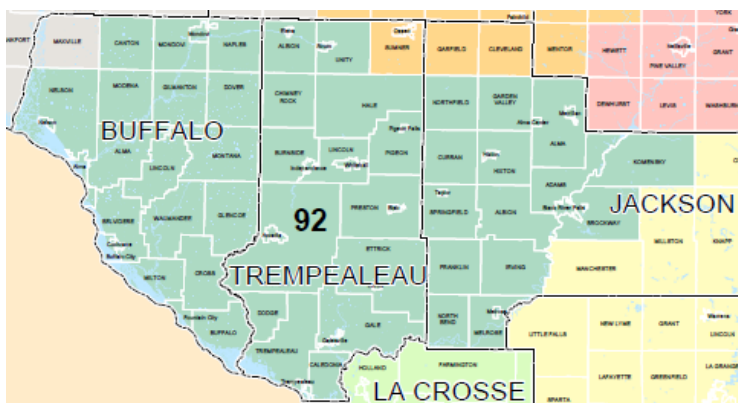




Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
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Wisconsin 92nd Assembly District Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire



When: Tuesday, August 14, 2018; polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Find your location: myvote.wi.gov
Early voting weekdays, July 30-August 10. Contact your municipality for hours and location.

What it's about: Democratic and Republican Party Primary election to determine who will be on the ballot in the November 6 General Election.

Who can vote: The election is open to all eligible voters. Wisconsin has an open primary system with a secret ballot. You will receive a ballot for all parties, but in the voting booth you must vote for candidates in only one party.

Where you vote and who is on your ballot:

- Go to myvote.wi.gov
- Enter your voting address to learn which races are on your ballot and where you vote.

Why this questionnaire: The Good Government Council (GGC) is a committee of the Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce dedicated to encouraging voter participation and providing members of the business community with non-biased information about candidates' positions on important issues. Although the Chamber is active in policy issues, it is non-partisan and does not endorse political candidates. In light of the competitive primary races in the Assembly 91st and 92nd districts, and Senate 31st districts, a primary questionnaire containing six questions was sent to candidates for these seats to help inform voters.

Who is running in the 92nd Assembly District: There are three Democrats running for the party nomination – Desiree Gearing-Lancaster, Rob Grover, Max Hart – to face the one Republican candidate, incumbent Treig Pronschinske of Mondovi.

Here are their answers to our questions:

Q1. Why are you running for this office and what issues will you emphasize if elected to the next session of the legislature?

Desiree Gearing-Lancaster (D)

My campaign slogan is "Know Your Power." My work history and multiple years of community and public service has been about empowerment and promoting positive change on both an individual level and through public service in my community! "Know Your Power" is all about grass roots participation in our neighborhoods and communities, through civic and public service, voting and participating in the electoral process, running for office, and participating in political campaigns and public service! One of the most important concepts I have learned and embraced through the last four years employment with Ho-Chunk Nation Social Services is the concept of "servant leadership." Leading through example, through mentorship and through empowerment (doing what is right when no one is looking or keeping score). . . . This is servant leadership! If elected to serve as the next State Representative to the 92nd Assembly District, I will dedicate my service to protecting and empowering the citizens of the 92nd Assembly District. This means listening, transparency and being accountable to my constituents. Campaign finance reform, non-partisan redistricting and working toward strengthening our democracy, overall, will be amongst the issues I will champion in the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Rob Grover (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Max Hart (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Treig Pronschinske (R)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Q2. As the legislature approaches its overall budget for the next biennium, what are your budget priorities? What areas of taxation and spending would you increase or decrease?

Desiree Gearing-Lancaster (D)

Budgets reflect priorities and my priorities will focus on protecting and empowering individuals and families, "main street," workers, education, environmental issues and health care access and quality. Spending in the area of criminal justice reform will focus less on prisons and jail cells and more on treatment courts, investment in treatment and diversion programs and investing in mental health and AODA treatment as an upfront cost which will be both more humane and cost effective in the long run. We should NOT be spending more money on the correctional system (incarceration, etc.) than on the UW-System. More funding for preventative care will cost less as well as promote healthier lifestyles and be more fiscally responsible in the long haul!

I would embrace the concept of local control overall, to include environmental protections and the development of new green jobs, enhancing job creation and supporting an increase in the minimum wage, while being sensitive to main street and rural employers.

Rob Grover (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Max Hart (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Treig Pronschinske (R)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Q3. The primary sources for transportation revenue, including gas taxes and registration fees, have been growing slower than transportation spending, leading to increasing shortfalls in revenues vs. planned expenditures and increasing levels of debt. What measures would you support to match transportation fund revenues with the state's transportation needs?

Desiree Gearing-Lancaster (D)

This is a complex issue and I would relish the opportunity to research creative ways to address this issue, as infrastructure, and improving the safety of our community roads and declining infrastructure has become a critical issue in our state and our rural communities. A far too high of a percentage of spending on transportation in Wisconsin goes toward debt rather than road repair, and this trend needs to stop and reverse itself. This costly borrowing is unfair to Wisconsin families and rather than the continual delay of projects, and road safety, long-term transportation funding solutions need to be established. We need to seek common ground and backbone and collaborate on ways to address this complex issue.

Rob Grover (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Max Hart (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Treig Pronschinske (R)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Q4. Given recent trends in the financing of all levels of public education in Wisconsin, how should education funding be structured in the next budget to assure appropriate financing for every level of public education?

Desiree Gearing-Lancaster (D)

We need to take note of the fact that the average Wisconsin worker pays a larger share of their income in taxes than individuals in the top 1% of income. This is wrong and needs to be addressed. The opportunity to achieve the American dream depends on the opportunity for every student and citizen in Wisconsin to receive a great public school education. Public education is the heart and soul of every community! Governor Walker's cuts to the public schools in Wisconsin has unfairly shifted the burden to communities through property taxes. We need to eliminate massive tax cuts for the wealthy and to subsidize private vouchers. Local school funding needs to be restored, and we need to consider investments in the retention of quality public school teachers. In addition, investment in our UW-System, lowering student loan debt, and providing more opportunities for collaboration between public schools, vocational-technical schools and private business would promote a better match between open jobs and worker skill levels.

Rob Grover (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Max Hart (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Treig Pronschinske (R)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Q5. Our region faces several significant workforce challenges, including a "skills gap" between employer labor demands and the available workforce, as well as demographic issues related to the size of the workforce and the ability to recruit and retain employees to the area. What should be the state's role in solving these issues?

Desiree Gearing-Lancaster (D)

As already mentioned, we need to find creative strategies including internships and apprenticeships for students in the public school system, through collaborative partnerships between schools, vocational-technical schools and private

businesses. These efforts would assist in addressing the "skills gap" and shortage of skilled workers matching available workforce markets. The demographic issues are especially acute in our rural areas of the State. Employer incentives and tax breaks may promote and encourage investment in our workers. Skill building in our ever changing technological economy can help bridge some of the current gaps and workforce challenges. The State of Wisconsin should invest in broadband networks in our rural communities in addition to our infrastructure as all of these issues are connected!

Rob Grover (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Max Hart (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Treig Pronschinske (R)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Q6. Medicaid is already the second largest state funded program and is growing faster than other items in the total state budget. How should the legislature respond to the ongoing financial pressure this creates, while keeping Medicaid sustainable and able to serve those who need its assistance?

Desiree Gearing-Lancaster (D)

Health care access should be a right for all of our State's citizens. In addition to strengthening Badger Care and the expansion of Medicaid, more funding for preventive care (Community Health Centers), and education regarding healthier life styles could be coupled with incentives in promoting such life styles. In addition, access to quality health care will decrease the use of emergency wards and urgent care visits which increases the cost of health care for everyone. Prescription drug costs need to be contained in addition to enhanced funding and investments in Family Care Programs and Aging and Disability Resource Centers in order to contain the costs of aging and long-term care services.

Rob Grover (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Max Hart (D)

Did not respond to questionnaire

Treig Pronschinske (R)

Did not respond to questionnaire