.

Under Republican leadership at the state and federal levels, we have answered that call. As Republicans, we are inspired by an abiding belief in a bright future that will lift the hearts and free the minds of every Wisconsin family.

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

We believe our nation's debt and spending are out of control. Reforms are needed to cut spending and stop pushing the burden of an expanding government onto future generations of taxpayers, thereby imposing an immoral obligation on our children and grandchildren.

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

We support freedom of choice in educational options including, but not limited to, public schools, charter schools, home schooling, virtual schools, and a school choice voucher program. We believe students must have the freedom to pursue their own academic and career goals.

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

We oppose all efforts to require registration of firearms and to restrict ownership, manufacture, transfer, carrying, or sale of firearms or ammunition by law-abiding citizens.

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

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

We believe the income tax system is unfair and cumbersome.

We believe the President and Congress must prioritize the health and stability of our nation's Social Security system.

We recognize that our Founding Fathers warned of the dangers of allowing central bankers to control our currency; therefore, we support transparency and 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 defend American values and culture.

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

We believe that religion and morality were fundamentally important to creating and maintaining freedom in this country.

We believe America must defend herself and her allies from those who threaten our freedom and way of life.

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 of life, liberty, and property that unite us all.

We believe that we need to reform the way government operates by strengthening ideas and systems currently employed in the private sector to increase productivity, accountability and effectiveness, and shall utilize private solutions, when appropriate, with an emphasis on the long-term.

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 supporting free markets and minimizing 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.

We believe the federal government and other state governments should look to Wisconsin and Republicans as the model for providing common-sense solutions that help create jobs. To spur economic growth and activity, we will work to lower the tax burden every year. We strongly encourage other governments to enact similar policies.

Reducing the Federal Deficit and Spending

Our nation's debt and spending are out of control. Reforms are needed in order to cut spending and stop pushing the burden of an expanding government onto the next generations of taxpayers that imposes an immoral obligation on our children and grandchildren.

We believe federal government spending should be transparent, 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, as well as reducing and eliminating the deficit.

Health Care

We believe the Affordable Health Care Act should be repealed in favor of free market solutions.

We support proposals to reduce the rising costs of health care that can burden many individuals, 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, and tort reform.

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. Health care should always honor the sanctity of life.

Education

We believe every student in every educational setting should receive a quality education. We support investments to ensure a healthy public school system and the freedom of choice in educational options including, but not limited

to, charter schools, home schooling, virtual schools, and a school choice voucher program.

We support local control of education and keeping control of schools in the hands of elected, local school boards. We resist any coercion or manipulation of school districts by state or federal government to control finance, employee compensation, standards, standardized testing or curriculum. We support eliminating the U.S. Department of Education.

We believe academic freedom of each student must be protected so 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 educational options that meet the needs of students and the marketplace.

Constitutional Rights

We believe our natural rights, as embodied in the Constitution, begin at conception and continue until death. The terms “people” and “persons” shall apply to every human being at any stage of development.

The Declaration of Independence makes clear that certain rights cannot be taken away by government: “We are endowed by our Creator with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” We believe that all individuals have the right by natural law to reference God in any way they choose, including the Pledge of Allegiance.

We believe statements regarding liberty, 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 Constitution and the Declaration of Independence are very important and the original intent must be protected. We reject the idea that because the times change so must the meaning of the language in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

We believe that the Federal Government must be reduced in the size and scope in accordance with the U.S. Constitution and that all duties that have been improperly or unfairly usurped shall be returned to the states and to the American people.

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 require registration of firearms and to restrict ownership, manufacture, transfer, carrying, or sale of firearms or ammunition by law-abiding citizens.

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

Energy and National Security

We believe our current dependence on foreign energy threatens our national security and economic prosperity.

We support the elimination of the Department of Energy and 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 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 with innovation and new technology rather than with more litigation and unnecessary government regulation.

Taxes

We believe a lower tax burden for all Americans creates a strong economy and encourages success.

We believe the income tax system is unfair and cumbersome.

We believe the tax code should be simplified without exceptions.

Social Security and Retirement

We believe the President and Congress must prioritize the health and stability of our nation’s 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.

Supporting Sound Money

We recognize that our Founding Fathers warned of the dangers of allowing central bankers to control our currency.

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

Immigration and Assimilation

We believe that legal immigration has strengthened this country throughout its history.

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 all 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.

We support a worker visa program, making it easier for people to work legally in the United States.

We believe the government should help businesses ensure that they hire only legal workers and prevent abuse and exploitation of workers.

English as Official Language

English should be the official language of government and used for government documents and publications.

We believe learning English is the best path to success in this country and that English as a second language instruction be available to all who need it.

Freedom of Religion

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 harmonious with the United States Constitution, protected by the First Amendment.

We agree with the Founding Fathers that religion and morality were fundamentally important to creating and maintaining freedom in this country.

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, but is not limited to, prayer in public schools, thanking God in a graduation speech, and religious symbols being placed on public property during the appropriate holiday season. We reject that such references violate the U.S. Constitution or discriminate against those who are of other faiths or are not religious.

Defending America

America must defend herself and her allies from those who threaten our freedom and way of life.

We believe the government must provide adequate funding for this constitutionally mandated responsibility.

We believe American foreign policy should first and foremost protect Americans and American interests.
