



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

January, 2013 Monthly Newsletter

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Upcoming Events

FEBRUARY

Feb 21 **DPDC Executive Board meeting, (replacing canceled meeting of Feb 7),** Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., 6:00-7:30 PM. Consideration of issues to adopt and strategic planning are on the agenda. **Current** (2013) DPDC members are welcome.

Feb 28 **DPDC monthly membership meeting,** Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. Results of the Exec Board meeting will be presented and discussed.

MARCH

Mar 14 **DPDC Executive Board meeting,** Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2013) DPDC members are welcome.

Mar 28 **DPDC monthly membership meeting,** Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. Program TBA.

Digest of Contents

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- **Membership matters**

IMPORTANT: Vote for Fallone in the Supreme Court Primary Election, February 19th

Yes, there is a purportedly non-partisan election on April 2 for the Wisconsin Supreme Court seat currently held by Patience Roggensack. Because there are three candidates, there will be a **primary election on Tuesday, February 19th.**

Democrats and other progressives are fortunate that Edward Fallone is a candidate. Fallone is an honors graduate of Boston University undergraduate and Law School.

He is currently an Associate Professor at Marquette Law School, with expertise in Constitutional Law, Corporate Law, and Criminal Law. He has practiced law for almost 25 years, appearing in both state and federal courts, representing individual clients in shareholder lawsuits.

Professor Fallone is actively involved in the community working to increase access to justice for immigrants and the "working poor". He has been a leader in

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To reach us: DCDems@me.com, on the web at www.doordems.org, or PO Box 863, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Supreme Court Election, continued from page 1

Wisconsin Stem Cell Now, "Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee, Catholic Charities Legal Services, the Latino Community Center, and the Wisconsin Hispanic Lawyers Association.

He has been active in leadership positions in the WI State Bar.

He views the central focus of his career as fighting for equal access to justice for all.



Professor Fallon

Why is he running for the Supreme Court? In his own words:

"When I was asked by the AP whether I believed the Wisconsin Supreme Court was functioning as well as it can, I answered that the court is dysfunctional, and explained why, including infighting among the justices and the influence of money on the court.

"It is time for a change on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Re-electing the incumbent, Justice Patience Roggensack, will do nothing to address the dysfunction on the court. She has publicly feuded with the chief justice, boycotted a regularly scheduled meeting of the court, successfully moved to have court business decided in private, out of the public eye, and allowed Justice David Prosser to avoid accountability for the disciplinary charges brought against him. Her actions have contributed to the constant bickering and recrimination on the court.

"The people of Wisconsin deserve better. There was a time when the Wisconsin Supreme Court was nationally recognized for its independence and the quality of its work. I am running for the Wisconsin Supreme Court because I believe that my broad legal

experience, independent judgment, and high standards of professionalism will help to restore the court's reputation.

"I will be an independent and thoughtful voice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, deciding cases based solely on the law, and without regard to politics or personalities".

Professor Fallon has been endorsed by Russ Feingold, Dave Obey and Congresswoman Gwen Moore, among others.

The incumbent, Justice Roggensack, is part of the conservative bloc that have been bought and paid for by Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce, the Koch brothers and other deep pockets laissez-faire conservatives. Out-of-state money is already pouring in to make TV ads for her. **It will require a grassroots effort to defeat her.**

The third candidate in the upcoming primary is Vince Megna, an outspoken advocate for ordinary people, whose career has focused on representing consumers in product liability litigation. His website, and statements made in media interviews suggest that he is not as credible a candidate as Ed Fallon.

Thus, it is critical that Fallon survive as one of the top two votegetters in the primary, and advance to the general election on April 2nd.

How can we help ensure that this will happen? Just do three things:

1. **Vote on Tuesday, February 19th.** Turnout for spring primaries is typically quite low and every vote is **really** important.
2. **Vote for Ed Fallon for Supreme Court, and cast just a single vote for Supreme Court.** Even though you are eligible to vote for two candidates, this will increase the likelihood that Fallon will be one of the two successful candidates.
3. **Talk to friends, neighbors and like-minded progressives** about the importance of voting in this primary election.



John Franz (DPDC treasurer) was privileged to attend the installation of Senator Tammy Baldwin, and had this photo taken with the new Senator and retiring Senator Herb Kohl. Way to go John!

Message From the Chair:

From Where I am Sitting

My first weeks as Chair of the Democratic Party of Door County were far different than I expected and expected by the membership.



Chair Garrett Cohn

Soon I was responsible for canceling the first Board meeting, scheduled for January 10th due to the absence of several board members from flu and out-of-the-country-vacations.

The Pie Party was held on schedule, though, on January 26th and was successful with over 50 attendees and an instructional speech from Tom

Nelson on his history of becoming Outagamie County Board Supervisor.

Then Mother Nature intervened on February 7th with ice and snow and more ice inhibiting safe travel. So, in retrospect, my first few decisions were to cancel and cancel! I will be in Chicagoland for a long scheduled Doctors appointment and I apologize for not being in town on the 14th.

I hope not to repeat this pattern. I look forward to seeing you at all the next scheduled meetings and to celebrate the nomination of Professor Ed Fallone for Supreme Court Justice under the sure guidance of Allin Walker. This is an important campaign to represent our progressive positions versus the current repressive outlook. **Please vote on February 19 and tell everyone else to do so.**

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:

Enough, Already!

Recently, a teenager in New Mexico got up in the middle of the night and murdered his entire family--both parents, his 9-year-old brother and two sisters aged 5 and 2.



Estella Lauter

He did this with his parents' AK 15 assault weapon. I suppose he could have done it with a hunting rifle, but that scenario seems highly unlikely. He had planned to go to Wal-mart the next day to cause more massive destruction.

Here is a classic case where the "liberty" to own whatever gun we can afford comes into direct conflict with our "pursuit of happiness" and the nation's "domestic tranquility," not to mention simple logic.

Why pay a huge agency to deter terrorists from abroad and ignore the danger posed by Americans who turn guns on themselves, their families and communities? Why require a license to drive (along with seat-belts and air bags in the car) and a permit to hunt, but no certification of safety or skill to shoot a gun?

If you have wondered about contradictory statistics surrounding the discussion of gun control, consider the letter sent to VP Biden's Commission on Gun Violence by six professors at the University of Chicago on 1/10/13 (sent from

crimelab@uchicago.edu). It claims that the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has been hindered from doing the data analysis, law enforcement and administrative oversight that could have led to a clearer picture and better policies. This obstruction stems from amendments attached since 2003 to AFT appropriations bills.

The letter asks the federal government to lift restrictions on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes for Health (NIH) "regarding the study of firearm-related injuries," given the fact that "medical treatment of gunshot wounds costs an estimated \$2 billion annually, half of which comes from taxpayer dollars."

The letter also shows that the NIH funded 486 research grants to study cholera, diphtheria, polio and rabies between 1973 and 2012 (with c.2000 cases of all four diseases), but only 3 grants to study firearm injuries numbering over 4 million!

Recorded deaths from gunshots numbered 85 a day or c. 31,000 per year in the U.S during 2010, according to an online article by Bloomberg News in December after the Newtown shooting; ER visits for gunshot wounds numbered 200 per day or 73,000 per year.

While deaths and injuries from driving have steadily decreased due to new auto safety devices and regulations, deaths from gunshot are increasing to the point where they are expected to surpass road deaths in 2015.

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Enough, Already, continued from page 3

So what should we do? First, we have to begin somewhere, and the ban on the sale of assault weapons and ammunition is the most logical place; there is no good reason for an ordinary citizen in a democratic country ruled by law to have the power to kill several people in a few seconds.

Since thousands of assault weapons are already in circulation, it seems likely that we will also need a buy-back policy and some strict laws (parallel to those for drugs?) for continuing possession of the banned weapons.

Gun owners need not worry about general house searches; local governments have neither the money, the manpower nor the political will to do that. Most Americans still believe that their house is their castle and the law should not reach inside unless someone calls for help or a judge signs a search warrant.

Beyond the ban on assault weapons, we need some system for registering hand guns. In 2009, we had 3 intentional homicides by gun for every 100,000 persons in the U.S. The rate in the UK was 0.07. In Germany, it was 0.2. It is hard to tell exactly what accounts for such a difference, but we know that in England, a citizen must have a certificate from the local constabulary showing the need for a specific kind of gun, and the certificate must be renewed regularly.

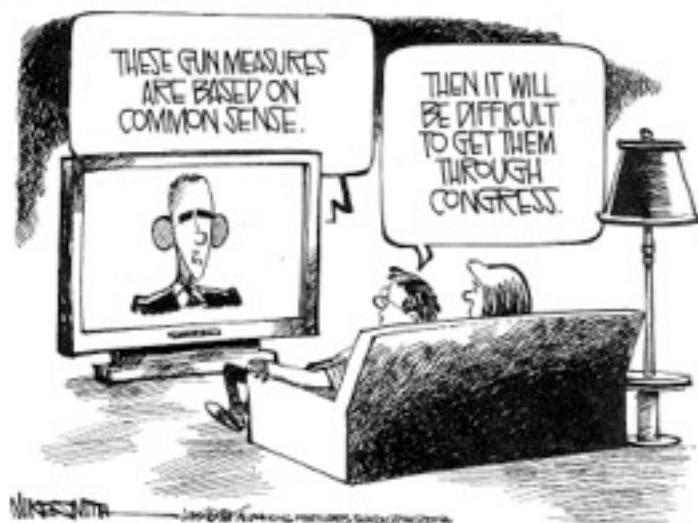
If we had to show a license for owning a gun before it was purchased (as we show an ID before buying alcohol or cigarettes), there might be no need for our failing system of "background checks."

And beyond that, we need to face up to the ways in which our culture encourages young men to demonstrate their manhood through violence--in violent sports, by favoring violent films and television programs, by playing violent video games, by being or fighting the bully on the playground, and so on.

The mass shootings in 2012 did not take place in the "inner-cities"; the shooters were not "foreign"; they were young, white men. The necessary cultural changes will not be easy, but they are not impossible given time, patience and the will to create a more civil society. To make the case for such changes, we will need systematic, unbiased research on the role of guns in our society.

As for the effect of such regulations on our constitutional freedom, we know that we are not significantly less free as a result of having to license a car or present proof of majority to buy alcohol. If there are good reasons (such as public safety or protection of minors), most of us do not mind reasonable limits.

The WI Voter ID law, which was scheduled to disenfranchise up to 11% of the population, was not deemed reasonable, and there should be healthy debates about the reasonability of any law. But individual freedom is not our country's only value. It always has to be weighed and balanced with more public values, such as safety, equality and justice for all.



Professor Wendy Scattergood: The Presidential Election of 2012

[*Editor's note:* The opening lecture of the St. Norbert Distinguished Lecture Series at the Door County Auditorium, was delivered by Wendy Scattergood, Assistant Professor of Political Science. She presented an analysis of the Presidential Election of 2012. DPDC Board member Wayne Kudick attended the lecture and prepared a synopsis of Professor Scattergood's remarks. His synopsis is presented below.]

Why did Obama Win when he was not supposed to win?

1. Polarization of the electorate.
2. Presidents accrue personal attacks over their term.
3. Perceptions of a negative economy.
 - No President has ever been re-elected when the unemployment rate was above 7%.
 - Obama's job approval rating was low / 49% (?)
 - Odds, historically, are against "incumbent" Presidents being re-elected: 60% to lose / 40% chance of being elected.

Perception (public's view) of this Winning Presidential campaign:

1. Improving economy perception.
2. "Rally effect", some issue makes voters believe the incumbent is the right choice at the time of the election, e.g., a foreign policy matter or handling a natural disaster (e.g., Hurricane Sandy.)
3. Personality of the President is perceived to be appropriate for the office.
 - No one, singular issue, in 2012, or no few issues persuaded the vote / rather a multiplicity of issues such as: the economy, women's issues, health care, minority issues, race, social programs, gay marriage, marijuana, foreign policy, war / peace, etc.

Why is a "post mortem" of the Presidential campaign valuable? (So what?)

A retrospective can give the country suggestions on how to improve or correct flaws in the past campaign strategies, actions, for example the dominant impact of the electoral vote count.

Popular vote: Nationally, 51.03% for Obama. 52.83% Wisconsin vote for Obama.

Electoral vote: 62% for Obama. Why the difference from popular vote?

1. Electoral votes are based, mostly on population density in a given state.

2. Obama won many of the out-of-state votes, e.g., Washington D.C., Territorial votes, overseas votes.
3. Some states accrue electoral votes on an "all or none basis", a few don't – vote can be split among candidates.
 - 2008 vs. 2012: Obama lost Indiana and North Carolina, otherwise largely the same.
 - Votes by County across USA: most are rural / RED.

Wisconsin Presidential County vote, 2012:

BLUE: #1 Oneida County, 86%. #2, Dane: 80%. #3, Milwaukee. 36 BLUE counties.

RED: #1, Washington County. #2, Waukesha County.

Mix: 36 Red counties & 36 BLUE counties. Door: BLUE. Was RED in 2008.

Wisconsin Votes / why swing / purple:

- Walker votes, 2010 vs. Recall: 2010 = 52.25%. Recall = 53.08%. Reason: former BLUE voters disliked the recall strategy.
- Wisconsin Senate 2012 votes: Baldwin, 51.41%. Thompson, 45.86%. Reason: anti -"Tommy" vote. Not pro Baldwin.
- Wisconsin Congressional votes: Paul Ryan, 2012 Congressional re-election: 54.9%, lowest of Congressional incumbents.

Congressional Changes:

- From 2008 to 2010 the House of Representatives RED increased to over 60%, largest majority ever.
- In 2010 DEMs regained some seats to diminish the majority.

Congressional Approval Ratings now at 14%. BUT:

- 97% of House incumbents were re-elected.
- 91% of Senate incumbents were re-elected.

State Ballot across US, issues, results in 2012:

- Marijuana: Washington, Oregon approve use. Montana repealed.
- Gay Marriage: 3 legalized, 2 banned.
- Health Care: 5 moved against Obama's Health Care Reform.
- Religious Practices / e.g., prayer in school, if voluntary: 4 states.
- Death with dignity did not pass in Massachusetts.
- Hunting, fishing: variety of angles / states.

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The 2012 Election, continued from page 5

Exit Polls, very important to plan to future:

- Age: 18-29 seem to be for Obama. 45+ for Romney.
- Married: 56% for Romney. Unmarried: 62% for Obama.
- Race / Ethnicity: Black, 90 %, Hispanic, 80%, Asian, 70% voted for Obama.
- Education:
 - BLUE: Graduate Degree, High School.
 - RED: College.
 - Equal: Technical.
 - Purple / split: High School.
- Income: High = RED. Lower: BLUE.
- Geographic: Urban: BLUE. Sub-urban: Split. Rural: RED.
- Religiosity / frequency of attending church: Prot: RED. Cath: Split. Other: Split. Jewish: 76% BLUE(???)

GOTV , Get Out The Vote strategies: Higher voter turnouts wins elections for RED or BLUE.

- 2012 election voter participation, nationally, highest since Kennedy election.
- Wisconsin, 63.9%, #3 nationally. Minnesota 67.6%, #1, nationally.
- National state average: 56 %.

Campaign Financing: Republicans spent 61% of all money / did not win Presidential.

Swing State Status for Wisconsin: WI was the largest swing % from the 2010 campaign results. **PURPLE!**

Other questions from the audience:

Voter suppression / important?

- Only anecdotal data on impact thus far.
- Eleven (11) states passed laws to restrict voting; this may be an indicator that this is a wide spread, RED strategy to overcome the RED vote differential in the Presidential elections, and others.

Gun Control, an issue for the future?:

Data from survey of general populace indicates 55% favor gun control with above 50% support for specific policies such as;

- Background checks for all sales. (88%)
- Ban on "assault weapons." (58%)
- Registration of all gun sales at local agencies. (?)%
- Limiting sale of high capacity ammunition magazine sales. (65%)
- Favor armed guards at schools, in somewhat contradictory terms. (55%)
- Believe gun controls will have NO effect on controlling violence, however, (61%)
- No data on whether populace support use of tax \$ to pay for related efforts.

Membership Matters

It is membership renewal time for nearly 100 of our members. If your membership in the Door Dems (and also automatically, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin) has expired, the email to which the newsletter is attached will let you know.

If it is renewal time, please don't procrastinate, but print the form below and send it to your Door Dems at the address shown on the form. There is important work to do, and we need every member. So, please renew. Thank you!

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or Renew Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win!	
Name(s) _____ _____ Address _____ _____ City/State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ This is a <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone Email _____ County: DOOR	Sign me up for: <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Senior/student/limited income <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Two seniors/students/limited incomes <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Individual general membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships) <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships) <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's)
I would also like to join: <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Black Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Hispanic Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> LGTB Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans' Caucus <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Caucus	
Return to: Democratic Party of Door County P.O. Box 863 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235	