

The Wisconsin 9/12 Project

MADISON-BASED TEA PARTY GROUP RELEASES SECOND MONTHLY STRAW POLL ON SEPTEMBER PRIMARIES

(Madison) – The Wisconsin 9/12 Project this week took a second straw poll of its core membership on key races to be decided in the September primary election. The group has been actively vetting candidates for statewide and federal office over the past few months.

“We had a chance in July to ask tough questions of candidates in three key races,” states group organizer Kirsten Lombard. “As a result of those sessions, several candidates increased their support within our group. For example, Peter Theron, candidate in the 2nd Congressional District, picked up some member votes as a result of his time with us. We haven’t yet vetted Chad Lee,” Lombard adds, “It will be interesting to see if his currently solid lead holds once we do.”

Lombard further notes that Lt. Governor candidate Rebecca Kleefisch’s visit made an impression. While Kleefisch had no support in June’s straw poll, this month’s numbers give her a slight lead over Brett Davis. Davis was the first candidate the group vetted and last month’s straw poll leader. Ben Collins, who held second place in June, has since dropped out. Nearly a third of group members remain undecided on the race, with the last major Republican contender, Dave Ross, not yet vetted.

“Straw polling on the gubernatorial race also shows a major shift,” Lombard continues. “In June, Scott Walker held 45%, with 35% of our core members undecided. But Mark Neumann’s thorough written answers to our vetting questionnaire and strong, in-person responses to open questioning have turned heads,” Lombard acknowledges. “He gained serious ground on Walker this month.”

On the U.S. Senate race, Lombard says results remain consistent last month’s: Dave Westlake takes 95.5% of the vote to Ron Johnson’s 4.5%. “So far, our polling continues to show that Mr. Westlake’s positions, principles, commitment to the United States Constitution, and overall accessibility all factor into why group members take Westlake’s candidacy very seriously.”

Lombard says the Wisconsin 9/12 Project does not expect to have an opportunity to vet Westlake’s opponent, Ron Johnson. “The Johnson campaign has canceled and failed to reschedule vetting sessions with several local Tea Party groups, including our own,” she states. “So far, we’ve relied on YouTube video of Mr. Johnson’s only known appearance before any such group—a mid-June visit to the Rock River Patriots that lasted less than 45 minutes. His responses in that session have caused my own group valid concern regarding Mr. Johnson’s depth as a candidate and his preparedness for office,” asserts Lombard. “For example, during the session he admits that he’s only read the Constitution a handful of times and finds it a difficult document to read and study. If he struggles with the clear, concise language of the Constitution, we wonder how he’ll manage with far more challenging documents currently being produced in Washington. Moreover, we have to question how he’ll successfully use our founding document as a reference point in drafting, assessing, and voting on legislation.”

Lombard cautions that **the group’s straw poll results in no way represent endorsement of any candidate**. Rather, the data should be understood as a current “snapshot” of general trends in the group’s thinking and preferences. “These figures reflect what we know right now,” Lombard notes. “As we gather additional information, polling results will likely continue to change.”

Below are the straw poll percentage breakdowns for the various races:

U.S. Congress – 2nd District

Tammy Baldwin (D)	0%
Chad Lee (R)	54.5%
Peter Theron (R)	13.6%
Other (unspecified)	4.5%
Undecided	27.3%

If you currently have a preference, select reasons for leaning toward this candidate (multiple responses allowed):

1) Similar political viewpoints	80%
2) Principles and character	45%
3) Dislike for opposing candidate(s)	40%
4) Strong adherence to the Constitution	35%

U.S. Senate

Russ Feingold (D)	0%
Ron Johnson (R)	4.5%
Rob Taylor (C)	0%
Dave Westlake (R)	95.5%
Undecided	0%

If you currently have a preference, select reasons for leaning toward this candidate (multiple responses allowed):

1) Similar political viewpoints	77.3%
2) Principles and character	72.7%
2) Strong adherence to the Constitution	72.7%
3) Performance at a vetting session	68.2%

Governor

Tom Barrett (D)	0%
Mark Neumann (R)	36.4%
Scott Walker (R)	45.5%
Other (Scott Paterick)	4.5%
Undecided	13.6%

If you currently have a preference, select reasons for leaning toward this candidate (multiple responses allowed):

1) Similar political viewpoints	84.2%
2) Principles and character	68.4%
3) Background/Preparedness for office	63.2%
4) Experience	47.4%
4) Strong adherence to the Constitution	47.4%
4) Performance at vetting session	47.4%

Lieutenant Governor

G. Spencer Coggs (D)	0%
Brett Davis (R)	27.3%

Rebecca Kleefisch (R)	36.4%
Tom Nelson (D)	0%
Dave Ross (R)	0%
Henry Sanders (D)	0%
James Schneider (D)	0%
Other (Ben Collins)	4.5%
Undecided	31.8%

If you currently have a preference, select reasons for leaning toward this candidate (multiple responses allowed):

1) Similar political viewpoints	60%
1) Performance at a vetting session	60%
2) Strong adherence to the Constitution	53.3%
3) Principles and character	40%
4) Experience	40%

The Wisconsin 9/12 Project encourages all voters to view its video-recorded vetting sessions as part of the process of getting to know candidates as thoroughly as possible before election day. All sessions are posted as quickly as possible on the group's YouTube Channel at:

www.youtube.com/user/Wisconsin912Project

The Wisconsin 9/12 Project expects to release its next straw poll during the last week of August.