

THE **D**EMOCRATIC VOICE

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2011 continues to be the most exciting "off-year" in a long time!

First, volunteers of all political stripe came together and successfully gathered more than 22,000 signatures to recall Senator Dan Kapanke! The speed at which volunteers gathered these signatures was incredible. In fact, it was historic. Never before in Wisconsin's history have volunteers gathered enough signatures to recall an elected official in the time that we did—in less than half the time allotted to us (27 days!)

From the bottom of my heart, I thank each and every member of the LCDP and every other volunteer who helped make that happen. However, that is only step one.

Days ago, we also learned that La Crosse's very own State Rep. Jennifer Shilling is ready to challenge Senator Kapanke for the 32nd Senate District! Jennifer gave a tremendous speech which will soon be available online. In the speech she echoed the resounding public sentiment that Wisconsin needs to go in a new direction. Again, we congratulate Jennifer on her announcement and wish her the best of luck moving forward!



If you want more information on Jennifer's race; how to donate or get involved, please visit www.jennifershilling.com or contact Pablo Ruiz at 608-287-6940 or at pablor@wisdems.org

We also continue to watch a fascinating political drama unfold in the race for Wisconsin Supreme Court where challenger and overwhelming-underdog JoAnne Kloppenburg seemed at first to have delivered an incredible upset over longtime Justice David Prosser by the slimmest of margins. This until, of course, a Republican County Clerk in Waukesha County who happened to be a former eight-year employee of Justice Prosser, miraculously discovered 14,000 extra ballots that when counted, not only put Prosser over the top, but by a margin just enough to put Kloppenburg out of reach of a automatic recount. The people of Wisconsin deserve an immediate, impartial investigation into what happened in Waukesha County.



And last, but certainly not least, the people of the 94th have spoken and have decided that La Crosse County Board Chairman, Steve Doyle will represent the Democratic Party in the general election to fill the vacancy in the Assembly left by Fmr. Rep. Mike Huebsch. Steve's opponent and past candidate for that position, Cheryl Hancock, ran a terrific campaign and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

We ask that you to get involved in Steve's race IMMEDIATELY by calling Laura Hundt at 608-345-2372 or by emailing her at doyleforassembly.laurahundt@gmail.com

All of these opportunities represent an incredible opportunity for Democrats in La Crosse County to right the ship. In fact, this opportunity is historic as well. By electing a Democrat to the 94th, the 32nd, and potentially the 95th as well, we have an opportunity to make La Crosse a bluer spot on the political map than it's been in more than 30 years! Let's make it happen!

Andrew Londre
Chairman, La Crosse County Democratic Party
A better Wisconsin is worth fighting for.

April 2011

UPCOMING PARTY EVENTS

3RD CD DEM CONVENTION

Saturday, April 16, 2011. Mabel Tainter Theater Menomonie, WI Registration will take place from 9:30-11:30AM

RON KIND BIRTHDAY BASH!

Huck Fin's On The Water 127 Marina Drive-La Crosse, WI April 19, 2011 5:00 - 7:00P.M.

LCDP APRIL GEN. PARTY MTG.

Ho Chunk Three Rivers 724 Main St. LAX April 17, 2011 7:00P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING ON STATE BUDGET

Monday, April 25 · 1:00pm - 7:00pm UW-L: Cartwright Center, Room 339

WE DID IT!
KAPANKE >> RECALLED



WORTH A READ Remembering Virgil Roberts, *La Crosse Tribune*

He was an old-school Democrat who credited his career to a 1952 school board meeting. Virgil Roberts, a train dispatcher, spent 50 years in public service. A staunch liberal, he won the respect of those across the aisle and held onto an increasingly conservative 94th Assembly District during two decades in the state Legislature. He did it by knowing the people of his district.

Roberts, of Holmen, died Wednesday at Franciscan Skemp Medical Center. He was 88.

"He wasn't afraid to take tough votes in Madison and then come home and defend them," said John Medinger of La Crosse, who spent 14 years alongside Roberts in the Assembly. "He was a good guy, a good Democrat. A progressive."

His proudest accomplishments in the Legislature included the tourist information center on French Island and developing a bicycle trail system. He also was a force behind the Hwy. 53 corridor between Holmen and Onalaska.

Born in 1922, Roberts grew up near Mindoro during the Great Depression and credited President Franklin Roosevelt's public works projects with saving his family farm and shaping his progressive politics. He worked 37 years for the Milwaukee Road.

He attended a Mindoro School Board meeting in 1952 where a board member resigned. Roberts was nominated and won the seat. He served on school boards and church councils, with service clubs and on the board of Western Technical College, which he attended from 1969 to 1970.

Roberts ran three times for state Assembly before finally winning in 1970, defeating a Republican incumbent in a Democratic sweep. He retained the seat until 1982.

In 1984, he challenged then-state Sen. Brian Rude and lost.

"He was a consummate politician - I mean that in the good sense," said Rude, now vice president of Dairyland Power. "He could be very partisan, but we got along in spite of that."

"We had our fights, but at the end of the day we'd sit together at dinners."

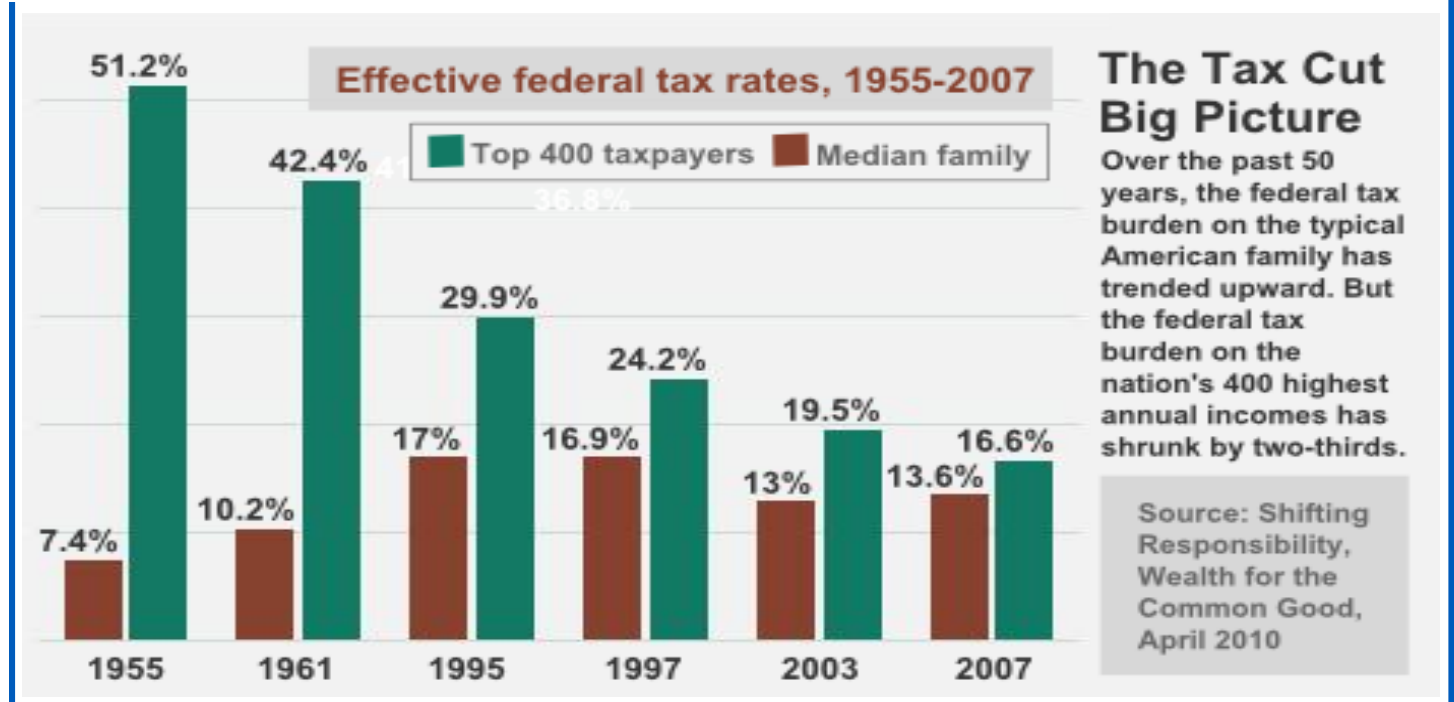
Roberts won his 94th seat back two years later and remained in the Assembly until he lost to Mike Huebsch in 1994.

"We used to call him 'Landslide Roberts' because he had so many close votes," Medinger said.

Huebsch, who vacated the seat in January to become Department of Administration secretary, remembers Roberts coming to speak to his fourth-grade class in the early 1970s. He said Roberts was the kind of politician who would show up at an open house and shake hands because whoever bought the place eventually would be a constituent.

"While I didn't agree with his politics, I had a great deal of respect for how much he cared about his district," Huebsch said Thursday. "Virgil worked so hard at staying in touch with people. They didn't always agree with him, but they gave him credit for the effort he put in."

FACTS & FIGURES



PAC, PARTY & NATIONAL CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

**Democratic Party of Wisconsin
(DPW)** 110 King Street, Suite 203
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 255-5172 (tel) - (608) 255-
8919 (fax) www.wisdems.org

**Wisconsin State Senate
Democratic Committee**
www.SSDC-Wi.org

**Wisconsin Assembly
Democratic Campaign Committee**
www.AssemblyDemocrats.com

**3rd Congressional District
Democratic Party**
Melanie Franklin, Chair
(715) 659-4964
www.3rdDems.net

**Democratic National Committee
(DNC)** 430 S. Capitol St. SE
Washington, DC 20003
(tel)202-863-8000
www.Democrats.org

**Democratic Leadership Council
(DLC)** 600 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
Suite 400 Washington, DC 20003
(202) 544-0007(Tel) - (202) 544-
5002 (fax) www.DLC.org

UW-La Crosse College Democrats
www.uwlacrossecollegedemocrats.com

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Thank you to those who have helped with funding our website. Our monthly maintenance cost is \$50. If you would like to make a specific donation for the website, please send your contribution to La Crosse County Democratic Party, PO Box 1861, La Crosse, WI 54602-1861.

CALL TO CONVENTION!

Democratic Party of Wisconsin State Convention
June 3rd & 4th—Hyatt and Regency, 333 West Kilbourn Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53203.

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Armas Cravins
College Representative
cravins.arma@students.uwlax.edu

Our Elected Officials

Governor, Scott Walker (R)
Office of the Governor
115 East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-1212
(608) 267-8983 Fax

**Lt. Governor,
Rebecca Kleefish (R)**
Office of the Lt. Governor
Room 19, East State Capitol
Madison, WI 53701
(608) 266-3516
(608) 267-3571 Fax

Senator, Ron Johnson (R)
2 Russell Courtyard
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: (202) 224-5323

Senator, Herb Kohl (D)
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Ph: (202) 224-5653,
Fax:(202) 224- 9787

Congressman, Ron Kind (D)
1406 Longworth House Office
Building Washington, DC 20510
Ph: (202) 225-5506,
Fax: (202) 225- 5739

**Assembly Representative,
Jennifer Shilling (D)**
State Capitol 120 North
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53703-8953
Ph: (608) 266-5780,
Local: (608) 788- 9854

**State Senator,
Dan Kapanke (R)**
Madison Office, Room 104 South,
State Capitol, P.O. Box 7882,
Madison 53707-7882
Telephone,(608) 266-5490
(800) 385- 3385
Fax (608) 267-5173,
Local, (608) 782- 3975



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DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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Andrew Londre Chair Kris Troyanek Treasurer
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Attention all Party Members:

The Newsletter is now online. If you don't receive the online newsletter and haven't received online updates through the campaign, please update your address by sending an email to: laxdems@yahoo.com or visit us online at: LaxDems.com



Become a member of the La Crosse County Democratic Party

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Please check dues structure that applies:

- ___ \$25 - General Membership
- ___ \$10 - Senior, Student, Limited Income
- ___ \$35 - Pairs (up to two memberships)
- ___ \$75 - Family Membership
- ___ \$120 - Supporting Membership
- ___ \$250 - Friend
- ___ \$600 - Patron
- ___ \$2400 - Benefactor

I would like to support the LCDP with a donation of \$ _____

TOTAL Amount Paid \$ _____ Check ___ Cash ___

Make checks payable to:

La Crosse County Democratic Party
P.O. Box 1861
La Crosse, WI 54602-1861

You can also donate online at www.LaxDems.com

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Address _____

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Home # (____) _____ Email _____

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Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Your contribution may be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act.

*Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

I recommend contacting as a possible member

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____