

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

School boards should be nonpartisan

To the editor:

There is a national movement surging in our country to politicize school boards. It is not unique to Mequon. The current school board recall effort underway in Mequon is supported by the Patriots of Oz, a far-right conservative group who have laid out their plan to put candidates in as many elected positions as possible in Ozaukee County, its municipalities and its school boards. The recall effort cites a need for new district leadership, falsely claiming that our schools are failing and that the board violates Wisconsin state statutes. Our leadership is ethical, high-functioning, and focused on our students. Our schools ARE excellent.

With increasing division in our community, I hope to keep our school board nonpartisan and focused on our students, not politics.

Stephanie Theirl
Thiensville

Recall effort not who we are

To the editor:

The pandemic has been a new experience for everyone in education nationwide, demanding creative solutions to meet a new set of challenging issues. I feel the district has handled these challenges well in a constantly changing environment. Some of the decisions have been controversial, but necessary policy decisions in a fluid environment won't satisfy everyone.

In the past, the school district has dealt with controversy in a professional manner. One example involved a student at Oriole Lane School who had HIV/AIDS. Acting on misinformation and ill-founded fear, some parents wanted the child removed from school. Fortunately, a doctor with a child in the same grade provided factual medical information at a special parents' meeting that alleviated the fear.

Although this was not a pandemic and happened 30 years ago, it has some parallels. The solution was not to politicize the situation. It was to apply careful study and analysis. We have done this before and we can do it

again.

The recall position is misleading — based on dog-whistle assertions and misinformation that serves no positive purpose. It is divisive and will increase costs and create operational problems. But even worse, if successful, the recall would deprive the community of the policy expertise needed to support our school district. This expertise has a steep and long learning curve, and is not easily replaced.

This type of punitive effort to recall four School Board members is not who we are.

Neil Trilling
Thiensville

Independent candidate seeks your vote for governor

To the editor:

Division and dependence are being used as political strategies to grow the size and scope of government. Our fundamental rights are under assault. I'm no politician, but the risks to our democracy have never been greater and I cannot sit on the sidelines. In April, I declared my candidacy as an independent for governor of Wisconsin.

Both parties have disqualified themselves from our support by focusing on power and control and rarely producing outcomes that matter to us. Career politicians have replaced citizen legislators.

I will govern from basic principles that are critical to a free society:

■ Truth

■ Freedom. Government exists to protect our freedom and must have the consent of the governed to be legitimate. I will not be a regulator and don't believe government is the answer to most questions.

■ Self-sufficiency. Dependence and entitlement are destroying people.

■ Personal accountability. With a dream and determination, the possibilities are endless for all of us. We are responsible for our choices. Victimhood is not an excuse for failure. The government can help us realize our dreams by staying out of our way.

The governor is the chief executive of the state. To be effective, the bureaucracy must be managed in a

way that creates the conditions for citizens to live the lives they want to live. Expertise is required.

I am coming out of retirement as a hospital administrator of nearly 30 years and a critical care clinical nurse specialist with 10 years' clinical practice. My track record of producing outcomes that were among the best in the country is long, public and measurable.

Candidates in this race will tell you about all the great things they'll do for you. Competence is not about what we will do, but what we've achieved. I have the character, competence and courage to lead.

Joan Ellis Beglinger
Cross Plains

The fight over voter reform

To the editor:

Biden said voter integrity laws are "The 21st century Jim Crow assault, (Voter ID laws are the new slavery)." The Ripon League of Women voters hosted a John Lewis Memorial in Rotary Square to celebrate the Democrat's death one year ago. Democrats are constantly bringing back our nation's painful history of racism and segregation for their own advantage; claiming Voter ID laws will restrict voting to minorities. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 that Democrat John Lewis is famous for, Congress renewed in 2006 and in 2013 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled part of it unconstitutional.

Since the November election, 17 more states have enacted new laws that prevent fraud around casting ballots and running elections. In an effort to keep Texas from becoming the 18th, Democrats in the state legislature illegally fled to Washington, D.C. to stop the vote. They're lobbying for bill H.R. 1, which would federalize elections and end the filibuster.

The Democrat-controlled House passed H.R. 1, "For the People Act of 2021," a bill that will enshrine corrupt election processes into law, giving the federal government power over the states' election processes. The single most dangerous piece of legislation we've seen in decades.

Sallie Helmer
Ripon