

# The Kenosha Democrat



Dec. 2015-Jan 2016

kenoshacountydems.org

## Board of Directors

## DEMOCRATIC CORE VALUES

### Chair--John Franco

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### Vice Chair--Rollin Pizzala

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### Treasurer--Sally Simpson

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### Secretary--Karen Kempinen

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### Srgt-At-Arms--Mike Goebel

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Fair trade policies, collective bargaining, embryonic stem cell research, living wage, affordable healthcare for all, jobs from new energies, fairness and equality, separation of church and state, environmental preservation, women's rights, balance of power, equal opportunity, fiscally sound budgets, quality education, balancing the tax base, right to privacy, pro hunting & fishing, and keeping guns out of schools, bars, churches, e



## Board Members At Large

### Tyson Froh

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### Ken Simpson

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### Alex Maskevich

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### Mike Peltier

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### Webmaster:

Karen Erb  
Karen Kempinen



## Message from your KCDP Chair

The Kenosha County Democratic Party has elected a new board, including two new members to the party who will now be serving as Board Members At-Large, Mike Peltier and Alex Maskevich. Ken Simpson and Evelyn Pizzala, who have faithfully served the party for some time, stepped into a new role as Board Members At-Large. Tyson Froh will be serving a second term as well.

The new officers are Chair- John Franco, Vice-Chair- Rolin Pizzala, Treasurer- Sally Simpson, Secretary- Karen Kempinen and Sergeant At Arms- Mike Goebel.

I would personally like to thank the outgoing officers and board for all of their hard work and service to the party, especially Mary Jonker, Leah Blough, and Ann Wilson. We all know that you will continue to support the party and your knowledge and expertise will be needed as yours truly tries to "drive the ship" forward. Also, thanks to all the many members of the party who help out in numerous ways from writing the newsletter and maintaining our website, to planning the annual picnic and/or annual dinner to organizing the summer parades and involvement in the county fair and labor fest, etc.

Finally, the Kenosha County Democratic Party is entering an exciting time this upcoming year because it is a presidential election year. We will be very busy with planning for everything that entails, such as establishing a coordinated campaign office and preparing for primary elections in February, participate in the choosing of delegates to the Democratic Convention which will be held in July in Philadelphia and, of course, trying to get Russ Feingold elected and supporting whoever wins the Democratic Party Primary for President in the general election next November. We have a lot of ground work to do and we hope you will come out to help us.

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Our next general meeting and first of the year will be held January 7, 2016 at the Union Club in Kenosha at 7:00 P.M. Hope to see you there!

John Franco, Chair of the Kenosha County Democratic Party

### Message from your KCDP Vice-Chair

My Name is Rollin Pizzala I am the newly elected Vice Chair of the Kenosha County Democratic Party. I am also the current local Chair of the Membership Committee, and serve on the State Membership Committee, It is our goal this year to greatly increase our memberships. Calling all Democrats! As you know the 2016 Presidential election has already begun. We, as a party, all need to step up to the plate and do whatever is necessary to get Democrats elected next year. We do not want to see a repeat of 2010. We need to take back our Senate and Assembly in Wisconsin and elect Democrats to the House of Representatives, as well as elect a Democratic President. We have a new State Chair, Martha Laning, who is working diligently to get the different party positions filled, so that we have a smooth running State party. Martha is a strong fundraiser too.

We have had some problems with the system the state was using to record our memberships. One of the problems I encountered was that if you signed up for automatic renewal many of you were not getting renewed due to expiration of your credit card or the issuing of the new cards with the security chip. The party did not have that new information and our previous state computer system was not capable of notifying the members that their card was rejected. Please periodically check on your membership by calling or emailing me. If you have not received a membership renewal notice from the state in a long time, your membership has probably expired. If you don't have a current membership card, you have probably

expired. We need you to keep the party running smoothly. Everyone is important.

As of last month the state has corrected some of the problems and has hired Cassi Fenili to take charge of membership. Cassi previously held this position and did a wonderful job.

We need everyone to get involved in this election! Please talk to everyone you meet: relatives, friends, past members. Ask them to get involved, join the party, and come to party meetings. Meetings are the first Thursday of the month, at the Union Club, 3030 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kenosha. There are several ways to join: contact me, Rollin Pizzala, 262-705-6463 or email me at: rpizzala11th@yahoo.com. You can also join online on the state website: [www.wisdems.org](http://www.wisdems.org). I am currently working on a membership drive for March, which would include refreshments and the opportunity to meet some of our elected officials.

In closing I believe we can do some important things at the local level when we work together, build our party, have new ideas, and listen to one another. We have to change the path Wisconsin has gone in the past few years.

Rollin Pizzala

The City Clerk is in need of poll workers for elections.

If you are able to work at the polls, contact Ann Wilson at [a51wilson@aol.com](mailto:a51wilson@aol.com) or the City Clerks Office.

**CHICAGO'S PROGRESSIVE TALK**

Now on FM at 92.5 (West), 92.7 (North), 99.9 (South) and still at 820-AM for the City!

**The Wayne Besen Show**  
**WCPT 820 AM**  
Weekdays 2-5p

## November Report from Representative. Ohnstad



What a month. We started out by passing what we called the Corrupt Politician Protection Act by eliminating politicians from John Doe investigations. This procedure has been used to root out corruption and was central to six people from the Walker administration being found guilty on different charges. One of these was a high level, long term supporter of the Governor found guilty of embezzling thousands of dollars from Veterans just down the hall from Walker's office. While these effective investigations will still be used against gangsters and other criminals, corrupt politicians will be off the hook.

The Assembly then also passed a bill which would essentially dismantle the bipartisan Government Accountability Board. Instead of an agency that was a nonpartisan watchdog we will have a partisan lapdog where election irregularities will only be investigated if the expenses are approved by the Republican controlled Joint Finance Committee. On the same day, the floodgates were opened to corporations for unlimited campaign donations and for them to anonymously spend against local or state candidates. At a time when people of Wisconsin want less influence of big money, the Republicans have gone the exact opposite direction.

For over one hundred years, our Civil Service System has been in place and has served as a model throughout the country. Instituted by then Governor Bob LaFollette in 1905 when he said "the best shall serve the state," we will now have a system administered by the Department of Administration with a new slogan, "Our best friends shall serve the state." The changes made to the Civil Service open the door for more corruption and cronyism.

Everyone is against fraud. But several bills passed this month, while claiming to crack down on it actually do nothing to eliminate fraud and only cost tax payers millions of dollars. One bill that was passed in the Assembly would cost over \$7 million the first year to put pictures on SNAP cards even

though it would be illegal for clerks in stores to deny someone benefits based on the photo. Another bill, authored by Representative Samantha Kerkman, would deny unemployment benefits for seven years to someone who made mistakes twice on their unemployment claims. The federal government has asked the Department of Work Force Development to change the questions on this claim form since 2011 because they are increasingly confusing and ambiguous. During the debate, Rep Kerkman said she personally supported a lifetime ban.

Although there were plenty of frustrating moments this month I am very happy to report the bill I authored at the request of the Kenosha City Council has now passed both the Assembly and Senate and has been signed into law by the Governor. Alderman Rocco Lamacchia brought the issue of children and pets being trapped in hot cars to the City Council and they passed a resolution for us to look at possible legislation. This year alone there has been 24 children who have died from heat stroke in these situations. My bill would exempt good Samaritans from civil liability for taking action to free the child, disabled adult or pet from these situations. I would like to thank Rep. Kerkman for co-authoring the bill, Senator Wirch for his lead in the Senate and everyone who helped along the way.

Mayor Bosman has asked if I would be interested in taking over his annual fundraiser at Casa Capri the night before Thanksgiving, and I'm pleased to accept. I hope to see you Wednesday, November 25 from 5-7 for pizza and an opportunity to see each other before the holidays. This isn't just a fundraiser for my campaign but a food raiser for the Shalom Center so please bring some food donations. I hope you can join us in saying "Thanks" for his years of service to Kenosha.

As always, if you have a question or need some help on some state related issue or problem don't hesitate to call my office toll free at (888) 534-0065 or email me at [rep.ohnstad@legis.wi.gov](mailto:rep.ohnstad@legis.wi.gov).



## DNC Unveils 2016 Democratic Victory Task Force Report and Action Plan

Builds on Investments Nationwide and National Effort Begun

Following February Preliminary Report

WASHINGTON – The Democratic National Committee (DNC) today unveiled the Democratic Victory Task Force’s Final Report and Action Plan laying out how the Democratic Party is strengthening infrastructure and its presence all across the country to ensure that the success Democrats have had at the presidential level is replicated down the ballot in 2016 and future election cycles. The report and action plan build on the preliminary recommendations of the Democratic Victory Task Force issued in February of this year after being commissioned by DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz following the November 2014 elections.

The Task Force analyzed the Party’s presidential year successes as well as off-year challenges and conducted extensive research including soliciting feedback from supporters, with more than 100,000 respondents across the country. The DNC Chair met with Congressional leaders and caucuses, while Task Force members met with groups in their respective fields of expertise, and participated in dozens of listening sessions, individual interviews, and gathered feedback from a wide range of Democratic Party allies.

“The Democratic Party has made tremendous strides in the last few election cycles, particularly at the national level and in presidential campaigns, and the goal of this Action Plan is to ensure that we apply the best practices of those efforts to elections at every level,” said DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz. “We recognize the challenges our candidates down-ballot have faced in off-year election cycles, and the recommendations of the Democratic Victory Task Force are meant to address those concerns and to chart a path to strengthen our voter engagement in every cycle.”

In February the Task Force delivered a preliminary set of recommendations in five areas where the DNC could make substantial improvements that would help the Party in both presidential and mid-term elections, and the final report

provides greater depth in those areas. It lays down a roadmap for operationalizing those recommendations, building on investments, efforts, and coordination, and institutionalizing key programs to ensure that the experience and information gathered through hard work every election cycle isn’t lost from one election period to the next.

“Some of this sounds like Politics 101,” added Governor Steve Beshear of Kentucky, a member of the Task Force. “Well, the American people need us to get this right, and they need us now more than ever. Just look at the Republican presidential candidates, and listen to their messages of division and derision that play on fear, frustration and bitterness. That’s not what this country is about, and it is not what we want for our children. A bright future for hard-working Americans and the middle class begins with a strong Democratic Party, so we’re making sure that we get to work.”

The recommendations of the Task Force and Action Plan focus on ensuring the mechanisms to:

- Develop and disseminate a clear, values-based message on the core tenets of the Party
- Emphasize and strengthen national and state party partnerships and data sharing
- Protect and expand every American’s right to vote
- Implement a 3-cycle strategy for redistricting
- Build a bench of strong candidates equipped to compete at every level

Following the Task Force’s preliminary report in February, the DNC stepped up operations in several areas, including increasing investments in state parties through the State Party Partnership program by 50% from the previous baseline. That commitment comes with increased engagement between the national party and state parties across every department, to ensure capacity building in every key area.

- The DNC has also begun implementing regular training programs, including comprehensive training on voter information and targeting, and on using the DNC’s extensive suite of data, technology, and support for state parties.
- The investments the DNC has made in its Analytics Platform mean that our Presidential Primary campaigns are starting off with a more robust and sophisticated data system than the Obama campaign

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Jason Rae, Continued  
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had on Election Day in 2012. All three of our major Presidential Primary campaigns have signed agreements to be a part of our voter file, and are making investments to improve and build upon the program. That's going to have a significant impact on the general election.

The DNC is also sharing voter data with state and local candidates. The Report and Action Plan also place a special emphasis on protecting and expanding every American's right to vote following years of concerted efforts in states around the country to make it harder for women, seniors, students and minorities to cast their ballots.

"A key and important aspect of this Report and Action Plan is that it delves into the unique and vital role that the Democratic Party has in protecting and expanding the right to vote for every American," concluded Donna Brazile, a DNC Vice Chair of Civic engagement and Voter Participation as well as a member of the Task Force. "In Kansas, Alabama, and now New Jersey, we've recently seen Republican leadership take action that limits voter participation while doing nothing to make our elections more secure or cost effective, while the GOP's presidential candidates all oppose the Voting Rights Act. And in the *Evenwel v. Abbott* case, we have begun implementing the recommendations by casting a spotlight on the potential impact of that case on children, permanent residents, DREAMers, and others living in the United States who are worthy of representation. We're being proactive, and this Final Report and Action Plan help chart that path."

The full Democratic Victory Task Force Report and Action Plan is available [HERE](https://uploads.democrats.org/Downloads/DVTF_FinalReport.pdf) ([https://uploads.democrats.org/Downloads/DVTF\\_FinalReport.pdf](https://uploads.democrats.org/Downloads/DVTF_FinalReport.pdf)) and a Progress Update from DNC CEO Amy Dacey is available [HERE](http://s3.amazonaws.com/uploads.democrats.org/Downloads/DVTF_action_plan.pdf) ([http://s3.amazonaws.com/uploads.democrats.org/Downloads/DVTF\\_action\\_plan.pdf](http://s3.amazonaws.com/uploads.democrats.org/Downloads/DVTF_action_plan.pdf)).



[www.wisdems.org](http://www.wisdems.org)

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This is Why America Votes Republican: Our Brand of Stupid

Ed Schultz Discusses Republican Refugee Hate, ISIS in America, and Ted Cruz Challenging President Obama



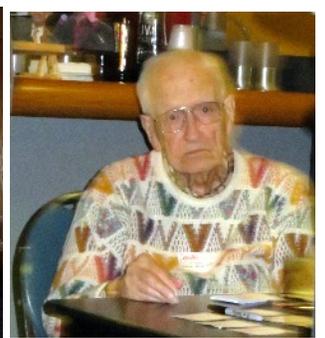
**Saturday, March 19, 2016, 6 pm**  
**Bristol Oaks Golf Club and Banquet Center, 16801  
75th Street, Kenosha WJ 53142**

What: KCDP Regular Membership Meeting  
When: Thursday, **January 7, 2016**, 7 pm  
Where: Union Club, 3030 39th Avenue, Kenosha  
PLEASE NOTE that, per usual, there will be no KCDP general membership meeting in December. At the January meeting, the 2016 general plan will be presented, and updates on events and opportunities for helping Democratic candidates win in 2016 will be shared.

[www.1stcd.org](http://www.1stcd.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/KenoshaCountyDems/>





**Bob Wirsch's Birthday Party**



**2016 Officers Installation**

**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER, don't forget**

**53170-0400**