



**GOP Report**  
 Washington County Republican Party  
 PO Box 671  
 West Bend, WI 53095

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# GOP REPORT

Spring 2007

Washington County Republican Party  
 519 Hicory St., PO Box 671, West Bend, WI 53095  
 262-334-4150  
 www.washingtoncountygop.org

## Chairman's Corner



I would like to thank everyone who attended the Lincoln Day Caucus and the 5th District Congressional Caucus. Washington County was well represented at both events. Many of our resolutions will be brought to the floor at the state GOP convention in May. These resolutions are pure grass roots efforts, and bring our thoughts and ideas to the forefront of the GOP agenda. My thanks to Jennie Frederick and her committee for all their hard work writing the resolutions again this year.

All delegates should be receiving their invitations to the state GOP convention May 11-12. This year's convention will be held at the Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva. Washington County is a finalist for the Top County Award at this year's convention. Every convention is memorable in its own way. Special guests already include presidential candidates Sen. Sam Brownback and our own Tommy Thompson. I'm told there may be some other surprises as well. I hope you will consider attending the convention this year. If you haven't received your invitation, please contact myself or Kathy Kiernan.

We still have some delegate openings remaining. Being a delegate is a special honor bestowed upon Republican Party members. Our delegates are expected to attend both caucuses, and receive special invitations to attend the state convention. If you are not a delegate and would like to become one, please contact myself or Kathy Kiernan.

Finally, the year 2007 may seem like a quiet one compared to 2006. However, we will be spending much of the year preparing for the 2008 campaigns. Wisconsin is again expected to be a battleground state, and we anticipate visits by several presidential candidates and other national figures. In addition, there will be tough state senate and assembly races next year. Washington County will be looked upon to show the way again.

- Jim Geldreich

## Republican Women



Yes, we are calling all Republican Women!! One very important focus of our group is our education programs. At the beginning of each year our Program Committee, establishes approximately five programs that we want to present to our women (and men too!). Our philosophy is to cover various educational issues and look at items that women many times are concerned about.

May's program will feature State Representative Leah Vukmir. Following our May 24th meeting she will speak to our group about the Cervical Cancer Vaccine legislation.

Please note that our programs follow our normal business meetings which are held the 4th Thursday of each month. Locations may vary at times but are usually held at the GOP office in West Bend.

If anyone is interested in attending one of our programs, feel free to contact Diane at 306-7535.

Besides programs, we do many other activities. We are very active with the Washington County GOP party throughout the year but especially during campaign seasons in order to help our officials to get elected. We help "man" the phone banks, literature drops, parades and whatever else is needed to get the message out.

I would also like to take this time to give a "BIG Thank You" to our women for all their "get out the vote" telephone calls made for Judge Annette Ziegler. Thank you so much.

-Diane Ambroziak, President  
 Washington County Republican Women

## WCRP Executive Committee

<b>Chairman:</b>	Jim Geldreich
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b>	Kathy Kiernan
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jim Benware
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jennie Frederick

Meetings are held monthly on every third Tuesday at 7 pm. at county party headquarters, 519 Hickory St., West Bend. Any party member is welcome to attend.

To help save postage costs, please notify us of a change of address or duplication of this mailing

Paid for by the Republican Party of Washington County, Jennie Frederick, Treasurer

## Washington County Republican Women

**Every 2nd Saturday** - Breakfast and talk, Round Robin at our members' homes from 9 - 10:30 a.m. See Republican WOMen Now News (newsletter) for schedule of hostell locations.

Monthly business meetings, every fourth Thursday of the month followed by a scheduled program, GOP County office, 519 Hickory St., West Bend.

For updated information and events please go to the Wisconsin Federation of Republican Women's website [www.wifrw.org](http://www.wifrw.org). Click on counties, then click on Washington to see our site information

The GOP Report is a monthly publication of the Republican Party of Washington County. Its purpose is to publicize the actions of the executive committee and upcoming events and activities of the party as well as to provide a forum for elected officials to report business and inform members of pertinent issues.

Please forward any comments, articles or upcoming events to Nicole Kuehl, 262-626-2626 or [nkuehl@kewaskumstatesman.com](mailto:nkuehl@kewaskumstatesman.com) with the subject line GOP Newsletter

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 11-12, 2007** – State GOP Convention

**June 10** - Jackson Parade

**July 4** – West Bend, Hartford and Germantown Parades.

**July 24-29** – Washington County Fair

**August 27** – Ricfield Parade

**September 9** - Brat Fry, Jackson Village Park

**September 19** - WCRW Gala, Scenic View CC, Slinger.

## Ziegler Campaign for State Supreme Court Judge

Yes – the most qualified candidate won! We are all very proud of the positive campaign that Judge Annette Ziegler ran for this election. She was always professional and dignified. Her opponent ran nothing but negative ads and never gave you one reason to vote for her. Congratulations to everyone involved with this campaign.

Washington County has much to be proud of. Our voter turnout was much higher than expected at 31.10%. The tally of votes in Washington County: Linda Clifford 5,309 (20.02%) Annette Ziegler 21,176 (79.87%) and write-ins 29 (.11%). The state wide total was: 338,272 (42%) for Linda Clifford and 473,178 (58%) for Annette Ziegler.

I would like to thank our Washington County Republican Party and Washington County Republican Women who made 3,394 “get out the vote” phone calls the last four days before the election either from a group phone bank or their homes. Thanks to those volunteers who helped get the yard signs out to supporters all around the county. We can be proud of an army of great volunteers in Washington County. It was a sweet victory!

- Kathy Kiernan  
Vice Chairman

## 2007 Parades

The summer parade season is just around the corner. The Washington County GOP will be entering its float in the Jackson, West Bend, Hartford, Richfield and Allenton parades. We will also have a presence at the Germantown parade. Everyone is invited to ride on the float, or walk alongside and greet parade watchers. Our parade chairman, Del Ellefson, is constructing a large elephant that will be prominently displayed on the float. Please contact Del, Jim or Kathy for more information.

## Luncheon at GOP Convention

Please note that the WFRW Luncheon is a separate item on the Convention Invitation. The lunch must be done with a separate RSVP...\$20 per person...checks payable to WFRW...send to: Pat Rasmussen, 724 Country Club Road, Schofield, WI 54476. The keynote speaker this year will be NANCY FRENCH, author of “A Red State of Mind: How a Catfish Queen Reject Became a Liberty Belle”. Please see the WFRW website [www.wfrw.org](http://www.wfrw.org) for more information about Nancy.

## A Win for Conservatism



After an extremely negative Supreme Court race started by the Clifford Campaign and her liberal special interest groupies (Greater Wisconsin Committee, Planned Parenthood and most of the Democratic caucus), Washington County Judge Annette Ziegler has soundly defeated the attempts by those who prefer we interpret the Constitution based on which way the wind is blowing and what politically correct idea is in vogue. Judge Ziegler, being

the only Supreme Court candidate who had judicial and criminal prosecutorial experience was able to defeat Linda Clifford, a liberal attorney from the Madison area, in the April 3 election. Judge Ziegler will serve a ten year term and she will replace retiring conservative Justice Jon Wilcox. The election victory of Ziegler was very crucial for conservatives, as she will maintain a balance on the court that would have swung dramatically to the left if Linda Clifford had been elected. Judge Ziegler will be sworn into office on August 1, 2007.

Judge Ziegler and Attorney Clifford ran Supreme Court campaigns that set records for spending with over \$1.4 million spent by the two nominees and additional millions spent by the previously mentioned groups. Clifford's campaign focused on criticizing Ziegler's history as a judge (because Clifford has no similar experience), but chose to use only a few of the most lenient sentences Judge Ziegler handed down from the more than 25,000 she adjudicated. Clifford's campaign spent \$22,500 with a private research group to dig up dirt from Judge Ziegler's past. This led to charges of lying to the police as to who they worked for while Clifford took the side of her hired hit squad instead of law enforcement personnel; morals and values that we do not need on the bench. There was even an effort by the Clifford campaign to dig into the phone records from Judge Ziegler's office to try to insinuate she was using a business phone for personal reasons. Obviously, there is nothing clean about Clifford's judicial philosophy or her ethics. The Ziegler Campaign could have used Clifford's husbands' connection to the trial lawyers lobby as a conflict of interest to the decisions a Supreme Court Justice would make, but they chose not to.

Prior to the election Ziegler was endorsed by the majority of Wisconsin Circuit Court Judges, past Governor Tommy Thompson and a bipartisan majority of Wisconsin's district attorneys, sheriffs and legislators including myself. Wisconsin residents should be pleased they will have a Judge with over ten years of experience in the court room instead of a mud-slinging trial lawyer who distorts the truth in a failed attempt to drag her political opponent through the mud. As a member of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Judge Ziegler has vowed to work to ensure that constitutional liberties are protected, that laws are interpreted practically and sensibly and that constructionist values will prevail. We can rest easy knowing that judicial restraint won over judicial activism.

Rather than being depressed about the sting of the November 2006 elections, conservatives should now feel relieved that that event was just an anomaly caught up in frustration over the Iraq War and the major media's drumbeat about the carnage. What conservatives like Annette Ziegler, Ronald Reagan and Newt Gingrich have shown is that by sticking to your conservative beliefs you can energize your base, win elections and keep the big government liberals at bay. We need more strong minds that stand up for conservative values and we will see more victories like Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Annette Ziegler just had.

More evidence that fiscal conservatism is alive and well are the results of most of the school referendums that were just on the spring ballot. Voters sensed these spending referendums were excessive and rejected the majority of them including the three largest in Brookfield (\$109 million), New Richmond (\$93 million) and Franklin (\$77 million). These three rejections alone totaled \$279 million of the \$633 million total school referendum spending appearing on the

spring ballot. This further bolsters the fact that Wisconsin is a fiscally conservative state and taxpayers here will respond when they believe their tax dollars are not being spent wisely. We need champions of conservative values in Wisconsin politics like Annette Ziegler if we as Republicans want to win elections and make Wisconsin less of a tax 'Hell'.

- Rep. Don Pridemore

## Second term finds new roles

I was delighted to have the opportunity to interview Mark Jefferson, the new Executive Director of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. Jefferson is a lifelong Wisconsin resident. He was born on a farm and has spent his career working in the Assembly for various Republican legislators. In this last election, he was charged with leading the charge for the Assembly Republicans.

Below are some questions that I posed to Jefferson. I have edited his responses a little for space.

What do you intend to do different than your predecessor, if anything?

My job is to elect Republicans. The focus is simple. We need to take Wisconsin back for the first time since 1984. With 11,000 votes in 2004 and 5,000 in 2000, despite voter fraud issues in Milwaukee, it showed that this is a purple state – not a red or a blue state. I think we can get it done next year. I think it's very important that we hold control of the State Assembly. Clearly, if we lose the majority, the next thing is the Dems will be redrawing districts to lock in majorities. We have to prevent that from happening at the state level.

I think that Rick (Wiley) did a good job. He ran a tight ship here. They are big shoes to fill, but I look forward to working with the various legislative races and the presidential race.

What do you have in mind, in a tactical sense, to hold the Assembly, take back the state Senate, and set us up for the next gubernatorial race?

In the Assembly, there's a little different game recruiting from a few years ago than there is now. We lost 8 seats and some of those are seats that we can get back. We're going to be tough and you have to focus on holding what you have before you can pick up others. It all comes down to candidate recruitment. Sometimes it's tough. We have an idea of what we want that person to be. Sometimes you have to take what the district will send you, and some of these 45% GOP districts it's a little more difficult than strong Republican districts. We get a different type of person sometimes. Identifying the folks who can win are a big part of that. I want to focus on finding quality candidates. I think the party can play an even larger role in doing that. I also think that the activists out there can play a larger role in these legislative races, and it doesn't cost a bunch of money to do it. I know a lot of folks are concerned about having to give a bunch of big bucks to fund the campaigns, but letters to the editor don't cost anything. Let folks know that representative whoever is doing a good job – keep up the good work. Don't just send in letters when you're mad at the Democrats or at your own GOP representative. Give them a pat on the back when they do a good thing so that they know that here are people out there who actually

thing that smaller government is a good thing. Those are the messages that we have to get out to people to show that we're relevant on the grassroots level. That way, we'll have representatives who will vote the way that we would have them vote rather than having a problem and trying to correct it afterwards.

In the past, the state GOP has always talked a big game about grassroots, but then ignored them. Do you see that changing?

There have been a lot of things that I think legislators need to understand. These phone calls that were made – these GOTV calls – really boosted turnout. Part of the effort needs to be to educate legislators about what the grassroots are actually doing. When the legislators see them as more relevant and appreciate the things that are actually going on, they are going to take their resolutions and their views a little more seriously. That being said, you bet there's a focus on grassroots. Like I said, it doesn't take a lot of time to write a letter to the editor or do something in a very public way to show that you're supportive of our government and that you're supportive of socially conservative causes and to show that it isn't just folks out there wanting more money for this program or that program that are making all the noise.

Why do you think the GOP lost in November?

If you look at polling on post-election, we see that independents and late deciders broke disproportionately against Republicans. That's the scientific answer. There's probably something more to it than that. Everyone wants to point the finger at the war and I have to agree that if we had to point at any single factor, that would be anger with the war in Iraq.

On the state Assembly level, we didn't effectively give our own message about what we were doing in the state Assembly and why it was important to vote Republican regardless of where you were voting at the top of the ticket. People have to want that job. I know that they don't pay all the money in the world, but you are an integral vote on a \$50 billion budget and that's not to be taken lightly. If you're not out there pounding on the doors, if you're not out there working hard to hold onto your seat, if you're not out there taking on the Dems toe to toe in the neighborhood, somebody else will. If they outwork you in an environment like 2006, you're going to see a lot of incumbents go down. Now, that doesn't explain every incumbent that lost, but the folks who were caught napping were in a lot more trouble than the folks who took it seriously.

I don't think the Foley thing helped us. In a lot of ways, people were saying that was the final straw, because people saw that and said, “OK, you aren't good on the fiscal issues and now you're not credible on the social issues. What's going on?” That was a hit. A lot of people point to Iraq, but there was a double whammy there.

I've spoken to a number of Executive Directors who say that they wouldn't do it again for the world. Any buyer's remorse?

Not at all. I find it reinvigorating. I enjoyed the grassroots politics that went on at the grassroots level. It's really hand-to-hand combat out there. It's about grassroots. I look forward to incorporating some of that into what we do here. So far, I really enjoy it.

-Owen Robinson