



From Your County Chair

by Mary Von Ruden

November next year is going to be a long, hard battle. If we can work together, we can start turning our country around.

I've been trying to get the word out that we are alive and kicking. We have joined the Tomah Chamber and the Sparta Chamber. We have been supporting the Sparta High School theatre programs.

We are also supporting other counties by paying for billboards on the interstate for a year.

We are looking for volunteers for the next year to join our team to victory, as we can't do it alone.

November 6, 2024, is a time of change, and let's make it our start for change. Letters to the editor are needed so let's put our voice out there to educate the voters.



Look for Our Billboard on the Interstate

The Democratic Party of Monroe County has joined with four other counties to pay for a billboard along Interstate 94.

This billboard will be up for a full year, right up to the November 2024 election.

We want to make sure voters know there is only one political party that is standing up for them. We are defending their right to vote, to make their own medical decisions, to earn a living wage, to have equal rights, and to live in a free world.

Running for Local Office In 6 Easy Steps!

Are you interested in running for local office?

Next April, voters in Monroe County will elect people to town and village boards, city councils, and the County Board of Supervisors. There will also be elections for mayors and school board members.

People who want to run for these offices will begin gathering signatures before the end of the year.

If you're wondering what it takes to run for local office, here are the first five steps:

1. **Know your district.** If you visit [My Vote Wisconsin](#) and type in your address, you can learn which districts you live in.
2. **Know what it takes to run.** Some offices, like city council and county board, require signatures. Others, like school board, only require a declaration of candidacy. Your local clerks and school districts are happy to give you the info you need. Visit their websites to learn more.

3. **Know why you want to run.** What issues are important to you? How can you make a difference as an elected official? People will want to know why you're running.
4. **Attend a meeting.** The best way to know if you're a good fit for any office is to attend at least one meeting. Find out when your local board or council meets next, and make a plan to attend. Try to stay for the whole meeting. By the end, you'll have a good idea if it's a good fit.
5. **Declare your candidacy.** Each office requires you to declare your candidacy. Your local clerks or school district officials are more than happy to walk you through the process.
6. **Gather signatures.** Unless you're running for school board, you'll need to gather signatures from residents of your district. This is your first chance to introduce yourself to voters and explain why you're running.

Please reach out if you have any further questions!

Are You Interested in Being a Poll Worker?

With our democracy under constant attack, it's more important than ever that we protect voting at all levels.

If you're interested in becoming a poll worker, the WisDems Voter Protection team is working to promote voting rights. They're focused on "empowering Wisconsin voters and engaging our communities to protect voting rights in 2023, starting by recruiting poll workers to support voters and staff polling places across the state next year."

Working the polls and helping our neighbors cast their ballots is the most direct way you can support voting rights in our community.

If you're interested in becoming a poll worker, you can fill out this [form](#). You can also join a 30-minute virtual session to learn more about the responsibilities and qualifications to be a poll worker in Wisconsin and how you can get involved for 2024. You can also sign up for virtual training sessions [here](#).

Help Us Keep Our Office Open and Well Supplied

The Monroe County Democratic Party relies on donations from its members. We don't hold fundraisers or yearly picnics like some counties, and we don't make you pay for yard signs or campaign literature.

If you'd like to help support us, please consider donating via [ActBlue](#) or by mail: MCDP, 221 S. Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656

Checks can be made out to "Monroe County Democratic Party." Please include your profession when you donate, for reporting purposes.

Any amount is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Sparta Office Hours

Our office at 221 S. Water Street in Sparta is open six days a week, Monday through Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If you'd like to stop by but want to make sure someone is there, feel free to call the office phone at (608) 633-2674.

Shankland Joins Race for 3rd Congressional District

A few weeks ago, State Rep. Katrina Shankland joined the race for Congress. She is running to defeat Derrick Van Orden.

Shankland has been a member of the State Assembly since 2013. In [announcing](#) her candidacy, Shankland said, “We need a candidate who is battle tested, who has a proven track record of not only winning elections but outperforming the top of the ticket in those elections.”

Also in the race for the 3rd CD is [Rebecca Cooke](#), a farmer and small business owner from Eau Claire, and [Tara Johnson](#), the former chair of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors.

In the months to come, there may be more candidates for this office. We will update you as they announce and set up campaign sites.

The fall primary will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. The winner of that primary will face Van Orden in the November election.

Looking for Candidates!!!

Even though 2024 is still three months away, we’re already looking for candidates.

There are many local races on the ballot in early 2024, including school board seats, village and town boards, city council seats, and the full Monroe County Board. Nomination papers for these offices will become available later this year, and be due in early January 2024.

We are also looking for people interested in running for Assembly. Currently, Monroe County is divided between Assembly District 70 and Assembly District 96, both of which are held by Republicans. Nomination papers for these offices will become available in early 2024.

We should know by then if the current legislative maps will stand, or if they will be struck down by the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

If enough people are interested in a training session on how to run for office, we’d be happy to hold one. We would cover campaign paperwork, knocking on doors, raising money, making a website, and so on.