



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

November, 2014 Monthly Newsletter

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DECEMBER

Dec 11 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2014) DPDC members are welcome.

Dec 18 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. **Election of 2015-16 DPDC officers and Executive Board.**

JANUARY

Jan 8 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2015) DPDC members are welcome.

Jan 24 **Save the date for the 9th Annual Pie Party.** Details to follow.

Due to renovations of the building housing our office, it will be closed from December 15th through April, 2015. Please contact us via our website: www.doordems.org, or on facebook, or by snail mail, PO box 863, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235.

Thank You!

Despite the disappointing election results, as Democrats we all owe thanks to our local candidates, Tammy Sternard, Joe Majeski, Dean DeBroux, and Ron Gruett, who sacrificed time, energy and personal funds to run for office.

Thanks too to the candidates' families who sacrificed mightily to support their candidate.

Thank you to our hard-working volunteers and generous contributors who all extended themselves to use people-power to counter the flood of "dark" Republican money pouring into the state.

And thanks to those voters who had the insight to vote the issues and not be fooled by the media dominance of the Republican money machine.

To all of these we say **THANK YOU.**

As the cartoon on page 2 depicts, voters voted against their own interests and priorities. This is documented in an article by "Dr. Jazz" in the *Daily Kos* of November 20th comparing the voters' priorities as determined in an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll conducted November 14-17, 2014, with GOP lawmakers priorities.

The people's agenda for Congress, in order of the percent supporting each issue, is:

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(Thank You continued from page 1)

1. Access to lower cost student loans - 82%
2. Increased spending on infrastructure - 75%
3. Raising the minimum wage - 65%
4. Emergency funding for fighting Ebola in Africa - 60%
5. Addressing climate change/reducing carbon emissions - 59%
6. Building the Keystone pipeline - 54%

Agenda items receiving less than 50% support included: lowering taxes by closing loopholes; approving US troops to fight ISIS in Iraq and Syria; reducing Medicare and Social Security benefits for wealthy retirees; new trade agreements with Asian nations lowering corporate tax rates; cutting funding for ACA; path to citizenship; and raising the Social Security retirement age.

Politifact.com has synthesized the GOP leadership's legislative priorities from a number of interviews of John Boehner and Mitch McConnell. The Politifact list:

1. Authorize the Keystone pipeline.
2. Repeal ACA ("Obamacare").
3. Pass the "Hire More Heroes" (veterans) act.
4. Pass Trans-Pacific trade agreement with Asia.
5. Lower corporate taxes.
6. Thwart Obama Immigration executive action.
7. Rein in the EPA and roll back environmental regulations.

In a Wall Street Journal op ed published the day after the election Boehner and McConnell promised to "honor the voters' trust" and outlined some of their legislative priorities, distilled below:

1. Repeal "Obamacare."
2. Authorize the Keystone pipeline.
3. Pass the "Hire More Heroes" act.
4. Restore "traditional" definition of full-time work week to 40 hours.
5. Protect and expand America's energy boom (read cripple the EPA).
6. Support charter schools with tax dollars.

This list is quite similar to that identified by Politifact, but corresponds to the voters' agenda in only a single item, 6th on the voters' list. So much for honoring the voters' trust!

Paradoxically, most of the voters' priorities were Democratic issues, yet voters did not support Democratic candidates.

In Door County, even some usually reliably Democratic municipalities voted Republican, or voted Democratic by razor-thin margins. It is time to re-group and find ways to use a grass-roots approach to counter the flood of special interest money. Join us in this effort. It is a "daunting task" as Estella Lauter writes on page 3, but must be done.



(Thanks to John Jonik)

Message from the Chair:

From Where I Sit

Thank you for your membership in the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and your efforts on behalf of Democratic candidates. I personally cannot thank you enough.



Chair Garrett Cohn

Even though the midterm elections were hard on Democrats in Door County and around the state, we should be proud of the work we put in.

Door County voter turnout was approximately 65% of eligible voters compared to 55% statewide. However, too many Democrats didn't vote. By not voting, Democrats permitted Walker's Republican victory.

Now that the dust has settled, I wanted to reach out and ask for your input. What would you like to see us do differently? I have said frequently, we cannot continue to do the same things over and over and expect different results.

Tell me what we, here in Door County, could do differently. As the backbone of the Party, I'm especially interested in hearing from members and activists like you. Through constructive dialogue and analysis, I believe the Party can come out of this election stronger and more organized than ever before.

This is the second or third version of "From Where I Sit" I have drafted, but in reviewing the previous ones, they sounded bitter and negative about the Wisconsin voters and their choices in the campaign. Not a good beginning for a new campaign.

So, let's move on. We can learn and be ready for 2016 as well as the upcoming local elections. Email me your thoughts, suggestions and critical assessments. I will consolidate your responses and circulate them to the Board and ultimately back to you.

Together we can show Wisconsin what the Democratic Party of Door County can accomplish.

Have a Happy New Year—and thank you again for all your efforts.

My take on it, by Estella Lauter

Not Yet the End of the World

Although I am as disappointed as any Democrat about the results of the election, I am writing today to caution against the kind of despair that leads to inaction.



Estella Lauter

Though I feel great sadness and anger at the way our candidates were treated in the campaigns, I also feel great pride in their willingness to stand for election against the odds of Big Money, and Big Media that fail over and over again to differentiate between real threats and propaganda.

I was in Africa during the election, where Ebola is present in only three of its 57 countries (Nigeria is now clear), yet tours of places thousands of miles away from those danger zones are being cancelled because of the hysteria generated here.

And bad as the situation in Syria is for Syrians, Kurds, Turks, Iraqis, Iranians and the Middle East, ISIS is not hovering at our southern border and should have no effect on our immigration policy regarding that border.

As long as Republicans campaign primarily on fear and our media join in the melee, our capacity to solve real problems will be limited. It is enough to make even the strongest of us want to do a Rip Van Winkle.

But we can't, because we are the ones with the ideas and values that have the greatest potential to make a more livable world for workers, women, minorities, students, retirees, immigrants and also for the animals and plants that provide a livable environment. We cannot betray those ideas and values without causing harm to ourselves and others.

As the editors of The Nation say (November 24, 2014), at least three other Presidents have experienced this kind of setback in the middle of a second term--FDR, Eisenhower and Reagan—and they prevailed by not giving an inch to the opposition, so there is a historical precedent for us to increase the pressure on Obama to stand tall and firm on our values.

We must also continue to call for reform of a broken electoral system. Twelve Wisconsin cities and towns joined 600 other cities and 16 states that called for a constitutional amendment to reverse the damage done by Citizens United, and we have strong organizations to protect and expand voting rights.

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My Take on It, continued from page 3

We can use referendums, petitions, debates, town halls, new media and people power to keep our ideas out there while the genuinely awful Republican ideas run their course. Ideas like Mary Burke's plan for job growth can begin to happen in businesses run by Democrats.

It may take awhile, of course, for our ideas to prevail. It took a major economic crash in the twenties to turn the country away from ideas that favored only the wealthy, combined with a leader who could take the progressive ideas of the teens and turn them into a New Deal.

On the other hand, the voting public in the US is notoriously fickle. Instead of cringing under the attacks on choice, liberal values and rational (even scientific) solutions to real problems, we will need to stand firm ourselves and clarify how our ideas really DO benefit the 99%.

It is a daunting task, but there is precedent for it in our Progressive heritage. Maybe we should send some buses to the Fighting Bob festival next spring to remind ourselves of what is possible!

Membership Matters

It is time to renew memberships in the Democratic Party of Door County (DPDC) for many of our members. If your membership has recently expired, or will expire at the end of this month, you will soon receive an email alerting you that it is time to renew.

For those who are not members, we invite you to join us now. There are several reasons to join the Door Dems:

- 1. You can multiply your own vote by volunteering in persuasion and Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaigns in support of Democratic candidates.
2. You can help to select issues to be addressed, policies to be set, and principles to be espoused at the county level. We are in a time of many changes in the wake of the midterm

elections, and you can have a great influence on the directions these changes take.

- 3. As a member of DPDC, you are also automatically a member of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW), and the 8th Congressional District Democratic Party, and can participate in setting policies and party platforms, and attend their annual conventions.
4. You will have a chance to meet other progressive like-minded Democrats and hear interesting speakers at our monthly meetings (4th Thursday of the month).

So please consider joining. Just print and fill out the form below, and mail it to our PO Box shown on the form. If \$10/year is a barrier to joining, please contact us and we will accommodate your needs.

or Renew
Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win!

Name(s)
Address
City/State
Zip
Phone
This is a Cell Phone Home Phone
Email
County: DOOR

- Sign me up for:
\$10 Senior/student/limited income
\$20 Two seniors/students/limited incomes
\$25 Individual general membership
\$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships)
\$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships)
\$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's)
I would also like to join:
American Indian Caucus Black Caucus
Latino/Hispanic Caucus LGTB Caucus
Rural Caucus Veterans' Caucus
Women's Caucus
I would like to volunteer. Please contact me.

Return to: Democratic Party of Door County
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