

<p>Paca Blue News</p>	<p>Waupaca County Democratic Party P.O. Box 123 401 S. Bridge Street Manawa, WI 54949 (715) 316-3165 waupacademocrats.com office hours 11-2 Saturdays</p>	
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February 2023

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Next meeting: 10:30 a.m. Feb. 11, 2023, Manawa office

Get absentee ballots now for Feb. 21 primary Voters to decide: progressive or conservative for state high court?

The spring 2023 elections will decide the balance of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Shall we be progressive or conservative when considering such questions as gerrymandered voting districts or abortion access?

The first election in the process is the nonpartisan primary, Feb. 21. If an absentee ballot is needed, it can be requested online at myvote.wi.gov.

Registration is required before you can get an absentee ballot. The step-by-step online registration isn't complicated, but providing a picture ID can be difficult unless a smartphone is used. If a smartphone isn't available, an

office-supply store can scan and email a print photo of the voter.

If your name or address has changed, you will need to update your registration before requesting an absentee ballot.

The general election is April 4. For further information, consult the clerk of your municipality.

myvote.wi.gov

Inside:

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Actions against gun violence

An elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. A holiday parade in Highland Park, Illinois. An LGBTQI+ nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

These were among the sites of the 647 “mass shootings” in 2022 in the United States, as reported by the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit that tracks such events.

A cause for hope against gun violence is that some elected state and federal officials took action in January against assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines.

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Hakeem Jeffries
Office of
Congressman
Hakeem Jeffries

‘Maturity over Mar-a-Lago’

The inaugural speech by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries on Jan. 7, 2023, included an electrifying list of Democratic priorities using all 26 letters of the alphabet for “The ABC’s of Democracy.”

See page 4.

January action against gun violence in Illinois, U.S. Senate

Continued from page 1

A “mass shooting” is defined by the archive and the Congressional Research Service as an incident where four or more people are shot, not counting the shooter as a victim.

Variouly called a public-health crisis, emergency, or epidemic, “gun violence is a leading cause of premature death” in the United States, says the nonprofit American Public Health Association.

Federal bill introduced

On Jan 23, 2023, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.; Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.; and Chris Murphy, D-Conn., introduced a pair of Senate bills that could reduce gun violence in America, Feinstein’s office said in a press release.

The Assault Weapons Ban would ban the sale, transfer, manufacture, and importation of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines and other high-capacity ammunition-feeding devices.

The Age 21 Act would raise the minimum age to purchase assault-style weapons from 18 to 21, the same requirement that currently exists in law for handguns, Feinstein’s office said.

Congressman David Cicilline, D-R.I., will introduce a companion version of the Assault Weapons Ban in the House of Representatives, the release said.

Feinstein had worked with then-Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., to pass an assault-weapons ban in 1994, President Joe Biden said on Jan. 23 at the White House.

“In the 10 years that the Assault Weapons Ban was on the books, mass shootings went down,” the president said. “After Republicans let the law expire in 2004 and those weapons were allowed to be sold again, mass shootings tripled.”

In June 2022, Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act — the first significant piece of gun safety legislation in nearly 30 years. Among its provisions, the law expands background checks for those under 21

buying a gun and provides \$11 billion for mental-health services.

Nine states have bans

On Jan. 10, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed the Protect Illinois Communities Act banning the sale and distribution in Illinois of assault-style weapons, high-capacity magazines, and “switches” that convert legal handguns into assault weapons.

The new law also requires existing owners of semi-automatic rifles to register the guns within one year, so that law enforcement knows the location of the weapons and whom to hold accountable, if they are used in a crime.

Court cases and restraining orders are already pushing back on the law.

Illinois is the ninth state to enact some type of assault-weapons ban. California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York, plus the District of Columbia, have enacted laws that generally ban the sale, manufacture, and transfer of assault-style weapons.

insider.com; gunarchives.org; feinstein.senate.gov; whitehouse.gov; apha.org; illinois.gov; MSNBC; gifford.org

Tell them what you want

Have a concern about gun violence? Or the debt ceiling? Election deniers on House committees? Contact your elected officials by phone, email, or ground mail.

The congressional officials who represent constituents living in Waupaca County are Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis.; Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.; and Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-WI8.

Online email forms can be used by constituents who verify their ZIP codes.

Phone numbers and ground mail addresses are also available at every official’s government website. By these methods, any citizen can contact any representative or senator, for instance, Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., or Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

2 progressives run in Feb. 21 high-court primary

As conservative Justice Pat Roggensack retires, the stakes are high in filling her seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Electing a progressive will tip the ideological balance to a 4-3 progressive majority, an outcome that might bring rulings in favor of abortion access and the chance to redraw legislative maps.

The New York Times called it “an election that carries bigger policy stakes than any other contest in America in 2023.”

Two progressives are among the four candidates in the Feb. 21 nonpartisan primary. In alphabetical order, they are Judge Everett Mitchell and Judge Janet Protasiewicz.

Mitchell, first elected to the Dane County Circuit Court in 2016, holds a degree in theology as well as his law degree and is senior pastor at Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church in Madison.

“Just as there is a separation between church and state, there must be a separation between partisanship and justice,” he told a crowd of supporters on Dec. 12, 2022, in Racine, Wis. At his website, judgeeverettmitchell.com, he said he is “committed to ensuring that the Wisconsin Supreme Court is an instrument of balance and justice rather than partisan divide.”

Protasiewicz was first elected to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court in 2014. In 2018, the Wisconsin Law Journal presented her with a Women in the Law Award.

“It’s time for our state Supreme Court to stop acting like a political body ... And they need to stop coming up with tortured and convoluted reasoning to reach their favored outcomes,” she said at her website, janetforjustice.com.

The two conservative candidates are Waukesha County Judge Jennifer Dorow and former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Dan Kelly. Only two of the four candidates will advance.

nytimes.com; ballotpedia.org; racinecountyeye.com

Summary of minutes, Jan. 14, 2023

— Chair Stu Walter reported that the 8th Congressional District (CD8) convention will be April 29 at Stone Harbor Inn, Sturgeon Bay. Registration is \$40 registration in person or via zoom. Donations of goods or services can be made to a silent-auction fundraiser.

— Volunteers are needed for the state convention June 10-11 in Green Bay, hosted by CD8. About 90 resolutions will be presented to form the party platform. Stu will look into the process for sending delegates.

— A projected budget for 2023, including average projected monthly expenses and income, was approved.

— Traffic at the waupacademocrats.com website and Facebook is greatly reduced since the midterm elections.

— Health note: Covid and other respiratory illnesses are still prevalent, including seven dozen Covid deaths in mid January across Wisconsin. A reminder was made to “cough into your elbow instead of your hand.”

From minutes by Secretary Barb Kobs



Everett Mitchell
Henry Fries campaign



Janet Protasiewicz
Protasiewicz campaign



Chris Taylor
advances for Appeals slot

With the Feb. 21 primary canceled for District 4 Court of Appeals, Chris Taylor advanced to the general election on April 4. *Taylor campaign*

For further political information

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

Quote of the month

For four days in January, the 222 GOP Representatives-elect wrangled and bargained and nearly came to fisticuffs while trying to elect a Speaker of the House. Until that was accomplished, there could be no sworn-in House members, no 118th Congress, no governing.

Rep.-elect Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., was nominated for the fourth time about noon on Wednesday, Jan. 4, by Rep.-elect Mike Gallagher, R-WI8, which includes Waupaca County. McCarthy lost again, despite Gallagher's entreaty that "we have work to do."

All House Democrats stood firm on that and all ballots, with 212 votes for Rep.-elect Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y.

Finally, on the 15th ballot very early on Saturday, Jan. 7, McCarthy won his bargain, the title of Speaker. But before he was allowed to grasp the gavel, Jeffries took the podium about 1:30 a.m. to deliver his prepared speech.

Jeffries "made history as the first Black lawmaker to lead a congressional party," said motherjones.com. He made history, too, with "The ABC's of Democracy" toward the close of the speech.

MSNBC; motherjones.com; jsonline.com; wsj.com



Hakeem Jeffries,
Minority Leader
*Office of Congressman
Hakeem Jeffries*

January 7, 2023/ The ABCs of Democracy

"But I also want to make clear that we will never compromise our principles. House Democrats will always put:

American values over autocracy.
Benevolence over bigotry.
The Constitution over the cult.
Democracy over demagogues.
Economic opportunity over extremism.
Freedom over fascism.
Governing over gaslighting.
Hopefulness over hatred.
Inclusion over isolation.
Justice over judicial overreach.
Knowledge over kangaroo courts.
Liberty over limitation.
Maturity over Mar-a-Lago.
Normalcy over negativity.
Opportunity over obstruction.
People over politics.
Quality of life issues over Q-Anon.

Reason over racism.
Substance over slander.
Triumph over tyranny.
Understanding over ugliness.
Voting rights over voter suppression.
Working families over the well-connected.
Xenial over xenophobia.
Yes we can over you can't do it.
And zealous representation over a zero-sum confrontation.

We will always do the right thing by the American people. So let us not grow weary of doing good, for the American people will reap the benefit of the harvest if we do not give up. God bless you; God bless the House; and God bless the United States of America."

Reprinted by permission of the Office of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (NY-08).

Fight hunger and aid Ukraine with tax-deductible donations

The hungry winter — The donation bin at the county-party headquarters needs shelf-stable food items, hygiene supplies, and cleaning products for the county's 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 (Weyauwega-Fremont).

For a list of pantries and food items, see waupacacounty-wi.gov — click “community resources.” Or check waupacademocrats.com for a list of pantries — click “give back.”

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 in Ukraine — As the first anniversary of the current Russian invasion of Ukraine approaches, the United States will send M1 Abrams tanks, parts, and equipment to help Kyiv during the expected spring resurgence in fighting. Two long-established charities that offer aid to beleaguered Ukraine are the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders. The nonprofit USO serves the American troops who were sent to Europe in response to the current Russian push, which started Feb. 24, 2022.

Poem of the month — EEOC series

February is celebrated as African American History Month by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in its Special Program series to provide cultural awareness of minorities, women, and people with disabilities in all areas of employment.

The month has the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) and Civil War-era writer and civil-rights activist Frederick Douglass (1818 [estimated] -1895), both whom profoundly affected the lives of African Americans.

Writer, poet, and activist Alice Walker (1944-), born to Black sharecroppers in Georgia, said on her website that “learning to extend the range of our compassion is activity and work available to all.” In the poem “You Want to Grow Old Like the Carters,” she points to former President Jimmy and First Lady Rosalyn as models for the work:

*You want to grow old
Like
The Carters:
Serene. Eyes
Twinkling
To be accused
Of
Not getting
It right.*

The Pulitzer Prize winner (for the novel *The Color Purple*, 1982) has several wry poems in *The World Will Follow Joy: Turning Madness into Flowers* (2013). This fragment is from “Why Peace Is Always a Good Idea”:

*And when you went home
There would be a whole house
Intact
Waiting for you.
Your room warm and cozy
And your dog happy to see you
And everything! Even the cat
Might take a look at you,
Seriously,
As if she cared!*

*All this can happen in peace.
Never in war.*

alicewalkersgarden.com; archives.gov

Join the county Democrats for \$10

In a change of policy voted at its meeting on Jan. 14, the Waupaca County Democratic Party now charges only \$10 per person to be a member. The cost includes membership in the state party.

See waupacademocrats.com for the new form to become a member or renew.

Salute to service members

Coast Guard Reserve Birthday, Feb. 19, 2023 — The Reserve is involved in activities ranging from support during hurricane emergencies to developing awareness of marine-pollution issues. It was established by the passage of the Coast Guard Reserve and Auxiliary Act of February 19, 1941.

reserve.uscg.mil



February federal holiday

Presidents' Day, Feb. 20, 2023 — In federal law, this is officially Washington's Birthday, established on the third Monday in February by the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1971. Some now celebrate it as a day to honor all U.S. presidents, past and present. The actual birthdate of George Washington, the nation's

first president, is Feb. 22. Other presidential birthdays in February are those of William Henry Harrison (9th president, Feb. 9), Abraham Lincoln (16th president, Feb. 12), and Ronald Reagan (40th president, Feb. 6).
history.com; georgiasouthern.libguides.com

JUST THE FACTS

State of the State: Mental-health crisis

Gov. Tony Evers, D-Wis., declared 2023 the Year of Mental Health in his Jan. 24 State of the State address to the Legislature. The situation after years of Covid-19 isolation is a "burgeoning crisis," especially for children, he said in a press release.

Details about funds to address the crisis, as well as funds to bolster Wisconsin's workforce in the healthcare, education, and clean-energy sectors, will be revealed Feb. 15 in his 2023-35 executive budget proposal.

content.govdelivery.com

Action on 'right to repair'

Consumers have often been forced to seek repairs only from authorized dealers for devices from smartphones to tractors. But change is afoot.

On Jan. 8, the American Farm Bureau Federation and machinery-maker Deere & Co. signed a memorandum of understanding that gives farmers the right to repair their own equipment or seek an independent technician, saving much time when a tractor breaks down in a field, for instance.

But Julie Keown-Bomar, executive director of the Wisconsin Farmers Union, said she is skeptical the agreement will create a substantial change. And it could stall legislative efforts on the issue, she said.

The memorandum aims to find a "right to repair" solution in the private sector, rather than through legislation or regulation, according to the document.

A year ago in the public sector, on Feb. 1, 2022, Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., introduced the "Agricultural Right to Repair Act" (S.3549). No further action was taken after it was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Also in the public sector, Gov. Kathy Hochul, D-N.Y., signed the Digital Fair Repair Act on Dec. 29, 2022, making New York the first state in the nation to guarantee consumers the right to repair electronic devices.

The legislation, which passed New York's legislature in June 2022, "will empower consumers with better options . . . thereby maximizing the lifespan of their devices, saving money, and reducing electronic waste," said Hochul.

governor.ny.gov; tester.senate.gov; congress.gov; reuters.com; wisfarmer.com