



Primary candidates set eyes on August election

Candidates for partisan political office in Wisconsin had until June 1 to file nomination papers with the state's Government Accountability Board. The races are set for the Aug. 9 primary election and, in some cases, the Nov. 8 general election. This article is focused on districts with contests in the August primary election.

Eleven districts have only primary election competition, including two Senate races and nine Assembly races. Most are Milwaukee-area districts, and all but one are Democratic Party primaries:

- **SD 4:** Sen. Lena Taylor (D–Milwaukee) faces Rep. Mandela Barnes (D–Milwaukee) in the primary.
- **SD 6:** Three Democrats are competing to succeed retiring Sen. Nikiya Harris Dodd (D–Milwaukee).
- **AD 8:** Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa (D–Milwaukee) faces a primary opponent.
- **AD 9:** Rep. Josh Zepnick (D–Milwaukee) faces a primary opponent.
- **AD 11:** Three Milwaukee Democrats are competing to replace Barnes.
- **AD 16:** Rep. Leon Young (D–Milwaukee) faces three primary opponents.
- **AD 17:** Three Democrats are competing to succeed retiring Rep. LaTonya Johnson (D–Milwaukee).
- **AD 20:** Rep. Christine Sinicki (D–Milwaukee) faces a primary opponent.
- **AD 47:** Three Democrats are competing to succeed retiring Rep. Rob Kahl (D–Monona) and will face an independent in November.
- **AB 80:** Rep. Sody Pope (D–Mount Horeb) faces a primary opponent.
- **AD 83:** Four Republicans are competing to succeed Rep. Dave Craig (R–Big Bend), who is running for the State Senate.

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Wisconsin ends double tax on truck buys

Wisconsin's state sales tax is no longer applicable to the federal excise tax portion of heavy-duty truck purchases under legislation that took effect this spring, and eligible buyers can reach back more than a year and a half to claim the benefit. The change is part of 2015 Wisconsin Act 361, effective in April but retroactive to the beginning of September 2014, the CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) accounting firm has advised.

The tax change applies to buyers of heavy-duty trucks, trailers, and tractors sold in Wisconsin. Under prior law, buyers paid sales tax on the federal excise tax (FET) included in the purchase price—effectively, a tax on a tax. In addition to ending the double taxation, Act 361 allows refunds on affected sales that took place on or after Sept. 1, 2014, CLA said.

Act 361 amended Wisconsin's definitions of "sales price" and "purchase

price" so that FET can no longer be included in a retailer's taxable sales price. This condition is met only if the retailer separately states the FET on the purchaser's invoice, bill of sale, or similar document.

Under the new law, "heavy" is defined as 33,000 pounds or more for trucks, 26,000 pounds or more for trailers, and 19,500 pounds for tractors. The new definitions are also retroactive to Sept. 1, 2014.

The existing Wisconsin sales tax exemption for motor trucks, truck tractors, road tractors, buses, trailers, and semitrailers sold to common or contract carriers is unaffected.

Claiming a refund of Wisconsin sales tax paid on the FET after the eligible date requires an invoice, bill of sale, or other document reflecting the FET. Either the buyer or the seller may file for a refund, but sellers who file must refund tax and interest to the buyer, CLA said.

Liebe voices farmer co-op concerns in DC

Cooperative Network President and CEO Tom Liebe attended the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) Conference in Washington, D.C., last week, where he and fellow participants visited Wisconsin and Minnesota congressional offices.

Attendees urged public officials to direct the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to halt enforcement related to its July 22 memo revising policy for retail facility exemptions under the process safety management (PSM) standard until a proper, public rulemaking process could take place. OSHA's requirement would impact about 3,800 retailers and require significant human and capital investments, forcing many retailers to stop the sale of anhydrous ammonia and farmers to haul it much longer distances to their fields.

Attendees also urged Congress to pass the Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act (H.R. 4773, S. 2707), which would halt the Department of Labor's final rule on overtime exemptions and require the agency to conduct a comprehensive impact analysis of its effect on business, particularly rural enterprises.

Cooperative Network continues to remain engaged on these issues.



Election —continued from front page—

Two Senate districts and 16 Assembly districts feature primary and general election races. Senate districts 18 and 32 feature primaries in both major parties:

- **SD 18:** Two Republicans and two Democrats are competing for the seat of retiring Sen. Rich Gudex (R–Fond du Lac).
- **SD 32:** Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling (D–La Crosse) and former Sen. Dan Kapanke (R–La Crosse) each face a primary opponent.
- **AD 3:** Four Republicans are competing to face a Democrat for the seat of retiring Rep. Al Ott (R–Forest Junction).
- **AD 21:** Two Democrats are vying to take on Rep. Jessie Rodriguez (R–Oak Creek).
- **AD 26:** Two Democrats are vying to take on Rep. Terry Katsma (R–Oostburg).
- **AD 29:** Two Republicans and two Democrats are competing to succeed retiring Rep. John Murtha (R–Baldwin).
- **AD 30:** Two Republicans are vying to take on a Democrat and independent for the seat of retiring Rep. Dean Knudson (R–Hudson).
- **AD 31:** Two Democrats are vying to take on Rep. Amy Loudenberg (R–Clinton).
- **AD 34:** Two Democrats are vying to take on Rep. Rob Swearingen (R–Rhinelander).
- **AD 35:** Three Democrats are vying to take on Rep. Mary Czaja (R–Irma).
- **AD 38:** Two Democrats are vying to take on Rep. Joel Kleefisch (R–Oconomowoc).
- **AD 43:** Two Democrats are competing to face a Republican for the seat of retiring Rep. Andy Jorgensen (D–Milton).
- **AD 50:** Two Democrats are vying to take on Rep. Ed Brooks (R–Reedsburg).
- **AD 67:** Four Republicans and two Democrats are competing to succeed retiring Rep. Tom Larson (R–Colfax).
- **AD 72:** Two Democrats are vying to take on Rep. Scott Krug (R–Nekoosa).
- **AD 78:** Rep. Lisa Subeck (D–Madison) is challenged by another Democrat to face an independent candidate in November.
- **AD 86:** Two Democrats are vying to take on Rep. John Spiros (R–Marshfield) and an independent candidate in November.
- **AB 92:** Two Republicans are vying to take on Rep. Chris Danou (D–Trempealeau).

Forty-seven districts have general election competition but no primary ballot races, including six Senate districts and 41 Assembly districts.

Six Senate candidates, including five incumbent senators and one incumbent representative, are unopposed with no primary or general election competition.

Thirty-three incumbent representatives are unopposed for re-election to the Assembly, including 17 Republicans and 16 Democrats.

Tom Engels named interim DHS secretary

Gov. Scott Walker has appointed Tom Engels interim secretary of the Department of Health Services (DHS) following the unexpected June 18 death of DHS

Secretary Kitty Rhoades.

Engels was named DHS deputy secretary in February after serving as deputy secretary of the Department of Safety and Professional Services. Prior to that, he was vice president of public affairs for the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin.

Rhoades became DHS secretary in February 2013 after serving two years as DHS deputy secretary. From her hometown of Hudson, Wisconsin, she served in the Assembly from 1999 until 2011. During that time, she was chairperson of the Assembly's Aging and Long-Term Care Committee and co-chair of the Joint Finance Committee. Funeral services were held Thursday in Hudson.



Prepared and distributed to provide timely information on matters pertaining to Wisconsin's member-owned cooperatives.

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Upcoming Events

July 21

Wisconsin Credit Issues Conference

Hear in-depth discussion on policy and trends related to member lending, including updates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wisconsin Farm Service Agency and the Wisconsin Farm Center; the latest on a proposed central agricultural lien filing system; credit card usage policies; and an analysis of the agricultural economy. Credit unions, Farm Credit, farm supply, livestock, genetics, and fuel cooperatives are encouraged to attend. The early-bird discount ends June 23, and final registration ends July 11. Details are online at bit.ly/2016WICreditIssues.

August 4

Federal Dairy Issues Forum

Learn how the Trans-Pacific Partnership, 2018 Farm Bill, and immigration reform may affect your cooperative and members at Cooperative Network's Federal Dairy Issues Forum, Aug. 4, at the Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center in Onalaska, Wisconsin. Early registration and the hotel block end July 5. Details are online at bit.ly/2016FDIF.

Co-op Calendar

July 20—Resolutions Committee Meeting, Eau Claire, Wis.

July 21—Wisconsin Credit Issues Conference, Stevens Point, Wis.

Aug. 4—Federal Dairy Issues Forum, Onalaska, Wis.

Aug. 17—Wis. Farm Supply, Grain, and Fuel Committee Meeting, Location TBD

Aug. 23—Wis. Dairy Legislative and Regulatory Committee Meeting, Location TBD

Nov. 14–16—Cooperative Network Annual Meeting, Stevens Point, Wis.

For more information about these events, call (608) 258-4400 or go to www.cooperativenetwork.coop.