



"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

November, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

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Advocacy:
Dean Hoegger

Elections:
Rod Bohn

Membership:
Francha Barnard

Officers:
Allin Walker

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

Nov 22 **DPDC monthly membership meeting cancelled for the Thanksgiving Holiday**

DECEMBER

Dec 6 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library (**note location**), 107 S. 4th Ave., 6:00-7:30 PM. **Current** (2012) DPDC members are welcome.

Dec 13 **DPDC monthly membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., lower level, 7:00 PM. Brief review of the General Election, and Election of DPDC Officers and Executive Board.

JANUARY

Jan 26 **Save the Date for the 7th Annual Pie Party**. Details in the December newsletter.

Digest of Contents

Page 2:

- **Message from the Chair:** with thanks to our many volunteers.
- **Review and analysis of the General Election:** Bill Perloff offers an initial assessment of the results.

Page 4: DPDC Upcoming elections.

Announcement of election of DPDC Officers and Executive Board. Note that paid-up membership is required to nominate, vote or run for office.

Page 5: Yea for Our Team! What's Next?

A look at the fallout and future after the election by Past Co-Chair Estella Lauter.

Page 6: Brief membership notes and membership application.



Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

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

Message From the Chair:

A Heartfelt Thanks to So Many!

Lots and lots of people to thank!

At the top of the list, the Board, Francha, Naomi and Gordon, Joan, John, other Shift Coordinators, Harry, Gerard, Wayne, Deb, Christie, Wence, Sandra, Kathy, Bernadette, Tammy, Jamie, Pat, Bill, Ron, Faith, Bob, Victoria, Peter, Barb, Imelda, Valerie and Scott.



Chair Allin Walker

At the November 8 Board meeting a motion was passed unanimously to ask Pat Veeseer to please

ready himself for another run for the Assembly in 2014.

I personally am in the debt of the Board, Francha, Lucy and Naomi who filled in for me as my health deteriorated.

As the Board analyzed the election, we stayed true to our mission statement: "To win elections by staying true to our values."

It was wonderful to have Organizing for America/Amber as our allies in this effort. We contacted between 5,500 and 5,600 Door County voters and had approximately 180 volunteers who worked on the election in some way. TRULY AWESOME... and THANK YOU!

From the Editor, Bill Perloff:

A First Instructive Look at the Election Results

For Democrats in Door County, the 2012 general election provided both satisfaction and disappointment. We worked hard in support of President Obama, Senator-elect Tammy Baldwin, 8th CD candidate Jamie Wall, and 1st Assembly candidate Patrick Veeseer, as Chair Walker's message attests.

The results for Door County are summarized in Table 1. Several observations can be made about these results:

1. Door County votes. More than 89% of registered voters (77% of age-eligible voters) actually voted. The percentage of age-eligible voters exceeded the statewide figure by 7%.
2. President Obama won in Door County with a higher percentage than statewide, though his race was closer than in 2008.

3. Baldwin also won here, though by a whisker less than her statewide percentage.
4. Wall lost in Door County by less than 100 votes, and did better here than in Kewaunee or Brown Counties. However, he needed to carry Door County by a substantial margin to offset Brown and Kewaunee.
5. Veeseer lost by more than 900 votes in Door County, despite the County going "blue" for the top of the ticket. Both Wall and Veeseer's results cast doubt on our premise that the top of the ticket would have "coattails" sufficiently effective to support the more local candidates. Instead there was considerable ticket splitting.

A more detailed examination of the voting pattern provides some additional insights. Figure 1 on page 3 shows the Democratic and Republican votes for President in each of the Door County municipalities, arranged from north at the top to south at the bottom. The data show a familiar pattern for presidential elections since 2004:

1. Washington Island is quite conservative, though Democrats have gained in '08 and '12.
2. The north, from Liberty Grove down through Egg Harbor are usually Democratic strongholds. I attribute this, at least in part, to in-migration of retirees with a progressive predilection.
3. The near north, Sevastopol and Jacksonport are more conservative, voting mostly Republican, though somewhat narrowly so.

(Continued on pages 3 and 4)

Table 1 - Door County Voting

Candidate	Door County Rep Vote	Door County Dem Vote	Dem % of Total Door Cty Vote
Obama	8109	9338	52.94%
Baldwin	7983	8949	51.43%
Wall	8623	8527	49.61%
Veeseer	9117	8152	47.18%

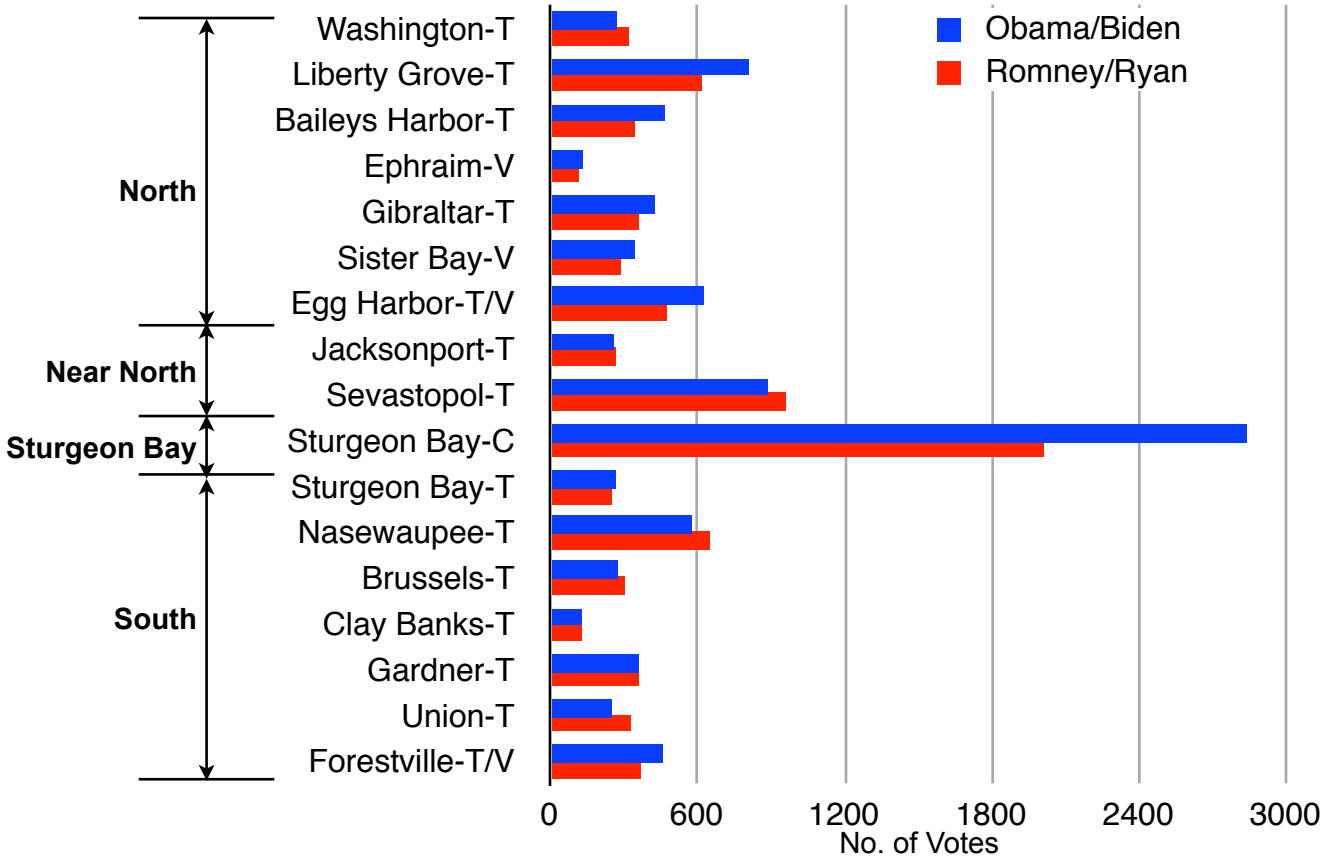


Figure 1 - Door County Votes for President

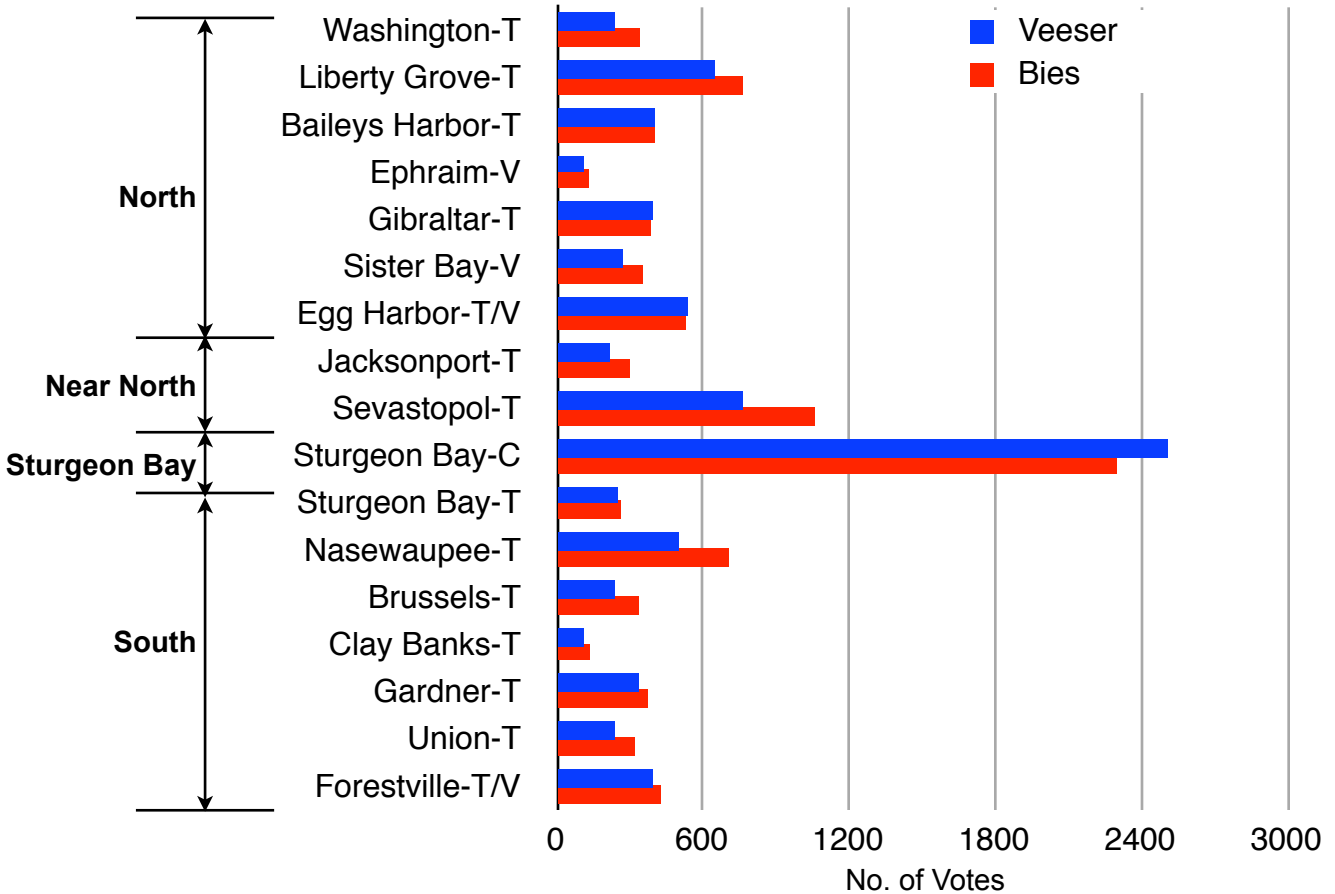


Figure 2 - Door County Votes for 1st Assembly Seat

Election Analysis Continued from page 3

4. The City of Sturgeon Bay is strongly Democratic, and committed to voting; 92% of registered voters actually voted. The extensive canvassing there paid dividends in the form of a more than 1,200 vote margin.
5. The Southern part of the County, from the Town of Sturgeon Bay to Union is strongly conservative, and regularly votes Republican.
6. Forestville was a pocket of Democratic support in the Presidential race.

A similar set of observations apply to the Senate race.

The 1st Assembly race results, depicted in Figure 2, page 3, displayed a different pattern. Even usually reliably “blue” municipalities, i.e., Gibraltar, Egg Harbor, Liberty Grove, went Republican, or were tied. The only community that voted Democratic was the City of Sturgeon Bay, and that only by about 200 votes.

Veese’s losses in Door County were partially offset by an approximately 350 vote margin of victory in Kewaunee County, which had voted Republican in the last two Assembly races.

Given that Pat Veese was a dynamic candidate, right on the issues (such as “equal pay for equal work”), and running against a phlegmatic Republican drone who had supported essentially all of the onerous legislation of the Walker regime, we must ask “how could this have happened.”

The answer may well lie in two assumptions that guided the coordinated campaign here in Door County. First, that if the emphasis in the coordinated campaign was on the Presidential race, that voters convinced to vote for President Obama would vote Democratic all the way down the ticket.

The second assumption was that the Veese phone and canvass campaigns could concentrate on Kewaunee County and the small parts of Brown and Manitowoc Counties in the district, and that a

number of mailings, with the Door Dems phone persuasion, limited coordinated campaign canvassing, and GOTV (Get Out The Vote) efforts would carry Door County.

In retrospect it seems clear that people were willing to split their votes, and the Door County voters simply did not know Pat well enough. We needed more contacts between Pat and the Door County voters, both in person and through volunteer canvassers. As the Presidential race showed, the ground game is the difference.

The geographic results for the Congressional campaign were intermediate between the Presidential and Assembly races. That is, Wall prevailed in the “Democratic” north and the city of Sturgeon Bay, but not by enough to overcome the Republican south. The result was a virtual tie in a County that he had to carry.

There are several conclusions to be drawn from the observations above:

1. Door County will vote Democratic, provided the voters have sufficient exposure to the candidate (or surrogates) to feel a connection.
2. Voters are willing to split tickets, and “coattails” cannot be assumed to be effective. Even strongly Democratic areas need exposure to the Democratic candidates in order to be assured of their votes.
3. As hard as the Door Dems worked, we must recruit more volunteers and work harder to support individual candidates, especially those “lower” on the ticket. This suggests that we may need to modify the “coordinated campaign” concept.

Once the official results are recorded at the Government Accountability Board and entered into the Voter Activation Network, we will be able to get a better profile of the voters, and identify specific populations to target. Keep tuned for updates.

DPDC Elections December 13th

The December Door Dems membership meeting December 13th, 7:00 PM at the Sturgeon Bay Library, lower level, will feature our biennial election of Officers and Executive Board. All positions, except Past-Chair, are open.

Officers to be elected for two-year terms are:

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Past-Chair (automatic)
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Executive Board:

- Two from Northern Door County
- Two from Southern Door County
- Three from Sturgeon Bay
- At-large members (up to three)

Paid-up members of DPDC are eligible to vote and/or run for office. **Nominations will be open at the meeting.** Those wishing to run for office should be prepared to make a brief presentation of their qualifications and goals for serving. If you wish to run, but can’t be at the meeting, ask someone to nominate you and speak on your behalf.

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**Yea for Our Team! What's Next?**

Thanks to you, and especially to those of you who volunteered during this election cycle in addition to voting, Door County is back in the blue column. This is no small achievement, given that our surrounding counties stayed red!



Estella Lauter

I am incredibly relieved by the results at the top of the ticket, not least because they give us a chance to think again about real problems and solutions instead of defending against the outrageous charges that characterized the campaign. We need some time to celebrate and re-center ourselves before we move on to the next set of tasks, but move on we must.

Our best journalists, economists, political scientists and pundits have already identified a daunting list of tasks for President Obama in his second term: a federal jobs program; legislation to curtail carbon emissions; immigration reform; tax reform; election finance reform; reversal of Citizens United; diplomacy instead of warfare; regulation of the financial industry, and so on.

Although we can write letters and sign petitions to influence these policy decisions, there is probably not much else we can do in relation to these issues until the 2014 election, when we may be able to lead the drive for a better Representative to the US House from our district and help to repair the damage done to Wisconsin by big money in 2010 and 2012.

The most immediate problem is what to say to our Republican neighbors whose blood pressure has been raised by media that cultivate fear and anxiety to sell their news. The internet has been full of dire responses to the election.

However, Democrats in government are unlikely to bring about an economic Armageddon. According to Bloomberg, Politico and the Dept. of Labor, during the 22 years of the past 50 when Dems have held the Presidency, we created nearly twice as many jobs as Republicans did in 28 years (42 mil to 24 mil); roughly 3.5 times the income growth (2.2% to 0.6%); 1.5% more GDP (4.1% to 2.7%); and achieved a significantly higher annualized return on the stock market (11% to 2.7%)! Although Republicans have crafted an image of themselves as "the Party of business," the numbers for the economy as a whole do not support that claim.

In addition, the fears about Obama are completely unnecessary. He is a US citizen. He is not a Muslim, although that should not matter since our Constitution does not require a President to declare any religion. He is not gay, although that should not matter for the same reason. Persons of color achieved full constitutional status as citizens in the 19th Century. Obama has not assumed any more power as President than George W. Bush did. And so on. The charges are without merit.

Thus we may need to coax these neighbors back from an abyss of fear and anger one by one, insisting that every emotional claim be checked for its relationship to reality—the way most people deal with nightmares after waking up in the morning. This is not an impossible task. We all learn to decide if a "preponderance of evidence" supports one side or the other in a court case when we serve on juries.

We are in this predicament in large part because our media have failed to do the basic work of vetting claims by powerful individuals. In a nation based on the rule of law for the public good, we cannot allow emotion to gain the upper hand in our citizenry.

Once we are able to resume civil conversation, we may be able to go one step further by exploring the practice of town-hall forums. I was struck by the news that Sen. Bernie Sanders did not run ads in his campaign for re-election. Instead, he met with people in as many towns as possible to discuss his ideas and theirs. Perhaps if we had done more of this in Northern Door, we could have elected better representatives in the WI Assembly and the House!

Beyond electoral politics, however, we need to restore the idea that the function of democratic government is to solve real problems using the best available ideas. As David Brooks said on *Charlie Rose* last week, the terms "big government" and "small government" are not useful. The appropriate question concerns what the various levels of government and the various kinds of private enterprise or non-profit organizations can do best.

In the U.S., we have typically made the most progress when government and private interests have established effective partnerships. Last fall the League of Women Voters showed a film about the importance of civil discourse about our common concerns. Water quality in Door County is not a partisan issue. The question of how to fund the best possible public education for all children in the county or the state is worth our most creative collective thought regardless of party affiliation.

(Continued on page 6)

What's Next? Continued from page 5

The point of fostering individual or collective conversations is not to give in to the "other" side, or give up working for our own values; it is to prevent an incipient civil war from deepening by trying diplomacy—the same approach we favor in international politics.

There will still be times when we have to protest against the misuse of power as we did during the Recall, or as Ohio and Michigan did in their

referendums concerning legislation crafted by A.L.E.C.

We will have to be both vigilant and creative during the next two years of one-party rule in Wisconsin. But that does not preclude the possibility that we can make some headway in solving problems that are specific to Door County—either as individuals or as members of groups—acting in the public interest of the community as a whole.

Brief Membership Note

Many of our members' memberships will expire at the end of the year. Now is a good time to renew before the upcoming Holidays distract us from that important job.

By renewing now, your membership will be extended twelve months from the current expiration date, so you won't lose paid-up time. \

It is easy to do. Just print out the form below and mail it with your check to the PO Box shown on the form, and you will be set for another year.

If you want to give extra support to **your** County Party, sign up for a basic membership (\$10 Senior, \$25 Individual, \$35 Pairs), and add on a donation to the Door Dems. We have to share dues with the State Party, but do not have to share donations.

What will donations achieve? We are planning to keep our office open and functioning as we prepare for the important 2014 elections for Governor, State Senator, Assembly, and Congress. We need to remove the Republican stranglehold on good Wisconsin government.



or Renew
Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party in '12 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

Return to: **Democratic Party of Door County**
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