

Mark your calendar!

Next Membership Meeting

Change of Meeting in December:
 Wednesday, December 20 6:30 pm
 Madison Public Library 201 W. Mifflin St

- Spring Elections
- Staff report
- Snow Ball update and reminder
- City Platform (vote)
- ATC Status (update and vote)



If you need an interpreter, materials in alternative formats, or other accommodations, please contact the PD office at 257-4985 one week in advance of the meeting.

VOL. XIV, NO. 10
NOVEMBER 2006

FORWARD!

REBUILDING POLITICS IN DANE COUNTY FROM THE GRASSROOTS

City Platform Up For Review

by Mary Anglim

WHERE DOES PD STAND ON CURRENT local government problems? How do PD spokespersons decide what to say when a new issue suddenly develops? What does PD expect of candidates that we endorse? The answer is often to be found in the City or County Platform. Each platform is reviewed and approved by the membership every two years, prior to the elections for that level of government.

The Platforms list the intermediate-term goals and principles of the party. Our endorsed candidates are expected to share the values expressed in the Platforms and to consider them when deciding how to vote on issues. Our committees and task forces are expected to give special weight to platform goals when deciding where to put energy and resources.

In this issue you'll find a draft version of the new City Platform. Changes reflect input from our task forces and from the elections committee. Please take a look. As approved, this is the document we'll work from during the next two years. You can propose further amendments to the Platform at the November general membership meeting, but you must bring 25 copies of your proposed wording to share with members.

Nov. 7 Election Offers Big Wins and Disappointments

by Michael Jacob

RELATION OVER HUGE VOTES FOR Madison's schools and an independent study of the need for new power lines was tempered by votes in the U.S. Senate race and discrimination being written into the Wisconsin Constitution. As it was for just about everyone left-of-center on November 7, there was much to be thrilled about and some bitter disappointments.

Seven out of ten voters in the Madison Metropolitan School District supported a new school on the far west side and providing other critical financial wiggle room for the District. Perhaps more impressive than the margin of adoption was that the school referendum was favored in every ward in the district, a dramatic vote of confidence in the Board and recognition that the state spending caps are hurting our schools. Special thanks to CAST – headlined by Beth Moss, Carol Carstensen, and Arlene Silveira – and the PD members who backed up our endorsement of a yes vote by working on this campaign.

The advisory referendum calling for an independent study of the need for new power lines passed overwhelmingly - 76% to 24%. PD-endorsed County Board Supervisor Kyle Richmond offered this summation of the vote: "Three-quarters of the voting public feel we need an objective look at this before taking ATC's word on it." Although this success is heartening, the discussion of whether and where to put a new transmission line is far from over. PD is currently an intervenor in the ATC Waunakee case, working with Citizens for Responsible Energy (CRE). To get involved with this issue, please contact CRE at 608-850-4482 or www.StopATC.com. Special thanks to several PD-endorsed

County Board supervisors for helping put this question to Dane County voters.

Rae Vogeler, running a determined, passionate race against long-time and uber-wealthy incumbent Herb Kohl for U.S. Senate, clearly struck a cord with voters looking for stronger representation, particularly on the issue of war. Unfortunately, garnering enough votes to significantly challenge the status quo from beyond the major party lines in partisan elections remains an uphill battle. While system reforms are clearly needed, thankfully people like Rae are willing to do the hard work to give people a real choice in the mean time. Special thanks to Mary Anglim who worked diligently with Rae's team and the Greens in this race.

The anti-marriage and civil unions constitutional amendment was probably the worst news coming out of Nov. 7th. Though two-thirds (66%) of Dane County voted against the amendment, unfortunately the rest of Wisconsin did not agree with us – statewide results were 59% yes and 41% no. Other statewide results may offer a glimmer of hope: State Sen. Jon Erpenbach is now drafting an amendment to the state constitution that would ban discrimination and open the way for state-sanctioned civil unions. While Erpenbach's plan would leave in place the ban on gay marriage, it would fix potential problems in the second sentence of the amendment, which strips legal rights from all unmarried couples. Special thanks to Satya Rhodes-Conway, PD's point person working with FAIR WI, and numerous other PD members who made individual contributions of time, money, and energy in Dane County.

Open House to Benefit Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

Thursday November 30, 5-7 p.m.

Formal program at 5:45.

1337 Jenifer Street

Hosted by Bert Zipperer, Laurie Frank, and Sarah Shatz

Suggested Donation: \$25

Come hear what is wrong with our current election system and what one group is doing to change it!

If your renewal date is 11/1/06 or earlier, this is your last newsletter. Please renew!

VOLUNTEER NIGHT!
 Meet great people and help with labeling our newsletter and other easy tasks.
 Tuesday, December 12 5:30 pm
 PD Office, 1202 Williamson Street (Social Justice Center—conference room)
 As always, refreshments are provided!

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- I support the principles and purpose of Progressive Dane. **Sign me up!**
 Please renew my membership in Progressive Dane.

Sustaining membership: \$ _____ / month (minimum \$5) \$ _____ / quarter (minimum \$9) \$ _____ / year (minimum \$12)

To pay by bank draft, please attach a voided check; or first month's check payable to Progressive Dane.

Annual single membership: \$50 Regular \$36 Basic \$12 Low Income
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Annual household membership: \$100 Contributing \$75 Regular \$50 Basic
 More than two adults in the house? Sign them up for \$25 per person. Number of additional memberships _____

Mail to: Progressive Dane, P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701 • For more information: (608) 257-4985

You can also join Progressive Dane at www.prodane.org!

Forward is the local chapter newsletter of the New Progressive Party in Dane County, Wisconsin. Progressive Dane is affiliated with the Independent Progressive Political Network.

Progressive Dane is a democratic, membership-run organization. The following committees and task forces meet at the PD office, 1202 Williamson, in the Social Justice Center, unless otherwise noted.

Steering Committee: coordinates major activities, oversees the progress of other committees, and sets the agenda for the general membership meetings.

Meetings are open to all PD members.

Co-chair: Brenda Konkel, 345-8720

Co-chair: Lisa Subeck, 271-1004

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 13, 7 pm

Elections Committee:

Chair: Michael Jacob, 245-0894

Next meeting: Thursday, December 14, 6:30 pm

Newsletter Consortium

Contact: Jim Kellerman, 354-7385

Outreach and Fundraising Committee:

Contact: Jessa Lutz, 257-4985

Next meeting: check www.prodane.org

Policy Committee:

Chair: Ron Richardson, 256-7144

Next meeting: check www.prodane.org

Transportation Task Force:

Contact: Mike Barrett, mikeb@urbanthoreau.com

Next meeting: check www.prodane.org

Escape Java Joint, 916 Williamson St.

Land Use Planning:

Contact: Amy Westra, 608-212-7716

Environmental Task Force:

Contact: Satya Conway-Rhodes, 257-4985

Next meeting: check www.prodane.org

Economic Issues Task Force:

Contact: Vicky Selkove, vsselkove@gmail.com,

772-6046

Next meeting: check www.prodane.org

Education Task Force:

Contact: Jason Engle, 240-9291

Housing Task Force:

Contact: Brenda Konkel, 345-8720

PRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION CONSORTIUM:
Lynn Alten, Mary Anglim, Jamie Annear, Chris Babiarz,
Erik Breilid, Lukas Diaz, John Dupuis, Sheila Guilfoyle, Jim
Kellerman, Tom Kozlovsky, Norm Littlejohn, Jacque Pokorney,
Richard Russell, Ralph Shively
THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS: Mary Anglim, Michael Jacob,
Brenda Konkel

Submit articles, meeting times and announcements for the
December newsletter to Jessa Lutz, 257-4985, or office@prodane.
org by noon, Tuesday, December 12.



Send all correspondence to:
Progressive Dane
P.O. Box 1222, Madison, WI 53701

Visit Progressive Dane on the web at www.prodane.org

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Last Month at the GMM

by Mary Anglim

MEMBERS CHOSE OUR STEERING Committee for the coming year at the October GMM. Current members Brenda Konkel, Lisa Subeck, Mary Anglim, Jim Kellerman and Aaron Crandall were re-elected to another one-year term. Welcomed back to the Steering Committee after a year off was tireless elections worker Lukas Diaz. Michael Jacob, chair of the Elections Committee, rejoined the SC after several years away.

Kirsten Bloy is a new face both in PD and on the steering committee. A native of northwest Wisconsin, Kirsten lived for several years in Madison, then moved to northern Virginia, where she served as treasurer and webmaster for a non-profit, the Alliance for Science. Lured back home by the saner Wisconsin life-style, Kirsten was recruited to PD by an old friend, Amy Westra. She comes to us with a husband, a three-year-old son, and experience in graphic design, information technology, and organizations. Please welcome her and feel free to contact any Steering Committee member if you have concerns or suggestions.

Progressive Dane has benefited in the last two years from the energy, dedication, and good humor of three departing members of the Steering Committee. Fortunately, Yogesh Chawla is staying on as a dynamic leader of the

Outreach Committee. Satya Rhodes-Conway and Vicky Selkove are turning their energies to the quest for election to the Madison Common Council this spring. We wish them all well, but we will miss their excellent contributions.

Other GMM business included reports from Supervisor John Hendrick and Alder Austin King on the proposed county and city budgets. Both seem relatively uncontroversial. The county budget features substantial raises for the Sheriff's department and a new \$1.5 million fund for land and water conservation. Human services funding, as usual, suffered some cuts, which progressive supervisors hope to restore before the budget is finalized in November. The city budget enjoyed some lucky developments: 2007 fuel and health insurance increases will be less than feared, and debt service expenses were lower than projected. In the proposed budget, Madison Metro is fully funded but more is needed for child care and the affordable housing trust fund. The final package will be adopted before Thanksgiving.

Members also held a short discussion of the Progressive Dane City Platform (see insert and article elsewhere in this issue). The meeting adjourned a few minutes early!



It's Snowball Time!

WHEN: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2006 5:30 - 7:30 PM

WHERE: CARDINAL CLUB

WHAT: FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, A CASH BAR, NETWORKING WITH OTHER PROGRESSIVES, AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO HOBNOB WITH PD ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ENDORSED CANDIDATES

REMEMBER, THIS IS A FUNDRAISER, SO DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED...BUT WELL WORTH IT BECAUSE THIS WILL BE A GREAT TIME!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PROGRESSIVE DANE AT (608) 257-4985 OR OFFICE@PRODANE.ORG.



Spring Election Process Gears Up With Campaign School

by Michael Jacob

WHETHER YOU'RE A SEASONED SPRING ELECTION WORKER OR SIMPLY want to explore your options, Progressive Dane Election Committee's campaign school is for you. Over the years, PD members have learned and developed numerous tools and strategies for making campaign work efficient, effective, and fun.

All PD members are welcome, as are team members of PD members seeking our endorsement this spring.

PD Campaign School
11am - 2pm
Saturday, December 9
Location TBD

We'll spend an hour on overall campaign items, then break into small, intensive sessions specific to volunteer coordination, database management, lit and web, and treasurer work. The breakout sessions will be repeated, so you can attend more than one or get trained up on your primary job and head out. Contact Michael Jacob at michaeljacobdc@gmail or at 712-5475 to sign up.

Mark your calendar with these key dates in the 2007 Spring elections!

Dec 1 - Candidates begin circulating nomination papers

Dec 9 - PD Campaign school

Dec 17 & 18 - First round of endorsement interviews with PD Elections Committee

Dec 20 - PD GMM votes on endorsement recommendations

Jan 2 - Nomination papers due

Jan 21 & 22 - Second round of endorsement interviews with PD Elections Committee

Jan 24 - PD GMM votes on endorsement recommendations

Feb 20 - Spring Primary Election

April 3 - Spring General Election

Watch the PD web site or contact Michael Jacob at 712-5475 or michaeljacobdc@gmail.com for more information about the events above and other items related to the elections.

Progressive Dane's Local Purchasing Initiative

by Brenda Konkel

IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR, WE introduced language asking for the city staff to provide information about the ability of the City to pass a local purchasing preference. It was sponsored by the following 15 out of 20 council members. Brenda Konkel, Tim Gruber, Brian Benford, Robbie Webber, Austin King, Michael Verveer, Judy Olson, Zachariah Brandon, Paul Skidmore, Noel Radomski, Paul Van Rooy, Judy Compton, Larry Palm, Tim Bruer and Lauren Cnare. Needless to say, it passed! But not until August.

The Comptroller and the City Attorney then provided their reports to us at the end of September. Through their reports we learned that 70% of what we purchased is local. However, their definition of local was that they had a local address, so that includes Walmart and Office Max. Clearly, not what most people think of when they think of "local". We also learned

that we have \$126M in purchasing, excluding payroll. If you exclude public works, for which we cannot have a local purchasing preference because of state law, we still have \$94M in purchasing, about \$6M of which is done on credit cards issued to staff or p-cards.

The Board of Estimates and the Economic Development Commission both decided to have a subcommittee to look at the issues, and so the committees were combined. Members of that committee are: Ald. Judy Olson (BOE), Ald. Austin King (BOE), Ald. Zach Brandon (BOE/EDC), Jeff Erlanger (EDC), Richard Sloan (EDC), Tom Still (EDC) and the chair Mark Clear (EDC). The committee didn't have quorum the first time they met. Right now, they've had one meeting and have decided that their next meeting will focus on the following issues. What is local? What is a "local business" and how do you know? How much preference should be given? Should there be a threshold and/or ceiling to the amount of

purchases these rules apply to? What should be exempt? They also agreed that the purpose of a local purchasing preference was the value of the recirculation of money in the local economy and the fact that we would lead by example and inspire others to do the same.

Meanwhile, about a week ago, instead of letting the committee do its work, Larry Palm introduced his own ordinance about how to handle p-card purchases. There are no confirmed meeting dates for the next meetings, but there should be two meetings in the next four weeks. Meanwhile, watch for the county board to address this issue as well. I bet they can get it done at least 4 times faster than we can!

If you are interested in this issue, consider joining the Economic Issues Task Force. If interested, contact the chair, Rick Richards at 255-5023.