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**April/May 2019**

**Edition No. 114**

**www.wisdc.org**

## Support Evers's Plan for Fair Voting Maps

Dear Friend,

The fight to ban gerrymandering in Wisconsin is moving to the next level.

I'm hoping you'll support the redistricting proposal that Gov. Evers has offered in his budget, which is basically the Iowa Model which the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign has been championing for years.

Under the Evers proposal, the Legislative Reference Bureau would be drawing the maps, under the supervision of a Redistricting Advisory Commission. The Legislative Reference Bureau wouldn't be allowed to use political demographic data to rig the maps one way or another. Here's the language:

"In preparing the plan, the LRB must be strictly nonpartisan. No district may be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress...[and] The LRB may not use residence addresses of incumbent legislators or members of Congress, political affiliations of registered voters, [or] previous election results."

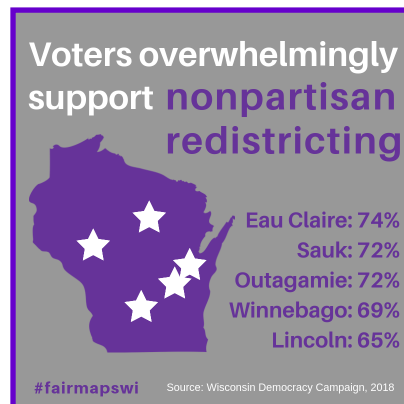
Plus, there would be public hearings on the maps in every Congressional district, and then the plan would go to the legislature, which would have to vote it up or down without amendment. If the legislature voted it down, the LRB would come back with another plan, which also couldn't be amended. If the legislature voted that one down, the LRB would draw up a third plan, which could only be amended by a 75 percent vote. This would ensure that no party could rig the maps and then railroad them through.

**Please urge your state representatives and state senators to support funding in the budget for this crucial nonpartisan redistricting reform.**

You can contact your state legislators by calling the toll-free legislative hotline at 1-800-362-9472.

And please come to our **annual celebration, May 16**, at the Lussier Family Heritage Center at 3101 Lake Farm Rd, Madison, starting at 5:30. **Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes will be our keynote speaker!**

*Matt*



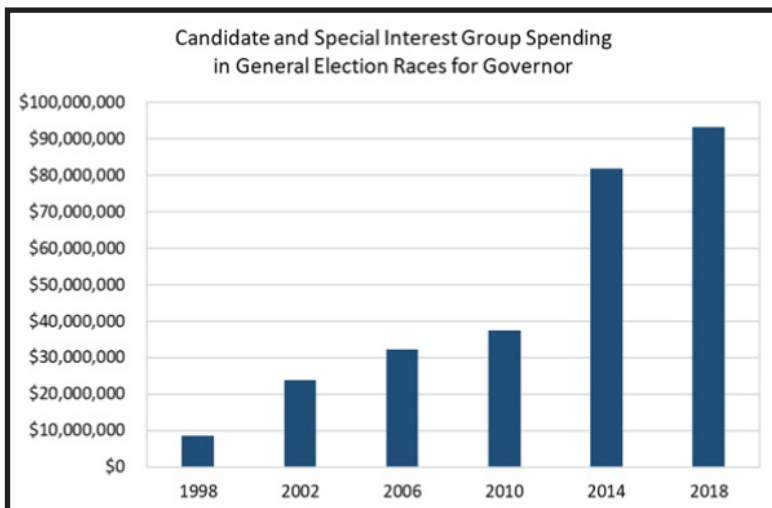
## Records Shattered in 2018

Spending on the 2018 elections in Wisconsin shattered all sorts of records for non-recall races.

In the governor's race, spending by the candidates and outside electioneering groups set a record of more than \$93 million.

Republican candidates and the special interest groups that supported them spent an estimated \$57.7 million, which was about 63 percent higher than the more than \$35.3 million spent by Democratic candidates and groups. Groups that supported Walker and Kleefisch spent about \$21.5 million, and groups that supported Evers and Barnes doled out more than \$18.6 million.

The more than \$93 million spent in the 2018 governor's race was 14 percent higher than the previous record \$81.8 million spent by candidates and groups in the 2014 governor's race.



Five groups spent more than \$1 million in the governor's race. Those groups were:

Democratic Governors Association (DGA), more than \$13.4 million.

Republican Governors Association (RGA), more than \$11.1 million.

Americans for Prosperity, more than \$8 million. This conservative group was created by the Koch Brothers.

Greater Wisconsin Committee, about \$1.5 million. This is a Democratic group, funded by labor unions and wealthy liberal donors.

Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC), \$1.2 million. This is the state's largest business group.

## Sen. Chris Larson Leads the Way

On Feb. 14, Sen. Chris Larson of Milwaukee unveiled a comprehensive reform package, which would undo the damage done in the disastrous 2015 rewrite of our campaign finance law.

It would ban corporations and other groups from giving to political parties and legislative campaign committees.

It would reimpose a \$10,000 ceiling on what individuals could give to political parties.

It would lift the lid on the dark money that has flooded into Wisconsin by requiring "issue advocacy" groups to disclose their donors.

It would lower the amounts that people could give to candidates back to where they were in 2015. (The 2015 bill had doubled them.)

And it would require campaigns to list their donors' employers.

Please urge your legislators to back these bills. Here are the bill numbers:

- **Senate Bill 75** – *The Sensible Limits Act*
- **Senate Bill 76** – *Restoring Reasonable Limits Act*
- **Senate Bill 77** – *Special Interests Limitation Act*
- **Senate Bill 78** – *Closing the PAC Loophole Act*
- **LRB-1092** – *Communications Transparency Act*
- **Senate Bill 79** – *Coordination Control Act*
- **Senate Bill 80** – *No Corporate Campaign Bribes Act*
- **Senate Bill 81** – *Contribution Sunshine Act*
- **LRB-1319** – *Stop Unlimited Contributions Act* (part of a set of good government proposals that the State Assembly Democrats are introducing)

## Special Interest Follies

### Companies Give Big, Now That They Can

The state Democratic and Republican parties and four legislative fundraising committees accepted nearly \$1.7 million in corporate contributions in 2018.

Corporate contributions were allowed for the first time in 2016 under sweeping changes to state campaign finance laws by the GOP-controlled legislature and former Republican Gov. Scott Walker. For more than 100 years prior to this, corporate contributions were illegal.

State campaign finance laws now allow corporate contributions of up to \$12,000 a year to each party and legislative campaign committee, with segregated funds for the money, which can't be used for direct contributions to candidates or for express advocacy in a political campaign.

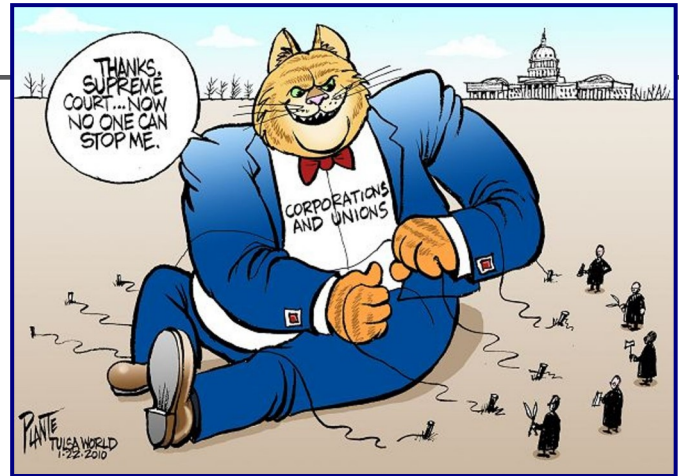
The state GOP and the two Republican legislative fundraising committees accepted nearly \$1.4 million in corporate contributions, or 83 percent of the total.

The parties and committees and the amount of corporate contributions they collected in 2018 were:

- \* Republican Assembly Campaign Committee, \$496,950
- \* Committee to Elect a Republican Senate, \$476,200
- \* Republican Party of Wisconsin, about \$416,600
- \* State Senate Democratic Committee, \$167,550
- \* Assembly Democratic Campaign Committee, \$103,150
- \* Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$17,750

The top corporate contributors were:

- \* Charter Communications, St. Louis, MO, \$52,000 to the four legislative campaign committees and both state parties.
- \* Herzog, St. Joseph, MO, a transportation contractor, \$48,000. Four divisions of the company each made \$12,000 contributions to the state GOP.
- \* Kwik Trip, La Crosse, WI, \$43,000 to the four legislative campaign committees.
- \* Wisconsin Beer Distributors Assoc., Madison, WI, \$40,000 to the four legislative campaign committees.
- \* Altria Client Services, Richmond, VA, aka Philip Morris, \$39,659 to the four legislative campaign committees and the state GOP.



### Influence Peddler: Marlene Ricketts

Our March Influence Peddler of the Month award went to Marlene Ricketts of Omaha, NE.

Ricketts, who owns the Chicago Cubs with her husband, was one of only two people to write a \$1 million check to the Republican Party of Wisconsin last year. The other was Wisconsin billionaire Diane Hendricks.

All told, Ricketts contributed \$1,030,000 in the 2017-18 election cycle in Wisconsin, including \$1,010,000 to the state GOP and \$20,000 to former Republican Gov. Scott Walker. Only Richard and Elizabeth Uihlein, of Lake Forest, Ill., were bigger out-of-state contributors than Ricketts at more than \$1.6 million in 2017-18.

These huge contributions to the state GOP were made possible by the 2015 rewrite of our campaign finance law, which tore down the ceiling on individual donations to political parties. Under the old rules, the most anyone could give was \$10,000. Now, the sky is the limit.

### Influence Peddler: SEIU

The winner of our April Influence Peddler of the Month award is the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

It spent more than any other union in last November's general election for a total of \$718,700. Most of that went to support Democrat Tony Evers for governor and his running mate, Mandela Barnes.

This spring, SEIU spent more than \$131,000 to support Judge Lisa Neubauer in her race for Wisconsin Supreme Court.



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## A Valentine to Democracy

*At the Feb. 14 press conference where Sen. Larson introduced his campaign reform package, Matt Rothschild gave the following Valentine:*

Dear Democracy in Wisconsin,



Won't you be my valentine?

I love you!

But I'm worried about you.

And I want you to get your act together.

You've let the super-wealthy and the big corporations take over the funding of our elections, drowning out the voices of the rest of us.

Democracy, you can barely hear us now.

Democracy, you're drowning in dark money.

Democracy, don't let them sully your name any longer.

So take this bouquet of bills from Sen. Larson, and on this Valentine's Day, together let us celebrate our mutual love of clean and open government, where everyone has an equal voice.

Happy Valentine's Day!

## Come to Our Annual Celebration!

You're invited...The annual celebration of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign will be held on May 16 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center at 3101 Lake Farm Rd, south of South Towne in Madison, starting at 5:30.

We're delighted that **Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes** will be our keynote speaker!

There will be plenty of good food and refreshments – as well as time to mingle with the staff and the great people, like you, who support the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

Registration materials are to follow. RSVP requested.

See you on May 16!

