

LINCOLN



Manitowoc County Republican Party Executive Board

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Senator Joe Leibham

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Representative André Jacque

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Words from our Chairman

Last week I went to the Manitowoc Post Office to transact some business. I waited in line with one person in front of me and one person behind me. Two postal clerks were standing at customer service positions. One clerk was waiting on customers. The other clerk, about 10 feet further down, was busy doing postal work. She ignored me and the others who were standing in line.

Now, I have no doubt that she was doing legitimate postal work. But, you would think that common sense would dictate that customer service would be of some importance and that she would have stopped whatever clerical work she was performing and wait on the customers in line. If you had that thought, as did I, then you were mistaken. She continued to ignore us and kept busy with her work.

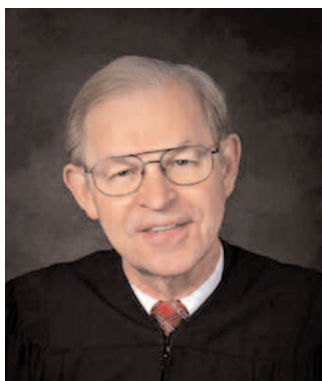
Later in the day, I stopped at the Two Rivers Kwik Trip (yes, the same Kwik Trip which the public union hacks want us to boycott). I stood in line waiting to pay for my purchases. There was one person in front of me and one behind me. I waited for about a minute. As I waited, a young employee who was using a floor washing machine, noticed the line and turned off the machine, came around the front counter and asked if she could help the next person in line.

Therein lies the difference. A publicly run company like the Postal Service is clearly not customer oriented. They don't have to be. After all, they have a monopoly on the service they provide. Moreover, they don't have to worry about frivolous things such as profits and losses. Sometime later this year or next, they will, once more, tell

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VOTE for Justice David Prosser Tuesday, April 5th

Words from our Chairman *continued from front page*

us that they simply cannot make ends meet and jack up the price of a postage stamp.

On the other hand, we have Kwik Trip, by all accounts an excellent company which charges very reasonable prices for the good products they sell. They treat their employees with respect. In fact about 40% of their profits are shared with their employees. They are customer-oriented and it shows in, among other things, their response to patrons waiting in line.

Kwik Trip management knows that customers can, after all, choose to do business elsewhere. Unlike a government-run entity like the Postal Service, Kwik-Trip cannot pick the pockets

of the taxpayers at will. Unlike the Postal Service, Kwik Trip cannot treat customer with benign neglect if they wish to survive.

Now, I ask you, my fellow Republicans: do you imagine that a government-run health care system would be any more customer-oriented than the Postal Service? Some people actually believe that such a system is the ultimate health care solution. They should ponder that belief the next time they are waiting in the inevitable line at the post office.

Don Zimmer / Chairman

Our Lincoln Day Dinner Reviewed in Pictures



Senator Joe Leibham speaking at our Annual Lincoln Day Dinner



(Left to right) Senator Joe Leibham, 2nd District Assemblyman, André Jacque, Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and (speaking) Don Zimmer, Republican Party of Mtwc County Chairman.



Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch speaking at our Lincoln Day Dinner.

Insights from the Vice-Chair . . .

Greetings Fellow Republicans, New Members, Tea Party Friends and Independents:

A hardy welcome to ALL our new members. Thank you to those of you who have renewed your memberships. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events. Please consider bringing a friend.

This will be my last article as your vice chair. Let's welcome our newly elected vice chairman Collin Braunel.

Our Lincoln Day Dinner went well considering the weather. Our keynote speaker was Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch.

There will be two brat fry events this year. At the time of printing, the dates haven't been confirmed with Festival Foods yet. Watch for further announcements via email, in the paper, and on our web page.

We need to join together to re-elect a true conservative to the state supreme court, and that is Justice David Prosser. We have an opportunity of a lifetime to keep a conservative majority on the court. If not, legislating from the bench could become a reality.

Be an informed voter and remind your friends, relatives and neighbors to vote. Every vote counts. Remember, we are fighting voter fraud.

May the blossoms of spring inspire your new growth in conservative involvement. Wishing you a Blessed Easter and a great spring.

Margaret / Vice Chair

P.S. Please note our change of address to P. O. Box 754, Manitowoc 54221

Comments from Senator Joe Leibham--3.17.2011

~ Why I Voted Yes ~

Last week, after almost a month of intense public debate, I voted to support a proposal that will make substantial changes to the way in which government operates in Wisconsin. The proposal, officially known as Special Session Assembly Bill (SSAB) 11 has been signed into law and most of the provisions included will go into effect after the bill is published by the Secretary of State on March 25, 2011.

Over the past month, I have enjoyed receiving input from and communicating with thousands of residents from the 9th Senate District regarding their support for and opposition to the proposal. This input helped me as I worked to understand the specific provisions included in the bill, make improvements, and prepare for a vote. Today, I would like to explain why I voted "Yes" on SSAB 11.



Consistently, since I first ran for the state legislature in 1998, I have offered to voters that if elected, I would go to the State Capitol and work to rein in the size, scope, and cost of our state government and do what I could to force our government, at all levels, to live within its means. I have also been consistently clear that it is my belief that our budget problems at the state level are not due to the fact that we are taxing too little, but rather that we are spending too much. These key principles have and continue to guide my legislative focus.

Unfortunately, our state's fiscal situation has grown substantially worse over the past 12 years. While I have fought and voted against many of the fiscally irresponsible actions throughout my tenure, the reality is that legislators and governors from both sides of the political aisle have failed to address our budget dilemma. I have been personally frustrated with this situation and have often questioned whether my time in the legislature was worthy of the sacrifice.

Last year, I decided our state's future was worth fighting for and I again asked the voters to send me back to the State Senate with the primary mission of improving the climate in our state for the creation of private sector jobs and balancing our budget by controlling government spending. As such, I made it clear that I believed we needed to reform the relationship between the government employers and employees and bring government employee benefits more in-line with what is being experienced in the private sector.

A key focus of mine since January has been to support and provide leadership on legislative initiatives that will allow our state to balance our budget without increasing taxes while ensuring the continuation of quality government services and programs. The provisions included in SSAB 11 are just some of the changes that will be necessary as I seek to accomplish this goal.

The current structure and processes involved in operating government in Wisconsin are simply unsustainable from a fiscal perspective and must be reformed. While numerous areas must be addressed, the reforms I voted for in SSAB 11 will allow for better budget management of personnel costs at both the state and local levels.

To start, the bill will make substantial changes to current state laws that allow certain government employees to unionize and collectively bargain with their employer (local school boards, city councils, and county boards) on issues like wages, health and pension benefits, work hours, vacation, and work place rules – including grievance procedures. These provisions are prescribed in state statute, not guaranteed as "rights" in our constitution. Under SSAB 11 the legislature will make changes to these statutes. Specifically, while government employees will continue to have the right to unionize, the process of collective bargaining will be limited to the issue of base wage. The employer will now have the ability to directly manage issues like health & pension benefits, work hours, vacation, and work place rules without having to bargain them with the employees.

Following thoughtful deliberation and personal conversations with hundreds of district residents on both sides of this issue, I decided to support changing the way we manage government employees based on a number of points:

While situations vary across the state, the current process of collective bargaining gives more power to the government employee than the employer. As funding reductions are made, I believe we must give more authority and flexibility to local elected employers so they can better manage their budgets and approve changes that will allow them to continue to provide good service and be fair employers.

Collective bargaining adds costs to the operation of government. Whether it be the overtime policies that led to a Madison bus driver making over \$159,000 in 2009, the fight against the Milwaukee Public School District when they tried to save \$786,000 per year by dropping the coverage of Viagra, or the inability of local governments to use volunteers to cut grass, weed flowerbeds, or serve as crossing guards, these examples and many more demonstrate just some of the problems and abuses within

Why I Voted Yes continued from page three

the current process.

Collective bargaining disallows the employer from making proper personnel decisions in promoting or firing employees. In Milwaukee, a teacher of the year was laid off because she did not have enough seniority and another community had to fight all the way to Wisconsin Supreme Court to fire an employee who was caught viewing pornography on a work computer.

Most federal government employees are not allowed to collectively bargain.

The biggest concern I received from constituents regarding the changes to collective bargaining was the removal of processes for the hiring, retaining, and promoting of government employees. In response to these concerns, I worked to amend the bill to require that all local government employers either adopt the Wisconsin Civil Service System (WCSS) protections or establish a specific grievance system. WCSS is a system for hiring, retaining, and promoting employees based on an objective assessment of their qualifications and ability to do their work. The system has been in place since 1905 and it is grounded on two cornerstones: hiring decisions are merit based, and removal from service must be based on just cause. An employee cannot be discharged, suspended, or demoted except with just cause.

If the local unit of government establishes their own grievance plan, it must include all of the following (a) employee terminations; (b) employee discipline; and (c) workplace safety. The procedure must also contain at least all of the following elements: (a) a written document specifying the process that a grievant and an employer must follow; (b) a hearing before an impartial hearing officer; and (c) an appeal process in which the highest level of appeal is the governing body of the local governmental unit. This amendment was approved as a part of the final bill.

Many government employees have expressed outright fear that under the new processes approved in SSAB 11, they will be mistreated and disrespected by their employer. While I understand concern with change, I respectfully do not understand this fear. The employer is us, their fellow citizens, who serve as members of the local school boards and city councils. Ultimately, the employer is the local citizen, voter, and taxpayer. I strongly believe that the vast majority of our elected officials and citizens want our government to be a good and fair employer and will maintain competent and hard working employees. I believe the reforms included in SSAB 11 will allow our local units of government to provide quality public services and fair employee benefits while being fiscally responsible.

The bill will also require most government employees to pay a greater portion of health insurance premiums and pension contributions. Specifically, most state, school district, and municipal employees that are members of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) would be required to

contribute 50% of their annual pension payment. The payment amount for WRS employees is estimated to be 5.8% of salary in 2011.

In addition, most state employees would be required to pay at least 12.6 % of the average cost of annual health insurance premiums. Local employers participating in the Public Employers Group Health Insurance Plan would be prohibited from paying more than 88% of the lowest cost plan. Local government employers who use other health insurance plans or are self-insured would be able to set the contribution rate and the subject would be prohibited from the process of collective bargaining.

All elected officials including legislators and the Governor will be required as of April 1, 2011 to make these contributions for health care and pensions. For elected officials the pension contribution is estimated to be 6.65% of salary in 2011.

The savings generated by these changes will help offset funding reductions from the state for local units of government and school districts so that quality government service can continue to be provided.

While most of the questions and protests were focused on the provisions described above, numerous constituents also expressed concern with a provision in the bill that would have given broad authority to the Governor to make changes to our Medical Assistance programs and another that would have allowed for the sale of power plants currently owned by the state. Based on these concerns, I was pleased to support an amendment that was adopted that will require legislative review and approval of any changes to the Medical Assistance programs and completely removed the language relating to the sale of the power plants.

Without a doubt, it has been an intense four weeks. Certainly, the process and tactics used by both those in support of the changes and those opposed could have been better managed. In the end, however, it was important that the legislature was allowed to vote on this matter. While I respect the opposition, no issue should trump the legislative process.

Based on the commitment I made during my re-election, the information I had on the bill, and the constituent input I received, I voted "yes" on SSAB 11. It is my belief that these changes will help us balance our budget without increasing taxes while also allowing us to provide quality services to the citizens of Wisconsin. As with every vote I cast, I am prepared to be held accountable for my decision by the residents I have the honor of representing.

Best Regards
Joe Leibham

Comments from Senator Frank Lasee

Dear Manitowoc County GOP,

The budget repair bill was a step in the right direction, its passage paves the way for responsible budgeting in the future, it eliminates our 3.6 billion dollar budget deficit. This bill created a lot of controversy, and we had fourteen Democrats become fugitives, and the Capitol building was overrun and turned into a hotel. Passing this bill was the right thing to do. Real change is often difficult and controversial.



Collective bargaining for government employees needed to change so that governments will have the labor flexibility to meet the demands of the future. Government unions are the victims of their success. They successfully negotiated for government employees who now enjoy better very expensive benefits and more perks than the people they work for and serve. It has always been my belief that government employees should receive compensation that is comparable to their private sector counterparts. The budget repair bill provided a much needed "reset" of government

employment and spending practices.

The upcoming budget is excellent for taxpayers because for two years we will not have fee or tax increases, including property taxes. Such a course of action is unheard of, and something I fully support. It will require difficult and sometimes unpleasant decisions by every level of government, and I think it's about time. Please let me know your thoughts and any changes you may suggest.

Furthermore, I strongly urge you to get involved in the recall petitions and elections. You can circulate petitions without living in the recall district. The Democrats want to undo the results from last November by using these recalls, we can't let this happen. We won! They lost (doesn't that feel good?). Additionally, David Prosser is an excellent Supreme Court Justice for our side and he is up for election on April 5th. I would urge you to share this information with your friends and family. Justice Prosser is a conservative judge, his opponent, is a judicial activist. Our state is headed in a more responsible direction and we need to keep it that way.

Sincerely,
Frank Lasee

Comments from Alderman Candidate Collin Braunel

Currently I am running for Alderman in the great city of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. The District I am running in is District 1. I have never ran for an elected position before but I hope to borrow from the wisdom of the many great conservative people that I have met through the years. This is a non-partisan election but this is what I am, a Conservative. I realize that there will be many challenges ahead that I will face if elected. But I am ready for them. I am willing to make those tough decisions.

I began my work in elections helping out my Uncle Paul Tittl when he ran for Assembly. I then helped in the McCain/Palin campaign, Alex Olson for city council, and this summer I spent a great deal of time as the Manitowoc County Coordinator for Scott Walker's campaign. I currently am the Vice-Chair of the Republican Party, and a Tea Movement member. I

take a serious interest in making sure my city, state, and country have adequate leaders. I now have decided to back up my opinions and previous work by putting myself out there and running for office. I wish to be held accountable for my decisions.

In any political campaign, the people who know you best are your biggest ally. So Hopefully if you live in my district I can get your vote. Also if you have friends or family that live down there I could use their support as well. I am up against a former Alderman and union backed teacher. So as you can imagine it is a tough battle. But all one can do is make sure the people know who you are and hope for the best.

Sincerely,
Collin L. Braunel

Featured Writer: Eric Wind

Dear Manitowoc County Republicans,

To say that a lot is happening in the world right now is an extreme understatement. Tumultuous events, from earthquakes and tsunamis to protests and revolutions, are providing more than enough fodder for our news networks.

As someone who did fairly intensive studies of the Middle East while I was at Georgetown University, friends often ask me what I think about the unrest in the Middle East. Of course, trying to boil down all that I think about the events occurring in this complex region into a few paragraphs would not do the topic justice, but I thought I would provide you with some general insights as to what is happening.

First, President George W. Bush was prescient and right that the people of the world do not desire to live in tyranny. As he stated in his Second Inaugural Address on January 20, 2005, “[I]t is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world. This is not primarily the task of arms, though we will defend ourselves and our friends by force of arms when necessary. Freedom, by its nature, must be chosen, and defended by citizens, and sustained by the rule of law and the protection of minorities... The great objective of ending tyranny is the concentrated work of generations. The difficulty of the task is no excuse for avoiding it. America’s influence is not unlimited, but fortunately for the oppressed, America’s influence is considerable, and we will use it confidently in freedom’s cause... Some, I know, have questioned the global appeal of liberty—though this time in history, four decades defined by the swiftest advance of freedom ever seen, is an odd time for doubt. Americans, of all people, should never be surprised by the power of our ideals. Eventually, the call of freedom comes to every mind and every soul. We do not accept the existence of permanent tyranny because we do not accept the possibility of permanent slavery. Liberty will come to those who love it. Today, America speaks anew to the peoples of the world: All who live in tyranny and hopelessness can know: the United States will not ignore your oppression, or excuse your oppressors. When you stand for your liberty, we will stand with you.”

The revolutions sweeping the Middle East are of great long-term importance and the result of a confluence of events. Technology has played a huge factor. The Internet has given citizens in these countries the opportunity to read uncensored blogs and websites from around the world. The Internet has also given citizens an opportunity to communicate with others through social networking websites like Facebook and Twitter. The growth of Al-Jazeera as a source of independent, credible news for the people of the Middle East (replacing the need to rely on state-owned television channels that spread propaganda) should also not be understated. Likewise, mobile telephones have given people the ability to be in much deeper contact with friends

and relatives in their own countries and around the world, whether via text message or voice. These technologies have given people the ability to organize protests in ways that were not previously possible.

At the end of the day, despite what some may say, the people of the Middle East are not all that different from the citizens of the United States. They want the opportunity to worship freely, live in peace, thrive economically, own property, have a family, and have the opportunity for them and their children to get an excellent education. In so many cases, the rulers of their countries have been inept, corrupt, and despotic, hindering the capacity of the people to live the best life possible.



Of course, we have our own problems here in the United States with incompetent and misguided leaders, but at least we have the chance to vote for their opponents every few years and at least our Presidents can only serve two terms. We do not have to fear that people will come in the night and kill us and our families because we spoke out against them. I can only imagine how disheartening it would be to have to hopelessly and silently live under a brutal and crooked tyrant over the course of decades.

What we are witnessing in the Middle East is a tidal shift that could have extreme consequences for good or ill. The revolutions could sweep out anti-American regimes in Iran and Syria, which would no doubt be of great strategic value to the United States and be a great boost to the prospect of peace in the Middle East. But, new regimes could also turn against the United States for our history of support of their deposed rulers. It is impossible to have a completely accurate prediction of what happens next, but the best that we can do is to ensure that America remains that beacon on a hill standing for the right of all to have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Our country has flourished because of our rights and liberties, including the freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom to vote for the candidates of our choice. I believe that other countries will flourish if they protect these same rights.

If we stand strongly for the rights of all to enjoy the fruits of liberty, I believe that we will not regret it.

All the best,

Eric Wind
ericwind@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

Tuesday, April 5th

Spring Elections – VERY IMPORTANT

State Supreme Court Race

✓ Re-elected Justice David Prosser

It is imperative to keep a conservative majority on the court.

* School Boards

* County Supervisors

* City Council and Alderman

Monday, April 11

General Meeting

6:30pm Holiday Inn Manitowoc

All members & guests welcome.

Saturday, April 16

9am-4pm Education Day Holiday Inn Manitowoc

Register by April 10

Sunday, April 24

Happy Easter

Sunday, May 8

Happy Mothers Day

Monday, May 9

General Meeting

6:30pm Holiday Inn Manitowoc

All members & guests welcome.

Saturday May 14

6th District Meeting

9am Adams County

Friday & Saturday May 20 & 22

Republican State Convention

Wisconsin Dells

Monday May 30

Memorial Day

Pay Tribute to our Veterans and Troops

Monday, June 13

General Meeting

6:30pm Holiday Inn Manitowoc

All members & guests welcome.

Thursday, June 14

Flag Day

Fly your flag proudly.

Sunday, June 19

Father's Day

Monday, July 4

Independence Day

Monday, July 11

General Meeting

6:30pm Holiday Inn Manitowoc

All members & guests welcome.

“Government’s view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases; If it moves, tax it, if it keeps moving, regulate it, And if it stops moving, subsidize it.” *quoted by: Ronald Regan*

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Get “Trained, Educated, and Armed” at the

Manitowoc County TEA-Movement

Education Day



Saturday, April 16, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn

1-43 & Hwy 151, Exit 149

4601 Calumet Avenue, Manitowoc, WI 54220

Phone: 1.920.682.6000 or 1.888.HOLIDAY

<http://www.holidayinnmanitowoc.com/>

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED by April 10

Trained, Educated, & Armed Binder \$15.00

(Couples may share one binder)

Noon Meal \$15.00 (tax & tip included)

Contact Pat Kohlman for more information at:

pattyk@lsol.net with subject one “TEA” or call 920-973-1400

(Binder & Meal are not required to attend)



Guest Speakers include:

Dr. P. Jake Jacobs, Freedom Project – Orig. Intent of Founders

Rod Taylor – Know your Constitution

Matt Batzel, America Majority –The System

Heather Weininger, American Majority – Social Media

Lunch with:

Senator Joe Liebham

Senator Frank Lasee

Rep. Andre Jacque

Rep. Bob Ziegelbauer

Vendors Welcome - \$20.00 table cost

Cut along line and send this form with order by April 10, 2011

Name _____ Phone Number _____

A) Number of Meals _____ X **\$15.00** = _____

B) Number of Binders _____ X **\$15.00** = _____

C) Vendor Table (Call for details) **\$20.00** = _____

Total Enclosed _____

Send check payable to: “Mtwc Co TEA” or cash to: Pat Kohlman, 1880 N. County Road S, Cato, WI 54230

For more information: email pattyk@lsol.net with subject one “TEA” or call 920-973-1400

Republican Party of Manitowoc County Membership Application and Renewal Form

I/we believe in the Republican Principles and want to be a member of the Republican Party of Manitowoc County.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Please send my newsletter to the address listed above.

Please send my newsletter to the following e-mail address: _____

Occupation: _____

Place of Business _____

Single Membership \$15.00 Family Membership \$25.00

_____ ***Please Contact me regarding RPMC Volunteer Opportunities.***

Please mail this form with a check made payable to the **Republican Party of Manitowoc County** to:
RPMC (Republican Party of Manitowoc County)
PO Box 754
Manitowoc, WI 54221

Wisconsin Election Law Prohibits Corporate Contributions. Political Contributions Are NOT Tax Deductible.

Dear Readers,

We are making an appeal to those of you who have not yet joined the Republican Party of Manitowoc County. Our dues are \$15 for single membership or \$25 per family.

Membership dues:

- ★ fund the quarterly newsletter for members
- ★ sponsor our informational booth at Manitowoc County Fair
- ★ supports establishment of a local GOP headquarters
- ★ provides financial support to our candidates
- ★ provides resources to keep voters informed

Please know that we do not receive funds from the State or National Republican Party. We depend on you for our support.

Thank you,
The Executive Board

Republican Party of Manitowoc County

PO Box 754

Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54221

PLACE
POSTAGE
STAMP
HERE



**Your VOTE
counts!**

**Spring Election
April 5th 2011**



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manitowocrepublicanparty.org



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