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The GAD Report

ONE ELECTION ENDS, ANOTHER BEGINS

The fall election is (finally) over. No more political ads, YouTube videos, and campaign staffers knocking on your doors. Now that the election is over, it's time to pay close attention to how the parties are going to govern in Washington, D.C. and in Madison.

In Congress, Republicans will have a razor-thin margin in the House while Democrats will have a 50-50 split with one seat in Georgia yet to be decided.

In Madison, Governor Evers will return for another four-year term, as will Attorney General Josh Kaul and Secretary of State Doug LaFollette. For the next two years, the GOP will likely have a veto-proof majority in the state Senate (Alberta Darling, a member of the Joint Finance Committee announced her retirement after 32 years in the Legislature, a special election may be called or the seat will be filled during the spring election on April 4th). The GOP also picked up a previously Democratic seat in the 25th Senate as former state Representative (and RANWW REALTOR®) Romaine Quinn was elected.

The Assembly will not have a veto-proof majority, but the Republicans did pick up three seats, all in our jurisdiction. Karen Hurd won the open 68th Assembly race, Angie Sopic won the open 73rd Assembly district and Chanz Green was successful in the 74th.

December 1st brings with it the beginning of the next election, slated for Tuesday, April 4th. Town boards, city councils and school boards will be elected as will one statewide seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

All politics are local. Nomination papers can be circulated thru 5pm on Tuesday, January 3rd. Take a moment and look at your local races and see if you would be a good fit to run for office, or support someone else. Having REALTORS® in local offices keeps our voice strong.

Papers for the 2023 spring election are available December 1st.

Make your RPAC Direct Give investment today and support those who support your business. WRA accepts Visa, Mastercard and American Express.

<https://secure.wra.org/donate>



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POSSIBLE REFERENDUM IN LAKE HALLIE

After successful referendums in neighboring communities, the Village of Lake Hallie is looking at a possible referendum this spring, but not for buildings or new staffing.

Rather, the village is looking at a possible referendum to give salary increases to existing employees, fixing many of the village roads and retiring debt incurred when the village incurred costs from the town of Wheaton leaving the fire protection district.

Like many municipal governments, levy limits are hampering governments to pay for services, pay raises and purchases of new equipment.

The board has not made a decision on whether to hold a referendum this spring and if they do, how much they will ask for as some debt from a previous referendum will be paid off in the next two years.

“Just Because You Do Not Take An Interest In Politics, Doesn’t Mean That Politics Won’t Take An Interest In You.” —Pericles (430 B.C)

Bayfield County Passes Building and Apartment Construction Plans

Cinnaire Solutions won approval to construct a 50-unit housing project on 9.5 acres in Washburn. The \$10 million project is also available for tax credits from WHEDA to help with costs to develop the county-owned parcel. The deadline to submit their proposal is January 27th.

The historic St. James Hotel in downtown Bayfield will also receive \$250,000 in funding from WEDC for renovations and repairs.

MY THOUGHTS: WHY RUN FOR LOCAL OFFICE

By Bruce King, Government Affairs Director

As we have just watched this year, the fall election is over. The balance of power in Congress is pretty close to 50-50 for each party. In Wisconsin, Republicans picked up an open Senate seat (RANWW REALTOR® Romaine Quinn) in the open 25th Senate. They had a supermajority in their chamber until 32-year veteran Roberta Darling resigned. Their supermajority will have to wait until either a special election is held or the seat is decided on the spring election ballot April 4th.

Assembly Republicans picked up three open seats, all in our jurisdiction. The 68th, 73rd and 74th wins keeps a supermajority in that chamber short two seats.

But that’s national and state politics. As the old saying goes “All politics are local”. Decisions made at the federal and state level travel down to the local town or village board, city council and school board. And that is where you can make a difference.

I know what I speak of. I was elected to two school boards in two different cities in two different decades. The rewards outweighed anything else.

Having a REALTOR® sitting on a town board, village board, city council or school board is invaluable in terms of local decision making where taxation and land use issues are made. It’s having a seat at the table (in The Chair!). It’s the ability to bring your unique perspective to a local governing body.

If elected life is not for you, the next best thing is to serve on a plan commission, landmarks, commission, comprehensive plan committee or housing committee. That same perspective will serve your community well.



Wisconsin has a serious shortage of workforce housing, the kind of housing that entry-level workers can afford to rent and middle-income families can afford to buy. To attract employers and employees and grow our economy, we must remove barriers that hold back the construction of workforce housing. Watch WRA Executive Vice President Tom Larson explain the workforce housing shortage during the 2022 REALTOR® & Government Day.

https://youtu.be/bU2YpJXu_40

2023 REALTOR® AND GOVERNMENT DAY WITH MORE ADVOCACY

This year's REALTOR® & Government Day will be held on Wednesday, April 26th in Madison.

In addition to the speakers, review of WRA's legislative agenda and hill visit will come something special.

A big REALTOR® "R".

This REALTOR® "R" will be on the side of a motorcoach as part of NAR's "Ridin' With The Brand", which will visit locations across the nation to promote member advocacy on behalf of consumers. According to 2023 NAR President Kenny Parcell:

"Our country is experiencing a 6-million-unit housing shortage, pushing homeownership out of reach for too many Americans," Parcell continues. "Consumers are counting on REALTORS® to advocate on their behalf and to help ensure the American dream of home and property ownership remains available to as many people as possible."

Signup for the 2023 REALTOR® & Government Day will open in mid January.

RPAC AND YOU

Did you know that you can make your RPAC investment securely online using your Visa, Mastercard and now American Express card? And, you can set up monthly payments!

Go to <https://secure.wra.org/donate>

If REALTORS® do not speak out, get involved and help shape the discussion, someone else will.

Nobody knows a community better than a REALTOR®. You are on the front line as defenders of real estate issues.

Investing in RPAC assures you a seat at the table when critical decisions are made for homeowners and private property owners.

Supporting vetted candidates and incumbents at all levels of elective governance is part of what RPAC is about.

Now more than ever, we need your financial investment in RPAC thru the Large Donor Council or Direct Giver.



Representatives in the Wisconsin Legislature

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Clint Moses
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67th Assembly
Rob Summerfield
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68th Assembly
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73rd Assembly
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74th Assembly
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25th Senate
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31st Senate
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OUR MISSION:

“RANWW/
NWWMLS UNITE
TO ADVOCATE FOR
REAL PROPERTY
RIGHTS, ADVANCE
PROFESSIONALISM
AND CONNECT MEM-
BERS WITH OUR
COMMUNITIES.”

RANWW GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

The REALTORS® Association of Northwestern Wisconsin is the largest association in terms of area, stretching from Millston, Whitehall and Fountain City to the south all the way to central Bayfield, southern Ashland to the north. We are the fourth largest of the 19 Associations in terms of membership. Your Association covers 395 units of local government, monitoring a wide variety of issues that can and do affect you. In addition to local government, your GAD also monitors issues at the state and national level that will have a direct or indirect impact on housing and the industry, as well as legislation that can affect the consumer. Your Government Affairs Director works with members and affiliates to raise investment dollars for RPAC that help to support elected officials that support your business. RANWW is one of only three REALTOR® Association’s in Wisconsin that have their own PAC, which was started 42 years ago to support candidates at the local and state level. We maintain a Facebook page, called “The GADabouts”, that aims to keep you up to date on political issues that will affect your business. Your GAD also produces a periodic government affairs program posted on our YouTube channel, RANWWTV.



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**Enhance your skills.
Empower your future.**

**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION of
REALTORS®**