

Keeping Your Eye on Madison

The April 30, 2017 Wisconsin Action Report

Prepared by Filip Sanna filsanna@yahoo.com of the new Indivisible group in New Glarus

1) Statewide Referendum To Limit Big Money in Politics. On April 19th, two Wisconsin lawmakers introduced resolutions that would create a statewide Citizens United referendum asking voters if they support putting limits on the corrupting influence big money has in political campaigns. Rep. Lisa Subeck and Sen. Dave Hansen want to give voters a voice on the key issue of money in politics.

- The goal is to let Wisconsin voters voice their opinion regarding the issue of money in politics. It's the core issue of our time. Everyday Americans have no voice and no representation. We need to rescue the First Amendment rights of Americans from a growing oligarchy.
- America is supposed to be a representative democracy. What we have now is crony capitalism, with billionaires and corporate fat cats in control. The vast majority of Americans have almost no voice in our policies.
- 105 communities have already called for this. 2.8 million people (49% of Wisconsinites) live in jurisdictions that have called for an amendment. The average Yes vote in the last election was 81% in favor. Across America, 18 state legislatures have voted for an amendment, as well as over 730 towns, villages, cities and counties.
- Politicians in Washington spend 40-70% of their time raising money, instead of doing their job.
- Our legislators are afraid to do what's right, for fear of being primaried with anonymous donors running negative ads. All these negative ads cause more and more polarization.

Action: Call your state representatives and urge them to cosponsor these resolutions. For the next month, the resolutions will be referred to as LRB-176 (Assembly) and LRB-1138 (Senate).

2) Constitutional Amendment for a Balanced Budget. In the last edition of this newsletter, I provided background on the proposed Republican bill to request a US Constitutional Convention requiring the federal government to operate under a balanced budget. The specific bills in question are Assembly Joint Resolution 21 and Senate JR 18.

Action: Call your state representatives and tell them to vote NO on these bills. (Contact info for state representatives is at the end of this document.)

3) Drug-Testing for BadgerCare recipients. The Walker Administration is proposing to spend millions to force adults on BadgerCare to undergo invasive and questionably effective drug testing as well as limit how long they can even be on BadgerCare. People addicted to drugs would be denied health insurance, rather than receiving treatment and care to help them overcome addiction. This is exactly the opposite response we need to the increasing incidence of drug addiction and overdoses.

Action: First, call your state representatives and urge them to oppose this proposal. Second, this Monday May 1st in Milwaukee from 4pm-7pm is the LAST public hearing that the Walker Administration will have on these proposed BadgerCare attacks. Finally, we have until May 19th to submit public comments; Citizen Action of WI is gathering comments for formal submission (and the state must then respond to such public comments). Submit your comments here:

<http://www.citizenactionwi.org/opposedrugtesting?splash=1>

4) Federal Reimbursement for Wisconsin Medicaid Expansion. Wisconsin is the only state in the country that expanded Medicaid but did not take the federal money allocated to help pay for it. Governor Walker claims that we shouldn't take the money now in case it becomes unavailable in the future. This article from last year provides a good summary. Since the Affordable Care Act is, in the

words of Paul Ryan “the law of the land” why should we in Wisconsin give away our federal tax dollars to the rest of the country without receiving our portion in return? Especially considering the new 2017-2018 state budget is currently being debated, this is a timely issue.

Action: Call your state representatives and the governor to demand that we accept the federal reimbursement.

STATE CONTACT INFO:

John Erpenbach-D (Wisconsin Senate, 27th district)

104 South, State Capitol

P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707-7882

(608)266-6670 or toll-free (888) 549-0027

Fax: (608) 266-2508

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/27/erpenbach/contact/>

Howard Marklein-R (Wisconsin Senate, 17th district)

(608) 266-0703

sen.Marklein@legis.wi.gov

Janis Ringhand-S (Wisconsin Senate, 15th district)

(608) 266-2253

Sen.Ringhand@legis.wi.gov

Mark Spreitzer-D (Wisconsin Assembly, 45th district)

(608) 266-1192

(608) 534-0045

Rep.Spreitzer@legis.wisconsin.gov

Todd Novak-R (Wisconsin Assembly, 51st district)

(608) 266-7502

(888) 534-0051

Rep.Novak@legis.wisconsin.gov

Sondy Pope-D (Wisconsin Assembly, 80th district)

Room 118 North

State Capitol

P.O. Box 8953

Madison, WI 53708

(608) 266-3520

(888) 534-0080

rep.Pope@legis.wisconsin.gov

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/80/pope>

Scott Walker - R (Governor)

Cut and paste text into box here: <https://walker.wi.gov/contact-us>