

Democratic Party of MONROE COUNTY

221 S. Water St., Sparta, WI / (608) 633-2674

OCTOBER 2023



From Your County Chair

by Mary Von Ruden

Happy Fall. Next year at this time we will be fighting for our freedoms and making our votes count.

I'm very disappointed with what's going on in our state. We need to get our ducks in a row moving forward. We need to keep Tammy Baldwin as our Senator! We need to get rid of our congressmen in DC! We need representatives who support our goals and not just the party.

We need letters to the editor, letters to our legislators, and to talk with our friends and family so that we support candidates who support our values.

We are looking to put together an army for 2024. I hope you will join. Anyone interested in joining and volunteering can email me at fvonruden@yahoo.com. I will put you on the list.

Barbara Rice

(1927 - 2023)

We mourn the passing of Barbara Rice. She was a long-standing member of the party and the best Democrat, and the best person, you could ever hope to meet.



We're Back!!!

After the April Supreme Court Election, we took a break to be with family and enjoy the summer.

After all, 2024 is going to be a busy year filled with elections at all levels, from school boards and city council seats to the U.S. Senate and President of the United States.

Now that summer's over, we're dusting off our clipboards, getting our yard signs out of the garage, and beginning our work for next year.

Defending Judge Janet from Impeachment

In April of this year, Judge Janet Protasiewicz won a landslide victory for an open seat on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court. Her win meant that liberals would have a majority on the court for the first time in 15 years.

Even before she was sworn in, Republicans in the legislature began plotting to take away her power and remove her from office. This has led to talk of impeachment, even though she has yet to rule on a single case.

Republicans have enough votes in the Assembly to impeach her, and enough votes in the State Senate to remove her. But why would Republicans vote to remove her from office, when Governor Evers could just reappoint her to the bench?

Because impeaching her means she couldn't rule on any cases until the State Senate voted on her removal. But what if the State Senate never held a vote? Well, that means Judge Janet never gets to rule on any case.

These threats are disgusting and un-democratic, and they show just how desperate the GOP is to hold onto power. With Judge Janet on the bench, their rigged legislative maps may get replaced with fair maps that don't allow politicians to pick their voters.

If you'd like to support Judge Janet against threats of impeachment, you can learn more at [DefendJustice](#) and sign the [petition](#).

New Sparta Office Hours

Our office at 221 S. Water Street in Sparta has new office hours.

We are 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.

As we get closer to 2024 and candidates begin declaring their candidacies, we will update our office hours.

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 helps, and all donations go towards keeping our office open! Thank you!

Two Candidates for 3rd Congressional District (So Far)

So far, we have two strong candidates to take on Derrick Van Orden for the 3rd CD, which includes most of Monroe County.

[Rebecca Cooke](#) is a farmer and small business owner from Eau Claire County. Her priorities include protecting abortion rights, expanding Medicare, expanding broadband, and increased funding for education.

Cooke ran for this office in 2022 and came in second behind Brad Pfaff in the August primary.

Tara Johnson is the former chair of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors. In [announcing](#) her candidacy, Johnson said she would be running a “grassroots campaign” focused on reproductive rights, access to health care, and protecting earned benefits like Social Security and Medicare, among other priorities.

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

Tammy Baldwin Visits Sparta

The Monroe County Democratic Party was proud to host a visit by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin, who is running for re-election next year.

During her visit, Senator Baldwin talked about her victories in the Senate, as well as her priorities this term. She also answered questions from those in attendance.

In [2018](#), Baldwin got 48.8% of the vote in Monroe County. She lost our county by only 408 votes, out of 16,701 votes cast. This was the same year that other Democrats on the ballot lost Monroe County by 2,500 votes, or more.

We look forward to helping Senator Baldwin next year.



Senator Tammy Baldwin with John Hendricks, Barbara Rice and Mary Von Ruden.

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.

What We Did Over Summer



The Monroe County Democratic Party had a float in the Sparta Butterfest Parade and the Tomah July 4th parade (above).



The Monroe County Democratic Party had a booth at this year's Monroe County Fair. Here is chair Mary Von Ruden with [Collin McNamara](#), candidate for State Senate District 24.