



The Grassroots Gazette fosters community dialogue and participation throughout Southwest Wisconsin.

Tomorrow (March 28) - FINAL STATE BUDGET HEARING IN REEDSBURG

Tues., April 7 - SPRING ELECTIONS

Thurs., March 26, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Reedsburg) THE FINAL HEARING ON THE CONTROVERSIAL STATE BUDGET The Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee holds its final public hearing to listen to what citizens think about Gov. Walker's State Budget TOMORROW - Thurs., March 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Reedsburg High School, CAL Center Auditorium, 1100 South Albert Avenue in Reedsburg. Written comments can be emailed to the committee at BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov. For specifics about the major cuts to many of our public institutions proposed in the budget, click here for [public schools](#), for [Wisconsin public broadcasting](#), for the [University of Wisconsin](#) system, for [SeniorCare](#) and for [Family Care](#). WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT IT? Here are four things you can do RIGHT NOW: 1) Attend the Reedsburg hearing, 2) email your written comments to the Budget Committee, 3) contact your State Legislators and 4) write a letter to the editor (for tips and email addresses for local newspapers, go to the [Grassroots website](#)). Contact State Senator Howard Marklein through his website <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/17/marklein/contact/> or call 608-266-0703. For Assemblyman Todd Novak, email him at Rep.Novak@legis.wisconsin.gov or call 888-534-0051. To find the contact info for other State Senators and State Representatives, go to <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>. Keep your message short and to the point. Legislative staffs are tallying your opinions.



Daley



Walsh Bradley

Tues., April 7, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. POLLS ARE OPEN FOR SPRING ELECTION - Don't forget to VOTE. Important Supreme Court issues are at stake. Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Ann Walsh Bradley is running against Rock County Circuit Judge James Daley. According to the [Wisconsin Law Journal](#), the race is officially nonpartisan, but Daley has accepted a \$7,000 in-kind contribution from the Wisconsin Republican Party and is speaking at GOP events around the state. Bradley says she "strongly believes" that political parties should stay out of judicial races. Daley says he's not going to apologize for accepting a legal donation from the GOP. He says he speaks with people who have a similar conservative philosophy.

ON THE BALLOT is a constitutional amendment to change the way the Chief Justice is selected. Says a WMTV report, "The court's conservative majority has been chafing under the leadership of liberal-leaning Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson. Under the Republican-authored amendment, the justices would vote on a chief. That would allow the majority to oust Abrahamson."

Also on the April 7 ballot is the Dodgeville School District race between current board member Eileen Frank of Dodgeville and Tom McGraw of Ridgeway for an at-large seat, meaning that anyone in the School District will be eligible to vote. From a [Dodgeville Chronicle interview](#), the candidate responses to what constitutes the biggest challenge to the school district were:

Eileen Frank: "The academic performance of students coming from disadvantaged homes poses a serious concern and challenge.The recent proposal of our current legislature to punish schools with poor performance ratings by turning them into charter schools or privatizing them is alarming. Whereas public schools are required to accept all students, charter schools and private schools can turn away the poor performing students. The most effective and historically proven way to break the generational poverty in struggling families is through access to quality education."

Tom McGraw: "The biggest current challenge would be our budget deficit. We must look at all aspects of the district that could realize some cost savings. As we look, we must prioritize, and put education first. We must be fair, consistent, and equitable building to building, classroom to classroom, and program to program".

To vote absentee, contact your town, village or city clerk's office no later than Friday, April 3. Don't know who your clerk is? Go to the [Grassroots Election page](#) for instructions on finding contact info.



Watch the Grassroots Gazette for details about "THE FUTURE OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS" debate coming to Dodgeville (time and place to be announced.) A similar debate in Reedsburg last week was enthusiastically received by those attending. Topics will include private voucher schools, school accountability, standardized student testing, school finance, teacher qualifications and local control of schools. More details later.



REMINDERS: ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor refresher courses Sat., March 28 and Saturday, April 25, 9 to 11 a.m. (Dodgeville) and Tues., May 19, 5 to 7 p.m. For our ESL (English as a Second Language) tutors, Kathy Warpinski will hold tutor training refresher courses on Saturdays, March 28 and April 25 and Tues., May 19 at the Dodgeville Library. Want to know more about what it's like to be an ESL tutor? Potential tutors are welcome as well. For more info, contact Kathy Warpinski at kashkaj46@gmail.com

REMINDER: Sat., March 28, 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. (Mazomanie) DEFENDING OUR DEMOCRACY: NEXT STEPS -- 7th ANNUAL WI. GRASSROOTS FESTIVAL Expect plenty of lively conversation and action at this annual event, to be held at Wisconsin Heights High School, 10173 UW Highway 14 in Mazomanie. Breakout sessions will focus on the economy, the environment, organizing for the future, value-based messaging, money in politics and more. \$20 donation (lunch included.) For more info, contact Nate Timm, nptimm571@gmail.com or check out the [Grassroots Festival website](#) .

Sat., April 4, 11 a.m. (Dodgeville) REMINDER: JOIN THE SUSTAIN IOWA COUNTY CITIZEN'S CLIMATE LOBBY - AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE. This active group is deeply concerned about the lack of action on Climate Change. They're running radio announcements on WDMP through May, sponsored by Sandstone Nursery, touting the benefits of Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation and explaining changes in Wisconsin caused by global warming. Join the group at their monthly meeting at Country Kitchen, 1202 North Johns Street, in Dodgeville. You'll learn a great deal and make new, action-oriented friends. For more info, contact Chuck Tennesen at twotens@yousq.net

REMINDER: Fri., April 10, 2 to 4 p.m. (Dodgeville) "RUSSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY" WILL OPEN APRIL'S GREAT DECISIONS SERIES The Great Decisions series, America's largest discussion program on world affairs, is being offered again at the Dodgeville Library during April. Vince Kavaloski will facilitate the first discussion on "RUSSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY." To prepare for the discussion, handouts are available at the library. Pre-registration is encouraged. Contact Vickie Stangel at vstangel@swls.org. Other topics in the series will be "Modern Day Slavery" on Fri., April 17 and "Privacy in a Digital World", on Friday, April 24. The Dodgeville Library and the Iowa County Citizens for Peace and Justice co-sponsor this program.

Fri., April 10, 4:15 (Dodgeville) CITIZENS FOR PEACE meeting. Iowa County Citizens for Peace and Justice will hold their monthly meeting on April 10 at 4:15 p.m. at the Dodgeville Library, following the Great Decisions discussion. Anyone interested in working toward the creation of a world of compassion, justice and nonviolence is invited to join us. We will be planning: a crane-folding project this spring for the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the multi-generational gathering of Lanterns for Peace, at Governor Dodge Park in August.

REMINDER: SAT., APRIL 18, 6 to 9 p.m. (Barneveld) COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FREE CLINIC SPRING AUCTION. Benefits go to the Community Connections Free Clinic in Dodgeville. Lots of fun auction items will be on the block. Tickets: \$30 in advance, \$35 at door. To register go to <http://ccfcwi.org/> or send a check, payable to CCFC Auction to P.O. Box 184, Dodgeville. Check the website to see a list of auction items. For more info, contact 608-935-7023.

GRASSROOTS CITIZENS OF WISCONSIN, an energetic group of over 1000 people in Iowa, Sauk, Crawford, Richland, Lafayette and Grant Counties who are interested in taking an active role in improving government and promoting rational discussions of local, state and national issues. For further information, or to add a friend to our mailing list, please contact: Shirley Barnes, Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin, 2473 Mt. Hope Road, Dodgeville, WI. 53533, 608-623-2109, e-mail: grassroots@merr.com.

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