Gubernatorial Candidate Forum

RACE TO JUSTICE

June 11, 2018
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Ingleside Hotel & Conference Center
Pewaukee, Wisconsin

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WISDOM Gubernatorial Candidate Forum
Agenda

Opening Blessing and Welcome
Jeremy Mohawk, WISDOM Organizer (Stockbridge Munsee Reservation)

Introduction of WISDOM
Melissa Ludin, EXPO President (ESTHER/Appleton)

Introduction of Co-Sponsors and Format
Tammy Hayward, WISDOM Vice President (Racine Interfaith Coalition)

Presentations and Questions

Health Care
Wayne Skattum - JOB (Beloit)

Revocations
Robert Agnew - EXPO (Milwaukee)

Immigrant Drivers’ Licenses
Bernie Gonzalez - SOPHIA (Waukesha County)

Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF)
Yolanda Perkins - EXPO (Milwaukee)

Regional Transportation Authorities
Kathi Zoern - NAOMI (Wausau)

Parole and Compassionate Release
Barbara Robinson, MICAH (Milwaukee)

Education
Jane Audette and Peggy Drana - MICAH (Milwaukee)

Solitary Confinement
Talib Akbar - MOSES/EXPO (Madison)

End Child Poverty Campaign
Rev. Kerri Parker - Wisconsin Council of Churches

TAD Funding
Sarah Ferber - EXPO/JONAH (Eau Claire)

Mining
Tony Brown, Menominee Menikanaehkem (Keshena)

Dignity for Incarcerated Women
Melissa Ludin, EXPO President (ESTHER/Appleton)

Lightning Round Questions
Tammy Hayward - Presenter
Candidates to each speak for 5 minutes - Melissa Ludin - Moderator

Call to Action and Closing Prayer
Rev. Willie Brisco, WISDOM President (MICAH)
ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

Health Care

Health care is recognized as a human right in multiple documents in America, yet our delivery system is based on “pay to play” – profits are more important than life itself. If the human right to healthcare is based on ability to pay, why do we not as a society demand that all human rights only be accessed by one’s ability to pay?

In Wisconsin, several reports make note of the fact that most all citizens have access to healthcare. But not noted is that socioeconomic factors limit access to affordable healthcare. In the broad sense, one out of three people either delay or forego healthcare because of cost. As a result, the cost goes up for everyone because by delaying or forgoing care, money is then spent on unnecessary care to treat illnesses or diseases that could have been prevented or controlled in the first place.

In a study by the Institute of Medicine, it was estimated that more the $750 billion (in 2009 dollars) is wasted in our healthcare system nationally – 27.5 percent attributed to unnecessary care, with 24.8 percent stemming from excessive administrative costs. Just the amount wasted on unnecessary care is enough to pay for affordable access to healthcare for every American.

In Wisconsin, it is time to end the suffering of families and children from the loss or suffering of loved ones due to lack of access to affordable healthcare. Investing in expansion of Badger Care/Medicaid to provide all Wisconsinites with affordable healthcare now, will, in the long-term, result in lower costs for everyone.

QUESTION: If you are elected governor will you support the expansion of Medicaid/Badger Care to provide all Wisconsinites with access to their human right of healthcare?

Revocations

Wisconsin’s current revocation process is at odds with common sense approaches to justice. Crimeless revocation — the practice of re-incarcerating people on probation, parole, or extended supervision for infractions that do not involve new convictions — is more than significant. It is a failed policy, a waste of money, and an embarrassment to Wisconsin.

Wisconsin incarcerates 3,000 people each year for crimeless revocations. The average time served for a crimeless revocation is 18 months. Over 4,500 people in Wisconsin prisons are there for a revocation without a new conviction.
Wisconsin temporarily holds thousands of other people each year at county jails and Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF), who eventually do not get revoked, while the Department of Corrections investigates allegations of rule violations.

Seven states enacted policies more than five years ago that enabled them to close prisons and greatly reduce both levels of re-incarceration for revocations and rates of violent crime. These states reinvested resources saved into programs that helped to build safer, stronger, and healthier communities. Wisconsin cannot afford to wait any longer to enact similar policies. It is time to transform the state’s unreasonable revocation process and reinvest resources in the communities that have been the most disproportionately harmed by mass incarceration.

Visit https://humanimpact.org/hipprojects/sent-back/?strategy=research for more information about this issue.

**QUESTION:** If you are elected governor, will you direct the Department of Corrections to end the use of incarceration for crimeless rule violations?

**Immigrant Drivers’ Licenses**

Transportation issues affects us all. Before 2006 Wisconsin issued driver licenses to undocumented immigrants. The Real ID act of 2005 created new federal standards for state-issued driver licenses and non-driver identification cards. The law allowed states to still issue “driving privilege certificates/cards”, 12 states and DC have chosen to do that. The 12 states are: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Vermont, Washington and DC. Those states have provided unlicensed drivers the opportunity to pass the driver’s test, pass a vision test and obtain car insurance- making it safer on the roads for all drivers. Safe and secure roads are directly connected to providing a driving certificate or card for the undocumented. A study in California showed a significant reduction in hit and runs since they introduced the driver’s card program. Bills to issue driver cards were introduced in Wisconsin in 2014 and 2015 but went nowhere.

Without a driver’s certificate or card, undocumented immigrants have greater difficulty getting to work, taking their children to school, going to the grocery store, opening bank accounts, receiving proper health care etc. Without a license the undocumented face an increased risk of becoming “criminalized” under new immigration guidelines. This leads to the ongoing problem of possible separation of families. They are forced to be in constant fear of being targeted or profiled. Lack of a driver’s card is an issue that has a direct impact on everyone.

**QUESTION:** As Governor, would you help to move legislation forward to provide for Drivers’ Cards for undocumented immigrants in our communities.
Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF)

The inhumane conditions at Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF) and the policies and practices that force people to be incarcerated there are out of step with Wisconsin’s values of fairness, compassion, and equity. Tragically, at a time when Wisconsin needs bold leadership on human rights issues, nearly all public officials in the state have remained silent about Milwaukee’s high-rise torture chamber.

Built in 2001 to accommodate Wisconsin’s racist, aggressive community supervision system, MSDF holds people accused of crimeless rule violations in excruciating conditions. The state of Wisconsin built MSDF to incarcerate people who have allegedly violated rules of probation, parole, or extended supervision.

Many of the nation’s leading community corrections practitioners recently signed on to a statement that called for an end to the overuse of probation, parole, and supervision and reinvestment in rehabilitation services. Red and blue states across the nation have enacted policies that enabled them to greatly reduce levels of incarceration for minor infractions and close prisons. These states reinvested resources saved into programs that helped to build safer, stronger and healthier communities. Bringing Wisconsin’s revocations and sentencing policies and practices in line with national best practices would enable us to empty and close MSDF.

Visit https://closemsdf.org/ for more information about MSDF and the #CLOSEmsdf Campaign.

QUESTION: If you are elected governor, will you work with the #CLOSEmsdf Campaign Coalition to develop a plan to decarcerate Wisconsin, close Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, and reinvest resources saved to build safer, stronger, and healthier communities?

Regional Transportation Authorities

The transportation system in Wisconsin is not working for everyone. People who cannot or choose not to drive are unable to access jobs, healthcare, school and other opportunities due to a lack of transportation options. Cuts in state investment have forced our public transit systems to eliminate routes and have prevented the replacement of aging buses.

The need for accessible and affordable public transportation is greater than ever. The aging baby boomer population, the millennial generation, low income populations, and people with disabilities all rely on public transportation. For all Wisconsin residents, public transportation provides an important connection to jobs, school, healthcare and entertainment.
One long identified solution has been the formation of Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs) - bodies that allow communities to coordinate and raise money to invest in transportation. While many regions across the state had plans in place for RTAs, the state legislature banned their creation in 2010. Communities are now unable to invest in transportation on a regional basis, and political boundaries like county lines have become challenging transportation barriers.

QUESTION: Will you support an overturn on the statewide ban on RTAs and return local control of transportation to our communities?

Parole and Compassionate Release

Nearly 3,000 people in Wisconsin prisons are eligible for parole. All of them were convicted of crimes committed before “Truth in Sentencing” was enacted in 1999. Prior to “Truth in Sentencing”, many people were given extremely long sentences by Wisconsin judges who understood that they would likely be paroled after 25% of their overall sentence had been served if they completed their programs and were deemed rehabilitated.

In recent years, the percentage of eligible people granted parole has shrunk to about 5%, meaning the vast majority of what are called “old law” prisoners are serving much more time that the judges who originally sentenced them anticipated. More than 400 are so low-risk that they leave the prisons every day to work unsupervised in the community. All these prisoners have already served at least 17 years.

Old law prisoners cost taxpayers more than $95 million per year. But even more important that the monetary cost is the cost in frustration and suffering not only on the part of the prisoners themselves, but also on the part of their families.

Many parole-eligible people are elderly and/or seriously ill. Those people should be identified and moved through the release process as quickly as possible. Extremely few cases have been approved in recent years, leading to enormous costs, while families are deprived of a chance to have their loved ones nearby in their final years.

QUESTION: If you are elected Governor, will you immediately call for a complete, independent review of every case of a person eligible for parole, with the goal of releasing all those who can be released safely?

Education

Currently, because of the complexity and quirks of the formulae for funding schools in Wisconsin, districts with high property values received more funding, while districts with low per capita income receive less. As a result, large urban schools with diverse populations, such as Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and Green Bay, as well as smaller
districts with declining enrollments, are suffering compared to wealthy, suburban districts.

For example, in 2014-15, the Milwaukee Public Schools revenue limit per pupil was $10,261 while, at the same time, the revenue limit for Whitefish Bay was $11,248 – nearly a $1,000 per pupil difference. This equates to an $80.2 million annual difference for Milwaukee. Since 2011, per pupil spending on public education for all of Wisconsin has been flat or declining.

QUESTION: As Governor, will you make adequate education funding a priority, and will you commit to working with the legislature to develop more equitable funding formulae that do not penalize diverse urban schools and smaller districts?

Solitary Confinement

Solitary confinement for more than fifteen days is considered torture by the United Nations and a violation of basic human rights. The primary task of prisons is to foster safer communities not be institutions of state sanctioned abuse. Despite the moral and factual evidence against solitary confinement, in hundreds of Wisconsin inmates are routinely isolated in closed cells for 22-24 hours a day. They are virtually free of human contact, for periods of time ranging from days to decades. It is called “segregation” or “administrative confinement,” or more recently “restrictive housing.”

Calling solitary confinement by a different name does not diminish the cruelty or future consequences. Rick Raemisch, former Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, has said that, “By placing a difficult offender in isolation you have not solved the problem — only delayed or more likely exacerbated it, not only for the prison, but ultimately for the public.”

Wisconsin’s next Governor must:
• Immediately end the placement of mentally ill prisoners in solitary confinement.
• Immediately end the use of long term Administrative Confinement.
• Order the Department of Corrections to document how many days inmates in Wisconsin prisons spend in all levels of segregation and order them to immediately reduce by fifty percent the number of days inmates in Wisconsin Prisons spend in segregation.
• Immediately begin a process that will end all use of solitary confinement for more than 15 consecutive days in Wisconsin prisons.

QUESTION: If you are elected Governor, will you direct your Secretary of Corrections to end all use of solitary confinement for more than 15 consecutive days before the end of your first term?
End Childhood Poverty

End Child Poverty Wisconsin is a campaign to cut child poverty in Wisconsin in half in the next 10 years, led by the Wisconsin Council of Churches, WISDOM, Citizen Action of WI, and Kids Forward. Children are among the most vulnerable people in Wisconsin – 1 in 6 of them live in poverty, and this number has increased significantly in the past few years. Racial disparities in child poverty rates mean that children of color face an even steeper climb for equity. When any of our children are hungry, thirsty, poorly housed or clothed, or without appropriate medical care, it means we have abandoned our responsibility to care for the most vulnerable. If we seek a future of wholeness, of justice and righteousness, then we must attend to the well-being of Wisconsin’s children.

End Child Poverty WI seeks 10,000 signatures to build public pressure to adopt a three-part goal of:

• Cutting Wisconsin’s child poverty rates by half in 10 years.
• Cutting racial disparities in child poverty rates by half.
• Creating a robust, independent mechanism to measure and regularly report on our progress toward these goals.

With evidence-based policies that can find support across political divides, we can transform the lives of children and their families. Similar efforts in other countries have had massive success in transforming the conditions that trap people in poverty beginning in childhood. You can add your signature, and join the campaign for a whole and healthy future for all of Wisconsin’s children at http://www.endchildpovertywi.org

QUESTION: If you are elected Governor, will you support legislation that would commit Wisconsin to the three-part goal of cutting child poverty in half, cutting racial disparities in poverty by half, and establishing a mechanism to reliably, regularly and publicly measure our progress?

Treatment Alternatives and Diversions

Wisconsin is at a unique crossroads of need and opportunity. On the one hand, our state prisons are overcrowded, understaffed and, in some cases, very near the end of their physical viability. New OWI laws, the heroin epidemic, and the continuing crisis of methamphetamine addiction are threatening to further increase the population of our prisons. On the other hand, Wisconsin has many proven, evidence-based, cost-effective alternatives to incarceration. Drug Treatment Courts, Veteran’s Courts, Family Courts, OWI Courts, the Safe Streets Treatment Options Program (SSTOP), and other interventions have all proven to be more effective than incarceration for reducing recidivism.

Legislatively-mandated evaluations of the programs funded by the Treatment Alternatives and Diversions (TAD) fund show that they save taxpayers almost $2 for
every $1 the state has invested. We currently spend about $6 million for TAD each year, but the UW Lafollette School of Public Affairs has recommended that the state should budget at least $22 million per year.

In the next budget, Wisconsin has the ability to safely and effectively reduce the prison population, and the growth in prison spending, by significantly increasing the funding available for TAD. A $15 million increase could divert at least 1,500 people from state prisons, and many thousands from county jails. A majority of this increase needs to be targeted to the communities that have the state’s highest incarceration rates.

**QUESTION:** If you are elected Governor, will you include at least a $15 million per year increase in TAD funding in your first budget?

**Mining Moratorium**

The reason for Wisconsin's landmark “Prove it First” law for mining in metallic sulfide orebodies is simple and remains true to this day: there has never been an example of a metallic sulfide mine that has safely operated and closed without polluting the environment. The Flambeau mine and other examples cited by the mining industry so far do not qualify to meet the law.

The law was approved by the state legislature by overwhelmingly bi-partisan margins (29-3 in the Senate and 91-6 in the Assembly) and signed into law by Governor Thompson as 1997 Act 171. Wisconsin residents from more than sixty organizations supported the law, along with petitions signed by more than forty thousand citizens. Public opinion polling prior to the repeal of Prove it First found that 72 percent of Wisconsin residents wanted to keep Prove it First protections from mining pollution. Spencer Black, former representative of the 77th Assembly District for 26 years, and principal author of the legislation asked, “Doesn’t it make sense to require a mining company to show at least one other sulfide mine in North America that has operated and closed without water pollution before we let them threaten our waters?”

**QUESTION:** If you are elected Governor, would you support the reintroduction of Wisconsin’s Prove it First Mining Moratorium Law which was repealed by mining interests in the last session of the legislature?

**Dignity for Incarcerated Women**

We believe in the dignity of all people, including pregnant women who are incarcerated. We are joining a national movement led by women with lived experience of incarceration to demand women who are incarcerated are treated with dignity too. The Dignity for Incarcerated Women Act, by #cut50, sheds light on four facts about women’s incarceration:
• Despite the overwhelming numbers of sexual assault victims in women’s prison, some states still allow male guards to strip search women and supervise them in the bathroom.
• Many mothers who are incarcerated are forced to be housed in a facility hundreds of miles from their children, making it impossible to visit.
• Feminine hygiene products are a necessity, not a luxury, yet some prisons force women to purchase these items on commissary or go without.
• In many states pregnant women are forced to give birth in shackles endangering both them and their baby.

Here in Wisconsin, the Department of Corrections still participates in the archaic exercise of shackling incarcerated women during labor and after childbirth. Last August, Senate Bill 393 was introduced to restrict the shackling of pregnant and post-partum women. Despite unanimously passing the Judiciary and Public Safety committee in October, the bill failed to pass during last legislative session. Other states such as Oklahoma (5/23/18), Connecticut (5/23/18), and Maryland (awaiting Governor’s signature) have recently passed laws restricting the use of shackles during labor and after childbirth. Women in Wisconsin’s prisons deserve the same.

QUESTION: If you are elected governor, will you ensure the dignity of women who are incarcerated by proposing and supporting legislation eliminating the use of shackles during labor and after childbirth?

LIGHTNING ROUND

Much of our aging bus fleet is past its useful life and needs replacing. Many transit systems are facing potential cuts to service territory or route frequency due to lack of funding. The Wisconsin Transportation Finance and Policy Commission’s “Keep Wisconsin Moving” report recommends a $36.3 million increase for public transit per year in transportation funding in the state budget.

QUESTION: Do you support increasing annual public transportation investment by the recommended $36.3 million or more?

State voucher programs are diverting millions of dollars in school funding from public to private schools in Wisconsin, and the amount of that diversion is growing every year.

QUESTION: Will you support the mandatory inclusion of information about dollars going to private schools in property tax bills of every Wisconsin property owner?

A “Sanctuary City” is a city (or county, or state) that protects undocumented immigrants from federal or state prosecution either by expressly prohibiting or never requiring law enforcement or other governmental inquiries about immigration status. In the past year,
there has been a renewed effort in the Wisconsin State Senate to pass a bill that would punish Sanctuary Cities with a fine of up to $5,000 per day.

*If you are elected Governor, would you veto any legislation that would create a penalty for Sanctuary Cities in Wisconsin?*

Price gouging by pharmaceutical companies cost Wisconsin taxpayers and patients big dollars, and even threatens the very lives of some people. During the last session legislative session, a bill (LRB-5128-1) was drafted to shed light on drug pricing strategies by pharmaceutical companies.

*QUESTION: If elected governor will you champion and sign legislation to hold “bad actor” pharmaceutical companies accountable for price gouging of off-patent and generic drugs?*

We have strong data to show that background checks on gun sales are effective and save lives. Statistics from the US Department of Justice indicate that since 1994 over 3 million prohibited purchasers have been blocked from buying guns from licensed gun dealers. A recent Marquette University poll showed that over 80% of Wisconsin residents support background checks on all gun sales. Yet, Wisconsin has not taken action to close the loopholes in our background check laws that allow dangerous people to buy guns from non-licensed sellers.

*QUESTION: If you are elected Governor, would you support measures to require background checks for all gun sales, including at gun shows and between private parties?*
THE CANDIDATES

Kelda Roys

Kelda Roys is running for governor to restore opportunity and fairness to Wisconsin. She is a small business owner, a former state representative, an attorney, and proud mom and stepmom of four girls.

As Democratic Caucus Chair in the State Assembly, Kelda helped lead opposition to Walker’s attack on workers’ rights during the Act 10 protests. She has passed legislation on many core progressive issues, including healthcare, economic justice, worker protections, and consumer rights. Kelda has stood up to special interests, Republican bullies, and even leaders in her own party when necessary. As governor, she will always put Wisconsin’s working families first.

As a small business owner, she knows that a strong economy is built by expanding the middle class. That means giving workers a voice in the workplace again through collective bargaining rights. Her economic plan includes a $15/hour minimum wage, supporting local small and growing businesses, healthcare for all, retirement security, repairing our infrastructure, and investing in statewide broadband and clean energy.

As a parent, Kelda is passionate about making Wisconsin the best place to raise a family. She will fully -- and fairly -- fund public education, enact 12 weeks of paid sick/family leave, prioritize early childhood education, make 2-year colleges tuition-free, protect our natural resources, and address the student debt crisis.

As an experienced policymaker and executive with a long track record of progressive success, Kelda Roys is ready to be your governor on day one. Learn more at keldaforgov.com

Matt Flynn

Matt Flynn is a Navy veteran, attorney, and former Chair of the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. He and his wife Mary have been married for 41 years and make their home in the City of Milwaukee. Matt was elected to two terms at the helm of the state party. Under his leadership, the party retired its debt, elected a Democratic Governor, and Democrats took majorities in both houses of the State Legislature. Matt has spent his career helping many Democratic candidates get elected.

Dana Wachs

Dana was born and lived nearly all his life in Western Wisconsin. His mother, a public-school teacher, and his father, a city manager, taught Dana the value of hard work and the importance of community engagement.
As a father of three, Dana quickly learned life rarely goes as planned. For a while, Dana raised the children on his own - rushing home from work each day to be with the kids for homework and dinner. Being a good father and now a trusted confidant to each of his children has been the greatest joy of Dana's life.

Dana is married to his partner in life (and in business) Beverly Wickstrom. Along with their trusted dog Artie, Dana and Beverly are active in their hometown of Eau Claire, never miss a Packers game, and escape as often as they can to hunt and fish in Northern Wisconsin.

For more than 30 years, Dana has practiced law at a small Wisconsin firm, fighting for folks who've been harmed, ignored or left behind. Dana took on a rigged system, fighting for workers who were hurt on the job and being denied healthcare. He also fought for farmers being taken advantage of by out-of-state corporations.

For the past five years, Dana has represented his community in the Wisconsin Assembly, where he fought Republican politicians like Scott Walker who put wealthy special interests ahead of the people they are supposed to represent. As Wisconsin's next governor, Dana will fight for Wisconsin's future.

**Mike McCabe**

Wisconsin is up to its eyeballs in problems. But all of them grow from the same taproot, a poisoned political culture that glorifies greed and dooms us to a government and economy that work great for a privileged few at everyone else’s expense.

Mike McCabe is going for the taproot. He knows the huge donations that flow so freely in our elections amount to legal bribes and cannot in good conscience accept them. The law allows candidates for governor to take $20,000 checks from individuals and $86,000 donations from political action committees. Mike won't take any single contribution over $200.

Mike believes governors should be servants, not masters. Once elected, he won’t live in the governor’s mansion and will be paid one dollar less than the average Wisconsin worker makes.

Mike doesn’t belong to any political party. He isn’t a professional politician or career office holder. For decades Mike has been an independent watchdog exposing corruption and working to get regular people in the driver’s seat of our government. His life’s work has involved putting principle over party for the common good and he is running for governor in the same way for the same reason.

Mike offers an inspiring vision of a government and economy that work for all of us and not just the wealthy and well-connected, living wages for all workers, debt-free education, health care for all, high-speed Internet to every doorstep, clean energy
development, better roads and water quality protections. And he has the common sense and work ethic he got growing up on the farm to make it happen. Learn more at: governorbluejeans.com

**Mahlon Mitchell**

Mahlon was born at St. Joe’s Hospital in Milwaukee and grew up in Delavan, Wisconsin. For over 20 years he’s served the greater Madison area as a Lieutenant in the Madison Fire Department and became the first African American and youngest President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin in 2010 – a first in state and national firefighter history.

When he’s not at the firehouse or working on behalf of over 4,000 Wisconsin firefighters, Mahlon dedicates his time to serving his community. He was a counselor at the Wisconsin Alliance for Fire Safety Burn Camp, working with burn-injured youth and a street outreach coordinator with Briarpatch and Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, where he linked at-risk youth with services from their community.

When the fight over workers’ rights began in 2011, Mahlon led the Wisconsin firefighters in a monumental stand of solidarity with other public servants. Mahlon traveled the state as a firefighter, fighting back against Scott Walker’s divisive policies and standing with working families. In 2012, Mahlon stepped up to run for Lieutenant Governor as the Democratic nominee in the recall election, getting over 1.5 million votes.

Mahlon and his wife April have two children, Sie’anna, a freshman at UW Oshkosh, and Karson who is president of his 8th grade class.

Mahlon has been endorsed by Congresswoman Gwen Moore, the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, International Association of Fire Fighters, the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin, Service Employees International Union, United Food and Commercial Workers, Wisconsin Operating Engineers, Amalgamated Transit Union, and the International Association of Machinists, all who represent tens of thousands of working people across Wisconsin.

**Andy Gronik**

Andy Gronik is a Milwaukee-area progressive entrepreneur with the values necessary to beat Scott Walker in 2018 and make Wisconsin the very best place in the nation to work, live, and play.

Andy grew up right here in Wisconsin. Attending Nicolet High School and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee before transferring to the University of Georgia to attend one of the best business schools in the nation.
Growing up in Wisconsin, Andy caddied, washed dishes, bagged groceries, waited tables, swept factory floors, cleaned machinery, and coached football. He went on to lead a successful business career, creating one of the largest appraisal and consulting companies of its type in the world. Each year his business helped thousands of struggling businesses solve problems and access billions of dollars, so they could grow and create jobs.

In the last few years, Andy became increasingly concerned that the opportunities that were available to him and his family were becoming out-of-reach for too many. Andy spent 18-months traveling the state speaking to Wisconsinites about their experience and their needs. That experience shed light on a broken political system that isn’t listening to the needs of hard-working families all over the state. Andy is running for governor to create a Wisconsin that works for everyone in our state.

Kathleen Vinehout

Kathleen Vinehout is College Professor, Dairy Farmer, State Senator. Kathleen, 59, followed her dream 25 years ago when she started her own dairy farm in Buffalo County, milking 50 cows in an old red barn with tie stalls.

She got into politics in her late 40s when she ran for State Senate and beat a popular Republican incumbent. She has been re-elected twice in a mostly rural district that was carried by Trump in 2016 and by Walker in all three of his campaigns for Governor. In the Senate, she has worked to make health care affordable, bring more equity to school funding, and find alternatives to incarceration. In each of the last four budget cycles, she has written alternative budgets that reflect her choices of how to spend the money available.

Those choices include making technical colleges and two-year UW campuses free for Wisconsin residents, expanding Badgercare to cover 79,000 more people, healing the deep cuts to our university system, and expanding community based mental health services.

Before becoming a dairy farmer, Kathleen was a professor at the University of Illinois Springfield and directed the Health Services Administration program. She has graduate degrees in Health Services Research and Public Health and an associate degree in Agriculture.

Her dad was a construction worker and a member of the Laborers’ International Union. Her mom was a nurse. When she was a farmer, her family struggled for nearly two years without health insurance. Putting People First is in her DNA.
WISDOM Action Network

The WISDOM Action Network (WAN) is a new 501(c)4 organization. It was established to let people know the positions and histories of candidates for public office as they pertain to the issues WISDOM works on.

The WISDOM Action Network does not endorse specific candidates or political parties. WAN intends to provide information tools like "scorecards" that show where candidates stand on issues like criminal justice reform, transit, immigration, childhood poverty, etc. The WAN will be administered separately from WISDOM, with its own Board of Directors and its own budget.

To stay to date on the work of the WISDOM Action Network, to learn about the positions of candidates, and to learn how you can help spread the word, send an e-mail to wisdomactionnetwork@gmail.com. Encourage your friends to join us.

WAN needs money to carry out its mission. If you can help us expand our reach in this important year of 2018, please send donations to:

WISDOM Action Network
2821 N. 4th St., Suite 217
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

Remember two things about your donation. 1) Unlike donations to WISDOM or its affiliates, donations to WAN are NOT tax deductible; 2) Please do not reduce the amount you currently give to WISDOM organizations.

2018 will be a very exciting year in Wisconsin. We need to be sure this election is about something -- that our incoming officials understand the importance of action on matters of racial and economic equity - the kinds of issues WISDOM promotes.

ACLU of Wisconsin

The ACLU of Wisconsin is a nonprofit, non-partisan membership organization with nearly 24,000 dues-paying members. It is the state affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union. Our mission is "to protect and promote the civil liberties and civil rights of all the people of Wisconsin in a non-partisan manner." The ACLU of Wisconsin creates change through litigation, education, and advocacy.
Dane County NAACP

All in for justice and equality!
Our Mission: The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

Our Vision: The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race.

Our Objectives: The following statement of objectives is found on the first page of the NAACP Constitution - To ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of all citizens. To achieve equality of rights and eliminate race prejudice among the citizens of the United States. To remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes. To seek enactment and enforcement of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights. To inform the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and to seek its elimination. To educate persons as to their constitutional rights and to take all lawful action to secure the exercise thereof, and to take any other lawful action in furtherance of these objectives, consistent with the NAACP’s Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution.

This local branch is one of thousands of NAACP local branches that make up the NAACP national organization.

Forward Kenosha

Forward Kenosha’s mission is to act in solidarity to promote peace and to ensure the dignity, inclusion, equality, safety and respect of every person in our community through education, advocacy and political engagement.

Our Principles:

We believe we can be stronger by working together to defend the rights of citizens and by advocating for progressive policies that support the prosperity of all Americans. We believe that democracy requires us to be active participants, voters, and be engaged in our government.

We will continue to educate ourselves on current issues and relevant history so that we may inspire ways to advocate and improve laws and policies so that they fairly represent and protect the rights of all people.

We believe that politicians who answer to big money do not have the interest of their constituents in mind, but the interest of their donors. This no longer is acceptable.
We will serve as a reminder to our elected officials that they represent us and insist that our representatives answer for their actions and acknowledge our concerns.

We believe that in order to work together, we must model values of inclusion, tolerance, and fairness.

We will be an ally to those in our community that face discrimination and harassment based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender identity and/or sexual orientation.

We will advocate for the community that reflects our values. One that is welcoming, safe, diverse, inclusive, and presents opportunities for all.

For more information email ForwardKenosha@gmail.com, check out our website: ForwardKenosha.org; our Facebook page Forward Kenosha; or find us on Twitter @Forward_Kenosha

Gamaliel – A Powerful Faith-Based Organizing Network

The Gamaliel Network is a community organizing network with affiliates in 17 states and 44 regions. Gamaliel’s organizing work draws on struggles for justice by people of faith spanning many nations, creeds, and cultures. Our work draws on the sacred writings of our multiple faith traditions—the Torah, Christian teachings from the Bible, Catholic social teaching—as well as the founding principles of American democracy, the U.S. civil rights movement, and many other sources. Above all, our work begins and ends in an expression of the personal faith and values of our members.

Gamaliel local and state affiliates are multi-issue organizations working on campaigns that range from water equity to school discipline and restorative justice practices, from minority and local hire employment policies to early childhood education, from rent stabilization and just cause eviction policies to police accountability boards. At the national level, Gamaliel affiliates work collectively on immigration, criminal justice reform, and transportation and jobs, all deeply rooted in our efforts to secure racial and economic equity. We are proud to claim WISDOM as a Gamaliel affiliate.

Grassroots North Shore (GRNS)

Who we are: We are the largest, all-volunteer, progressive group in Wisconsin and the progressive voice of northeastern metro Milwaukee. For the past 14 years, we have organized volunteers, kept people informed, kept them engaged and have been the go-to group to advocate for progress in the area. Grassroots North Shore is part of the robust progressive infrastructure a leader in The Resistance, fighting for a set of community-minded, forward thinking values that include:
1) Equal opportunity in education, housing, transportation, healthcare, and employment,
2) Criminal Justice Reform: end mass incarceration, reform the justice system.
3) Fair and progressive taxation on individuals and corporations,
4) Ensure all citizens can vote without onerous, arbitrary restrictions,
5) Ensure woman’s right to choose and control of her reproductive health,
6) Work to understand, expose and fight systemic racism,
7) Elect a government working for the common good not just the wealthy few.

Grassroots North Shore is an independent Political Action Committee (PAC). We operate independently of any political party or other affiliation.

We invite everyone in the north shore or from anywhere to get involved, join the fight for progressive values and policies and recreate the Wisconsin we have known and loved. Office: 5600 W. Brown Deer Rd., Brown Deer, 53223. Suite 116. Office Hours: Monday 10am to Noon. Phone: (414) 236-4259. Visit us on line at grassrootsnorthshore.com or contact us at contact@grassrootsnorthshore.com

**Milwaukee Turners Confronting Mass Incarceration (CMI) Committee**

The Milwaukee Turners is Milwaukee’s oldest civic organization, founded by immigrants and refugees in 1853. Under our motto, “A sound mind in a sound body,” we have promoted physical fitness in schools and community, and rational discussion of current issues as a basis to promote social and economic justice. Our members were instrumental in the nomination and election of Abraham Lincoln, in the abolition of slavery, and in 1911 we erected a monument to our 26 members who gave their lives to defend the Union and abolish slavery. The first women’s journal in the U.S. was published by our member Mathilde Franziska Anneke, who was also a leading abolitionist and suffragette. Out National Landmark, Turner Hall, hosted major movements in Milwaukee, against a corrupt city government, in the 1886 movement for an 8-hour day, and Fourth Street Forums.

In 2017, we initiated Confronting Mass Incarceration (CMI), to cut the Wisconsin prison population in half in the next 10 years, bringing in major speakers on College in Prison, and the Pulitzer Prize winner, Heather Ann Thompson. See her compelling November 6th lecture linking the lies told about the Attica prison uprising to the rise in mass incarceration, on the “Milwaukee Turners" You Tube channel, and other relevant programs.

We invite you to visit [www.milwaukeeturners.org](http://www.milwaukeeturners.org) and like “Milwaukee Turners at Turner Hall” on Facebook.
Mothers Against Gun Violence/ MAGV

Mothers Against Gun Violence was born out of tragedy through the loss of three young men lives taken by a felon with a gun. However, today it is a labor of love. The Milwaukee Renaissance maintains Mothers Against Gun Violence’s website that provides the current Milwaukee City Homicide Victims. The website's oversight is co-founder Marna Winbush and her trusted chairperson Glenda Campbell.

MAGV Founder, Debra Gillispie, and co-host, Roy Washington are the hosts of MAGV With QuestNation Radio show that gives voice to survivors of gun violence and issues that affect the City of Milwaukee and Wisconsin Communities.

MAGV With QuestNation Radio Show airs every 2nd & 4th Fridays from 3:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m. on WGLB AM Radio Station, 1560 AM, 96.1 FM, and TuneIn.com. Contact us at magvwithquestnation@gmail.com

Our Wisconsin Revolution

VISION: A real democracy, a fair economy, a clean environment, an efficient and transparent government that works for the many not the few.

MISSION: Our goal is a democratic government that puts people and the planet above greed and private profit. This will require a massive and focused citizen effort to wrest control of government away from the corporations, billionaires and the politicians they have bought. OWR is a democratic organization formed to carry out that mission. We need education, agitation, organization, and election of people who truly represent the interests of everyone in our state. This is a long-term effort, but we are committed to doing this work for as long as it takes to get a victory for democracy.

Wisconsin is no longer a democracy, with a government of, for, and by the people. It’s a corporate oligarchy run for the benefit of a few not the many. Almost anywhere you look — our schools, our environment, our farms, our economy, our election process, our public administration — we’ve ceded democratic control to corporate control. This weakening and corruption of our democracy has accelerated under the Walker administration. We can solve all the problems in this state and again secure a bright future for all if we make the effort, use our brains, and work together. We want a real democracy, a fair economy, a clean environment, a government that works for people not profit.

STRATEGY: Our strategy is to establish chapters around the state while contributing to an overall effective collective action. We must return government to the hands of people working for the common good. We are confident we can win. For more detailed information or to join: https://ourwisconsinrev.com/. On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Our-Wisconsin-Revolution-Milwaukee-143471139479268/
The School Sisters of Notre Dame

“The gift of our internationality sharpens our consciousness of universal needs and call us to foster within ourselves and others a responsible concern for the people of the world.” (Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame)

The School Sisters of Notre Dame began ministering in the Milwaukee area in 1850. Today more than 2,500 School Sisters of Notre Dame, live and minister in 31 countries on five continents. The sisters in the Milwaukee area belong to the SSND Central Pacific province. They work to “transform the world through education,” sponsoring institutions like Mount Mary University and Notre Dame Schools in Milwaukee.

SSNDs also believe that education extends beyond the classroom. Focusing on the poor and marginalized, SSNDs serve in a variety of ministries in non-traditional environments including parishes, hospitals, prisons, nursing homes, and shelters. Sisters believe all people are made in the image and likeness of God and deserve dignity, respect, and the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. They are committed to social justice causes such as comprehensive immigration reform, care for creation, human trafficking eradication, racial equality, and peaceful, non-violent conflict resolution.

“We work actively, especially in our local situations, to eliminate the root causes of injustice in order to realize a world of peace, justice, and love.”

School Sisters of St. Francis

Our Mission is to witness to the Good News of Jesus and the presence of the reign of God as we enter into the lives and needs of people, especially those who are poor.

Sienna Center

Sienna Center, founded in 1862, is the main headquarters and home of the Racine Dominican Sisters and Associates. The site at 5635 Erie Street also houses Siena Center Retreat Center serving over 6,000 participants annually, and the newly
developed Siena Lakeshore, a nursing home and memory care facility serving the
greater Racine area.

The mission of the 114 Racine Dominican Sisters and 65 associates is “Committed to
Truth, Compelled to Justice.” This focus is carried out through various ministry
collaborations and especially through the Racine Dominican Sponsored Ministries:
Bethany Apartments, Eco-Justice Center, HOPES Center, Senior Companion Program,
St. Catherine’s High School, and Siena Retreat Center. Reflection, prayer and a
commitment to justice holds this community together in a spirit of service to all,
especially the most vulnerable among us.

The Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is the largest, oldest, and most effective grassroots environmental
organization. Our mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the
earth. Nationally, the Sierra Club focuses on reducing climate change by transitioning
to 100% clean energy, stopping oil extraction, and protecting America's public lands and
special places and ensuring they are held for and by everyone. The John Muir Chapter is the Wisconsin branch of the Sierra Club and includes almost
18,000 members located across the state. The John Muir Chapter advocates for
ensuring access to clean air and water for all. Our priorities include supporting clean
energy and equitable transportation solutions and fighting against destructive mining,
unsafe factory farm proposals, and tar sands oil pipelines.

The John Muir Chapter has partnered with WISDOM on several campaigns in the past,
and we are proud to be working with WISDOM on our advocacy for clean and equitable
transportation solutions, including public transit, which connect people of all ages,
abilities and incomes to work, recreation, healthcare and other opportunities.

Sinsinawa Dominicans

Sinsinawa Dominicans are Catholic Sisters dedicated to preaching and teaching the
Gospel. We believe that at the heart of ministry is relationship. Today, nearly 400
Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters and 230 Associates in the United States and abroad
participate in the mission shared by all Dominicans: to proclaim the Gospel in word and
deed. Our home, Sinsinawa Mound, is located in southwest Wisconsin. Our
congregation also sponsors Edgewood Campus School, Edgewood High School, and
Edgewood College in Madison and Dominican High School in Whitefish Bay.

Called forth by God’s expansive love and mercy for all creation, we claim and embrace
God’s mission to be our mission.

As contemplative women of the gospel, preachers of truth, and ministers of mercy—
we hear the cries for mercy and compassion moving us to a radical gospel response of unconditional love we call ourselves to respond to the needs of immigrants and refugees and to seek ways to relieve suffering we are compelled to risk our comfort and privilege to confront the evil of racism we commit ourselves to the urgent summons of Laudato Si’ to care for Earth, our home.

Graced by the Spirit and strengthened by our Sinsinawa Dominican legacy, we promise to hold each other in radical grace and respect as we set out anew together.

Wisconsin Alliance for Youth Justice

Wisconsin Alliance for Youth Justice is a group of families and friends of kids impacted by one of Wisconsin’s justice systems organizing to drive positive reforms. When a kid enters a justice systems families are often shocked, scared and confused. We don't understand what is happening and are not given support or information. This leaves a feeling of helplessness that can last for years.

Our current effort is to help introduce and pass a bill to ban juvenile life without parole in Wisconsin and create a meaningful opportunity of release. This would apply to anyone with a juvenile life or defacto life sentence for a crime before they reached the legal age of majority of 18 years old. We sent children to die in prison. Instead we should be treating kids like kids and not mini adults. We need to work with our kids in ways that help them thrive as they mature into adulthood.

If you like to learn more, please visit our Facebook page: Wisconsin Alliance for Youth Justice or email; Nikki Olson: Nikki.Olson@wayj.org or Wendy Sisavath: Wendy.Sisavath@wayj.org. It is time for Wisconsin to stop sending children to die in Prison.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches

The Wisconsin Council of Churches is a network committed to praying and working together for the unity and renewal of the church, and the healing and reconciliation of the world. We connect people around the state from nineteen denominations (and beyond) for shared ministry. Christian congregations, religious communities, interfaith partners and allies join in education and advocacy relating to poverty and hunger, immigration, racism, and responsible government – connecting vital community issues with biblical faith.
WISDOM is the statewide network of faith-based organizations, which originated in MICAH’s founding 1988. WISDOM has grown to include:

**MICAH**  
Milwaukee Innercity Congregations Allied for Hope

**RIC**  
Racine Interfaith Coalition

**CUSH**  
Congregations United to Serve Humanity - Kenosha

**JOB**  
Justice Overcoming Borders – Beloit

**ESTHER**  
Empowerment Solidarity Truth Hope Equity Reform - Fox Valley

**SOPHIA**  
Servants of Prophetic Hope and Intentional Action – Waukesha County

**JONAH**  
Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope - Eau Claire

**JOSHUA**  
Justice Organization Sharing Hope & United for Action - Green Bay

**NAOMI**  
North central Area congregations Making an Impact – Wausau

**RUTH**  
Responding with Understanding, Truth and Hope – Manitowoc

**MOSES**  
Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality and Solidarity

WISDOM, in turn, is part of the national Gamaliel Network, which has organizations like ours in 17 states.
WISDOM’s best-known work is done through the campaign called “ROC Wisconsin.” (The formal name is “Restore our Communities: Beyond 11x15 www.rocwisconsin.org.) ROC Wisconsin calls for a drastic reduction in our incarceration rates and rates of racial disparities. It also calls for a drastic change in the way we see people with conviction histories – they are not “offenders,” they are people, members of families, and assets to the community.

WISDOM has a long-standing commitment to Public Transportation. Lack of mass transit affects all of us, but it especially impacts low income people, people with disabilities, and the elderly. WISDOM and Gamaliel have stood with and for Immigrants for many years, educating, advocating and acting together with our newest neighbors for policies that express our compassion and respect for all people. WISDOM organizations are working locally on many issues, ranging from housing to public education, and jobs.

Exciting work is being done by WISDOM organizers on the Menominee, Oneida and Stockbridge Munsee reservations. An important issue that has been brought to us by the Menominee is the need to work to stop the “Back Forty Mine,” which would dig up ancestral burial grounds, destroy a pristine forest and endanger the Menominee River and Green Bay.

A large and growing part of WISDOM and ROC Wisconsin is EXPO (EX-incarcerated People Organizing). EXPO members are formerly-incarcerated men and women who have come together for mutual, positive support, and to lead in the struggle for change in the criminal justice system. Our hope is to help bus-riders and immigrants to organize in a similar way. Faith communities are called to stand with people who have suffered injustice, and believe that the people most impacted by the issues need to lead our response.

WISDOM has joined with the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Wisconsin Citizen Action and Kids Forward to initiate the “Faithful Citizenship” campaign. We are calling on all sectors of Wisconsin to claim as a goal the reduction of child poverty by half and the reduction of racial disparities in child poverty by half. We believe Wisconsin needs a noble goal like this, a goal to which we can hold ourselves accountable. To learn more: www.endchildpovertywi.org

rocwisconsin.org expogroupwi@gmail.com endchildpovertywi.org
WISDOM PROPHETIC DECLARATION

We are people of faith united by our passion for justice, commitment to community and a practice of hope. We stand together understanding that our lives and destinies are intertwined.

We come together because God calls us into relationship with one another, with our communities and with the world around us.

We come together from across the state, across faith traditions, across race, class, gender and ethnicity, and across many divides that might ordinarily keep us apart.

We come together around core faith convictions that affirm our direction and shape our vision for the future.

We come together to act for justice, build power and to transform our communities, cities and state.

We stand together in our faith:

We believe in the God-given dignity and infinite worth of each and every human life.
We believe that we are each and all part of a sacred community, to which we have responsibility and from which we gain sustenance.

We believe that our faith calls us to work for justice and liberation, standing against all forms of oppression and inequity.

We believe we are called to be stewards of the natural world in all its bounty and diversity.

We believe in shared abundance and stand against the dominant culture of reckless consumption and consumerism for some and deprivation for others.

We believe in the triumph of love and hope over hate and fear.

We build power and act together, drawing courage and inspiration from our faith. We believe God has called us to live, speak and act courageously in accordance with our faith beliefs. Together we will create the community we seek for ourselves, but also build the power we need to transform the world around us. We will build the relationships and strategic capacity we need to powerfully engage and impact public decisions.

Together we declare:

Where there is division, we declare unity.
Where there is hatred, we declare love.
Where there is lack, we declare abundance.
Where there is desolation, we declare renewal.
Where there is discouragement, we declare hope.
Where there is lack of strength, we declare power!
WISDOM Family of Affiliates

MIGAH
Working for Justice in Milwaukee since 1988
www.micahepowers.org

Racine Interfaith Coalition
Strength through Faith, Power through Community
www.ricracine.org

CUSH
Congregations United to Serve Humanity
Kenosha, Wisconsin
www.cushkenosha.com

Justice Overcoming Borders
www.wisdomforjustice@gmail.com

ESTHER
People of Faith Bringing Hope Standing for Justice Building Community in Wisconsin’s Fox Valley
esther-foxvalley.org

SOPHIO
Stewards of Prophetic, Hopeful, Intentional Action
Waukesha County
sophiawaukesha.org

JONAH
Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope
Greater Chippewa Valley Of West Central Wisconsin
jonahjustice.org

JOSHUA
Justice Organization Sharing Hope and United for Action
Brown County, Wisconsin
joshua4justice.org

NAOMI
North Central Area Congregations Organized To Make an Impact
Working For Justice in North Central Wisconsin
naomiwausau.org

Respect Our Existence No More Mining
noback40.org

Moses
Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality & Solidarity
Working For Justice in Dane County
mosesmadison.org