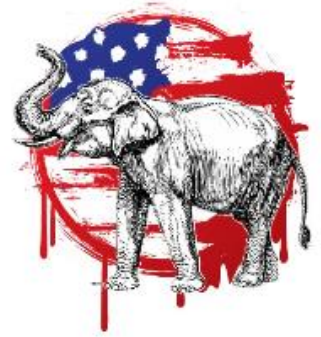




Elephant Tales

2025 2nd Quarter



The Chairmans Corner June 2025

Today's thoughts: LRT Dinner Survey

Thank you to all who participated in completing the survey. We had 32 surveys returned and here is what people said listed by most popular answers.

- 1) Why do you belong to the Shawano County Republican Party? Conservative values, make friends, grew up in the area.
- 2) Is the Party communicating effectively with you? Yes. No one answered No.
- 3) Do you receive the party email communications? Yes-majority No-2 responses.
- 4) Are you aware of the Party's Facebook Page? Visit? How often? Aware: Yes-17 Responses No-15 responses Visit: Yes-9 Responses No-11 Responses Often: Yes-8 Responses No-21 Responses Share: Yes-6 Responses No-25 Responses
- 5) Aware of party Advertising? Yes- 29 Responses No- 2 responses
- 6) Aware of monthly meetings? Yes- 30 Responses No-1 Response
- 7) Activities suggestions: a) Group Shooting practice b) Flea market booth c) More parade participation d) Open House at HQ- Welcome new neighbors e) Start Young Republican's Group f) Civics class involvement Grade school/High school
- 8) Local party suggestions: Encourage our leaders- Pay raises!

Timothy W. Steffen Chairman Shawano County Republican Party P.O. Box 148 Bowler, WI 54416
715-793-4745 Home/Office 715-460-6429 cell

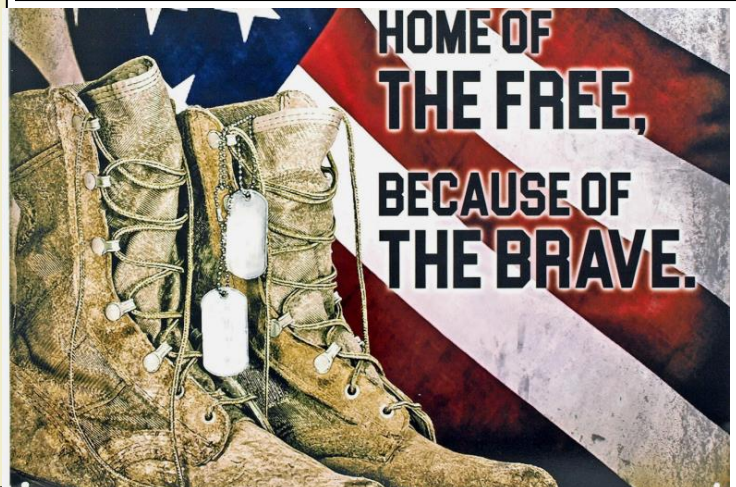
IMPORTANT DATES!

PARADES:

Sun. June 22nd 12p Wittenberg Community Days
Sat. Jun 28th Gresham July 4th Celebration
Fri. July 4th 11a Bonduel 4th of July Celebration
Sat Jul 12 Navarino Days
Sunday Jul 20th Embarrass Parade
Sun. Aug. 24rd 1p Tigerton Lumberjack Days
Sun Oct. 4th Caroline Colorama

EVENTS:

8/1-8/2 Gun Show (details to come)
Wed Aug. 20th **Party-** Annual Picnic/Pella Park
8/27 – 9/1 Shawano Co. Fair/Booth in Merchants Bldg
Sat. Sept. 13th Bonduel Patriot Day – 9 to 3
Sat Oct. 3rd Downtown Shawano Octoberfest



SENATOR RON JOHNSON

Originally Appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*

The “One Big Beautiful Bill” that Congress is working on is certainly big, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Too often the reality of these budget debates gets obscured in details, politically charged issues and demagoguery. Let me attempt to clarify the current discussion by focusing on the most important facts and numbers.

In fiscal 2019, federal outlays totaled \$4.45 trillion, or 20.6% of gross domestic product. This year, according to the Congressional Budget Office’s January 2025 projection, [total outlays will be](#) \$7.03 trillion, or 23.3% of GDP. That’s a 58% increase over six years. The CBO projects federal outlays will total \$89.3 trillion across fiscal 2026-35. Much of the blame goes to pandemic spending, but lockdowns are long over. There’s nothing now to justify this abnormal level of government spending. Pathetically, Congress is having a hard time agreeing on a reduction of even \$1.5 trillion from that 10-year amount. That’s a 1.68% cut—a little more than a rounding error. My guess is that much of that minuscule decrease will be backloaded to the end of the 10 years for which Congress is now budgeting, increasing the probability those savings will never be realized.

Other than during World War II, the increase in spending we’ve experienced over the past six years is unprecedented. After the war, Congress and President Truman understood the importance of returning spending to normal levels. In 1941, total outlays were \$13.7 billion, or 11.7% of GDP. They peaked in 1945 at \$92.7 billion, or 41% of GDP. That was a 577% increase, 10 times as large as what we experienced with the pandemic. Yet by 1948, federal outlays were \$29.8 billion and back to a little over 11% of GDP.

Since 1948, government has steadily grown, and spending as a percentage of GDP has more than doubled. That level far exceeds the size and scope of government the Founders envisioned. In 1930, prior to President Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal, [federal outlays](#) were 3.5% of GDP, while state and local expenditures were 9.1%. That was the foundational premise of America and the 10th Amendment—a limited federal government with most governing occurring close to the governed at the state and local level.

That vision of limited federal government is now unattainable, but returning to a reasonable pre-pandemic level of spending is doable. The economy is no longer forcibly shut down. Congress should at least be able to bring spending back to its 2019 share of GDP, which would total \$6.47 trillion next fiscal year. This would be \$838 billion below the CBO’s current fiscal 2026 spending projection of \$7.29 trillion. Returning federal outlays to 20.6% of GDP would save \$8.4 trillion over 10 years. That’s a lot better than the current paltry goal of \$1.5 trillion.

It’s essential that Congress deviate from its current path. Under every scenario now being considered, federal debt continues to skyrocket from its current level of almost \$37 trillion. The CBO’s current projection adds around \$22 trillion over the next 10 years, resulting in total debt of approximately \$59 trillion—134% of GDP—in 2035. That projection assumes an automatic tax increase will occur in 2026 when provisions of the 2017 tax cuts expire, increasing revenue from 17.1% of GDP in fiscal 2025 to an average of 18.1% over the next 10 years. With the CBO projecting 10-year GDP at \$373 trillion, that 1% increase represents \$3.7 trillion of additional revenue and lower debt.

No one can accurately predict the dynamic economic effects of changes in tax law, tariffs and the current trade war. But by repealing the automatic tax increase, adding \$1.5 trillion in additional tax cuts, pumping [around \\$340 billion](#) into additional border and defense spending, and reducing other

spending by at most \$1.5 trillion, the One Big Beautiful Bill will almost certainly add to our deficits and debt. I doubt Mr. Trump's voters expect us to continue spending at President Biden's levels, which led to the inflation they elected Republicans last year to stop. I doubt, too, that Trump voters will be elated to see the GOP embrace Democratic policies and priorities—including ObamaCare, which seems to have found new life under the name "Medicaid expansion." And I can't imagine that they want Republicans to increase annual deficits. That's why I can't support this bill as it's currently being discussed and doubt that it will pass the Senate.

It's also why I'm asking the president and congressional leaders to reconsider a multistep strategy on budget reconciliation. By immediately passing a bill based on the Senate's original budget resolution, we can fund border security and defense priorities and bank \$850 billion in real spending reductions. The next step would be to pass a bill that extends current tax law to prevent the automatic 2026 tax increase, and avoids default by including a smaller increase in the debt ceiling that maintains the pressure and leverage to achieve future spending reductions.

With those goals achieved, sufficient incentive would remain to address President Trump's tax proposals focusing on working men and women and the already-expired business tax provisions of his 2017 tax law. It would also give us the time to simplify and rationalize the tax code, and go line by line through the entire federal budget to uncover, expose, and eliminate the hundreds of billions of dollars of waste, fraud, and abuse that the DOGE effort has shown exists. If we don't, America is headed off a cliff.

Senator Ron Johnson



CONGRESSMAN TONY WIED

It has been an exciting few months in Washington as we have gotten to work enacting President Trump's agenda. We are truly in a golden age. In November of last year, the people of Shawano County and the rest of Wisconsin sent a clear message: we would not stand by and let radical far-left Democrat policies destroy our country.



For four long years, our nation suffered under the Biden Administration in every imaginable way. We faced an invasion at our southern border, rising crime in our streets, and reckless government spending, which fueled the worst inflation we've seen in over forty years.

But thankfully, to quote President Ronald Reagan's famous 1984 campaign ad, "it's morning in America." It has been just a little over 100 days since President Trump took office and we have been fighting to turn this country around.

Under President Trump's leadership, illegal border crossings have dropped 99%. That is not a typo - a 99% decrease. Our border is now more secure than at any point in our nation's history. And we are just getting started. Under President Trump and Republican leadership, illegal immigrants will no longer be given a free pass. I was proud to co-sponsor the Laken Riley Act, which was signed into law by President Trump, that will ensure we deport any illegal immigrant who commits theft. I have also co-sponsored the Remain in Mexico Act, which will codify the successful border policy of the Trump Administration and ensure it cannot be undone by a future Administration.

On top of that, prices at the grocery store and the gas pump are continuing to fall and we are unleashing American energy. Inflation is now at the lowest point it has been at in 4 years. President Trump promised to stand for America's working men and women - we are fighting to deliver on that mission every day in Washington.

Currently, House Republicans are working to pass President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" to fund the government and provide us with the tools we need to enact his agenda. Despite what you may have heard in the media, this bill is aimed at providing relief for hard working Americans, securing our border, and getting our country back on a sound fiscal path.

The Democrats have been shouting for months that we are only going to "cut taxes for the wealthy." Let me be very clear: that could not be further from the truth. If we do not pass this bill and extend President Trump's tax cuts, the average working person in our district would see a tax increase of about \$1600 next year. I will not allow that to happen.

They have continuously said that we are going to "gut" Medicaid and other programs such as SNAP. That is false. We are committed to rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in these programs so they can be preserved and strengthened for the vulnerable Americans they were always intended for.

Once we pass this bill, we must get to work on codifying President Trump's executive orders and make permanent the efforts of DOGE to continue to get our federal spending under control. Our work is just getting started but I look forward to getting this bill passed and continuing to Make America Great Again!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Wied". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rep. Tony Wied

H.R. 22 – The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act

Radical progressive Democrats took drastic steps to fundamentally remake America through open borders and a full-scale assault on election integrity laws.

Rep. Chip Roy's SAVE Act (H.R.22) will address this by requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote in Federal elections to ensure the integrity of our elections. It amends the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) to **require states to verify US citizenship** when registering an individual to vote in federal elections, give states the tools to remove non-citizens from their voter rolls, and penalize officials that knowingly register non-citizens.

MYTH: *"The SAVE Act would prohibit married women – or anyone who has changed their name – from voting."*

FACT: This is fake news. Under the SAVE Act, those individuals (i.e. most) who have updated their documentary proof of citizenship (which can include things like a REAL ID, passport, or government-issued identification with their place of birth), no action is needed, and they can register to vote. For the small fraction of individuals who have not yet updated their documentation to reflect a name change, which most do immediately for other life purposes, the SAVE Act explicitly directs states to establish a process for them to register to vote irrespective of those discrepancies. Like other areas of the law, citizens will be able to use combinations of existing identification documents, certificates of birth from the state, and other similar documentation to demonstrate citizenship. No one will be left unable to register to vote due to a name change.

MYTH: *"The SAVE Act would require everyone to have a U.S. passport to register to vote."*

FACT: The SAVE Act merely requires documentary proof of United States citizenship to register to vote. This is not just limited to passports, but can include: a REAL ID (in use in all 50 states now), a US military ID card together with paperwork showing place of birth was in the United States, and any valid government issued identification card issued by Federal, State, or Tribal government showing the applicants place of birth was in the U.S.

MYTH: *"In federal elections, we have no evidence of illegals voting."*

FACT: There is ample evidence of non-US citizens registering to vote. One 2014 study of the 2008 and 2010 elections found that non-citizens voted and likely impacted the outcome in several races. Virginia removed 1,481 voter registrations for "non-citizen status." In 2014, North Carolina conducted a study that found over 1,400 registered voters on its rolls appeared to be non-citizens. Numerous states and local jurisdictions are actively seeking to register non-citizens in their elections. One illegal ballot cast is one too many and can impact the outcome of tight elections.

MYTH: *"The SAVE Act is unnecessary because it is already illegal for non-citizens to vote."*

FACT: While only U.S. citizens can legally vote in Federal elections, the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) effectively stops states from checking citizenship during registration, preventing the law from being enforced. The SAVE Act is needed to **require** states to verify US citizenship when registering individuals to vote in federal elections, give states the tools to remove non-citizens from their voter rolls, and penalize officials that register non-citizens.

MYTH: *"The SAVE Act will make it impossible for U.S. Servicemembers to vote if deployed abroad."*

FACT: This bill does not amend the Uniformed Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and leaves in place existing procedures and safeguards for servicemembers abroad to vote absentee in federal elections.

MYTH: *"The SAVE Act is unconstitutional and violates the principles of federalism."*

FACT: The Elections Clause, the Naturalization Clause, and the 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments clearly give Congress the authority to enact the SAVE Act. The SAVE Act is a narrow bill that simply strengthens the law that has governed the federal voter registration process for 30 years – the NVRA – by requiring states to verify citizenship for registration in federal elections.

Shawano Area Republican Women

We held our second Rummage/Bake Sale May 30-31st at the county party headquarters. The funds earned will go towards our next contribution to Veterans. In July, our club will be a sponsor for the VFW Boot Camp Scramble.

From our fundraising in 2024, we recently donated **\$1750** to the Shawano County Area Veterans Service Office.

August 1st and 2nd, we will again be providing lunch for the Vendors and Visitors to the 2nd Annual County Party sponsored Gun Show. **August 20th**, at the County Party **Picnic at Pella Park** – we will be offering desserts to the attendees and look for our Raffle Basket table.

Consider becoming a member of **SARW** – we are the behind-the-scenes gals who support the Shawano Republican Party and provide financial support to local Veteran's needs.

Ginny Jesse

Ginnyann03@gmail.com

A Message from State Representative Elijah Behnke

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's an honor to serve you as the Representative for the 6th Assembly District. Since being sworn in this January, I've been working diligently on your behalf in Madison while staying connected with our communities.

I'm pleased to report that the constitutional amendment requiring photo ID to vote, which I strongly supported through Assembly Joint Resolution 1, passed on the April ballot. This important measure ensures election integrity by requiring photo identification, just as is needed for many everyday activities.

In March, the Assembly passed a crucial legislative package protecting our children from harmful transgender policies. I proudly voted for the Help Not Harm Act prohibiting medical gender transitioning for minors, and the Save Women's Sports Act keeping males out of female sports and locker rooms.

I co-sponsored Assembly Bill 30 with Representative Penterman and Senator Jacque to prohibit foreign adversaries from acquiring Wisconsin's agricultural and forestry lands, helping preserve our state's vital resources. This legislation would help protect our vital farmland from foreign ownership, which has nearly doubled nationwide over the past decade.

Between legislative duties, I've prioritized visiting schools and businesses across our



district. I recently toured Shawano Schools with Superintendent Kurt Krizan, and attended Grandparents Day at Gillett Elementary, recently recognized as a U.S. News Best Elementary School. I was also honored to attend the Suring Market & Agricultural Center Grand Opening, which will teach future generations essential farming skills through The David Reise Learning Center.

My priority remains listening to my constituents, and I continued to do so through listening sessions held in Pulaski, Clintonville, Bonduel, Shawano, and Cecil where we discussed crafting a responsible state budget that funds essential priorities while living within our means.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Sincerely,

Elijah Behnke

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday 26 May 2025 was Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a day to remember those in the military who gave the ultimate sacrifice. That ultimate sacrifice made was to protect the freedoms and rights we all benefit from as citizens of the United States of America. *REMEMBER: They gave not for themselves but for their country.*

Veterans Day is the day to remember the service of all the men and women who served this great nation. Memorial Day is the one day we take a few moments to remember and praise those who gave that ultimate sacrifice. On Memorial Day please remember that those who sacrificed all - sacrificed - not for themselves but for their country.

God Bless America!



As the session continues, my colleagues and I are continuing to put forth common sense legislation for Wisconsin. I am proud to be leading several of these bills.

In March, the Assembly passed two criminal justice bills I authored. Assembly Bill 66 prohibits prosecutors from dismissing or amending charges on several serious crimes without first obtaining court approval, including domestic abuse and sexual assault. AB 66 also prohibits prosecutors from giving criminals deferred prosecution agreements on these crimes, ensuring they do time behind bars. The Assembly also passed AB-85, which requires probation officers to recommend that criminals who violate conditions of probation be sent back to jail, ensuring that those who get second chances do not get third and fourth chances to stay on the streets.

In April, the Assembly passed another bill I authored to strengthen our unemployment system by requiring more meaningful work search requirements to continue receiving benefits and renaming the program to reemployment assistance to capture the true meaning of unemployment insurance, which is getting people off the system and back to work.

I am also proud to be a co-author of Assembly Bill 201, Bradyn's Law. AB-201 is named after Bradyn Bohn, a 15 year old high school student from my district who took his own life earlier this year after online criminals extorted money from him and threatened to release intimate photographs if he failed to send more. Stories like Bradyn's are increasing throughout the country. Bradyn's Law imposes stringent criminal penalties for this conduct including the possibility of felony murder charges.

To follow my legislative efforts in Madison, please sign up for my e-updates by visiting my website: <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/87/jacobson>.

Reo. Brent Jacobson

Bernie Sanders has been in Congress since 1991. Over 15 Congressional sessions, first as a member of the House and then in the Senate, Sanders has had only three bills directly become law — just 0.7% of the 421 bills he has sponsored during his legislative tenure. Two of these laws renamed Vermont post offices. This is the second lowest ratio for any current senator who has served across 10 or more sessions.

REMEMBER: He now owns 3 multi-million dollar mansions.

MEMBERSHIP FEES MEALS FEES - -WILL WE INCREASE FEES or NOT IN THE FUTURE?

We are in the discussion and idea phase. We had a great discussion at our monthly May meeting and this will continue at our June and July meetings. Consider attending to be part of the discussion. The final discussion and decision will be conducted at the annual picnic at Pella Park in August.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP FEES

Regular = \$20.00 = pays to attend all events

Patriot = single \$75.00 couple = \$150.00 covers LRTDD & Picnic

Lincoln Club = single \$125.00 couple \$250.00 Covers attendance at all events

CHARGE EVENTS

Lincoln Reagan Trump Day Dinner = Fall Dinner

Members \$30.00 non-members \$40.00

PICNIC Members \$15.00 non-members \$20.00

COSTS TO CONSIDER

Per Plate Costs to the Shawano County Republican Party \$26.08

CONSIDERATIONS

Should all costs remain the same? No change in cost per person. No change in membership fees.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

#1 = Change the cost to attend an event (our reality and challenge is that the costs to attend an event is included in Patriot and Lincoln Club memberships) = \$35 members = \$50 = non-members

#2 = Change the cost of membership (remember the membership included attending events as part of the membership at Patriot and Lincoln Club) \$20.00 to \$25.00 = \$75.00 to \$85.00 \$125.00 to \$140 for single membership at all levels doubled for couple

#3 = Change the costs to attend and change memberships

All costs of doing business have gone up. Rent has remained the same so far. Utilities have gone up. Advertising has gone up:

MARKET MESSENGER = Full page \$705.6 in 2021 VS \$924 in 2025 % increase == **\$31.%**

RADIO WTCH = monthly branding message - \$3,000 – 2021 vs \$4,800 – 2025 % increase = = **%60%**

This is what our costs have increased in order for us to do business. Yard signs have also gone up. Supporting candidates is our business and we do that by advertising or knocking on doors. That cost has gone up. We are very thankful for those who make donations either monthly – quarterly or when they send in memberships but we need a source of income that is more predictable. That comes from memberships etc.

We are looking for ideas to raise money. We have decided to conduct two gun shows and will increase Pints and Politics events.

Consider attending a monthly meeting in order to put ideas forward and to become aware of what our reality is.

COL(R) Richard Kucksdorf Past Chair

2025 Republican Party Shawano County Membership

-- Does **not** include either State or National Republican Party Membership --

Patriot Club Membership: Includes a) County Membership, b) Prepaid Lincoln/Reagan Dinner - Summer Picnic Pella .

Lincoln Club Membership: Includes all the Patriot Club benefits, PLUS Prepaid Fall Dinner -. **BEST DEAL.**

1. Member Application: ONLY MEMBERS CAN VOTE

2025 Membership Year: Jan 1 - Dec 31

First & Last Name: _____ Spouse Name (if included): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Your Phone #: _____ Spouse Phone (if included): _____

Email: _____ Spouse Email (if included): _____

Polling Place & Ward: _____ Assembly Dist# or Rep: _____ State Senate Dist# or Rep: _____

Occupation: _____ Spouse Occupation (if included): _____

** Please list members you know or recommended to join: _____

2. Please Check:

Regular Membership _____ Single \$20 OR _____ Couple \$ 40
 Patriot Club Membership _____ Single \$75 OR _____ Couple \$150
 Lincoln Club Membership _____ Single \$125 OR _____ Couple \$250
 _____ Student Membership \$5.00 (high school or college student 17-26 years)

3. \$ _____ Additional Donation included to assist party actions

4. Will you consider volunteering to promote party principles and awareness when opportunities arise? Please circle one: **YES NO.**

5. Add comments here if you like: _____

Make check payable to RPSC: RPSC, P.O. Box 12, Shawano, WI 54166

Ques? Call 715-758-8180 or 715-853-9934, (e-mail rkucksdorf53@yahoo.com / ginnyann03@gmail.com

Record

Eml List

Pd Col

Donate

Volun

New

Just For FUN!

"To applaud a politician because he has built a hospital, a school, road etc with public money is the same as applauding an ATM because it gives you your money"



If common sense was lard, most people wouldn't be able to grease a pan.

Abraham Lincoln paid reparations thru the Freedman's Bureau in 1865. It gave all free Black men 40 acres and a mule, plus food, clothing and farm tools over a seven year period until 1872 and was then ended by Democrats. Look it up. Congressional Democrats are ignorant of this piece of history. Now YOU know.

Democrats used to burn crosses in the yards of blacks to intimidate them. Now democrats are burning Teslas in the owner's yards for the same reason. Nothing has changed about the democrat party in over a century. The tactics are still the same!



IDOLIZING A POLITICIAN IS LIKE BELIEVING THE STRIPPER REALLY LIKES YOU

