



Democratic Party of Door County
"Public policy for public good"

"Proud to be a Democrat"

Democratic Party of Door County

January, 2012 Monthly Newsletter

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Dean Hoegger

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Rod Bohn

Membership:
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Officers:
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Upcoming Events

JANUARY

Jan 26 **Recall Celebration and Fundraiser for Jamie Wall**, The Draft Haus, 901 Egg Harbor Rd., Sturgeon Bay, 5:00 - 7:00 PM. See article below.

FEBRUARY

Feb 9 **Open Discussion Forum**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., lower level, 4:30-6:00 PM.

Feb 9 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., 6:00-7:00 PM. **Current** (2012) DPDC members are welcome.

Feb 23 **DPDC Membership Meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, 107 S. 4th Ave., upper level, 7:00 PM. Program TBA.

Digest of Contents

Below: Preview of our January 26th recall celebration and Jamie Wall fundraiser.

Page 2:

- **Message from the Chair:** Chair Walker discusses the lessons learned from our successful recall effort.

- **An ironic look at modern America**

Page 3: Reappraising President

Obama: Past Co-Chair Estella Lauter takes a look at the President's achievements, and concludes that, in contrast to the Republican candidates' claims, the data support a positive view of his first term.

Page 4: Walker Budget Bill Strikes at Working Families

reviews some of the consequence of the budget taking effect this month.

Page 5: Membership Counts.

The editor discusses the importance of joining/renewing your membership.

Come to a Celebration of the Recall with Special Guest, Jamie Wall

Thursday, January 26th is the date, The Draft Haus is the place, and 5:00 - 7:00 PM is the time.

The event is our celebration of an incredibly successful recall effort, and a fundraiser for our next Democratic Congressman from the 8th District, **Jamie Wall**.

Jamie grew up on a dairy farm in Northeast Wisconsin, attended UW-Madison, and was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University.

He has been a business consultant, helping businesses solve problems for most of his career, except for the early years of the Doyle administration, when he was head of State Economic Development programs.

Jamie is a strong advocate of progressive principles, and is commit-



Jamie Wall

ted to working in congress to find solutions to problems, not stalemate.

There will be food, live music, fun, fellowship, and a cash bar. A donation of \$5 per person for the Door Dems is requested, along with support for Jamie's campaign. Here is our chance to help take back the 8th CD seat. Come and join us and meet Jamie.

Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

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

Message from the Chair:

Lessons Learned from the Recall

The extraordinary effort that collected over 9,000 signatures (4,900 Walker, 4,500 Kleefish) in the Door County recall took everyone doing everything they could!

The core group of 38 office volunteers kept the office open the last two weeks from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM most days.

Seventeen people doing data entry meant we recorded over 4,000 signatures, tracked 400+ people who had petitions and 363 who turned them in, and recorded 1,720 petitions. One person turned in over 500 signatures, many people 4 or less; but they all mattered.

Last Tuesday, Martha Baker from Baileys Harbor represented all of us when she turned our petitions in to the Government Accountability Board in Madison.

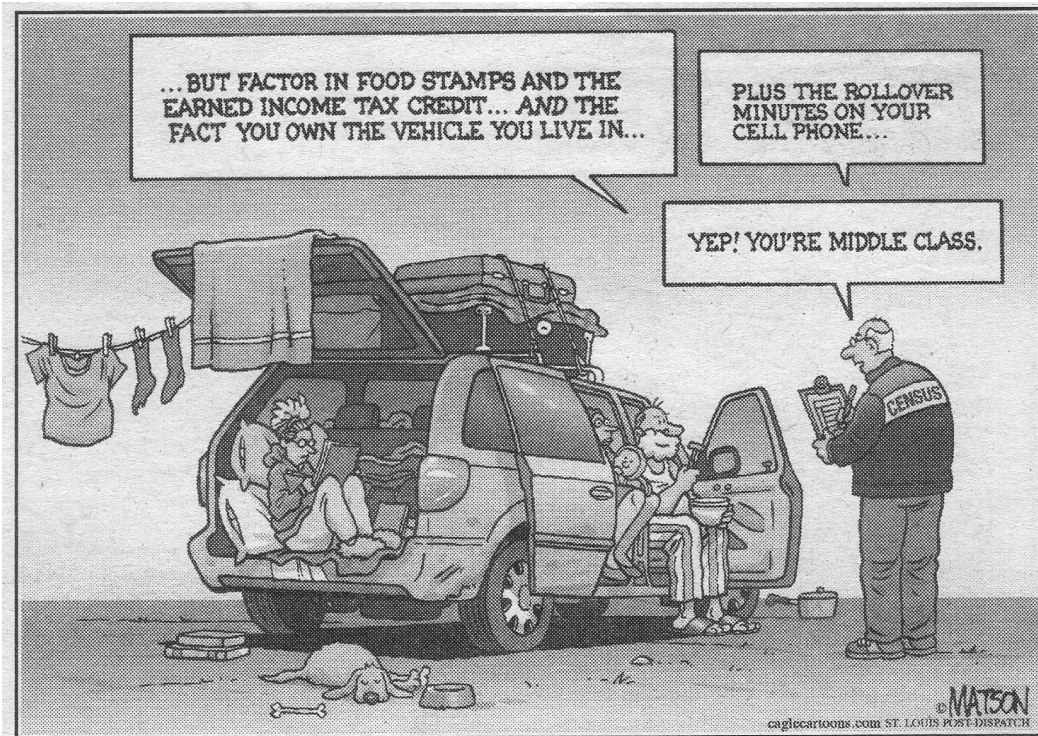
In the process, we learned important lessons to carry forward to the campaigns ahead; in no particular order:



Chair Allin Walker

- In dire circumstances ordinary people will do extraordinary things.
- Everything worked: media, sandwich-board sign, internet, events, newspaper ads.
- Good data management saves lots of work.
- It is all about relationships built up over time.
- Regular office hours are a must during a campaign.
- Follow-up can never be often enough.
- Amazing that we did not need a candidate.
- A core group of trained “regulars” was critical to effectively using short-term volunteers.
- A single, concise issue/focus was important—even if negative.
- The truth is a powerful ally.
- Youth were a strong component.
- Having satellite sites was an important plus.
- Momentum kept building, even among the true believers, as we approached and exceeded our goals.
- We need a thorough Training Manual available to everyone.
- Forgiveness is always needed: there were lots of screw-ups **and** we survived them all
- It never ceased being hard to believe that it all really worked.

Now our job is to keep the momentum going and elect people to represent us in Madison and Washington under a banner of TRUST, FAIRNESS, COMMUNITY.



Thanks to Matson by way of *Funny Times*

My take on it, by Estella Lauter:**Reappraising President Obama**

As we wait for the Government Accountability Board to set a date for the gubernatorial election in Wisconsin, the Democratic Party of Wisconsin (DPW) to choose a candidate to run against Scott Walker, and the national Republican Party to choose a nominee for President, it might be wise to consider the upcoming Presidential election.

**Estella Lauter**

Pundits tell us that the race will be close even before they know who the Republican candidate will be—because Democrats are disappointed in Obama! Mitt Romney is already running a campaign of baseless claims against Obama, and since MainStream Media thrive on any controversy, reporters are not required to question such claims. Recently, however, I have read several commentaries that sharply question both Republican claims and Democratic complaints about the Obama Presidency.

One of these is Andrew Sullivan's essay in *Newsweek* (which I read on the Daily Beast.com). A former editor of *The New Republic*, Sullivan is a cranky Independent rather than a Democrat, so his nearly unqualified support for President Obama in this essay is breathtaking.

Sullivan reminds us that Obama inherited "an annualized drop in growth approaching 9 percent" with a "real chance of a systemic collapse of the entire global financial system" and then proceeds to counter false Republican claims about his performance with real numbers: 2.4 million jobs added since 2010; 1.9 million of them in the private sector equals more than the net number of jobs created by Bush in 8 years.

The 1.4 trillion Obama will have added to the deficit in 8 years to fix the problems he inherited, pales by comparison with the \$5 trillion added by Bush. In response to irresponsible charges against "Obamacare," Sullivan says "making 44 million free riders pay into the system is not fiscally reckless; it is fiscally prudent"—even conservative. On foreign policy, he compares Bush's tough talk with Obama's successful action against Osama bin Laden with its treasure trove of intelligence and the subsequent drop in popularity of al Qaeda.

Turning to the left, Sullivan says we have "missed the screen for the pixels." We have failed to credit Obama with averting a severe depression, saving an American auto industry, ending the Iraq war, cutting defense spending, increasing support

for marriage equality, investing in non-carbon energy, reforming health care, and so on.

Politifact has said that one-third of his 508 specific promises have been fulfilled, and all but two have received some action.

Obama's style has been to act rather than to blow his horn, and to pay attention to the effects of action on the whole system—to play a "long game" rather than going for immediate points.

Sullivan concludes that Obama's character, record and promise are as underappreciated now as they were hyped in 2008, and that we would be foolish not to get solidly behind him in the coming election so that the gains he has made cannot be undone and the country can continue to move forward on a sound footing.

Another excellent (and witty) essay comes from a blog called "Polit-onomics and travel" by danielfree, about whom I know nothing. This one takes up Willard (did you wonder why he is called Mitt?) Romney's claim that Obama has made the economy worse by asking what data Romney could possibly have in mind, and then surveying eight areas to find that there is no category of data that supports the claim.

Here are some talking points from the essay: our GDP went from -8.9 in the 4th quarter of 2008 (4Q 08) to +3.9 in 1Q 10 and remains in the black even though the positive effect of the stimulus has long since run out.

The stock market is up 87.6% since the Dow Jones low of 6,517 in 1Q 09. The unemployment rate has gone from a high of 10.2% at the height of the recession to 8.5% at the end of 2011. Jobs, primarily in the private sector, have increased steadily and substantially since the low in 2009.

The debt and deficit as measured by actual numbers at the end of each fiscal year (FY) each October are moving in the right direction; while Reagan increased the debt 20.59% in 1983, and Bush 2 was responsible for an 18.80% increase in FY 2009, Obama's rate has come down to 9.06%.

The top 1% earned record bonuses in 2009, 2010 and 2011; corporate profits were up beyond pre-crisis levels in 2011; and the percentage of taxes paid by all corporations in 2009-2011 was well below the historic average of 10.6%.

In dollars, corporations paid an estimated \$198.4 billion in total taxes in 2011—only \$42 billion more than Wall Street bonuses! The growth in manufacturing index went from 35.7 in 1Q 09 to 53.9 in 4Q 11. Exports have increased 39.2% since 1Q 09. And so on.

Continued on page 4

Reappraising President Obama, continued from page 3

No matter what record he examines, this diligent blogger finds that all aspects of the economy under Obama's administration have improved since the Bush2 era. At the end of his essay, danielfree asks Willard to please be more specific about his claims that the economy is worse under Obama so the blogger can stop guessing what he could possibly mean.

So why are Democrats "disappointed" in Obama's performance? Sullivan suggests that while the right is simply "unhinged," the left has indulged in "purist" expectations. We said we wanted an

adult after Bush and we got one, but perhaps we did not understand that adults are neither omniscient nor omnipotent; they simply do the best they can with the hand that is dealt to them, and they count on other adults to take an active role in problem-solving.

President Obama said from the first day of his campaign in Iowa that he could not accomplish anything alone, without our help. Now is the time for us to begin helping to ensure that he is re-elected, and the House and Senate have Democratic majorities.

The Walker Budget Bill Strikes at Working Families

If you thought the worst was over, think again! The infamous Walker budget bill contained a number of provisions that took effect on January 1, 2012 or shortly after.

Many of these provisions constitute a direct assault on working families, often those who are most economically disadvantaged.

Jon Peacock, of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF), has identified the budget bill provisions most affecting working

families. The document is accessible from WCCF (wccf.org/pdf/2012_policies_working_families.pdf).

The most egregious of these are summarized in the table below. Recall that the BadgerCare program is a public health insurance plan to cover the "working poor" who are ineligible for Medicaid, but would be unable to afford to buy health insurance.

The table shows how the most vulnerable of our citizens, are victimized by Walker and his allies, and why we must get rid of him and his cronies.

PROGRAM	BUDGET BILL CHANGE	EFFECT
Earned income tax credit	Cuts \$56 million over 2 years in tax relief for low-income workers by cutting Earned Income Tax Credit for families with 2 or more children	A single mom with 3 children earning minimum wage will lose \$518/year (21% of current credit)
BadgerCare	Cuts totaling \$500 million to be made during the biennium. The state has applied to the Feds for waivers and approval for major cuts.	Proposed changes will drop 64,000 people from BadgerCare, increase premiums for 100,000 others, and increase deductibles and copays for 263,000 BadgerCare participants.
Public Sector Employees Health Care	Reduction of State Health Insurance costs by 5%	For state employees with the "Standard Plan" deductibles doubled, copays increased, and employees now pay 12% of premiums
Unemployment Benefits	Delay for one week start of unemployment benefits	Reduces unemployment benefits payout by \$41 - \$56 million per year
Wisconsin Works (W-2)	Participants caring for a newborn can stay home for 8 weeks, rather than the previous 12 weeks	Ouch
Wisconsin Works (W-2)	Reduced flexibility to incorporate educational programs as part of work requirement	Discourages W-2 agencies from developing plans for participants that combine technical training with required work. Talk about shortsighted!
Minimum Wage	Minimum wage, \$7.25/hr, not adjusted for inflation (since 2009)	Minimum wage earners have lost about 7% since 2009 (\$1,070 this year)

Membership Counts (Pun Intended)

The good news: We finished 2011 with 264 members of whom 111 were new, or former members whose memberships had lapsed for more than a year. Thanks to all who showed their commitment to progressive principles and our vibrant Door County Dems by joining as members.

Further good news: Thanks to the 212 folks who have already joined for 2012, 35 of whom are new members.

If your current membership is due to expire at the end of this month or next month, the email to which this is attached will let you know it is time to renew. If you receive the newsletter by "snail mail", the address label will show your membership expiration date.

To renew, simply print out the form on the bottom of this page and send it to our PO Box (shown on form). If you renew before your membership expiration date, we will simply extend your membership for 12 months from the current expiration date, so you can renew early, while it is fresh in your mind. Thank you for renewing.

So, what's the bad news: There are hundreds of Door County residents who committed time, energy and money to the Walker recall effort, who believe in progressive Democratic values, but who have not yet taken the plunge and actually joined the Democratic Party of Door County. We are grateful for their efforts, but need them as members.

Why does it matter whether I join or not? Your membership counts (literally) in several respects. First, there is strength in numbers, and a large and vibrant party attracts attention and support from within the community.

Second, membership entitles you to take a leadership role, including influencing actions and directions at the local level, proposing platform resolutions, and serving as a delegate at Congressional District, State, and National conventions.

Third you can continue to receive this newsletter as well as "Allin's Notes", and other informative communiques from Door Dems.

Fourth, your membership dues help to support our activities, such as maintaining a full-time office, mobilizing for campaigns such as the Recall (and now the upcoming recall election), as well as the 2012 campaigns for Assembly, Congress, Senate and Presidency.

But, sometimes I disagree with something the Democrats have done. Of course you do. We all do! Remember, the **perfect** is the enemy of the **good**. Indeed, the best way to change those things you don't agree with is from within. The state Party leadership has been quite responsive to our concerns, and that of other County Parties.

Please consider joining your fellow progressives here in Door County to keep the County and the state "blue".

You can also help by contributing to the Door Dems safely by credit card through ActBlue, a website dedicated to directing contributions to the Democratic organizations and candidates of your choice. Simply click on the blue button below, or go to www.actblue.com/page/newslettercontribution. Thank you!

To Contribute

or Renew Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party in '12 and Help Democrats Win!	
Name(s) _____ _____	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)
Address _____ _____	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
City/State _____ _____	Return to: Democratic Party of Door County P.O. Box 863 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
Zip _____	
Phone _____	
This is a <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone	
Email _____	
County: DOOR	