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# LABOR PRESS

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## Labor breaks mold in endorsements

### Ineffectives dropped, determination stressed in influential COPE for Feb. 21 and April 3

By **Dominique Paul Noth**  
Labor Press Editor

The Milwaukee labor council made political news beyond its own union members January 11 when its delegates embraced the recommendations of its politically savvy, traditionally pragmatic representatives -- the dozen and a half members of COPE, the Committee on Political Education - and then cheered when told why it was a remarkably short list lacking several familiar names and races despite the heavy run of candidates for both the Feb. 21 primary and April 3 general election.

The Serb Hall meeting erupted in applause when Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran explained the selectivity involved when 43 candidates went through the intensive two-day process in person. There were many new faces that were respected while several familiars were passed over. It was a pointed lesson from workers who "from bottom to top have been cornered and robbed -- COPE knew it and is sending as clear a message as it can," she said.

"We can no longer abide to be around mediocrity."

She pointed out, again to cheers, that the decision to seek out newer and more progressive candidates -- and only back politicians whose deeds approach their words -- would put the Milwaukee Area Labor Council in conflict at times with longtime allies such as the local Democratic Party.

The most newsworthy endorsement reflected that. It backed **Eyon Biddle**, despite his clear underdog status, against long established Common Council President Willie Hines, who is being helped by the local Democratic politicians.

This contest won't take place until April 3, time to promote the reasons for labor's unhappiness with Hines, which centers on how poverty and unemployment levels increased during his long tenure in this crucial inner city area.

Cochran mentioned no names of those passed over during her talk to the delegates.

So who was backed?

The delegates recommended **Jennifer Morales** among a field



COPE interviewed and endorsed Eyon Biddle knowing he faces an uphill battle April 3 against Common Council veteran Willie Hines.

of opponents in the primary seeking to oust Ald. Bob Donovan in the newly competitive Common Council District 8. Morales, a former member of the Milwaukee school board, has been actively going door to door in the district, which has a growing Latino component and wiped

**PUMPING UP LATINO POWER** in elections, in this case the final Saturday of the Walker recall, are Voces leader Christine Neumann-Ortiz and potential candidate Kathleen Falk.

out some of Donovan's low-hanging conservative fruit.

COPE also recommended Latino activist and business figure **Jose Perez** in a primary to oust longtime Ald. Jim Witkowiak in District 12.

And it is recommending noted jobs activist and legislative aide **Ray Harmon** over an incumbent in District 9, a contest with some ironies.

One of Ald. Robert Puentes' claims to success is his long tenure with the Milwaukee police, but their members are now



COPE also reached into a crowded alderman District 8 primary field for Feb. 21 to pluck Jennifer Morales as its choice to replace Bob Donovan.

endorsing Harmon.

Over at the county, the recommendations stepped into two open seats and held off on two others. Biddle occupied a safe board seat (District 10) but left to take the high risk of running against Hines, so COPE robustly opted in a competitive race to support a newcomer to political office to replace him - **David Bowen**, a Bradley Tech grad and leader of Urban Underground.

Johnny Thomas had also abandoned his District 18 county seat to run for city comptroller and COPE recommended another new face in that contested elec-

**COPE** continued Page 9



## Latino decision time!

### If they turn out at polls, results could change city

By **Dominique Paul Noth**, Labor Press Editor

The Latino South Side neighborhoods of Milwaukee were in the spotlight the last Saturday to gather recall signatures against Scott Walker. It was one of several congregations all around the state adding thousands of citizens despite common knowledge that -- even on January 7 and a week to go -- the campaign was more than comfortably, even violently, over the top of its goals.

"The people of the state are on fire," said Kathleen Falk, the former Dane County executive actually born nearby (30th and Greenfield) and one of the several names bandied about to take on Walker for governor in the inevitable election next May or June. She joined Voces de la Frontera leaders, including Christine Neumann-Ortiz, state Rep. JoCasta Zamarippa, news crews and dozens of citizens who packed the S. 5th St. Recall center loaned by Voces.

Some crowding in to hit the streets were veteran

activists but many confessed to Falk that they had never before engaged in politicking. Because something else was going on besides making recall hay along National Avenue. That same something in Racine with its strong Hispanic population -- despite poverty and scorn on the streets - pushed the recall GOP Sen. Van Wanggaard well over the minimum 15,553 signatures required.

It is si si pueda showing the profound change in the state's US Census in 2010. It was good that Milwaukee maintained its population and nice that Waukesha County grew closer to half the population size of its Milwaukee neighbor.

But the real change is the remarkable 6% state growth in the Latino population - an increase in many areas of the state but creating a major election force to tap throughout the city of Milwaukee, where one-sixth of the population -- more than 100,000 --

**Latinos** continued Page 8

# League celebrates, returns

## Golf

By Richard Lansing  
Special for Labor Press

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council Senior Golf League held their annual awards banquet on October 23, 2011, at the Meyers banquet facility. There were 150 league members and guests attending to celebrate the 2011 golf year.

The Senior Golf League is one of the few golf leagues in Wisconsin dedicated to union members only, including retirees, and union sponsorship.

The League has 110 members ranging in age from 55 to 98 years of age. Its purpose is twofold; fun for seniors and keeping the spirit of the union alive.

Every guest and member received a prize at the banquet, all of which were donated by various unions and individuals. The league was divided into four flights and each winning league member received a trophy.

The following are the winners of the four flights:

Flight	Name	Gross	Net
1	Lee Bailey	72.27	
1	Steve Vogt		63.95
2	Hunse Schmit	85.20	
2	Dale Scholl		65.65
3	Ed Brotzel	91.25	
3	Harvey Nigbur		66.62
4	Herb Dahm	94.50	
4	Carl Schultz		67.41

Additionally, the league for the first time in its 32 year history awarded a Golfer of the Year Award.

The winner of this prestigious title was Ed Zganjar, a member of Iron Workers Local 8. Ed is 94 years of age and has been a league member for thirty years.

Ed's average for 2011 was 85 with a low score of 81. This is really terrific scoring at the age of 94.

The officers of the league deserve gratitude for their dedication.

They are Lee Bailey, vice president, and Bruce Johnson, secretary-treasurer. Also, many thanks to those who helped run the blind bogey and scoring table; Frank Kuchler, Ron Zych

**RIGHT:** In a first-time-ever honor, league president Richard Lansing at right presented the Golfer of the Year Award to Ed Zganjar, during the special banquet held yearly for participants.

**The League will start play on May 7, 2012. Any retired union member who would like to be a league member should contact Richard Lansing through the labor council office, at 414-771-7070.**

and Russ Baumler.

*The reporter is president for the league.*



## Calendar

Visit [www.milwaukeeelabor.org](http://www.milwaukeeelabor.org) for updated events

**Saturday, January 28**  
IAMAW Installation Dinner  
Annual Gala for District 10 Lodges  
Wyndham Airport Hotel

**Wednesday, February 2**  
Monthly Delegate Meeting  
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

**Tuesday, February 21**  
Primary Election  
Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 29**  
Executive Council Meeting  
2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

**Wednesday, March 7**  
Monthly Delegate Meeting  
Post-Primary COPE Additions  
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.



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# 9 to 5 first to complain about Gableman's secret

That breach of ethics by Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman -- accepting free legal advice from a law firm whose clients he later supported -- injured many plaintiffs as well as outraging the judicial system. But the first to go to court against him is Milwaukee's 9to5, whose injury was to see the voice of a vast majority of voters muffled by Gableman's hidden activity.

On January 6, outraged by revelations that Gableman received free legal services from the same law firm that got his vote on the high court arguing against the will of Milwaukee voters on paid sick days, 9to5 Milwaukee filed a complaint with the Government Accountability Board alleging he violated the state code of ethics. The complaint seeks a full investigation, civil penalties and referral for criminal prosecution.

"Justice Gableman has compromised the trust of the Wisconsinites he was elected to serve," said Dana Schultz, the director of 9to5 Milwaukee, National Association of Working Women. 9to5 led a large and diverse coalition to successfully pass a Milwaukee referendum in 2008 enacting a Paid Sick Leave Ordinance.

But shortly after 68% of Milwaukee voters passed that ordinance in 2008, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC), represented by Michael Best & Friedrich, filed an injunction on the new law.

When that case was kicked up to the Supreme Court in October 2010, Gableman voted in favor of MMAC, an action that caused a deadlock on the court (tie vote) and returned the case to an appeals court, which



Members of 9to5 led by Dana Schultz (right) packed the Milwaukee Courthouse for hearing after hearing begging courts to reaffirm the will of the voters on paid sick days -- and just recently discovered that something of a Supreme fix was in.

actually upheld the law.

But the delay allowed the new GOP legislature to step in and pass a law forbidding municipalities to do better on paid sick leave than existing minimal state law.

Unknown to 9to5, between July of 2008 and June of 2010, Gableman accepted free legal services from Michael Best & Friedrich to defend himself against charges of misconduct by the Judicial Commission and before the Supreme Court. During that time he voted on cases where the law firm was involved, most often on the winning side.

Had it known, the complaint outlines, it could have asked Gableman to recuse himself and then would actually have won the Supreme Court vote, allowing speedy implementation of the Milwaukee voters' decision before the legislature took it all away.

"By not disclosing this valuable gift and by not recusing himself from the decision on sick leave, Justice Gableman undermined the ability of voters of Milwaukee to receive a fair and impartial hearing before the court," the complaint says.

Supporting 9to5 in a letter to the GAB, noted judicial expert William Hodes noted: "It is hard not to see the fee agreement between Justice Gableman and the Michael Best & Friedrich

firm as a thinly disguised gift," demanding legal remedy.

Within days of 9to5's complaint, groups having lawsuits before the Wisconsin Supreme Court -- where their opponents are represented by Michael Best & Friedrich -- demanded that Gableman recuse himself. If he does once, as legal experts are advising he should, the next question becomes how retroactive is the violation.

Beyond that, an effort to in effect impeach Gableman under the law - two-thirds vote of the legislature - has been introduced by Democrat Rep. Helen Kelda Roys. It is both unprecedented since the 19th century and likely to fail given the GOP majority has relied on Gableman's sympathetic votes, but more than a political stunt even though Roys is running to replace Tammy Baldwin in the US Congress.

It was clearly required as an act of conscience, Roys said. "Were it not for the seriousness of the misconduct, I would not be taking this step."

-- Dominique Paul Noth

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# Labor aids United Way success, but danger signs lurk

By **Dominique Paul Noth**  
Labor Press Editor

On December 13 United Way celebrated some news that frankly astonished Greater Milwaukee, given how severely economic belt-tightening and fiscal tempests have dominated the local news.

Oh yes, things are getting better nationally but Wisconsin for the past year has seemed a particularly devastating environment for a community fund that relies on the working class even more than the generous gifts of corporate executives.

So the astonishment came in United Way's bold decision not to retreat but to raise the goal of its community campaign and in December it exceeded that goal by \$2 million with a record \$50 million raised. It was quite a feat, with warning that it still might not be enough to provide diverse services to the 400,000 people the 80 plus agencies expect to need help in 2012. But it was a testament to the giving heart of the well-to-do and the have-little of the entire community.

Such nonpartisan caring may be under threat in 2012 despite the 2011 results, though to this point Madison shenanigans have not strongly stepped in to the giving principle.

To be fair, giving was also reflected by some of the firms making money off those Madison shenanigans. The law firm Michael Best & Friedrich, much in the news for gaining fees from the GOP legislature while providing free legal services to Justice Michael

Gableman, increased employee giving by 18%. Some would interpret that as remorse, but they have to acknowledge that many companies regardless of politics understood the need and reached deep in 2011 among both executives and the lower-paid staff.

## Public unions hurting so private ones step up

But so, it must be added, did the organized labor community, despite more damaged coffers. Unions have long been a key component since statistics again reveal that regular workers give more to the campaign.

But here comes the caveat. Several public sector unions, those who lost full bargaining rights under Act 10 and are now forced to pay more for health and pension benefits, failed to increase their giving.

The reasons are painfully clear, as typified by one St. Francis based custodial worker I came across during interviews. With an invalid wife and two children, and making only \$22,000 a year as a custodian, he nevertheless found a way to give hundreds of dollars a year to United Way. Now Act 10 without gradation for his low income is cutting about \$4,000 a year from his take-home. He can continue to squeeze down on food, medicine and entertainment but starting in April, he told me, he eliminated United Way. (Ironically, he feels guilty.)

Recognizing how public workers are under attack, private sector unions and coalitions of public and private unions put out

## Comment

to more than make up the difference for United Way, as the results prove. The state AFL-CIO increased its giving by more than 31% while another coalition of all unions, this newspaper's own Milwaukee Area Labor Council, also went over the top. Affiliates such as the Coalition of Black Trade Unions (CBTU) and UAW Brewery Workers Local 9 gave 100% more than before,

Going up 25% were AFGE Local 3 (American Federation of Government Employees) and the United Steelworkers (USW), while the food and commercial workers union UFCW increased its giving by 131%. And on and on.

Full disclosure. Three AFL-CIO field liaison workers run by the MALC are detached for much of their time to promote workplace giving and other United Way initiatives. The \$2 million over the goal suggests how effective they have been in hard times.

Still, the behavior of businesses toward their workers and the tactics in Madison are clearly having an impact on even efforts such as United Way that should transcend politics. But United Way can't transcend reality. Several of its own leaders worry about how the ever growing need for services in the community, combined with shrinking billfolds, will affect 2012.

For one thing, while some conservatives may crow that public union workers no longer can pay dues on their paychecks and unions are struggling to maintain memberships, they

haven't considered how many who used to give to the United Way have now become clients of the United Way --- and how, shortly down the road, that could impact taxpayers.

Another of their worries: United Way has smartly attacked the root causes of poverty and social failings in its programs, rather than just the costly results, but that change is harder to explain in practical terms to a public worried about how to care for their own families.

Now the rumbles in the working class are directly impacting United Way's traditional methods of giving at the office.

## Guild dumps JS as way to give

A clear example is what happened at Journal Communications, where the Milwaukee Newspaper Guild (Local 51) made it crystal clear that it admires and supports United Way but will no longer participate in the newspaper's workplace giving program operated by management.

Of course, you did not read about this in the Journal Sentinel. Executive involvement sends managers to each desk to ask contributions (I know, I worked at the Milwaukee Journal until my voluntary departure in 1995). It still raises money with other unions and in other departments -- but no longer the guild in the newsroom, where one-third of the members were cut in 2009 and several dozen let go in 2011, some forced out when they didn't take buyouts.

This is turning a union created in 1984, when it had militant leaders and a hot issue in the treatment of part-timers, back

toward aggressive tactics.

The newsroom has shrunk drastically in the last few years as the company has larded hefty bonuses on its executives despite shrinking media numbers. The company, insiders say, has denied journalist raises for three years and is now attacking severance agreements. It has also reduced the professional input of the staff about story issues while elevating the control of the managers over a far smaller number of reporters. (Something else the public is not told.)

On January 4, a pay wall went up for extensive online users. Print circulation has shrunk along with staffing. Journalists are now raising not just the economic issues, but their professional concerns and the gaps in coverage and balance created by not listening to them.

In that environment, the guild is now offering alternative ways to contribute to United Way and raised several thousand dollars in that manner while bringing in fresh blood -- journalist who had been so angry at the company that they refused to give through the old system.

Pressroom Confidential - the popular Milwaukee magazine column -- flat-out called it a boycott, of the company, not of United Way.

The guild's move is a sign that workers who support the United Way may start seeking other ways to give than through the standard corporate system -- if the corporation has a reputation of disrespecting its employees. That could force some policy re-examination at this beacon of community cooperation.

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# Look who's a shoo-in!

You can't call her Justice but you can start calling her Judge. JoAnne Kloppenburg just enjoyed an exhilarating turnaround in 2012 from the vilification she suffered at right-wing hands when she ran against incumbent David Prosser for the Wisconsin Supreme Court last spring.

Then, out of nowhere, she seemed to surge to a winning margin and followed the advice given to candidates of both parties to claim victory when the vote count puts you ahead, which it did.

Two weird days of delay later, the blow from nowhere landed when the "lost votes" of Waukesha County surfaced, some 7,500 of them, enough to put Prosser in the lead.

Then came weeks of necessary but ultimately unsuccessful re-counting amid media reports from the right-wing demonizing the assistant attorney general (under administrations of both parties!) as the creature from the deep left. Meanwhile, Prosser's behavior toward women on the court, accompa-



JoAnne Kloppenburg

nied by health issues, kept his actual behavior in the headlines.

Where did all that hatred for Kloppenburg go?

Common sense seems to have resurfaced in Wisconsin within a few short months. In January Kloppenburg turned in three times the nomination signatures needed for the important Wisconsin Court of Appeals covering a fourth of the state, District 4, covering 24 counties in southwest Wisconsin that went strongly for her during the Prosser battle. She was unopposed in this contest and is expected to take her seat on the appeals court after sailing through in the April 3 election.

# Waste, fraud and ploys

An angry state senator, with an analysis supported by Democratic colleagues in the Assembly, pointed out January 12 that Wisconsin's divisive governor seems incapable of cooperating with others even on ways of saving the state money.

Wrote Milwaukee Sen. Chris Larson in part: "Governor Walker proved once again that he cannot work together with others on such bipartisan issues as finding savings for Wisconsin taxpayers. The supposedly bipartisan Waste, Fraud and Abuse Commission was scheduled to release a report detailing additional savings at the end of the year. Unfortunately, this commission became little more than a political propaganda ploy.

"The Commission rarely met, chose to ignore members of the minority party, avoided important subject matter, and denied members the opportunity to vote on or approve the final report it produced."

Walker derived his commission from a campaign pledge to find \$300 million in waste, fraud and abuse in state government and created it by executive order last January.

Even without Larson's analysis, there was a lot to poke fun at in the resulting report, which



An alternative but detailed attack on government waste has been produced by Milwaukee State Sen. Chris Larson (above) and Rep. Mark Pocan. It is a pointed retort to Walker's much publicized and much padded political release.

was clearly stretched to reach 147 pages. Many of those pages were charts, graphs and photos culled from other state departments and much of the writing was around the reasons to attack wasted as opposed to actual ideas.

It brought to journalists' minds how Walker as Milwaukee executive had his aides publish reports in larger than normal fonts and spacing to make them

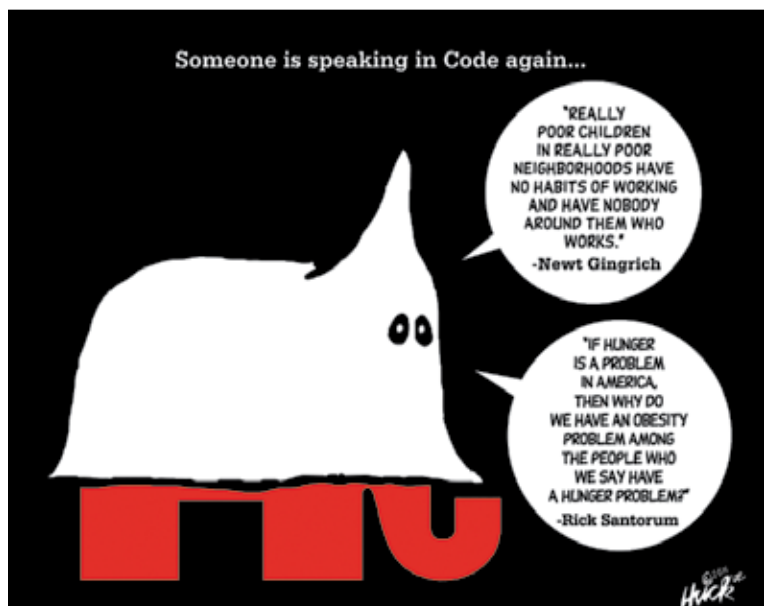
look more intimidating. The focus on identifying new savings "was a failure," said Larson, instead taking "credit for savings the state has nothing to do with or savings already accounted for from previous actions of state government."

In response to the Walker report, the minority Democrats on the commission "offered an honest, straight-forward alternative that does not take credit for previous state government action, future federal action or budgeting gimmicks. The alternative plan contains potential savings of hundreds of millions of dollars each biennium." It was supported by testimony. It was also more to the point and specific.

"Unfortunately, the governor continues to restrict local government from working together on such simple things as filling potholes," noted Larson. "The governor also chose to ignore his own report by refusing to fill staff positions dedicated to catching corporate tax cheats.

"Finding savings and efficiencies in government is something that we can all agree is necessary. There is no reason for Governor Walker to turn such important efforts into a political game."

-- Dominique Paul Noth



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**Notable connections:** Current state AFL-CIO president Phil Neuenfeldt chats with Wis Laborers' president John Schmitt (above) at MALC's open house while at the building trades party the senior John Schmitt, 91, greeted many old friends. He was state AFL-CIO president until 1986 and the other Schmitt is his son. **Below,** another former state AFL-CIO president, David Newby, chatted with AFSCME 48 director Richard Abelson.



# Labor always parties hearty

Camaraderie, political drop-ins and oodles of food attracted our camera at holiday parties. The labor council open house (right) was packed, but AFL-CIO pals Mike Balistriere and Annie Wacker found time to surprise Emerge Wisconsin's Wendy Strout with 40th birthday balloons (below). The nurses' party found state senator Chris Larson and county supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic chatting with host Candice Owley (bottom).



Judicial faces abounded at the open house from Judge Rebecca Dallet to would-be judge Chris Lipscomb (below) running in the only circuit court primary.



Longtime union friends Bev Ayers and Laurie Onasch shared a hug while AJ Cochran (Sheila's husband) shared a conversation (below).



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# In Recall finale, democracy looks like a million!

By **Dominique Paul Noth**  
Labor Press Editor

The numbers are staggering -- 1 million and still counting. Some duplicates surely. But all recalls succeeded -- pouring more than 1,932,000 signatures into the Government Accountability Board on January 17 via trucks, tons of petitions and hundreds of the thousands of determined volunteers who tramped neighborhoods in every county in the face of derision, doubt and anger from a dwindling coterie of Scott Walker believers.

Factually, the signatures reflect about as many citizens as voted in 2010 for his Democratic opponent, Tom Barrett, and within 125,000 of all who voted for Walker.

The results are particularly overwhelming when you realize that the highly publicized GOP intention to scrutinize and record every name on the petitions was a warning to even disgruntled Republicans not to sign -- for fear of being drummed out of the party or getting midnight calls from right-wing neighbors.

These numbers are a death knell for Governor Walker -- if the people hang together around any candidate but that missing village idiot from Texas.

Wisconsin fury didn't cause a hiccup in the well-heeled Walker spin machine. It stubbornly kept regurgitating the fibs he lives on, relying on the media not to question his whoppers.

Gone, you would have thought, should be the claim that only unions oppose him, since three times as many citizens as there are union members signed up against him (and that was even without those cowed Republicans).

A quirk in state law allows Walker to raise unlimited funds until an election is called, another invitation to delay and obfuscate in endless commercials about how what's not working is working.

He has to hope his millions of dollars will counter the grassroots million. The race is on. Will money really equal free speech in this contest?

"He has the dollars, we have the voters," commented Democratic state Sen. Lena



As landmark petitions were delivered in Madison January 17, an echo celebration took place on State St. in front of Milwaukee's MATC.



Taylor. But his exaggerations keep coming even as the Democratic Party points out that an election could be decreed the minute the minimum of 540,208 is confirmed by the GAB.

There are surely duplicate signatures and I wouldn't be surprised if they don't total a couple of thousand despite the heroic efforts of the recall gatherers to clean the incoming deluge as they went along. But it was caused mainly by Walker goons who tore up petitions in the early days, created fake turn-in squads and otherwise made citizens worry that their first tries had been trashed. Expect fear and misdirection to continue as a key Walker tactic.

Every recall is home free with plenty of ammo to spare. There are more than 845,000 against the lieutenant governor, Rebecca Kleefisch, dragged into office along with Walker. All targeted GOP state senators face recalls -- thousands above the minimum needed: Scott Fitzgerald 20,600 (needed 16,742); Terry Moulton 21,000 (14,958); Pam Galloway 21,000 (15,647), and Racine's Van Wanggaard 24,000 (15,353).

More GOP whining: The cost! Oh Lord, the cost! Little cost so far since it was all volunteers, but oh, what awaits the taxpayers!

The recall backers retorted quickly to that canard, pointing out it would take more than seven recall elections to equal Walker's tax increase on seniors and working families., more than 11 recalls to equal the tuition hike Walker foisted on the UW System students and families, and 255 recall elections to



match the \$2.3 billion in tax giveaways to out-of-state corporations and the super-rich.

Frankly, if the GAB estimate of \$9 million is right, what a bargain for a state now bringing up the rear in job numbers!

Yes, the Chicago Tribune does point out that "Democrats have been as quick to inflate the magnitude of job stagnation" even "as Walker has been quick to paint an unduly rosy portrait."

What do the economists say? If you look at the extent of his policies and the hard facts, "The Democrats win the fact-checking argument."

Except at those newspapers that editorially backed Walker and went on record questioning the validity of the recall process. They still run front-page photos of the hundreds standing behind him compared to the million that signed papers against him. Their fact checks are reduced to attacking Tweets and Democratic Party press releases since so little of the economic news is on his side.

Walker campaigns on the fumes of myth. One is that his backers sat for months during the recall unable to speak up for him. Actually his minions have been scampering tirelessly to

chill the recall, clamping down within the GOP, demeaning the grassroots opponents as union clones, passing laws to handcuff the movement, trying to stick the taxpayers with millions in legal fees spent to defend their position and policies.

The decision that the people hired by Walker's hand-picked temp agencies at the GAB cannot have signed a petition if they want a job may fly in the race of how we choose jurors and trust citizens to do their duty and follow the law. The theory is that all the routinely hired Walker backers can do is challenge every signature in sight, just making more work for the professional GAB staff.

Except it is the GOP legislature that controls the GAB purse strings in time and manpower - and expect them to turn into Scrooges.

Another media myth: Since the signatures are in, the election is imminent. Not so. There are likely months of counting and GOP

manufactured delays ahead to give Walker more time to raise money. Think six months down the road. (State senate recalls will happen faster if the Democrats get their way in court.)

But the biggest distraction in news stories is that it is all for nothing since it's undecided who will run against Walker. Who, the media asks, will appeal to the independents and moderates as well as progressives? (But all signed the petitions as the media is about to learn - just look inside those numbers!)

Usually political parties move to the backroom to pick their candidate, but no one faction is in charge here. The recall people sound open to a primary to sort it out. The numbers suggest that whoever emerges will have unified backing.

Walker's bigger problem is in his own camp, where rumbles have emerged that he could face a primary of his own, and not against "fake Republicans."

The analogy is that the Republican Party is like the owner of the lavish Italian cruise line who quickly threw the captain overboard when he disobeyed authority, took his ship onto the rocks, capsized it and cost lives as well as profits.

Minus the direct deaths, the state GOP is facing a similar disaster unless they find a more intelligent standard bearer. It will be hard, one veteran party leader told me, given the outside right-wing money and organization Walker has, but it's necessary -- "If anyone has the cojones to save us."

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# Latinos

From Page 1

has Latino roots.

The hard numbers: blacks make up 39% of Milwaukee's population, whites 37% and Hispanics 17.3%, according to experts, but even more significant if you look back over a decade, there has been a 74% increase in the state's "Hispanic population," as the US Census analysts like to call it.

You can already hear that particularly bigoted breed of Charlie Sykes and CRG conservatives scoff that all this has to be the "illegals" taking those valuable jobs of cleaning out cesspools or picking corn that whites born here must surely be clamoring for.

But the census reality is quite different - and so, frankly, is the worker vitality of Latinos in this state. A remarkable percentage of the growth is full US citizens - business owners, plant workers, housewives, production experts, entrepreneurs, legalized here or born here. A number of children born in this county have now reached voting age.

The numbers have already turned one Milwaukee school district into a Latino majority, added a second Latino majority county supervisory seat (all these to the enthusiasm of elected officials involved) and added a second Latino Common Council district, to far less enthusiasm -- in fact, disgust -- from incumbent conservative Ald. Bob Donovan. Labor has already endorsed one of several of his Latino opponents, Jennifer Morales.

(The other threatened incumbent, Jim Witkowiak, has survived challenges before in a long Hispanic dominated district and is something of a master at playing the politics of the disinterested to his advantage, a reality evidenced by his maneuvers to face two Latinos in the primary, resurrecting the presence of Angel Sanchez, But that game could well backfire given the enthusiasm and clear demand for action and change from his main opponent, Jose Perez, now endorsed by organized labor.)

But Latino growth does not automatically mean Latino turnout at the polls. In fact, this is the large unknown of the upcoming elections - will the fact that Latinos in numbers can make a difference turn around their historically dismal turnout?

That failure is reflected in the long record in districts where they hold a majority (even more where they are a growing minority) and even when they elect one of their own. Zamariippa, the lone Latina in the state legislature from an 8th Assembly District long dominated by Latino voters, recalls how few turned out for her in the 2010 primary -- 755 voters. Even



For years it has been mainly the May Day marches that revealed the extent of young and old activism in the Latino community, but now that the census confirms the incredible growth of that population, the potential to change the balance at the polls is inspiring non-stop fundraisers and political events on the South Side. A recent one attracted (from left) Voces activist Jesus Salas, Rep. Tammy Baldwin, running for Kohl's US Senate seat, and state Rep. JoCasta Zamariippa.

counting all the Latino candidates in the field, the turnout was one-fifth that in neighboring districts, a margin that continued in comparing results in the November finale. Supervisor Peggy Romo West, also a Latino from a district where Latinos rule, can point to similar dismal numbers.

There are many factors working to maintain the lazy status quo. Some are built in cultural differences and some, more than ever, are being deliberately kicked up by radio fervor and Republicans who fear the inevitable course of history. That history has already overtaken the state's economic engine, the city, where whites are outnumbered more than two to one. Census realities suggest that within two decades whites will be a minority across the country. Yet while most citizens accept the inevitable, there are others who fear and oppose. They may lack the white robes of the past, but the tactics are often similar.

But that is a pundit's observation. The reality is that Latinos have long been their own worst enemy at the ballot box because of cultural differences and the lack of understanding and heritage of how vital voting should be in this society. They have the numbers to change that but many doubt they have the capacity to do it.

Not Voces. The workers rights group has been working hard building the power of numbers and human rights -- and engaging Latinos in understanding the slow but steady possibilities of the vote. Its success in the Recall Walker movement proves that democratic ferocity is working and likely to pay dividends in the February primary and the April nonpartisan elec-



tion, clearing looking forward to the inevitable recall race involving the governor and the presidential race in November.

Still, interviews with Voces members, politicians, ministers, community prosecutors and others reveal a lot of reasons for continued caution in the Latino community.

Part of it, one minister, told me is language. Many genuine citizens are still more comfortable in the childhood tongue, Spanish, and embarrassed when challenged at community events (and polling places) about their halting ability in English and preference to lapse into Spanish. It was not always thus (it was common a century ago to find contracts written in German as well as English). And yes, it is ironic that people who barely speak one language humiliate people who get by in two.

Deeper than language concerns, another pastor added, is religion, and he is well aware how many Latinos have moved from Catholicism to more evangelical forms of Protestantism. But he notes a difference. "To the Latino community, religion is a deep and personal family thing, not a political issue," he said. "What God wills is to be accepted. Prayer is the outlet, not voting."

It's a distinct difference. White conservative evangelicals almost fume to impose their faith beliefs at the ballot box, making political action a central expression and condemning those who don't wave their religion in front of politicians. This is foreign behavior to many devoutly religious in the Latino community. They believe. They trust. They know, and they fight to keep their souls intact, not require the government to do that

for them.

That's why many misread the natural conservatism of the Latino community as an invitation to right-wing policy. To conservative Latinos we spoke to, very concerned about economic policy and not always supportive of progressive actions, they still are not about to abandon belief in immigration reform and equitable pay, and the need for corporations to pay up. They support the Dream Act, opposing the attack on those who came to this country for jobs.

If anything the efforts of Republicans to recruit them are driving them toward Democrats at the ballot box. The clowns the conservative GOP keeps elevating as their leaders only confirm their innate hostility.

But still, those interviewed emphasized, Latinos do not vote as a bloc the way many assume African Americans do. And they continue an abiding distrust of getting too active in government. This may be particularly true among the poor, the disabled, the struggling families who associate involvement with authorities as an invitation to trouble even when they have done nothing or little wrong. "When you are poor, the authorities are more likely to harm that do good," one mother told me as she prepared food for a church event.

Neumann-Ortiz, who has had great success with motivating poorer families and blended families (a mixture of US citizens and those without documents) into political involvement, still sees the caution at work. It has protected Latinos from the dominant white culture.

Aware of those realities and the new census numbers, you would think the GOP and more

conservative forces would push for intelligent immigration reform, less emphasis on useless electrified border fences, more support of paths to citizenship and raising state revenue by allowing in-state tuition for the children of illegal immigrants carried over the border when they were infants.

Instead they are trusting in the lack of interest. They may also be quietly pushing it. Even law enforcement officials see more chill given the rhetoric on radio, the FOX anchorites and especially the Voter ID bill. The law may not be targeted directly at Latinos, just making voting more difficult for minorities, elderly, disabled and students in general, but some of its conditions are seen in Latino communities as aimed directly at them, warning families that ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is around the corner.

That stems from the requirement of showing state photo IDs or driver's licenses and then signing a book at the polls. Many US citizens are also part of blended families, with a spouse or a relative not documented. Some tell me this Voter ID requirement is another way for Republicans to peek into their households, no matter how election officials assure them it's not. It's not as if there is no basis in this partisan environment for such fears.

The natural reluctance even if you are legal (because you know someone who isn't or whites assume you do) to stay out of the public eye now extends to voting activity.

Community prosecutors and even Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm openly express worries about the effects of presumed or real suppression on the Latino community. It makes their work harder.

"If someone who happens to be illegal is raped, I want to know about it, I want her to feel comfortable talking to the authorities and getting the criminal off the street," said Chisholm. "Good law enforcement relies on people being free to come forward, to trust their elected officials."

But all these efforts to drop gates of fear between the Latino population, legal and otherwise, and the rest of the community are making openness double hard. Add in the ugly attitudes the Latinos hear around them. To Chisholm and others in law enforcement, the main concern is those attitudes will drive up crime and prevent full disclosure. To political activists, the same attitudes rub things raw at the voting booth.

It remains to be seen whether the larger Latino population will overcome its natural caution and the artificial constraints imposed by a sometime virulent white minority. If they can, they can quiet the opponents through remarkable new clout at the ballot box.



# COPE

From Page 1

tion -- **Tracey Corder**, a social worker and specialist in helping juveniles.

For now, COPE is staying away in the busy primary to replace retiring Lynne de Bruin in County District 15 though there clearly was interest in two of the candidates there who went through the interviews. They are David Cullen, a long-time Democrat in the Assembly who fears that the pending GOP redistricting will make his old seat too red for him to survive next November (it also overlap 45% the county district he belatedly stepped into) and Dan Cody, an active Democrat and parks and transit figure who has knocked on 5,000 doors to make his views of the issues known.

The seven-member field running to replace Lee Holloway in District 5 included several impressive candidates, even as new borders spread the district. But what borders! And what an enormous field! The race has drawn names with many family and social connections. Most of the candidates came in for interviews, including current school board member Peter Blewett, Chevy Johnson, Roy Evans, Russell Stamper II and Priscilla Cogg-Jones.

COPE decided to hold off until after the primary when both county Districts 5 and 15 will reduce to two candidates each.

COPE interviewed both Thomas and deputy comptroller Martin Matson vying for the city comptroller seat vacated by Wally Morics, but COPE declined to endorse either.

It then defied political expectations by stepping into a brand new elected office, one imposed by the legislature in Madison - an elected county comptroller.

This countywide race was interpreted by many liberals as yet another divisive Madison action, though some Democrats and unions supported the concept. But right now few trust the motives of the Madison legislature and there was widespread suspicion that this was just a stalking horse for the business community to start dismantling local government control.

So it was a surprise when the unions started examining the field for a "nose to the grind-



**Jose Perez**  
City District 12  
Feb. 21 primary

stone" fiscal type concerned about financial accuracy and independent watchdog role, willing to give good advice without a partisan viewpoint.

It may have found one in a reluctant candidate who had originally opposed the law - the existing appointed county comptroller, who told COPE the job would still depend on being accurate with the numbers and responsive to his own conscience, not to political maneuvering. With that statement, **Scott Manske** was recommended and won endorsement in the general election (a primary was avoided).

Looking at a crowded race for city treasurer among four known candidates with labor credentials, COPE decided to wait until after the primary to recommend a replacement for retired Wayne Whittow. The competitors are former state treasurer Dawn Marie Sass, socialist Rick Kissell and two state senators, Tim Carpenter and Spencer Coggs.

After interviews in several Common Council races COPE did enthusiastically endorse incumbent **Millele Coggs** (District 8), back **Michael Murphy** (District 10) and support **Tony Zielinski** (District 14).

Of the incumbent county supervisors, COPE strongly endorsed **Marina Dimitrijevic**, **Theo Lipscomb**, **Peggy Romo West**, **John Weishan** and two newcomers who made time to answer questions though they couldn't go through interviews, **Jason Haas** and **Nikiya Harris**. (Weishan, Haas and Harris have no April 3 opponents.)

Many other elected officials were not even being considered since it is a COPE condition that they must complete the questionnaires in timely fashion. Thus several aldermen and supervisors were not in the wheelhouse and nothing negative should be read into their absence.

That however was not universally the case, since some negatives could legitimately be guessed elsewhere. For instance, it was new County Executive Chris Abele's deliberate decision to stay away from the process, another case of emulating predecessor Scott Walker. Since several of his policies have been interpreted by the workers and several supervisors as a Walker echo, this was probably a smart



**Ray Harmon**  
City District 9  
April 3 election

move. Many COPE members interviewed doubted he would have ever won their backing, though his wealth assured he would be unopposed.

COPE also looked at the judicial contests and had one easy road when assistant DA



**Mark Sanders**  
Judge Branch 28  
Unopposed April 3

for Milwaukee County Circuit Court Branch 28, so he will replace retiring Tom Cooper after April 3. Despite that inevitability, the delegates January 11 gave him their endorsement and he came by after the meeting to thank them again.

Because of technical concerns, the labor council did not act, but still might, on the one judicial primary race. It's Milwaukee Branch 17 among an incumbent appointed by Gov. Walker, Nelson Phillips III, and two opponents with judicial credentials of their own - Glendale municipal judge Chris Lipscomb and Carolina Stark, an administrative law judge for the state's DWD.

COPE did make a strong choice between two respected lawyers running for open Branch 23 of Milwaukee Circuit Court, choosing the more deeply experienced **Hannah Dugan** over Lindsey Grady, who also has local Democratic backing. But Dugan gave the more impressive interview, COPE members said.

COPE seems willing to step out when a more progressive voice emerges. from anywhere.

Organized labor - from national AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka down -- means it. Lip service and past practice won't do it anymore. Putting labor money and street power in a race will be about performance on working family issues.

Organized labor has also heard the chatter about how unions are on the wane, which makes it doubly curious how many politicians are still seeking to harness labor's effective get-



**David Bowen**  
County District 10  
Feb. 21 primary

out-the-vote results and outsized union presence at the polls. The council, for instance, radiates out from some 130 locals and affiliates with 45,000 public and private members.

But no question. Walker's Act 10 has emasculated basic rights and caused genuine hardship. No wonder MALC is reflecting no patience for Democrats who moan about how much Walker's ascendance is costing them, without reflecting more deeply on their own behavior before they lost power. "If you want to look at a year of horror," Cochran reminded the delegates January 11, "look at what organized labor has gone through!"

"Decades of carefully worked out collective bargaining drained away. Grievance procedures, arbitration rules, created over time with great care and balance -- wiped out with a single stroke of the pen in Madison. That was not to save money but because they think we will let them get away with it."

Those once supported officials "who complain about what happened and how much it has cost them still have their jobs and their campaign war chests," she noted. "We have family, members who don't have jobs or know where that next meal is coming from or how to pay the dentist. We don't have any chance at fairness in the workplace. So don't come crying on our shoulder about how tough you have it."

Cochran's litany drew the sustained applause of recognition because it outlined why unions intend to be taken seriously, backing only those now and next fall who give heart as well as lip to fundamental concerns, to job creation, to financial equity. The COPE decisions actually signal a more aggressive seeking out of alliances and candidates who share labor's core principles. It came on the eve of a devastating unassailable number of signatures to recall Scott Walker.

There is some risk in labor's attitude. Hines, for instance, was a contest that could have been ignored without consequence. But COPE decided to enter the fray. Even Cochran, an active supporter of Biddle, noted to friends that standing aside would have been politically expedient.

Biddle was once an SEIU organizer and had a safe seat on



**Tracey Corder**  
County District 18  
April 3 election

the county board. So some in the media will interpret backing him as labor supporting one of its own, ignoring how COPE simultaneously passed up several other candidates with union credentials. Some in politics also openly speculated to Cochran's amusement that she "must be related to him" (she's not) to get so strongly involved in unpaid support of his campaign, but that also misreads the motives.

She is known for political involvement but as a common sense no-nonsense "back to the basics" adviser. She clearly admires



**Hannah Dugan**  
Judge Branch 23  
April 3 election

Biddle's convictions, warns him about getting too wordy and first encouraged him to play it safe and stay at the county because Hines is established, comes from in influential family, plays footsies with both the business community and the established but cautious Democratic powers.

What convinced her, she told friends at a recent Martin Luther King event, was walking the streets where she was raised and that Hines represents.

"It looks like crap now compared to then" she said. She does not blame Hines personally for all the broken windows and boarded homes, the children walking door to door begging for running water -- "like some forgotten Third World country" -- the pervasive endemic unemployment, the palpable despair.

"But where has Hines been?" she asked. "And aren't these the conditions an alderman has to be taking on?"

"Win or lose," said Biddle in interviews, "I have to run for those people," and he faults Hines in his campaign speeches for paying more attention to "getting by" and meeting with developers rather than caring for and working down on the street level.

If nothing else, this race will make a media and campaign issue of the conditions in the inner city.



**Scott Manske**  
County Comptroller  
April 3 election

# John Doe landing punches on ugly Walker methods

By **Dominique Paul Noth**  
Labor Press Editor

The John Doe probe into Scott Walker has already unraveled his carefully crafted self-image while exposing his tendency toward cozy sycophantic hires.

Right now the probe focuses on past behavior as Milwaukee county executive but the unfolding investigation threatens to peek into his Wisconsin climb to governorship.

The details already demonstrate that Walker dodged best practices in the simple responsibility of supervising donated money -- taking shortcuts just to further his own flag-waving image as a friend of soldiers even if it exposed to fraud thousands of dollars intended for deceased veterans and their children. He rebuffed simple control guidelines urged by many experienced county hands.

Government money at the county these days is carefully scrutinized and audited, so the tip-off for the public is how often Walker seeks out contributions from private companies, community organizations and charities. Ostensibly that reflects a philosophy about private giving but it also opens the door to far less scrutiny, manipulation and more opportunity for corruption, particularly by a major figure the conservative community regards as a mini-deity.

The fraud according to the indictments was carried out by close aides, appointee Kevin Kavanaugh and longtime crony Tim Russell who also dipped into campaign funds of those running for county office and financed exotic vacations with the thefts.

Also charged in what apparently was accidentally uncovered by the probe was the curious case of child enticement against Russell's domestic partner, Brian Pierick, who is pleading not guilty. Some media reports have erroneously described this as a pedophilia case but that involves pre-puberty. Here the strange

story unfolding in the complaints involves a then 17-year-old Waukesha youth seeking "man to man" sex who got involved in lengthy email exchange involving Pierick's cell and a bizarre screen name, "Walker04," that has raised speculation about who the adolescent thought he was trying to meet.

Pierick is Russell's business as well as domestic partner. Kavanaugh, who allegedly stole the most money from a fund intended for children, was appointed by Walker later to the county veterans service board.

Walker cunningly can buffer himself from charges but not from methods. Supporters can again claim that it was out-of-control assistants -- one a close friend for a decade whose scheme he even co-signed -- who were the alleged villains, ducking the question of who hired them in the first place and why he kept elevating them against advice.

Politicians know the game -- just blame those flawed associates. They can be thrown to the wolves should any effort be made to link Walker to emerging fraud and loose fingers.

The John Doe probe reveals how carelessness stalks Walker's decisions. Media still tries to portray him as a "gifted but flawed leader" but they misread basic character weaknesses. He constantly tries to fill his campaign coffers alongside his conservative reputation, with disastrous results.

This combination leads him again and again to horribly bad judgment about advisers and aides, who he then keeps trying to elevate to more important and damaging positions.

Investigators were not looking at politics but at crimes against the public. They keep unintentionally exposing an ideological charade.

When Supervisor John Weishan, a Marine, complained several years ago that Walker was engaged in self-aggrandizement, shutting out the America

## Analysis

Legion and the County Board and insisting on creating his own charity along with Russell for veterans, Weishan was hooted down as just another liberal politician opposed to Walker's right-wing vision. So busy were the attackers that they failed to notice what the DA seized on, that Walker created a 501 (c) for veterans out of his own elected office, a big warning signal of what could happen to funds from the well-meaning public.

Today, Weishan looks pretty prescient . . . while Walker? It's as if the preacher's son was grabbing a nap in the back pew when morality and ethics came up in the pulpit.

It becomes harder to dismiss it all as ideology. He may constantly oppose the concept of government regulations and oversight but it so often protects him (including the federal privacy rules that keep his Marquette University dropout transcripts from press scrutiny).

He doesn't hesitate to use the government regulatory blanket when threatened with exposure -- blaming federal rules for tying his hands, of course, but then darn grateful that such oversight kept him from a bigger mistake. (Read up on Medicaid, Family Care and his attempts to get the rules waived.) Trust that he will cuddle under that regulatory blanket when law enforcement starts circling in.

Walker's dedication to self-interest even undoes his occasional forays into economic issues. He keeps rewarding big donors only to find their true corporate colors are grabbing those special tax breaks and still shedding jobs. (What a blow to his theory of trickle down!) The public now sees that millions given to corporations came directly out of the \$1.6 billion taken from public schools funding, raising a basic values test that he flunks. Similarly, he keeps electing people to state watchdog boards that have their own fingers in the cookie jar.

Conservatives tend to dismiss his errors as those of green enthusiasm by a true believer. (When Walker thought he was talking to David Koch, the public heard something akin to preening and greedy rapaciousness.) Now in the face of reality, some conservatives occasionally agree Walker did take way too much from public education and too many dollars out of the pockets of the middle class, but hey, they usually add, those were only union workers, and we all know how rich they really are, right?

In that view, perhaps it was his philosophical opposition to federal funded programs that



Milwaukee DA John Chisholm -- "GOING WHERE THE EVIDENCE LEADS."

explains such extreme cuts in elderly health care or his attacks on the successful conduit of Planned Parenthood for essential female cancer screening.

Perhaps where there once was little voter suppression in the state, Walker created genuine suppression to crush a demon of the right-wing imagination (when I heard a Republican concede that in conversation last month, I almost fell on the floor). But really, the believers in his once youthful idealism keep arguing, isn't that just excessive zeal in the pursuit of conservative goals?

**THIS IS WHY THE JOHN DOE PROBE IS IMPORTANT - AND SO REVEALING. THE LEFT INSISTS THERE IS A HOLE IN HIS HEAD, BUT NOW THE RIGHT IS SEEING THE BIG GAPING MORAL HOLE IN HIS BEHAVIOR, THE EMPEROR SHRIVELING. JOHN DOE IS RIPPING OFF INVISIBLE GARMENTS WITHOUT PARTISANSHIP (IMAGINE WHAT TALK RADIO WOULD BE SAYING IF THE EXPOSED FUMBLER WAS A DEMOCRAT!).**

It's hard for anyone to join conservative talking heads in saying stealing \$60,000 from the children of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans is just petty cash. It's also impossible in the light of day to blame the prosecutor for being a Democrat.

Milwaukee County DA John Chisholm emerges as a stubborn straight-shooter when it comes to the law. He doesn't wink to the left or blink at anger on the right. He has pursued public officials of any party -- and he has just started, with federal investigators helping after the GOP attorney general declined to assist.

Walker claimed -- without Chisholm correcting the record -- that it was his administration that blew the whistle on his own hires. This is such a feeble perversion of the events it's amazing that anyone in the media would buy it.

Until you recall the corrupt veterans appreciation Operation Freedom at the Milwaukee Zoo had its own tireless media champion and emcee, Journal Communications' Charlie Sykes.

It was a Walker chief of

staff (he's had some curious ones over the years) who approached the DA with suspicion of theft from veterans. But Tom Nardelli, a former military colonel, is an insider much scoffed at as a triple public pension dipper with a major military pension, city pension as retired alderman, his county pension under Walker, and almost a sizeable state pension until he mysteriously and quickly stepped out from under Walker earlier this year.

Nardelli clearly had too much invested to not speak up about suspected slow thievery -- and he also may have been motivated by getting away from Walker's tactics and personnel penchants.

So it was quite a stretch for Walker to pretend otherwise in a press conference. All that did was bring back memories to many at the county. How indicted Russell was fired for incompetence by the County Board and stubbornly rehired by Walker for other positions.

How this was the same time frame of insider visits around county real estate, which may be why the next up for the John Doe court is real estate figure Andrew P. Jensen, Jr. How there are still mysteries surrounding Madison shenanigans, computer files and another former Walker county chief of staff Jim Villa, also associated with real estate and campaign fund-raising trips out of state.

None of these suspicions may show up for the public in this John Doe investigation, but the possibilities must be making Walker nervous -- and explain why moderates within the Republican Party are actively hunting another standard bearer.

Students of prosecutorial investigation know how often the agents start off looking in one direction only to uncover another -- and how the studied careful legal protections created by a public official wind up exposing another way in for dogged investigators. Probes also tend to land the smaller fish and lesser charges before triggering larger inquiries and connections.

Walker's tenure is full of carefully constructed walls that to the casual observer might protect him, but to the investigator could expose patterns, chinks in judgment that reveal what was actually going on. Double-dealing haunts his policies as governor -- bad character judgment, thoughtless overreach, reliance on outside counsel, venal rewarding of wealthy allies.

So no matter how many high-priced lawyers are prepared to do combat on his side, his own tendencies have laid down a suspicious grid that is likely to send off sparks under intelligent scrutiny.



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# Dutch pension giant blacklists Wal-Mart

The Netherlands' biggest pension fund, with more than \$300 billion in assets, announced that it was blacklisting the largest retailer in the world, Wal-Mart, for noncompliance with the United Nations' Global Compact principles. The Global Compact presents a set of core values relating to human rights, labor standards, the environment and anti-corruption efforts. Sixteen other companies were blacklisted along with Wal-Mart, but nearly all of them were excluded for producing chemical or nuclear weapons that violate the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

This is one of the world's most prestigious pension funds as well as a longtime investor in Wal-Mart. After long consideration Algemeen Burgerlijk decided it had to blacklist -- citing as its driving force the company's poor labor practices combined with the Wal-Mart's anti-union stance.

Wal-Mart typically shrugs off criticism of its labor practices as union-driven propaganda and insists that its employees are happy and well-managed, but investing experts say that when one of the largest pension funds in the world divests, that is quite a message from a fund that supports both union and non-union corporations.

The fund declined to say how much money is involved, but insiders say it had invested many millions in US Wal-Marts.

Over the years "there has been a change, but in the end we had to conclude that it was not enough," said a fund leader. "If the workers are not happy, then what does it mean for the company?"



**US REP. GWEN MOORE** (above) joined concerns about protecting senior citizens from the consequences of the new Voter ID regulations, since "everyone needs to be prepared" for unintended consequences, as speakers emphasized to a crowded Italian Community Center ballroom. The new rules go into effect for the Feb. 21 primary and April 3 general election, probably ahead of federal lawsuits challenging the rules. The lawsuits might succeed in time for the presidential race in November but attendees were warned to get ready now whatever the hardships in assembling necessary documents or hunting up needed proofs of birth.

**MOORE JOINED COUNTY EXECUTIVE** Chris Abele, DA John Chisholm and other community leaders in a major informational session organized with remarkable efficiency by the county's aging advocate, Sue Stein. Information booths lined the room during the extensive breakfast January 11. The ballroom was crowded with seniors -- some affluent, some disabled, suburban and city, all interested and many shocked when they began to understand the complications. One veteran came up front and fumed at officials when he learned that the veterans' photo ID he had long relied on for identification would not be accepted



at the polls where he had voted for decades. Republicans as well as Democrats in the crowd gasped when they learned of the regulations. **SUE EDMAN, HEAD OF THE MILWAUKEE** election commission (above), was peppered with questions as she shared a panel with the Government Accountability Board and other agencies. She assured the hard of hearing, visually impaired and others that the city had special polling machines in each precinct to handle such concerns, but advocates of the disabled warned that special steps and even companions might be required in individual cases.

## Bowling

### Milwaukee Area Labor Council

### Mixed Senior Bowling

### DECEMBER 2011 RESULTS

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
8 BALLS	69	43
ONE BOARD OVER 60	60	52
SLAMMERS	57	55
CRAZY 8.s	41	43
PIN PALS	48	64
GUTTER RATS	47	55

### IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 490

DAN LAACK	635
DEL GROSS	628
GREG MARTIN	570
DON WIEDMANN	511
DAN KNIPPEL	509
BOB WAGNER	492
WALLY GEISE	492

### IND. HIGH GAME OVER 165

DAN LAACK	245
DEL GROSS	234
BOB WAGNER	220
GREG MARTIN	215
WALLY GEISE	190
DAN KNIPPEL	188
DON WIEDMANN	187
GENE HERRICK	169

### IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 400

EILEEN WESTERFIELD	582
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	527
JOYCE KNIPPEL	470
RAE MATOWSKI	443

### IND. HIGH GAME OVER 140

PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	231
EILEEN WESTERFIELD	203
JOYCE KNIPPEL	189
RAE MATOWSKI	163
MARLENE CORTEZ	145

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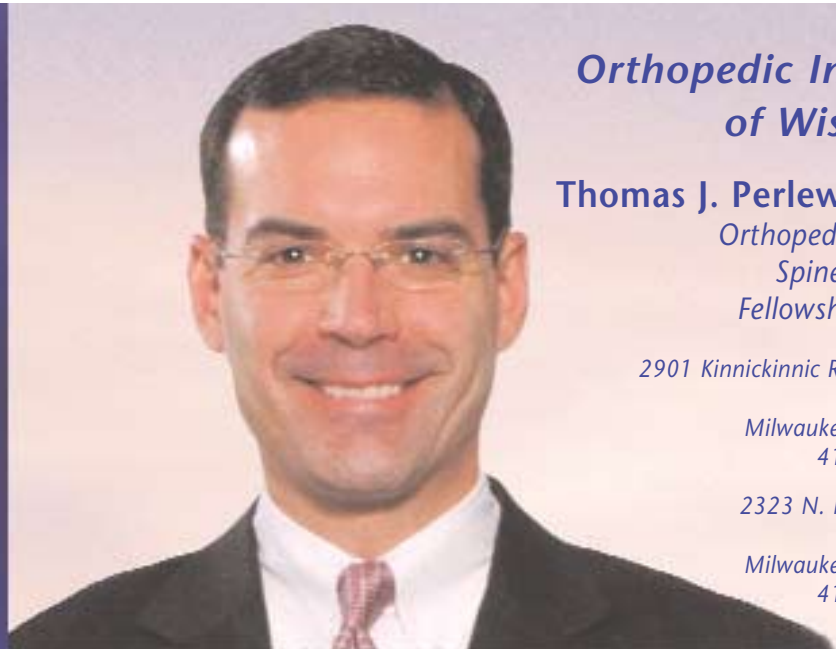
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# Act 10 ended standard of majority rule

By **Dominique Paul Noth**  
Labor Press Editor

Unless a common sense appeal is ruled legal - unlikely in the current Wisconsin political climate - the state is about to endure another frightening first, an affront to one of America's most basic principles of fair play: The simple power of the ballot box.

No, this is not about how the Voter ID bill is shaping up to disenfranchise thousands from voting. That is bad enough. This is about how the simple treasured concept of majority rule vanished in December in one of those phone-in elections at the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC).

There have been 212 such elections involving required yearly recertification of every public worker local under Scott Walker's Act 10, something facing every public union when their existing fully bargained contracts run out.

Of course, the unions themselves now have to pay for this yearly proof of their right to exist -- and survival was made more difficult by Act 10 outlawing any payment of union dues on government paychecks. That was an attempt to guarantee that only workers engaged in union activities, or aware of the need

for unions, would pay attention to recertification.

Yet despite all those efforts to bust the heart of union activity, virtually all these elections were won overwhelmingly by the unions -- by 80% to 90% majorities in most cases. So reported the general counsel of WERC, Peter Davis, who himself embodies an interesting story of Walker stepping on civil service professionalism.

Davis used to be such a civil service appointee until Walker in 2011 made the general counsel one of those positions subject to political appointment. Walker's track record with such personal appointments is not good. Just read the papers regularly or even better look on Page 10 about what the John Probe investigation is revealing.

But no one is angry at Davis. Political appointee or not, he continues to lead the WERC as he has for decades. A paper change won't buckle him. But Wisconsin will have to look out for the next guy to get the job.

Many of the elections to this point involve the WEAC, the Wisconsin Education Association Council. Only a handful of the 212 have failed recertification, mainly because they were small units far removed from the action and suffered low turnout

in the phone elections.

But now comes a case close to home, the Elmbrook district in Brookfield, where an absolute majority of all members of the unionized support staff voted to recertify and failed.

And that is quite a story, a combination of sideline sitting and a disturbing Act 10 condition affecting Brookfield's 11 Elmbrook schools (where all the teachers, incidentally, voted overwhelmingly to recertify).

Among the largely unpublicized provisions of Act 10 is that a simple majority vote doesn't retain a union, as is the case at the National Labor Relations Board or in the general elections the public is familiar with. 50% plus one has always meant victory.

But Walker imposed a 51% requirement in Act 10, which also means the bigger the union the more votes you need to avoid decertification. With 100 members of a union, 51 will win the union vote. But with 300 members you don't just need 151. You need 153. With 1,000 members, you need 510, all of which confounds citizens who think that a win is a win.

That's what happened to the support staff at Elmbrook. The WERC reported a unit of 156 workers. Seventy-nine called in to vote for recertification. A

mere eight called in to vote against. Sixty-nine failed to participate but under Act 10 they were all counted as "no" votes.

Yes, under Act 10, anyone who fails to vote is counted as a no. If every Wisconsin voter who didn't bother to show up at the polls in 2010 were counted as a vote against Walker, he would have lost by millions. In fact, no elected official would ever win with such a condition. As it is, Walker only got about 20% of the eligible Wisconsin voters, but he interpreted that as a mandate to smash both unions and the simple majority rule.

Still, the union won the WERC vote. The final Elmbrook tally was 79 to recertify and 77 against, a clear majority even on a Walker-tilted adding machine. But percentage-wise that was not quite 51%, more like 50.6%. Hence the appeal and the confusion. (As of Jan 16, Davis said the WERC is still trying to sort the issue out.)

Being in a union doesn't require the daily obeisance of being an Episcopalian or a Muslim -- that's only in Walker's vision of unions as a religion.

It is bad enough, given longstanding democratic principles, to treat those who take the trouble to vote as lesser than those who don't vote at all.



WERC's general counsel, Peter Davis

The likely overturn of majority rule could up-end the WERC's long record of responsible dealing. Yet the state agency, to be fair, is only being obedient to the "rule of law." in this case to the rule of extreme law known as Act 10, railroaded through by Walker and his GOP followers.

The only WERC requirement? Post the election phone number and days on the workplace bulletin board. You don't have to be a genius to figure how many workers fall through the cracks - even good workers who dash in to work without reading the bulletin board and dash out to shop or make the PTA meeting.

But this is the current situation Walker and his policies have left us -- until the real majority of Wisconsin on both sides gets him to grow up. Or simply gets rid of him.



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