

The April 4th Election for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court

A successful turnout of progressive voters has resulted in Judge Janet Protasiewicz emerging from the February Wisconsin State Supreme Court primary as the liberal candidate. She is opposed by the very conservative Judge Dan Kelly.

The task before us is to again turn out in the general election of April 4th to put Judge Protasiewicz on the bench to secure a 4-3 margin of progressive judges on the WSSC. Our experience with the current conservative majority has been disappointing. In 2021, by a 4-3 vote, the conservatives voted to preserve the gerrymandered districting that has given a strangle hold of our representation in the Congress and State Legislature to the Republican Party. This was done by touting a "least change principle" that does not exist in the election laws of our state. (So much for the conservative principle of adhering to legal statute.)

In 2020, Justice Brian Hagedorn parted with his fellow conservatives when the issue of the Presidential electors was being challenged. By a 4-3 vote the WSSC agreed it was proper to send the electoral college representatives elected by the people of the state, rather than sending the election to the State Legislature and have them send an alternative slate of electors. To be clear, we were one justice's vote away from discounting our votes for the Presidency.

Daniel Kelly has voiced his dismay and disapproval of Justice Hagedorn for this vote. It is not overstating to say the integrity of our elections and suppression of citizen voting is at issue in this election of a justice to the Wisconsin State Supreme Court.

A woman's right to private, legal, and safe choices regarding her reproductive health will be coming to the WSSC in consideration of the current 1849 state law that bans abortion for any reason in Wisconsin. As many as 70% of citizens think this is improper.

Environmental law is still another reason to cast a vote in this election. A clean environment is our heritage and our future. It cannot be squandered to special interests. We have example of how Dan Kelly would decide these issues. In a case *Enbridge v. Dane County*, he ruled that Enbridge didn't need to carry additional insurance for a pipeline project in Dane County to protect against an accident like the \$1.2 billion spill that occurred in Michigan.

Spring elections tend to be of low voter turnout. Each vote is thereby of magnified significance. There will be huge investment by conservative interest groups favoring Dan Kelly in this WSSC election. Please talk to family, friends and neighbors who you know to be interested in these issues. Encourage them to vote.

You do not need a reason to request an absentee mail-in ballot. Go to [MyVote.com](https://www.MyVote.com) for further guidance or to the Juneau County Democrats website at [jcodem.org](https://www.jcodem.org). To learn more about Janet Protasiewicz go to [JanetforJustice.com](https://www.JanetforJustice.com).

You are welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the Juneau County Democrats on the 2nd Thursday of every month at Timmy's Time Out in Mauston at 7PM. We can use your help. You help a great deal by voting.

