

# The Kenosha Democrat



Mar.-April, 2015

kenoshacountydems.org

## Board of Directors

## DEMOCRATIC CORE VALUES

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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, etc.



## Board Members At Large

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## Message from your KCDP Chair

**VOTE!!! VOTE!!! VOTE!!! VOTE!!! VOTE!!!**

ELECTION DAY  
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015

There is a WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT race where Ann Walsh Bradley is up for re-election.

Ann Walsh Bradley is a justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. She was elected to the Supreme Court in 1995. Justice Bradley was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin. She earned her bachelor's degree in 1972 from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. She worked as a high school teacher at Aquinas High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin before entering the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she earned a law degree in 1976. Justice Bradley worked in private law practice until becoming a circuit court judge in Marathon County, in 1985.

Justice Bradley is an elected member of the American Law Institute, a former associate dean and faculty member of the Wisconsin Judicial College, a former chair of the Wisconsin Judicial Conference, and a lecturer for the American Bar Association's Asia Law Initiative.

## KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mike Falkofske a member of the Kenosha County Democratic Party is a candidate for a position on the KUSD School Board. See an article about Mike in this newsletter. (Page 2)

*See Vote/Vote continued on Page 2*

## College Dems

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*Vote/Vote Continued from page 1*

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON ELECTION OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

This is an important change:

"Election of chief justice. Shall section 4 (2) of article VII of the constitution be amended to direct that a chief justice of the supreme court shall be elected for a two-year term by a majority of the justices then serving on the court?"

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## Meet Your Board of Directors John Franco

John was born and raised in North Hollywood, California where he grew up with two older brothers in a tight knit Italian-American family. After graduating from Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, he attended California State University at Northridge, earning a bachelor's degree in religious studies.

John then moved to the Midwest where he earned a master's degree in philosophy from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois. John taught as an adjunct instructor at several community and local colleges until he decided to get a high school teaching certificate.

Since 1998, he has been a full time social studies teacher at Waukegan High School.

John and his wife Jennifer have lived in Kenosha since 2004. They both love the Kenosha area and all that it offers. Both Jennifer and John have also been involved with local politics since the 2008 presidential election when they worked on the Obama campaign.

Since then they have assisted on multiple campaigns, including the recalls of 2011-12, the 2012 presidential campaign, and the recent 2014 midterm elections. Since Act 10 was passed, the Franco's have been strong activists for union rights, campaign finance reform, voter registration, and many other progressive causes. At the present, John is on the board for the Kenosha County Democratic Party and has served as a state delegate for the past three years.

## Mike Falkofske

Mike is a candidate for Kenosha City School Board.

On <http://www.mikefalkofskeforkusdboard.com>, Mike Falkofske states his platform: "I will study issues and not be afraid to question decisions made by administration. My actions will be based on what is best for the district."

Through attendance and comments at school board meetings and service for district committees, Mike has demonstrated that he will be prepared do the business of the board.

"I will work with fellow board members to update existing policies and create new policies that provide better guidance to administration. I also want to develop a vision statement that will help us align our goals to a future destination."

Through dedication to his profession as well as his tireless work on behalf of initiatives to improve our community, Mike has shown that he is a person of action and results.

"I will carefully review the budget to ensure that money is spent wisely."

Through conversations with citizen groups, Mike has shown his eagerness to match resources to student needs.

"I will work to create an environment in which all students can excel."

Through study of educational issues, Mike has shown that he is ready to work for positive out comes for all KUSD students. Vote Mike Falkofske!

### AM 820



## FM Stations

# Mary Lang Sollinger

Candidate for the Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin:

After being encouraged and supported by many statewide Democratic grassroots organizers, legislators and candidates, I have decided to run for the Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

At this particular time the DPW needs strong leadership with the ability to analyze what has gone wrong and what we did right. It is time to look in the mirror for our strengths and weaknesses and identify our opportunities.

My life experiences such as living in a Wisconsin farming community, as well as in the city, and starting and operating successful businesses will prove invaluable to the Party. I know how it feels to be forgotten and how much work it is to be strong and diligent when times are tough. I have been committed to working on grassroots campaigns that led all the way up to the national level. I believe, I know that my kind of leadership style will bring respect, will empower and include all members of the party and, most of all, it brings trust and an open door.

The Party needs a leader who values the input from all Dems across the state. Only together, can we strengthen our economy, solve the two billion dollar plus budget deficit and strengthen our schools, towns and counties. In the following days, I will contact the county chairs for the dates of your meetings and events. Many of you don't know me and this will be a good time to meet and listen to one another. Some of the issues that keep coming up are: improving our messaging, defining the role of the Party and what it needs to do for the County Parties, providing the field teams with better data, clarifying candidate support, communicating, communicating, communicating, increasing coalition building with the other Dem organizations and learning from Minnesota's successes.

Twenty five years of business experience, successful fundraising for key community developments, and working as an innovative State Finance Director for the DPW enabled me to gain the skills we need to win in 2016 and beyond. My commitment to the Democratic Party of Wisconsin cannot be denied. It is what we need now.

Whether a City Council campaign or a Presidential election, I have reviewed strategies, knocked on doors, made calls and raised money for the "win". In

Wisconsin in 2008, I did twelve fundraising events in fourteen months for then, Candidate Barack Obama. Because of my work I was recruited to be a member of the Democratic National Finance Committee. I continue to believe in and fundraise for our Wisconsin Democratic candidates. I want to bring democrats together in our state because together we can make a difference.

Never overestimate the knowledge of the American people, but never underestimate their intelligence....Senator Bob LaFollette, Wisconsin

Yes, We Can,

Mary Lang Sollinger

cell: 608-212-6889

## From Tom Breu

Thank you Kenosha Dems, for letting me introduce myself at your February 5th meeting.

My name is Tom Breu (rhymes with plumbing 'guy'). I'm a Democrat running against Paul Ryan. Paul Ryan is a very loud voice trying to take our country in a very wrong direction, and he needs to be defeated.

Born and raised in Marshfield, Wisconsin (5th generation), I've lived the last 20 years in Janesville with my wife Sylvia, almost finished raising our 7 kids. Also for the last 20 years I've worked as a mechanical engineer, licensed in 37 states, specializing in plumbing design. I quit my job to campaign full-time.

I've been politically active for 10 years. Prior to that I was a classic "low information" voter, my family and life keeping me busy. (12 or 14 years ago I might have actually voted for Paul Ryan!) The last 5 years I've been an officer of the Rock County Democrats.

Please go to my website and nose-around. You'll find something to like. And, if there's something you don't like, or is missing, let me know.

As the months roll by I look forward to getting to know you better.

Thank you,

TomB

[www.TomB4House.com](http://www.TomB4House.com)

[www.facebook.com/KenoshaCountyDems](http://www.facebook.com/KenoshaCountyDems)

Mike McCabe will be the featured speaker at our Kenosha County Democratic Party March, 2015 meeting. Please come out and help give him a warm welcome. It is not often that we get such distinguished speakers to come all the way out to Kenosha to visit with our meetings.

## Putting Citizens Back in the Driver's Seat of Our Government.

I'll be talking about why so many people rightly believe they are not being represented, their voices are not being heard, and their interests are not being served. And how big money in politics is a cancer growing in the body of our democracy, and what we can do about that cancer. And here's some background about me....

Mike McCabe is the author of *Blue Jeans in High Places: The Coming Makeover of American Politics* and for 15 years was the director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a nonpartisan watchdog group that specializes in tracking the money in state elections and works for reforms aimed at making people matter more than money in politics. He was raised on his family's dairy farm in Clark County and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was trained as a journalist. He worked briefly as a newspaper reporter and legislative aide in the State Assembly before running a statewide civic education program for a nonprofit research institute. Among his other experiences was two years as a Peace Corps volunteer in the West African country of Mali.

Mike



As they say, all politics are local.

I've been traveling the state visiting with grassroots activists and county party leaders about our shared vision to regroup, refocus, and reenergize the Democratic Party so we can be successful in 2016, 2018 and beyond.

Everywhere I travel across the state, local leaders want to know how we can work better together – how we can build a deeper bench of progressive candidates.

I know where we have to start – at the local level.

Consider this - 29 out of the current 32 State Senators held some previous elected office.

County boards members, city council members, school board members, mayors, and village and township officials make decisions every day that shape the lives of Wisconsinites all around our state – and they are our future candidates.

The only way we will be successful in future elections is if we invest now in candidates at the local level. The trustee we invest in today is our future candidate for State Assembly, the county board member we help is our future Governor.

As Democratic Party of Wisconsin Chair, I want you to know that I commit to working to help elect Democrats at every level.

That's why today, I am announcing my first major initiative: Operation Main Street.

Operation Main Street is a comprehensive, collaborative project that will work with our local candidates and our county parties to strengthen and deepen our bench. Through this program, we'll take parts of Spring Forward and Red to Blue Badgers and build a concrete, comprehensive program to support candidates and county parties with local elections.

Based partly on the Ohio Democratic Party's "Main Street Initiative," our program will take the best of their program and other states, and add our own unique Wisconsin experiences to create a robust agenda for change.

The State Party needs to provide county parties with the tools and resources they need to support local candidates and win.

County Chairs tell me every day that they want to support local candidates, but this historically hasn't been the role of the Party. That ends the day I am elected.

There are prime opportunities all around the state and working hand in hand together, we'll build our infrastructure and build our bench. We will start working with candidates early to get them ready by provide trainings on messaging, voter contact, fundraising and more. Once these campaigns start, we aren't going to leave our candidates in the dust. We will run a Local Elections Coordinated Campaign to provide innovate tools and resources, access to technology and dedicate funding to help win elections.

*See Rae, continued on page 5*

## Jeff Smith for State Chairman

I'm writing to let all of you know that I'm running to be the next chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. I made this decision because our party is in trouble and we need someone with the grit, determination, resolve and experience required to get us back on track. I strongly believe I'm that person and I'll tell you why.

I'm the only candidate for DPW Chair who has won a seat in the legislature against a long serving Republican in a republican leaning Assembly district. I did that in 2006 by running my own campaign, with my own local volunteers, raising my own money, developing my own messaging, and by talking with voters from dawn until dusk. I'll bring that kind of work ethic to my job as DPW Chair.

I've also served as a Regional Political Director for the DPW. I've seen firsthand what does and doesn't work. There are changes we need to make in how the party functions and I know how to implement those changes.

The 2012 election results showed us that there are more democrats who vote in Wisconsin than there are republicans, but not all of those voters go to the polls in the mid-term elections. This has turned our state government to a deep red. How do we begin to turn that around?

Messaging. Our platform and resolutions contain bold policy ideas that resonate deeply with a broad swath of voters, but our candidates tend to rely on highly paid consultants for their messaging. This has to change. We need strong county parties that can educate voters about the policy positions grassroots democrats embrace, and that can influence our candidates to promote those policies. Strengthening our county party infrastructure is of the utmost importance and priority.

The outgoing chair campaigned for the job in past years by stating that we need year round organizing and a 72 county strategy; great ideas that never came to realization. I will make that a greater focus. One of our biggest problems is not in raising money but rather in how we're spending what money we have. I'll start by breaking down the budget to find the money we need to staff multiple field coordinator positions in key areas around the state. I will put my money where my mouth is by cutting the salary of the state chair position and use the savings to fund full-time field coordinators. These field coordinators will work with county party officials, activists and allies to develop outreach strategies to find, educate and engage new and sporadic voters on a year round basis.

Pride in being a Democrat is essential. I want every progressive and liberal thinking person in Wisconsin to boast about being a Democrat. Just as I want laborers to be filled with pride in belonging to a union, I want the professionals in our classrooms to hold their head high and proclaim to be a teacher without having to feel that they should be ashamed. It is up to us as leaders of the Democratic Party to make that

happen. First we restore trust, respect and fight, which will equate into pride in ourselves and in our party.

We all should be very grateful to our brothers and sisters in Dane and Milwaukee counties, but we can't take this state back with only democratic majorities in Dane and Milwaukee. We need a leader who understands the concerns and challenges rural Wisconsin people and voters face. We also need a leader who will take a bold and creative approach to strengthening our party in rural Wisconsin.

I am that leader. I've lived in the Chippewa Valley my entire life. I owned a small business for 25 years in the Eau Claire area and raised a family there, and as a Regional Political Director I've traveled across all of western, northwestern and central Wisconsin to hear from rural people about the issues that matter to them. It was a good mix of urban and rural voters that sent me to the legislature.

These are just a few of the ideas, strategies and leadership qualities that I'll bring to the job as your next Chair. As I travel the state in the next few months I look forward to hearing from all of you. Together we can start down the path that will return Wisconsin to its progressive roots. Let's do it.

To better understand who I really am I suggest you visit my YouTube site from my legislative campaigns.  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/jeffsmithforassembly>

*Rae, continues from page 4*

Most importantly, this work cannot be done alone. We will work, to the fullest extent allowed by law, with groups like Wisconsin Progress, Emerge, and our brothers and sisters in organized labor, to ensure successful campaigns are run each and every cycle to support local candidates.

As Chair, working in local elections will be one of my top priorities. To see that Operation Main Street is done well and effectively, one of my first acts as Chair will be to appoint an advisory board made up of local elected leaders, county party leaders from each congressional district, as well as grassroots activists, to help us further define and strengthen Operation Main Street.

However, I cannot do this alone. I need your support for State Party Chair so we can implement Operation Main Street and help elect Democrats at every level of our party. Sign up here to be a supporter of my campaign for Chair.

I look forward to talking with you more about this vision and how together we can regroup, refocus, and reenergize the Democratic Party of Wisconsin.

Yours, Jason Rae

**“In ancient history, people would put their frail and disabled people out into the cold for the wolves. Walker is doing a modern day version of this where he is throwing these vulnerable citizens to the corporate wolves.”  
[Capper, “Scott Walker’s Most Heinous Budget Stunt Yet”]**

**The following changes in Scott Walker’s proposed budget target seniors and persons with disabilities:**

**Prescription coverage**

- Require seniors to first sign up for and pay for for the much more expensive Medicare Part D before applying for SeniorCare

**Long term care**

- Eliminate IRIS [Include, Respect, I Self Direct], a program which gives seniors and persons with disabilities a voice in selection of their caregivers who perform such personal tasks as bathing and toileting
- Dissolve the regional districts and make Family Care contracts available only to companies that can operate state wide, such as big insurance companies
- Award all of these contracts in a no bid process
- Eliminate Aging and Disability Resource Centers governing boards and long term care councils
- Take oversight of these programs from the Department of Health Services and give it to the Commissioner of Insurance
- Eliminate the Family Support Program, which helps families with disabled children to get special equipment or services that are not covered under Medicaid

**Sources:**

**<http://www.wisconsinrapidtribune.com/story/opinion/2015/02/19/wisconsin-seniorcare-prescription-drugs-scott-walker-budget/23628535/>**

**<http://www.thestate.com/2015/02/09/3973799/seniors-say-walker-cuts-to-seniorcare.html>**

**<http://crooksandliars.com/2015/02/scott-walkers-most-heinous-budget-stunt>**

**<http://wisconsinassistedlivingnews.com/big-changes-to-family-care-iris-in-governors-budget/>**

**[http://host.madison.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/disability-advocates-question-changes-to-long-term-care-in-scott/article\\_005d6ee3-0a3a-5e3f-ba02-f5f2330836f9.html](http://host.madison.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/disability-advocates-question-changes-to-long-term-care-in-scott/article_005d6ee3-0a3a-5e3f-ba02-f5f2330836f9.html)**

**Contact your legislators and tell them to vote against these changes!**

**<http://legis.wisconsin.gov>**

**Summary by K. Kempinen, February, 2015**

## Calendar

March 5– General Meeting of Kenosha County Democratic Party, Union Club 3030 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kenosha, 7:00. Guest speaker Mike McCabe for more information about this distinguished guest see the article on page 4.

April 2– General Meeting of Kenosha County Democratic Party, Union Club 3030 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kenosha, 7:00

April 7–Spring Election Day. Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm.

Annual Dinner, tentatively planned for April 25. Please watch for further information. It will be at Bristol Oaks CC.

May 7–General Meeting of Kenosha County Democratic Party, Union Club 3030 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kenosha, 7:00

May 9 –Ist CD Convention, Union Club, Kenosha. Registration 9:00. Since we are hosting, please plan to come and help. Sign up to be a delegate by contacting Chair Mary Jonker

May 25–Memorial Day parades in Silver Lake and Twin Lakes. Silver Lake line up at 8:30 am.

State Convention -

June 5-6, 2015

Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

1721 West Canal Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233



Tod Ohnstad: "One of the first legislative proposals I introduced this year, Assembly Joint Resolution 2, seeks to declare January as "Mentoring Month" in Wisconsin. While January has come and gone already, I am pleased to share the Assembly passed my resolution unanimously in yesterday's official floor session. I was also honored to have Rebecca Stevens, RSVP Manager at KAFASI, and Randy Hutson, who serves as a mentor, join me at the Capitol to witness the passage of AJR 2."

This month, I had the pleasure of meeting with folks from the Kenosha County government, from Society's Assets (which serves individuals with disabilities throughout southeastern Wisconsin).



This was no fiberglass donkey Karen and Sally were kissing. Thinking of all of you when we met up in Cozumel, MX.

Constituent Meetings at the State Capitol



L to R: Clerk of Circuit Court Rebecca Matoska-Mentink, County Clerk Mary Schuch-Krebs, Rep. Ohnstad, Supervisor Boyd Frederick, Supervisor Dayvin Hallmon



G. K. Butterfield, US Representative of North Carolina's 1st Congressional district

**1<sup>st</sup> CD Annual Convention**  
**May 9, 2015**  
**Union Club-Kenosha**  
**3030 39<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**9:00 AM Registration**