

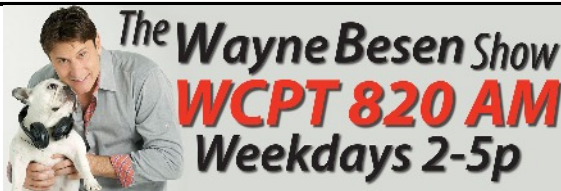
THE CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Well, the Republican Party outdid itself this week by passing two unpopular bills that do absolutely nothing to address any pressing needs for the people of Wisconsin, but rather only ensure more consolidation of party control over the reins of state government. AB 386 and 387, quietly signed by Governor Walker, not only end the nonpartisan Government Accountability Board by installing two partisan boards, but also eliminates any reasonable restrictions on campaign finance in the state of Wisconsin.

Put another way, the Republican Party of Wisconsin apparently feels that we need more political partisanship, more money in politics, and less transparency. It seems that the Republicans are living in a parallel political universe because all reputable polls show that the vast majority of Americans feel that our politics have, in fact, become extremely partisan, dangerously opaque, and awash with enormous sums of money largely donated by a few mega wealthy donors. Those on the right appear to have amnesia. They have forgotten that the GAB was instituted in 2007 precisely to remedy the rancorous Legislative Caucus Scandal of 2001-2002.

In short, Republican policy does not correlate with the concerns of average Americans precisely because Republicans do not represent the interests of the vast majority of people but instead those of the wealthy donor class who fund their campaigns. In the Republican world view, these policies make total sense. Of course, one would want to do away with campaign finance restrictions, accountability, transparency and any limitation on coordination if this increases the amount of money flowing into ones coffers. Why? Because they have to rely on an ever smaller group of people who, in essence, can buy influence and, ultimately, elections. Added to this is a logical corollary of ensuring the maintenance of power by doing away with any independent means of tracking that flow of money.

These misguided laws continue to move Wisconsin in the direction of one party rule which, of course, is bad for our democracy. Unfortunately, this assumes the Republican Party actually believes in democracy. They say they do, but their policies reinforce plutocracy and, unfortunately, the real losers will be the people of Wisconsin.



KCDP Annual Dinner

Saturday, March 19, 2016, 6 pm

Bristol Oaks Golf Club and Banquet Center, 16801 75th Street, Kenosha WI 53142

We are excited to announce that our featured speaker will be Russ Feingold!



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 or the City Clerks Office.



New Kenosha Artwork Featured in Capitol

Just in time for the holiday season and the turn of the new year, Lemon Street Gallery returned to the State Capitol to share some new pieces by Kenosha artists in Tod Ohnstad's office. It is such a privilege to share the incredible artwork from Kenosha with the visitors and legislators who stop by.



Artist Patricia Krueger, "Rooster," Photograph



Artist Kathleen Knutell, "Grandpa's Barn," Watercolor



Artist Carolyn Garland, "Mountain Top," Acrylic

CALENDAR

Jan 7: General Membership Meeting, 7 PM, Union Club,
3030 39th Ave, Kenosha Guest Speaker: Kory Kosloski

Feb. 4, General Membership Meeting, 7 PM, Union Club,
3030 39th Ave, Kenosha

www.1stcd.org



www.wisdems.org

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



This year's tree theme is "Wisconsin Sports," in recognition of our state's sports teams, traditions, and athletes



Bob Wirch's Birthday Party

53170-0400