

Healing Our Democracy

Highlights

- Corporations and Money: Challenge the notion of corporate personhood and money as free speech.
- Unbiased Press: Emphasize the importance of a free and unbiased press in providing factual information to voters.
 - Proposal for a Constitutional line item to fund public news.
 - Establishment of a non-partisan committee to oversee unbiased journalism.
- Constitutional Right to Vote: Affirm every Wisconsin citizen's right to vote once they turn 18.
- Ranked Choice Voting: Support for ranked choice voting to broaden voter choices and eliminate the spoiler role of third parties.
- Election Funding: Advocate for state-funded elections with no private money involved, limited campaigning periods, and truthful campaign ads.
- Separation of Church and State: Strong support for the separation of religious institutions from public funding.
- Citizen-initiated Referendums: Support citizens' right to initiate referendums.
- National Popular Vote Coalition: Endorsement of pledging Wisconsin's electoral college votes to the national popular vote winner.
- Fair Maps: Call for non-partisan commission-led redistricting every ten years to ensure fair representation and balanced electoral districts.
- Public officials shall not accept gifts above \$1000 without proper disclosing and will recuse themselves in matters that require unbiased decisions if they have accepted gifts of any kind from parties involved.
- Civil asset forfeiture practice will be overhauled with more protection to property in unresolved cases.

Corporations are not persons. Money is not free speech.

“Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper. Truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle. The real extent of this state of misinformation is known only to those who are in situations to confront facts within their knowledge with the lies of the day. ... I will add, that the man who never looks into a

newspaper is better informed than he who reads them; inasmuch as he who knows nothing is nearer to truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods & errors.”

-Thomas Jefferson, 1807

Free and unbiased press

The need for factual, unbiased information has never been greater. The number of mainstream media sources has dwindled and those that remain are distorted by big money. Making matters worse is the Internet where anyone can distribute lies and misinformation. Democratic self-rule depends on informed voters making choices that are crucial to democratic governance. In order to provide unbiased information to voters, news reporters must be free of influence from big money and politicians. In order to provide this service, the WPP proposes a Constitutional line item to fund public news and information. As a Constitutional line item, no political party, or big money source can influence the reporting of unbiased, factual information. Funding of the public news would happen automatically every year. A 12 person, non-partisan committee would oversee this news source and hire unbiased journalists. The committee would be composed of journalism professors who have proven to be unbiased in their careers.

Constitutional right to vote

Every Wisconsin citizen over 18 has the right to vote.

Elections free of Big Money influence

One Wisconsin study and one national study have shown that all legislation that passes the Wisconsin state assembly, or the U.S. Congress is in preference to big money influences. Any benefit to average citizens that accrues from legislation is totally coincidental. In order to get the Wisconsin State Assembly, the Wisconsin Governor, and the Wisconsin State Supreme Court working for the people of Wisconsin again, the WPP proposes that all funding of elections for all Wisconsin state offices shall be funded by the state, with absolute exclusion of private money to candidates and candidates' campaigns. Campaigns shall be limited to the two months

preceding the election. All campaigning shall stop during the final two days before the election to act as a cooling off period before voting begins. Campaign ads must be truthful and factual. In order to ensure this, the WPP would extend libel and slander laws to political office holders and candidates for political office, including judicial offices. The WPP supports Citizen United's initiative to get big money out of the government.

Ranked Choice Voting

The WPP supports ranked choice voting in all Wisconsin elections. We further support paid election holidays of three days, so that working people can vote without hardship. We advocate for the implementation of ranked choice voting (RCV). RCV ensures that every vote counts by allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference, promoting greater representation and eliminating the 'lesser of two evils' dilemma. By endorsing RCV, we stand for fair elections where every voice is heard, fostering a stronger, more inclusive democracy for all.

Ranked choice voting also eliminates the spoiler role by third parties.

Separation of Church and State

The WPP strongly supports the separation of church and state. No public money, or other support should be used to support religious institutions, including schools providing religious instruction.

Citizen-initiated referendums

The WPP strongly supports citizens' right to initiate referendums.

Wisconsin's role in the Electoral College

The WPP supports the National Popular Vote Coalition to elect the president by pledging Wisconsin's electoral college votes to the candidate who wins the national popular vote. It would require a constitutional amendment to eliminate the Electoral College. This is a work around solution.

Fair Maps

Assembly and Senate districts in the state of Wisconsin should be drawn by a non-partisan commission every ten years. Districts should be drawn using impartial and transparent methods, such as independent commissions or expert committees, prioritizing factors like geographical boundaries, community interests, or equal representation, aiming to create fair and balanced electoral districts that reflect the population's diversity.

Unbiased public officials

Upholding Integrity in Public Office: Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

In Wisconsin, strict regulations govern the conduct of public officials. Gifts exceeding \$1000 are prohibited, with all other gifts promptly disclosed. Officials must recuse themselves from relevant matters if they accept such gifts. Transparency and accountability are paramount, with conflicts of interest promptly disclosed. Final decisions on recusal rest with panels of retired officials who have demonstrated nonpartisan adherence to the law throughout their careers, and who will be appointed by the Governor, ensuring unbiased governance for all.

Regarding civil asset forfeitures

WPP will make following changes to procedures in civil asset forfeitures:

1. *Legislative reforms to increase accountability and limit abuse.*
2. *Transparency requirements for law enforcement agencies.*
3. *Strengthened judicial oversight of forfeiture proceedings.*
4. *Enhanced protections for property owners' rights: prevent the auctioning off of forfeited property before the matter has been fully resolved. Property seized through unlawful search and seizure should not be auctioned off before the matter has been resolved.*
5. *Remove immunity from corporations and hold them accountable for property liability. This means that corporations should be subject to the same legal standards and consequences as individuals when it comes to civil asset forfeitures.*

