

<p><b>Paca Blue News</b></p>	<p><b>Waupaca County Democratic Party</b></p>	
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	<p>715-467-1541. waupacademocrats.com office hours 11-2 Saturdays</p>	

**April 2023**

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**Next meeting: 10:30 a.m. April 15, 401 S. Bridge St., Manawa**  
(Shifted to the 3rd Saturday because of Easter weekend)

# Turnout will be crucial for April 4 vote

Progressive citizens are likely in the majority statewide in Wisconsin, but voters must show up at the polls, in person or by absentee ballot, to make an impact on outcomes.

**The Democratic Party of Wisconsin** makes the following endorsements in statewide ballots:

- **FOR Janet Protasiewicz** for justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.
- **AGAINST all three referendum questions**, including the two about bail conditions and the one about work and welfare benefits.

**The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin** makes the following endorsements in statewide ballots:

- **AGAINST all three referendum questions**, including the two about bail conditions and the one about work and welfare benefits.

For the reasoning about these endorsements, see page 2.



Janet Protasiewicz talked with a voter on March 18 in Wild Rose.  
*Waushara Area Democrats*

## Inside:

- Candidates meet the grassroots in Central Wisconsin, page 3.
- A Waupaca County judge is also on the ballot, page 6.
- Election-time volunteers and poll workers needed, page 3.
- Waupaca County's newest food pantry is in the Waupaca library, page 6.
- The poet from Obama's first inauguration, page 4.
- An extra three days 'til Tax Day, page 5.

## JUST THE OPINIONS

**For Janet Protasiewicz**

Reasoning from the Democratic Party of Wisconsin about Janet Protasiewicz for Wisconsin Supreme Court justice:

“Judge Janet Protasiewicz (say *pro-ta-SAY-witz*) is a community leader, a veteran prosecutor, and a lifelong advocate for victims of crime. In nearly a decade as circuit court judge, she has earned the respect of the community, developing a reputation for being fair and impartial. ...

“For too long, extreme members of the Wisconsin Supreme Court have followed their own partisan beliefs, not the rule of law. Judge Janet is the best candidate to return common sense and the rule of law back to the court. “



Janet Protasiewicz, left, chatted with Ruth Caves, chair of the Waushara Area Democrats, on March 18 at Wild Rose.

*Waushara Area Democrats*

## JUST THE OPINIONS

**Vote ‘no’ on all three referendum questions**

Reasoning from the League of Women Voters Facebook page urges “no” votes on all three referendum questions. The text of the three questions are from [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov).

**QUESTION 1:** “*Conditions of release before conviction. Shall section 8 (2) of article I of the constitution be amended to allow a court to impose on an accused person being released before conviction conditions that are designed to protect the community from serious harm?*”

The LWV urges a “no” vote, stating:

Increased pretrial detention and denial of bail will:

- violate the rights of those who are innocent until proven guilty
- increase cost for local jails, including rural areas
- increase racial disparity in the justice system

**QUESTION 2:** “*Cash bail before conviction. Shall section 8 (2) of article I of the constitution be amended to allow a court to impose cash bail on a person accused of a violent crime based on the totality of the circumstances, including the accused’s previous convictions for a violent crime, the probability that the accused will fail to appear, the need to protect the community from serious harm and prevent witness intimidation, and potential affirmative defenses?*”

The LWV urges a “no” vote, stating:

— The amendment will require a judge to consider a defendant’s potential risk to public safety when setting bail.

— Currently, cash bail is set as a means to ensure the person appears in court.

**QUESTION 3:** “*Shall able-bodied, childless adults be required to look for work in order to receive taxpayer-funded welfare benefits?*”

The LWV urges a “no” vote on this question, calling it vague and “misleading. The question does not properly inform voters and this vague wording could cause problems down the line.

“Voters do not know what taxpayer-funded welfare benefits are being referred to. This could apply to a number of public benefit programs.

“Additionally, the term “able-bodied” is not defined. Are there exceptions? For example, does this apply to a person who is able-bodied but who has a mental health condition?”

## With grassroots voters

Voters met judicial candidates Janet Protasiewicz and Chris Taylor on March 18 at the Wild Rose office of the Waushara Area Democrats. The meeting, arranged by the Waushara group, drew progressive voters from several Central Wisconsin counties, including Waupaca County.

Chris Taylor is running unopposed for 4th District Court of Appeals, which includes 24 counties, mostly in southwest and south-central Wisconsin. The Madison-area resident had to get up at 5 a.m. to attend the Wild Rose event.

Her husband “asked why I get up and tour the state even when I don’t have an opponent,” she said in an email. Her response: “Judicial races are important and who sits on the bench matters!” And she said she wants to encourage voters to pay attention to downballot races as well as the marquee contests.

Progressive candidate Protasiewicz is opposed for a seat on the Supreme Court by former Supreme Court Justice Dan Kelly, a conservative. At a debate on March 21, she called Kelly “a true threat to democracy,” citing his involvement with state GOP officials who developed a false-electoral plan that sought to negate the 2020 presidential-election victory by Joe Biden.

At the debate, Kelly repeatedly called Protasiewicz a liar and said that electing him would be the only way to restore trust in the Supreme Court.

*jsonline.com; reporting by Paca Blue News*

## Poll workers needed

Registered Democrats are scarce in some small municipalities in Waupaca County. Ask your local clerk if poll workers are needed. The requirements, from [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov):

- Be a qualified elector of the county in which the municipality is located (that is, an adult citizen of the United States who has resided in the election district for 28 consecutive days and is not otherwise disqualified to vote)

- Be able to read and write fluently in the English language

- Not be a candidate for any office to be voted on at the polling place at that election

*myvote.wi.gov*



Chris Taylor, right, candidate for the 4th District Court of Appeals, talked with Waupaca County Democrats Stu Walter, left, and Phil Wenckus on March 18 at the Wild Rose meeting organized by the Waushara Area Democrats.

*Waushara Area Democrats*

## Election-time volunteers needed

Citizen participation is needed at many levels for a successful election. If interested, contact [waupacademocrats@gmail.com](mailto:waupacademocrats@gmail.com) or call the county Democratic Party office at 715-467-1541.

**Wednesday, March 29:** Staff the office during open hours, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Saturday, April 1:** Staff the office during open hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Saturday, April 1:** Door-to-door Get Out The Vote (GOTV) canvassing in New London and Waupaca. A map will be given with addresses to visit where Janet Protasiewicz campaign literature can be delivered. These will be Democratic supporters, a friendly crowd.

### Other opportunities:

- Call Democratic supporters to remind them to vote. We have a list of 2,700 who can be called from the office and/or from home.

- The coordinator for yard signs needs volunteers who will call homes for permission to distribute signs in New London, Iola, Scandinavia, Ogdensburg, and Manawa. We have a list of those who have placed signs before, so this is a very friendly crowd.

# Those with some can give to those with little

**The Democrats’ donation bin** — At the county-party headquarters in Manawa, the bin needs shelf-stable food items, hygiene supplies, and cleaning products for area food pantries.

Volunteers are needed to deliver the next binful to one of these locations: Bear Creek (Outagamie County), Clintonville, Dale (Outagamie County), Iola, or Scandinavia. Deliveries since 2021 have gone to New London, Manawa, Marion, Waupaca, and Weymont in Weyauwega.

A list of pantries revised in February 2023 is available at [waupacademocrats.com](http://waupacademocrats.com) — click “give back.” (*The Waupaca library has the newest food pantry in the county, Page 6.*)

**Ink and toner** — Empty printer cartridges donated at Dems HQ in Manawa will be recycled at Staples for \$2 per cartridge, which is used to pay for office supplies.

**Needs of the world — and of U.S. troops** — Citizens of the world are in need, and we can help. Among the many charities that offer aid are several well-established ones — Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, and World Food Kitchens. The nonprofit USO serves U.S. troops, which now serve at about 750 bases in 80 nations around the world, according to [thesoldiersproject.org](http://thesoldiersproject.org).

**A note about how to donate money** — Many charitable and political websites with donation buttons available might charge a fee of several dollars or simply request extra money to cover the fees for running the website. It might be cheaper to write a check and use a 60-cent stamp to mail your donation.

## Poem of the month: Inauguration series

Continuing the “Paca Blue News” series about inaugural poems is “Praise Song for the Day” by Elizabeth Alexander (1962-), commissioned by Barack Obama (1961-) for his 2009 first presidential inauguration.

The poetry gap between President Bill Clinton’s second inauguration in 1997, noted in the newsletter for January 2023, and that of Obama’s first in 2009 exists because neither President George W. Bush (two terms 2001-2009) nor any other Republican president has invited a poet to the podium.

Alexander’s academic resumé includes teaching at Smith College, Columbia University, and Yale University, where she taught for fifteen years and chaired the African American Studies Department. She serves on the Pulitzer Prize Board, co-designed the Art for Justice Fund, and in 2018 was named president of the Mellon Foundation, the nation’s largest funder in the arts, culture, and humanities, her website says. Her most recent book, *The Trayvon Generation* (2022), is a “meditation on the power of art and culture to illuminate America’s unresolved problem with race,” the website says.

In her poem for Obama, Alexander first celebrates the everyday life: repairing things, making music, waiting for the bus. She lauds needing to see what’s ahead. Then she names love.

*Some live by love thy neighbor as thyself,  
others by first do no harm or take more  
than you need. What if the mightiest word is  
love?*

*... love that casts a widening pool of light,*

*... praise song for walking forward in that  
light.*

*poetryfoundation.org; nytimes.com,  
elizabethalexander.net*

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Showing up counts —  
VOTE

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## Salute to service members

### **Air Force Reserve Birthday, April 14 —**

Created on this date in 1948, the Air Force Reserve observes its 75th anniversary in 2023. Its history goes back to the National Defense Act of 1916, which established reserve forces at a time when military airpower was just starting. Today, it is a major command that performs about 20 percent of the work of the Air Force, including traditional flying missions plus specialized missions including weather reconnaissance (hurricane hunters) and personnel recovery (pararescue).

*veteran.com; americangimuseum.org*



**Army Reserve Birthday, April 23 —** The origins are in 1908, when Congress created the Medical Reserve, looking to solve mobilization and preparedness problems experienced during U.S. wars of the 1800's. With former President Theodore Roosevelt pointing the way, the "Preparedness Movement" led to the aforementioned National Defense Act of 1916, which established all military reserves. More than one million "citizen soldiers" have been mobilized to use private-sector expertise in such areas as artificial intelligence, cyber, and supply.

*usar.army.mil*

## Cultural days

### 17 centuries of history deliver 3 extra days to pay taxes

**Tax Day, April 18 —** You can thank 20th-century union workers, faithful Jews, and a big industrialist, plus 19th-century U.S. abolitionists and British industrialists, then add a 16th-century pope and a 4th-century Roman emperor for the gift of three extra days this year in which to file tax returns.

The usual deadline, the 15th, falls on a Saturday in the Gregorian Calendar, ordered in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII as a reform of the Julian calendar. But it was Emperor Constantine in 321 CE who established Sunday as the first day of the seven-day week.

In 1908, Jewish mill workers in New England were allowed Friday and Saturday off to observe their Sabbath from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday. Wikipedia credits the industrial north of Britain for starting "the weekend" in the early 19th century.

Christians observe Sunday as their sabbath, so, when industrialist Henry Ford began to give his Model-T factory workers a two-day weekend in the early 1900s, they had Saturday and Sunday off. In 1929, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America union was the first to succeed in negotiating

a five-day work week.

For Tax Day 2023 to dodge the weekend, Monday the 17th would be the deadline, except that the District of Columbia on April 16 celebrates Emancipation Day, remembering the day in 1862 when the district freed its slaves (and compensated owners for their loss and offered money to the newly freed to emigrate). The 16th is on a Sunday this year, so that holiday was bumped to Monday, which bumped Tax Day to Tuesday the 18th.

Savor the history; enjoy the extra three days. You're welcome.

*kiplinger.com; charlotteobserver.com; emancipation.dc.gov; bbc.co.uk; linkedin.com; wikipedia.org.*

### For further political information

—8th Congressional District, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/8thcddemgroup>  
 —Democratic Party of Wisconsin, [www.wisdems.org](http://www.wisdems.org)  
 —National Democratic Committee, [www.democrats.org](http://www.democrats.org)  
 —[www.ballotpedia.org](http://www.ballotpedia.org)  
<https://myvote.wi.gov>

## Waupaca library has newest food pantry in county

Go into the Waupaca Area Public Library, turn left toward the large-print book section, and go straight on to the newest food pantry in Waupaca County.

The Little Free Pantry has closet shelves with canned goods and a refrigerator stocked with produce for anyone who needs it six days a week at 107 S. Main St., Waupaca.

With fresh fruits and vegetables in the fridge and the library closed only on Sunday, “we’re able to connect the perishables to those that need them,” Library Director Eric Bailey told *Paca Blue News*.

The food pantries of Waupaca County will likely have greater demand, as a Covid-era food-dollar benefit from 2020 ended for 32 states on Feb. 28, 2023. In 18 states, the benefits had already expired.

Wisconsin is one of four states, with Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Hawaii, where the average household benefit losses will be more than \$200 each month, according to CNN.com.

While Covid-era unemployment has eased, food inflation remains high.

The program known as FoodShare in Wisconsin and elsewhere as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

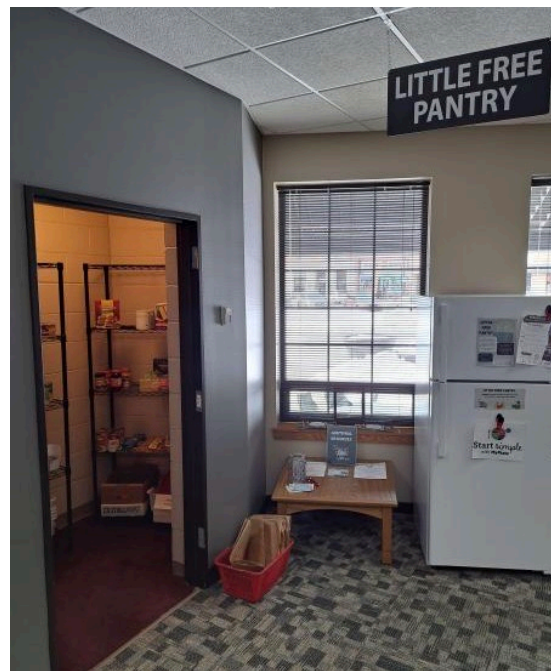
Program) is designed to reduce food insecurity for households in poverty. The federal definition of “poverty, “effective Feb. 1, 2023, is an income of \$14,580 or less for a family of one and \$30,000 or less for a family of four.

About 10% of Waupaca County, which is around 97% white, was defined as being in “poverty,” out of an estimated population in July 2021 of 51,570.

The Waupaca library joins 14 other food pantries listed by Waupaca County in its Community Resources handout. The library-pantry start-up in late January was helped by donations from Hansen Furniture Appliance and Mattress (the refrigerator), the Waupaca Library Foundation (food and wire shelving), and Trinity Lutheran Church (funds).

Waupaca got its idea from Kaukauna, Bailey said. “Libraries are perpetually stealing ideas from each other.”

Kaukauna started its Little Free Pantry, an offshoot of the Little Free Library idea, back in 2017. Library Director Ashley Thiem-



The Little Free Pantry in the Waupaca Area Public Library includes a refrigerator for produce and frozen goods. *Waupaca Area Public Library*

Menning said she was inspired to start the food pantry by a book, *Bridges out of Poverty*.

A pantry “helps people; libraries already help people,” she said. Pantries are trending in libraries nationwide, she added.

Waupaca’s food “is for anybody who feels they aren’t able to put food on their table,” the library’s website says. It requires “no registration, income limits, or checkouts.”

Donations of food (no glass, please) or money can be left at the service desk.

(See page 3 for more information about donating to food pantries.)

*dhs.gov, dhs.wisconsin.gov, CNN.com, census.gov, nytimes.com*

### County judge on ballot

Troy L. Nielsen is running unopposed for a second six-year term for the Branch 1 seat on the Waupaca County Court. The three branch judges hear cases from anywhere in the county, said District 8 administrator Thomas Schappa.

*my.vote.wi.gov; reporting by Paca Blue News*