

PAID LETTERS

Vote for Judge Janet

The upcoming election on April 4th is as important as any in the past. Voters will have the choice of casting a ballot for either Judge Janet Protasiewicz or Attorney Dan Kelly for a position on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Judge Protasiewicz, a trial court judge for the past 10 years and before that a prosecutor for more than 25 years, is imminently qualified and will be instrumental in restoring the integrity and independence of a court that has been taken over by far-right interests. She decided to run because of her concern over the direction of the court's very conservative majority in recent decisions that curtailed voting rights as well as supported political gerrymandering.

While her opponent has criticized her as being partisan when she says that one of her personal values includes a woman's freedom over her own body, Dan Kelly has been nothing but partisan during his entire career and especially during his previous short stint on the court. As a member of the very conservative Federalist Society, he was actively involved in the Republican Party as a staunch supporter of a former governor, Scott Walker, who appointed him to the Supreme Court in 2016. Although he promised that his political beliefs would not affect his decision making when appointed, Kelly consistently sided with extreme conservative interests rather than the general public. While on the court, he also demonstrated his lack of concern over potential conflicts of interest when he opposed a request by a large group of retired judges that the Supreme Court consider adopting reasonable recusal rules to prevent judges from being involved in cases in which a party, or attorney, contributed substantial amounts to the sitting judge's campaign. He even refused to hold a public hearing on such an important issue.

When Kelly came up for election to the court for the very first time in 2020, he was soundly rejected by the voters in Wisconsin. As part his effort to return, his campaign continues to receive very large sums from wealthy donors and conservative political action committees outside the state. Therefore, it's not difficult to understand why he doesn't want to be governed by any rules that would prevent him from participating in cases in which he may have a conflict of interest.

On the other hand, Judge Protasiewicz supports the court adopting reasonable rules that would prevent judges from handling cases under such circumstances. She believes in the importance of the public knowing and trusting that the court will operate free from any financial or political influence. She is also troubled by the potential negative impact a right-wing conservative majority will continue to have on individual rights should Kelly be put back on the court. This state needs her on its highest court. She is, by far, the better choice on April 4th.

Mike Lucci and Dennis Cochrane
Superior, Wis.

Shawnu Will Support ALL Students on the Superior School District Board.

It has been an honor to serve on the Superior School Board for the past six years. No one predicted COVID or the deep impact and lasting effects on our students, staff, and parents. I pride myself on being a board member that makes decisions through a lens of equity and inclusivity. Shawnu Ksicinski is the only candidate on the ballot that has the professional experience and demonstrated community work to continue to keep this a priority on the school board.

Last year, the district faced pushback from a small group of parents outraged by a portion of the national and statewide approved Human Growth and Development curriculum. The complaint received was a distraction and created division and sent an unwelcoming message to students who identify as LGBTQIA2s. Statewide data published from the Youth Behavioral Risk Survey (YBRS) in December 2022 by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, indicates Wisconsin students have significant mental health needs and further investment and support are essential. Furthermore, results from the survey show nearly half of LGBTQIA2s students surveyed (48 percent) report seriously considering or attempting suicide - four times higher than their peers. Shawnu is an advocate that will support investments in addressing mental health and resources that meet the needs of all students.

Lastly, our school district is facing a major budget crisis. We're not alone in this struggle due to decreasing enrollment/population and failure to increase funding to the rate of inflation. Shawnu knows how to keep a tight budget through her experience as the creator and Director of Progress North. She's grown a small non-profit organization into a thriving business with multiple employees.

I am voting for Shawnu and ONLY Shawnu for school board because of her experience working in 4yrs Early Childhood Education, 7yrs Human Resources Director, 10+yrs non-profit management & policy/issue advocacy. I strongly encourage you to consider doing the same to support ALL of our students and staff.

Laura Gapske
Superior, Wis.

Vote April 4th

Hi, I am James Streveler, as a candidate for the Maple School Board, I know parents are concerned about their children's education and I see dedicated teachers providing the training needed to do this. Every generation has new challenges, making us adapt and learn more. We are in a time of immense change: climate change and destruction, changes in types of energy use, world power struggles, skilled and unskilled labor shortages locally and national, lack of personal: communication, mental health, leadership and community involvement.

To help this we need to increase career opportunities and give it the recognition it deserves. All classes teach skills, but I want to emphasize those skills and career opportunities that affect our economy the most. These are taught in our vocational classes including CTE and Youth Options. We promote this in DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, IACA, FFA and other youth groups in our community.

I would appreciate your vote.
Thank you.

Jim Streveler
Brule, Wis.

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SMELL:

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Head of the Lakes Natural Gas Group

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