



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

Baldwin Wins Big Victory In Assembly Race

[Madison]- Dane County Supervisor Tammy Baldwin won a decisive victory in the September 8th Democratic primary for the Wisconsin State Assembly, 78th District. Baldwin becomes the first openly Lesbian or Gay candidate to win an election for a state-level office in Wisconsin.

If victorious in the November 3 general election, Baldwin will fill the seat vacated by long-term Rep. David Clarenbach, which includes downtown Madison and most of the east and south sides of the city. Clarenbach left the Assembly to run for Congress. Clarenbach was defeated in the Primary by Ada Deer who will now face the Republican incumbent in November.

Proclaiming "We made history tonight," Baldwin addressed a packed crowd of campaign volunteers, supporters and media at Cafe Europa on the Capitol Square Tuesday night.

In a speech interrupted often by applause and cheers, she repeated her message of putting people first. "It's time the Gay and Lesbian community has a proud voice in the State Legislature," she said. "As a woman and a Lesbian I will never be an insider, but I will be inside. And I will redefine what it means to have power and use it."

Baldwin's Victory, a Landslide

Baldwin's victory was even more impressive in light of the strength and popularity of her three opponents. As recently as the week before the election, former Alderman and long-time neighborhood leader, Billy Feitlinger, was seen as the favorite. But Baldwin topped him by more than 10 percentage points.

In her victory speech, she credited her success in part to "not watering down our message simply to gain votes. We said what we meant. I spoke out with pride about being the first openly Lesbian candidate for state office in Wisconsin, knowing full well that some in our district would never vote for me."

Baldwin also was outspoken in her opposition to a controversial convention center to be built on Lake Monona. Feitlinger waffled on the issue for as long as possible before stating his support for the costly and environmentally questionable project. The convention center is supported by the mayor and other powerful interests in Madison.

Baldwin's Support, Wide-Based

In her seven years as a Madison Alderwoman and Dane County Board member, Baldwin has been known for her intelligence, insight and hard work as a champion for those whose voices are not usually heard when government decisions are made. She serves on the County Finance and Personnel Committee, formerly chaired the Health and Human Services Board and founded and chaired the Dane County Task Force on AIDS.

Her campaign reflected these values and commitment. "I stressed the necessity to meet the needs and hear the voices of the most under-represented segments of our community," she explained, "realizing that as people long-ignored by the politicians they were also the least likely to vote. And we learned what the people expect of their leader."

Baldwin also stressed that her campaign has been "an amazing grass roots coalition effort. I believe we have brought together one of the largest and strongest grassroots efforts that has ever been mobilized for a State Assembly race."

Her wide-ranging support came not only from Gays and Lesbians, but from a broad base of the straight community, including people of color, environmentalists, people of disabilities, feminists, students and progressives of all ages.

Baldwin faces Republican Patricia Hevener and Labor-Farm candidate Mary Kay Baum in the general election.

For more information or to volunteer on Tammy Baldwin's campaign, call her campaign office at (608) 249-0243.

United Way Will Fund Groups Which Discriminate Against Blacks & Gays



MAPFEST CELEBRITY—Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) (second from left) and his partner, former Milwaukeean Herb Goodman visited the Wisconsin Light game booth at Milwaukee's MAPfest on Sept. 6. Alan Eslinger, Terry Boughner, Light editor and Brendt Prebe are also pictured.

Jerry Johnson

[Milwaukee]- In a tape recorded, hour-long meeting held on September 10, 1992, between three members of Queer Scouts and six top officials of United Way of Greater Milwaukee, United Way defended its funding of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). The press was excluded from the meeting.

United Way had neglected to inform Queer Scouts that United Way's Board had already voted to continue funding BSA on September 9, just one day earlier.

All participants at the meeting were fully aware, as the tape shows, that the meeting was being recorded. The meeting had been initiated by Queer Scouts and was held at United Way Milwaukee's headquarters.

A United Way spokesperson initiated the discussion by saying that United Way Milwaukee saw itself as "independent, progressive and thoughtful." Then, over and over again defended the BSA's discrimination against Gays as perfectly "legal" because the issue had not been decided by the courts and ultimately, the U.S. Supreme Court.

United Way Would Support Anti-Black Rule

Dan Fons, a member of Queer Scouts, asked hypothetically whether the United Way would continue to fund the BSA if they adopted an identical ban against African Americans.

Bill Lawrence, Director of United Way's Private Industry Council, answered "Yes."

Lawrence quickly qualified his answer saying that discrimination vs. non-discrimination as may be practiced by a funded agency is "not a decision that this Board is empowered to make."

"We have traditionally tried to stay away from the issue of discussing the legal and moral issues of an agency," he said, "and dealt with its service to the community."

Lawrence added that he was a former Scout and believed personally that the BSA "is making a mistake" in discriminating against Gays. However, he added, the Board could not make a judgment on the matter.

"Does the BSA still provide quality service?" Lawrence asked. "We think the answer is yes. Would they be a better agency if they opened their doors to everyone? I think so. Others do not agree," he said.

Lawrence went on to say that he had lived in "8 places" and that Milwaukee was "a Neanderthal, racist, homophobic community compared to other places where I've lived."

Donor Choice

A United Way spokesperson cited United Way Milwaukee's Donor Choice program as evidence of their being on the "cutting edge."

"It is not anything like any other United Way in the country. We have attempted to open the doors, to be inclusive. It is the most open of donor choice programs. Donors can make choices on their own and money is flowing to Gay organizations (like the Cream City Foundation and the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP))."

According to United Way, MAP is being considered as a United Way agency, meaning that MAP will receive regular funding from United Way.

Fons objected that the Donor Choice program seemed to be a way to "participate silently" without acknowledging that United Way was going to make a policy change "over time." However, he pointed out that in the very beginning of the discussion, United Way would not even acknowledge that this qualifies as discrimination. "I find that incredible," Fons said.

Fons demanded that United Way accept BSA's policy as one of discrimination.

Lawrence again maintained that that

Primary Shows That Voters Want To See Change in Government

[Madison]- Democratic primary voters throughout the state sent a clear message on September 8th: they want to see a change in the face of their government.

U.S. Senatorial candidate Russ Feingold, Congressional candidate Ada Deer, and state assembly candidate Tammy Baldwin won resounding victories — despite the fact that many in the political establishment had earlier written off their candidacies as long shots.

Feingold Phenomenon

For years to come, political analysts will be studying the "Feingold phenomenon." Only a month ago, Feingold was a distant third in the polls, hovering around 10 percent while his two highly-financed opponents weighed in at about 40 percent each.

It was not only the fact of Feingold's victory, but his overwhelming margin that truly stunned the pundits. Feingold outdistanced both of his opponents combined by a margin of more than two to one statewide; in his native Dane County, the margin was closer to six to one.

Feingold's experience mirrors that of Illinois Democrat Carol Moseley Braun, who came from behind to beat out two established politicians with huge campaign war chests. Like Feingold's opponents, their financial advantage evaporated when voters became turned off by their mudslinging. (Braun is leading in the current polls and is likely to become the U.S.'s first African American woman in the Senate.)

Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton phoned in his congratulations just before Feingold gave his acceptance speech to a jubilant crowd of supporters in a Middleton bowling alley. In keeping with the tongue-in-cheek style displayed in his TV ads, supporters played the theme from the "Underdog" cartoon as he arrived at the podium.

Deer: "Me, Nominee"

Native American activist Ada Deer's victory in the Second Congressional District, which includes Madison, was equally stunning. Deer won with over 68 percent of the vote in her race against long-time assemblyman David Clarenbach.

Deer, who spent her early years growing up on a northeastern Wisconsin Indian reservation, had two words for a cheering throng of supporters: "Me, nominee." Deer will face one-term incumbent and former TV anchorman Scott Klug in a tight race this Fall. Clarenbach, true to form, was extremely gracious in defeat and pledged his full support of Deer's candidacy.

Deer would be the first Native

American woman ever elected to the U.S. Congress. Along with Fond du Lac Democrat Peg Lautenschlager (whose candidacy is also being supported by many Lesbians and Gay men), she has the chance to be part of the first Wisconsin Congressional delegation to include women in the state's history.

Baldwin's Sweet Victory

For Wisconsin's Lesbian and Gay community, however, the sweetest victory was that of openly Lesbian candidate for the state assembly Tammy Baldwin. In a highly competitive four-way race for the Democratic nomination, Baldwin pulled ahead of the pack, winning by a margin of 43 to 33 percent over her closest opponent.

A diverse crowd of supporters filled a packed Cafe Europa as Baldwin delivered an emotional and inspirational acceptance speech. Members of Madison's political establishment — all of them extremely impressed by the margin of her victory — passed through to offer her their congratulations.

Like Seattle council woman Sherry Harris, Baldwin transcended the notion that her openly Lesbian candidacy had a one-dimensional focus. Harris, the country's first openly Lesbian African American politician, told a Minnesota audience last month that the press had tried to stereotype her, but, as it turned out, the voters took a long look at her extensive record of community involvement and used that as a basis of their choice.

Baldwin, a four-term county supervisor and civil rights attorney, was able to project herself as a caring, qualified

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Wisconsin AIDS Walk

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 MILWAUKEE LAKEFRONT

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