



**"Proud to be a Democrat"**

# Democratic Party of Door County

## December, 2008 Newsletter

### Executive Board

Estella Lauter, Chair  
 Bill Perloff, Vice-Chair  
 Mary Horn, Secretary  
 John Franz, Treasurer  
 Ben Meyer, Past Chair  
 Jim Adams  
 Rod Bohn  
 Laurel Brooks  
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 Phil Hansotia

### Committees:

#### **Communication:**

Jim Adams, Board liaison  
 Phil Hansotia, Board liaison  
 Bill Perloff, Board liaison  
 Lisa Van Laanen

#### **Elections:**

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 Nancy Skadden

#### **Events:**

Challoner Brown, Chair  
 Eileen Andera, Cty Fair Chair  
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 Laurel Brooks, Social Events Board liaison  
 Norma Jean Ek

#### **Membership:**

Bill Perloff, Chair  
 Allin Walker, Board liaison  
 Chris Wendler

#### **Issues, Resolutions, Survey:**

Phil Hansotia, Board liaison

#### **Budget and Fundraising:**

Barb Perloff, Chair  
 John Franz, Board liaison

## Election Results Promising for Future Campaigns

At the November membership meeting, Bill Perloff presented an analysis of the election results for President, 8<sup>th</sup> CD seat, and the 1<sup>st</sup> State Assembly seat. A (not so) brief summary follows.

There is lots of good news: Door County voted a straight Democratic ticket in the Presidential, Congressional and Assembly races, and our Assembly District voted for Obama/Biden and Kagen. The bad news: the vote for a 4 term incumbent in rural Kewaunee and Brown Counties outweighed Door County in the Assembly race, and Dick Skare lost by 850 votes.

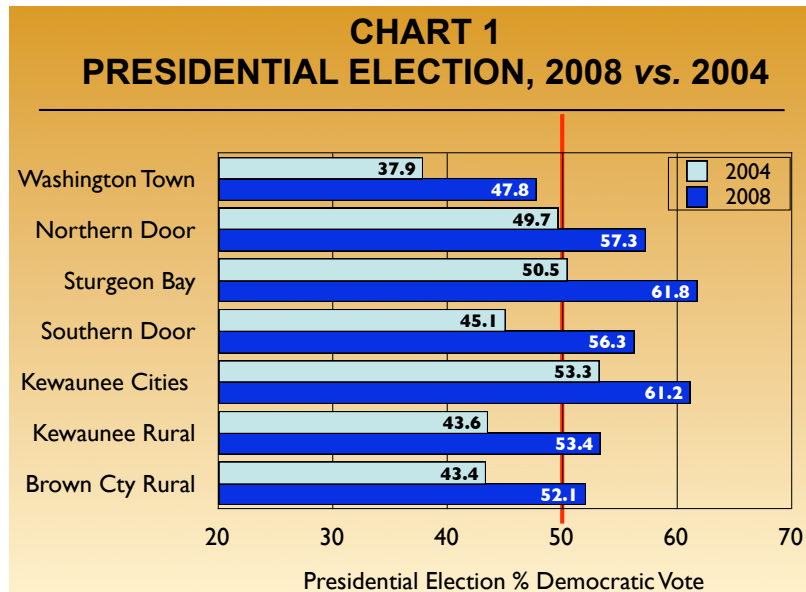
Looking at the results in more detail provides the basis for much optimism about the future for Democratic candidates in our district, and support for our efforts in building a coordinated campaign that will persist into future campaigns.

Table 1 shows the total vote in our Assembly district by county. Though Door County has the largest number of votes, Kewaunee and the four precincts in Brown County generate significant numbers. Especially impressive is that 80 percent of registered voters in our district actually vote, with 90 percent turnout in rural Brown County.

TABLE 1 - WE VOTE!		
	Total Votes	% Registered Voters
Door County	17,500	74
Kewaunee	10,600	88
Brown (4 precincts)	3,900	90
Totals - 1 <sup>st</sup> Assembly	32,000	80

The voting pattern varies markedly throughout our Assembly district. Considering the district from north to south, Chart 1 shows the percent Democratic vote in the 2004 and 2008 presidential elections. Total votes cast in both elections were the same. The vertical red line highlights 50%. Note that in 2004 every section except the cities of Sturgeon Bay (barely), Kewaunee and Algoma voted Republican. Four years later, in the recent election, every part of the district except Washington Island voted Democratic, most by substantial margins.

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Authorized and paid for by the Democratic Party of Door County

To reach us: DCDems@hughes.net, on the web at [www.DoorCountyDems.org](http://www.DoorCountyDems.org), or PO Box 863, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

## Upcoming Events

### DECEMBER

- Dec 11 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Party office (62 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.), 6:00 PM.
- Dec 14 **DPDC 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pie Party Fundraiser and Election of Officers and Executive Board**, at Bjorklunden, 4:00 PM (see adjacent article).

### JANUARY

- Jan 8 **DPDC Executive Board meeting**, Party office (62 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.), 6:00 PM.
- Jan 22 **January membership meeting**, Sturgeon Bay Library, upper level, 7:00 PM. State Senator Dave Hansen will speak.

## Kewaunee Korner

by Melissa Huizenga

Our December meeting is the Christmas party held at North Brook Country Club in Luxemburg at 6:30 on Thursday the 18th. December is a time of giving. Items are brought by the individual members to donate to the food pantry. The business for this meeting will be audit of the check book and the election of officers.

Our nomination committee has selected a new slate of officers for 2009. The individuals are anticipated to accept the positions. The slate is as follows:

Chair - Melissa Huizenga  
 1st Vice Chair - Debra Norton  
 2nd Vice Chair - Mike Kinjerski  
 3rd Vice Chair - Joe Jerabick  
 Secretary - Linda Teske  
 Treasure - Janet Wolf  
 Past Chair - Lary Swoboda  
 Historian - Bob Entringer

Building party membership will be a key focus. A membership drive is planned for the first of the year. The Kewaunee County Democratic Party looks forward to working closely with the Democratic Party of Door County.

(Editors note: This is the first of a monthly column from our neighboring Democratic Party of Kewaunee County. You can contact the newly nominated Party Chair, Melissa Huizenga via email at [mjhuizenga@greenbaynet.com](mailto:mjhuizenga@greenbaynet.com).)

## Rep. Tom Nelson to be Featured at Pie Party Fundraiser and Election

The December membership meeting will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pie Party Fundraiser at Bjorklunden to celebrate our successes, strengthen our resolve to overcome our challenges, raise money to help keep our DPDC office in Sturgeon Bay open, and just have fun.

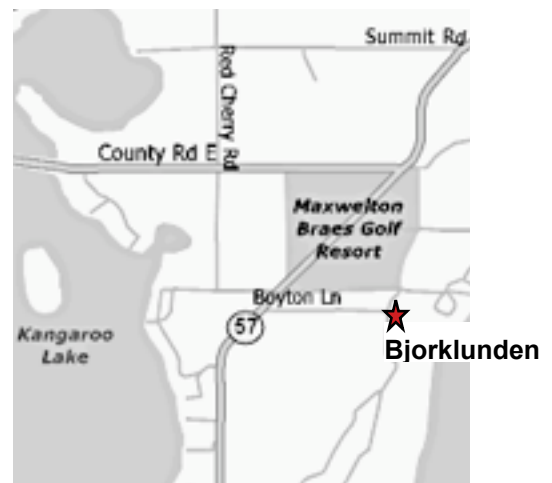
Starting at 4:00 PM, the party will feature a wide assortment of home and bakery made Door County pies, savory and sweet, with plenty for taste test comparisons, plain or à la mode. Members are invited to bring a savory or sweet pie. The most spectacular pies will go to the winners of "bag raffles". Admission will be \$5 per person, or \$15 per family of three or more. **Admission will be free to first-time members who join that evening.**

We are pleased that Rep. Tom Nelson, the newly elected Wisconsin Assembly Majority Leader, will speak about priorities for the 2009 session, including the Healthy Wisconsin legislation passed by the 2008 Senate. In the question and answer session, we hope to get some ideas from him about how we can reach out to the rural areas of our District (mainly in Kewaunee and Brown Counties), where we lost the votes that would have made the difference for Dick Skare.

We shall also award the Bernie Connelly Volunteer Award for our Volunteer of the Year.

Current members of the DPDC will be able to elect our officers and Executive Board members for the next two years. Nominees will include the slate presented by the nominating committee at the November membership meeting, additional nominations made then (see article on p. 4), and any additional nominations made prior to the vote.

**MAP TO BJORKKLUNDEN**  
**7590 Boynton Lane**  
**Baileys Harbor, WI**  
**839-2216**



**Message from the Chair:****How We Did It: DPDC 2007-2008**

We have come to the end of a fabulous two-year election cycle in the life of the DPDC. Fueled by strong support in 2006, for the Democratic ticket from the Governor to the Congress, and energized by better numbers for local offices, we began to hope that Door County would go for a Democratic President in 2008.



**Estella Lauter,  
DPDC Chair**

Now that our hope has been fulfilled, despite many anxious moments along the way, it is time to look back to see how we emerged from the political wings of NE Wisconsin to be part of a national movement for change.

Still troubled by the pundits who said that Democrats had lost the 2004 election because no one knew what we stood for, we decided to focus our membership meetings on key issues for the county and the nation.

This decision led to some wonderful speakers and programs: the Natural Step approach to sustainability; the film *Ground Truth* about the Iraq War; WI Senator Jon Erpenbach's proposed legislation on health care; wind as a sustainable energy option; Social Services in Door County; assorted films on "big oil" and "big pharma"; current concerns of unions in Door County (led by four union representatives); views from *Don't Crash My Party* by the author, Shirene Hansotia.

Even at the beginning of 2008, our meetings still emphasized the need for self-education, with a presentation by Tom Beebe on school funding reform, and the process of selecting delegates for the National Convention.

As of April, 2008, however, apart from one program on the art of intelligence gathering in July, we shifted into high gear to plan for the Coordinated Campaign.

Fund raising began in July 2007 with a picnic that featured State Rep. Tom Nelson, and gained strength in December with our first annual "Our Slice of the Pie Party" and bag auction with Congressman Steve Kagen as speaker. We followed that in May with a buffet and silent "White Donkey" auction at the Ladder House featuring Barbara Lawton and some lively renditions of famous Democratic speeches, and later held a Convention Watch Party at the same venue. In September, we hosted a "Cheese Curds, Booyah

and Beer" event (a substitute for our annual picnic) generating \$7000 for the Kagen campaign.

These events, plus our share of the membership dues and some wonderful donations from individuals, allowed us to give the maximum amount to our candidates, and to open three offices in Sturgeon Bay in mid-June—a bit of a gamble, since we did not know for sure that the Kagen and Obama campaigns would join us!

Without a physical and organizational structure to support the Coordinated Campaign, we would not have had the incredibly dedicated services of four field organizers from late July through November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Behind the scenes, we had been learning how to do (and what not to do) some important work together. Our communications system improved many times over—not only with our members but with the local press and other county chairs. Beginning with an organization sponsored by the state party, our web site has evolved into a source of information not only about us but about county government and timely issues.

We did membership drives based on our own data plus the "Voter Activation Network" provided by the state party (DPW) and the DNC, and began to revive the idea of ward leadership before the Obama campaign trumped it with house parties and computer networks.

The County Fair became a spot to register voters. Parades became a way to distribute brochures about the Party and to identify our candidates as Democrats by displaying a new banner and the large sign made by a former chair mounted on a trailer, from which people could chant "Yes We Can."

And speaking of signs, we painted eight four-by-eight foot signs for Obama before we knew about the fabulous Obama portrait signs made in the Cockburn and the Martinez studios!

In addition to sending the usual 10 Resolutions to the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Convention each March, we sent special resolutions for impeachment and for the Feingold plan to redeploy troops from Iraq to other county parties and to legislators, and we joined two other County Parties in successfully questioning the employment of our state Chair as a lobbyist.

Other County Parties expressed interest in reading our greatly expanded newsletter, and we now send it to them electronically every month, in addition to receiving samples from other counties ourselves.

(continued on p. 4)

## Message from the Chair, continued from p. 3

We raised concerns at the County Chairs Association about a lack of transparency in the state organization, and we have seen modest improvement in the form of more substantive conference calls with the state office.

Those of you who worked on the Coordinated Campaign at the Sturgeon Bay office saw that we had a wireless connection, two office computers, ten phones, a printer and a copy machine. While some of this equipment came from the Obama and Kagen campaigns, much of it, along with furniture and supplies, was contributed by members of the Board, who also ordered signs and buttons, emptied the recycling bins, and kept things more or less in working order. And having seen how much energy it took to get a "boiler room" set up, we decided to continue to rent one office at least through the April election to see if any benefits to candidates, members, or programs occur.

There were some *great* moments: when we realized we had *two* Democratic candidates for the Assembly; when we raised \$1700. at our May buffet and silent auction; when the Obama and Kagen campaigns committed to having full-time field

organizers in Door County; when Irene Newkirk said she would come into the office every day; when Obama accepted the nomination; when 180 people came to hear Carole King in Sturgeon Bay; when our membership reached 285 with 110 *new* members; when over 300 volunteers worked for the Coordinated Campaign; when 750 Obama yard signs left the office; and, of course, when we saw the dark blue tip of Wisconsin on the November 6<sup>th</sup> *New York Times* map of voter change from 2004 to 2008.

Moments like these made all of the preparation worthwhile. Thank you for every political conversation you have had in the last two years where you stood your ground; for every parade you joined; every political meeting or event you attended; every letter you wrote to the newspaper; every dollar you contributed to the Party or a candidate; every question you raised with an elected official; every campaign sign you proudly displayed or replaced; and every vote you cast to make this change happen in Door County.

Let's do it again!

### Join Sen. Feingold's Door/Kewaunee Regional Steering Committee

#### What is a steering committee?

A group of local activists who work with campaign staff to optimize Russ' 2010 campaign in their area.

#### Who can serve on a steering committee?

Everyone. Party affiliation and experience don't matter; just the desire to work in one's local community for Russ' reelection.

#### When and where do committees meet?

Committees will meet 2-3 times in 2009 and early 2010. The first meeting will be between January and April, 2009. When the campaign becomes active, there will be monthly meetings. Meetings are usually in the early evening on weekdays and last about 1½ hours. The site is usually a location central to the area covered.

#### What happens if I cannot attend a meeting?

Committee members are encouraged to attend all meetings, but all members will receive handouts and a written summary of the meeting whether present or not.

#### How do I join our regional steering committee?

Call or email Paula Zellner, Feingold Campaign State Field Director, phone: 715-735-7811, email: [zellner@russfeingold.org](mailto:zellner@russfeingold.org).

**HELP REELECT SENATOR RUSS FEINGOLD,  
JOIN THE DOOR/KEWAUNEE REGIONAL  
STEERING COMMITTEE!**

### Time to File for Spring Election

Are you ready to run for local offices? Many are available, and Door County Democrats are under-represented in local government.

Door County offices to be filled in the April 7, 2009 election include 2 or more City, Town or Village Board members in most municipalities, as well as 2 or more School Board members in all 5 County districts. These are nominally non-partisan offices, but may serve as springboards to partisan offices, all of which in the County are held by Republicans.

To become a candidate, one must get "nomination papers" from the local clerk (City, Town or Village), and obtain the required number of qualified signatures (people of voting age who reside in the district). Nomination papers were available on or after December 1, and must be completed and returned to the clerk by 5:00 PM on January 6, 2009.

If there are more than 2 candidates filing for a given office, there will be a primary on February 17.

### Do You Miss Maggie and Sondra?

If you miss our two high-energy, always smiling field organizers, drop them a line and say hi. Maggie can be reached by email at: [margaret.a.huber@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.a.huber@gmail.com). Sondra's email is: [sondra.milkie@gmail.com](mailto:sondra.milkie@gmail.com).

Election Analysis Continued From p. 1

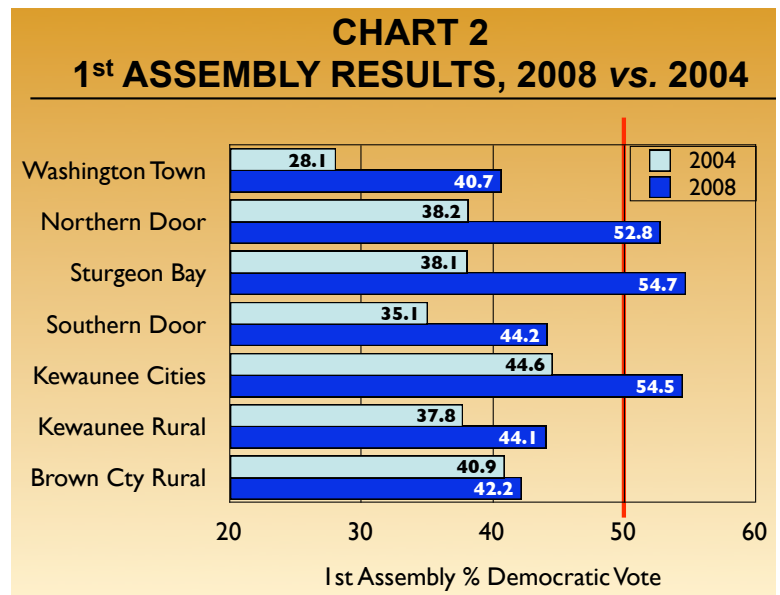
This undoubtedly reflects a powerful campaign coupled with dissatisfaction with the current administration. The key point is that areas that have voted strongly Republican in the past, and have been considered “Rock-ribbed” Republican, *will*, in fact, vote for a Democratic candidate under the right circumstances.

Chart 2 shows similar data for the 2004 and 2008 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District election. In all areas, except rural Brown County, Dick Skare received a substantially greater share of the vote than Tom Hermann, the Democratic candidate, in 2004. The increase was sufficient to carry Door County for the first time in recent memory. Presidential “coattails” may have contributed to some degree, but the improved Democratic performance was a continuation of a trend seen in the 2006 Assembly race. It is also clear that voter contact and persuasion are needed in more rural parts of our district.

Additional good news is shown in Table 2, where it is evident that we have established several Democratic stronghold communities. In all 7 towns (or wards) shown, the dramatic change from 2004 in the Democratic vote for Assembly augers well for future Democratic candidates.

Further analysis awaits the ward-by-ward vote results not yet available. However, some initial conclusions seem warranted:

1. Citizens in our district vote in large numbers.
2. They are “persuadable”, will respond to issues and vote accordingly
3. The current trend favors Democrats, with marked rural/urban-suburban differences.
4. In future Assembly elections we need to focus intensive canvassing in (largely rural) wards that voted Democratic in the Presidential election and Republican in the Assembly race.



	1 <sup>st</sup> Assembly % Democratic		
	2004	2006	2008
Baileys Harbor	42.2	52.3	61.0
Egg Harbor	41.0	50.8	63.6
Gibraltar	42.5	52.9	68.1
Sturgeon Bay 1-2	43.6	56.6	65.0
Sturgeon Bay 3-4	43.6	53.4	57.0
Algoma City	42.7	58.5	56.2
Kewaunee City	46.4	52.2	52.5

**Officers and Board to be Elected**

Officers and members of the Executive Board will be elected at our December 14<sup>th</sup> pie party and meeting. Nominees for officers and Board members thus far are:

- Co-Chairs:** Estella Lauter, Mary Horn
- Vice Chair:** Bill Perloff
- Secretary:** Patti Podgers
- Treasurer:** John Franz
- Board, Northern Door County** (vote for 2):  
Garrett Cohn, Charlie Most, Olivia Lowery
- Board, Sturgeon Bay** (vote for 3):  
Jim Adams, Rod Bohn, Dennis Skahen
- Board, Southern Door County** (vote for 2):  
Terry Bobbe, Michelle Jacobson

Additional nominations can be made from the floor by current members.

**Be a Poll Worker for Pay and (?)Glory**

At the beginning of 2009, there is an opportunity for municipal clerks to appoint new poll workers. This is a paid position with training provided.

Political parties are asked to nominate interested individuals. Municipal clerks are supposed to select equal numbers from each party if possible, though the duties are non-partisan.

If you are interested in being nominated to serve as a poll worker in your part of the County, please contact Party Chair Estella Lauer at [estella.lauter@gmail.com](mailto:estella.lauter@gmail.com) or 839-2741 ASAP.

There is no guarantee that you will be chosen in this election cycle, but it is a good way to make your interest known. It is also another way to demonstrate our growing Party strength.

## Time for Membership Renewal

**NOW** is the time to renew your membership in the Democratic Party of Door County (DPDC). If you are one of the 24 members who have not yet renewed from 2007, **this is your last newsletter**. You can renew now for 2008 and your membership will extend through 2009.

If your membership is current, renewing now will carry through 2009 and ensure that membership renewal doesn't fall through the cracks in the busy end-of-year period.

This is **really important** because the number of delegates from Door County to the Congressional District and State Party conventions is determined in part by the number of **paid-up** members for 2009. We are proud that **our current 285 members (for 2008) make us the largest County Party per population base in WI**. We are also in the lead in a contest for County Parties, with the largest increase in membership in 2008. We need to finish the contest on a strong note.

The renewal form is below. Please print out the form and mail it to our DPDC P.O. box (the address is on the form). When you join the DPDC, you are also automatically a member of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. So, if you have received a renewal card from the State Democratic Party, you can use that card, but please be sure to **return it to our P.O. box**. We will forward it to the State Party.

Renew now, and please feel free to make a generous donation to the local Party in addition to your membership dues. We must split membership dues with the State Party, but can retain contributions in their entirety for our local Party.

A special "thank you" to the 110 new members who joined in 2008, and the 66 new and renewing members who have already (re)joined for 2009!

## Controversy Brewing?

*(Editor's note: The following news flash arrived by anonymous email and is printed below FYI.)*

In the first two weeks since the election, President-elect Barack Obama has broken with a tradition established over the past eight years through his controversial use of complete sentences, political observers say. Millions of Americans who watched Mr. Obama's appearance on CBS' "Sixty Minutes" on Sunday witnessed the president-elect's unorthodox verbal tic, which had Mr. Obama employing grammatically correct sentences virtually every time he opened his mouth.

But Mr. Obama's decision to use complete sentences in his public pronouncements carries with it certain risks. According to presidential historian Davis Logsdon of the University of Minnesota, some Americans might find it "alienating" to have a President who speaks English as if it were his first language. "Every time Obama opens his mouth, his subjects and verbs are in agreement," says Mr. Logsdon. "If he keeps it up, he is running the risk of sounding like an elitist."

The historian said that if Mr. Obama insists on using complete sentences in his speeches, the public may find itself saying, "Okay, subject, predicate, subject predicate - we get it, stop showing off."

The President-elect's stubborn insistence on using complete sentences has already attracted a rebuke from one of his harshest critics, Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska. "Talking with complete sentences there and also too talking in a way that ordinary Americans like Joe the Plumber and Tito the Builder can't really do there, I think needing to do that isn't tapping into what Americans are needing also," she said.

or Renew



**Yes, I'll Join the Democratic Party and Help Democrats Win!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

This is a  Cell Phone  Home Phone

Email \_\_\_\_\_

County: Door

Sign me up for:

- \$10 Senior/student/limited income
- \$25 Individual general membership
- \$35 Pairs (includes 2 memberships)
- \$45 Activist family (includes up to 3 memberships)
- \$75 Family supporters (includes all family mem's)

I would also like to join:

- LGTB Caucus  Black Caucus
- Latino/Hispanic Caucus  American Indian Caucus

Return to: **Democratic Party of Door County**  
**PO Box 863**  
**Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235**