



## Wisconsin Supreme Court race is likely to double spending record

Challenger in state superintendent race has outraised incumbent, latest reports show

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By: [Erik Gunn](#) - March 17, 2025

Spending in the 2025 Wisconsin Supreme Court race could be two times as high as the record-breaking \$51 million spent in the last election for a seat on the state's highest court, and outside spending is dwarfing what the candidates themselves have raised so far this year.

The race, between Dane County Judge Susan Crawford and Waukesha County Judge Brad Schimel, will determine whether the Court maintains a 4-3 liberal majority that flipped two years ago or reverts to a conservative majority that was in place for more than a decade previously.

"We're watching money just flood from out of state into Wisconsin," said Nick Ramos, executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, in a briefing Monday about campaign finance trends with two weeks to go before Election Day April 1. "It would not be crazy to say that this race could be double what the last Supreme Court race was, especially with the trends and especially with the track that we're on."

Crawford is ahead in fundraising by the campaigns themselves, raising \$7.36 million. Among her donors, 35 have given the maximum Wisconsin allows an individual to donate to a single candidate, \$20,000.

Schimel's campaign has raised \$4.93 million. There are 47 donors who have given him the maximum allowed under Wisconsin law.

The Court race is officially nonpartisan, but over the last couple of decades candidates have divided along partisan as well as ideological lines. Crawford's campaign has received \$3 million from the Democratic Party of Wisconsin's Political Action Committee (PAC), and the Wisconsin Republican Party PAC has given \$1.68 million to Schimel's campaign.

Independent expenditures, however, have so far favored Schimel over Crawford by roughly 3 to 1. Independent expenditures, which explicitly favor or oppose a candidate, are spent by groups outside the campaigns.

Independent groups supporting Crawford have spent \$7.79 million on pro-Crawford or anti-Schimel advertising — as much as her campaign has raised so far. But independent groups' spending on Schimel's behalf is almost three times that: \$21.45 million.

With 15 days until Election Day, the independent expenditure total in the 2025 race is more than twice what it was

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Wisconsin Elections 2025

**"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."**

Thomas Jefferson

**36.22% of potential American voters did not vote in the 2024 election!**

**Representatives get elected whether you vote or not!**

**Spring General Election**

**Tuesday April 1, 2025**

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Local 4603

April 2025

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## Illegally Ousted NLRB Chair Returns... For Now



CWA members and staff attended a rally in support of Gwynne Wilcox, the Chair of the National Labor Relations Board. Representative Summer Lee (center) spoke passionately about the role the NLRB has played in protecting workers, including CWA members on strike at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

CWA members took to the streets last month in a show of support for illegally ousted National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Chair Gwynne Wilcox. They, along with union and non-union allies, stood outside the hearing where Wilcox argued against her termination. A federal judge reinstated her, calling the dismissal "unlawful and void."

By illegally firing Wilcox, President Donald Trump made it harder for us to enforce our contracts by leaving the NLRB with only two board members, preventing it from ruling in most cases. NLRB board members cannot be removed except in cases where "neglect of duty or malfeasance in office" has been proven, a legal threshold the administration failed to meet.

President Trump is appealing the decision as he continues his attack on union contracts. Last month, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced the termination of a collective bargaining agreement covering 45,000 frontline TSA workers who are represented by AFGE. [Click here to read CWA's response to this attack, which endangers not only workers but also the flying public.](#)

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*(Continued from page 1 - Illegally Ousted NLRB Chair)*

At the Wilcox rally, Pennsylvania Congresswoman Summer Lee highlighted the role the NLRB has played in protecting the rights of CWA members at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, who are currently on the longest-running strike in the country. Lee said, "The NLRB is the one thing standing in the gap for workers like the Post-Gazette workers. In the midst of the pandemic, when the bosses told them they didn't care about whether or not they had healthcare...they did the right thing and they walked out of there. We have the right to stand up to anybody who would take that away."

## The Answer is Blowing in the Wind

In only a few months we've gone from four years of the Biden administration's leadership which could be described as somewhat stable. Before Biden's term began on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 we were already in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack on the capital. Biden's four year term included Russia invading Ukraine in February 2022, and Hamas attacking Israel in October 2023. Other global tensions that carried over from Trump's first term included conflict issues with Iran, North Korea, and China.

The United States was experiencing a period of low inflation before 2020 and with COVID-19 came an assortment of significant economic challenges to jobs and market supply and demand. People and economies do not respond well to shocking disruptions to normal routines. These historic tremors disrupted businesses and our lives. Suddenly we were living in a new world with the pandemic. The economic waves caused serious drama to the supply chain and consumer demand patterns who's changes drove rising prices for goods and services.

## It's not a Perfect World

The 2024 election results gave Republicans slim majorities in both the U.S. House and Senate and also provided Trump with his second term as President.

Voters top concern going into the November 2024 election was the economy. The economy heavily influenced voters decisions along with a laundry list of other issues. Traditional news outlets and the internet buzzed with a mix of both credible and misinformation for voters to sort through.

Since being sworn in only a few months ago, President Trump has issued 83 executive orders. Many of his executive orders have called for identifying waste and fraud within our federal agencies however, is it really possible to identify waste and fraud in a large operation within a few short hours or a couple of days before taking a chain saw to making sizeable cuts? Radically terminating federal and federally contracted workers, freezing federal funding to important and critical programs, closing entire agencies without studying the ramifications of your actions is most likely not a well thought out plan. Issuing trade tariffs with some of our largest trade partners is another startling move shaking economic markets followed by the court challenges whether his orders are even legal. Justices rulings in opposition to his authority results in public insult and calls for impeachment of the judges as though that the courts actions are somehow fraudulent and illegal.

Before beginning a term to serve as the POTUS in the Execution of Office, president's take the following Oath or Affirmation:—"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Do these recent actions qualify as fulfilling this oath or have

they created chaos and uncertainty for our nation and a serious challenge to our Constitution?

**A brief incomplete list of Trump's executive orders so far:**

- Undermined our democratic system of checks and balances to create dictatorial control over federal agencies;
- Turned law enforcement agencies into weapons for presidents to use against personal enemies and political opponents;
- Fired thousands of scientists, national parks workers, VA doctors and nurses, and other civil servants whose work supports American communities' health and well-being;
- Undermined the federal government's ability to protect workers, consumers, communities, and the environment by purging food safety workers and stopping work that protects Americans from being ripped off by big banks;
- Abolished efforts to broaden educational and economic opportunity and imposed totalitarian restrictions on language recognizing the value of inclusion and equality in our diverse society;
- Used government power to eliminate access to abortion and women's reproductive care, undermining equality for LGBTQ Americans, and more.

**Please stay tuned and buckle up for the bumpy ride ahead while the show plays on**

*(Continued from page 1 - Wisconsin Supreme Court)*

at the same point in the 2023 state Supreme Court contest: \$29.24 million compared with \$14.4 million.

"Credit" for the trend goes to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Citizens United case that unleashed corporate and union spending on campaigns and to a 2015 rewrite of state law that brought on "this wild west of campaign spending here in Wisconsin," Ramos said.

**The data also shows the outsized influence of billionaires on state politics, he said.** Among the biggest spenders in the race are groups funded by Elon Musk and Richard Uihlein, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign reports.

The top two biggest-spending independent groups favoring Schimel are linked to billionaire Musk: America PAC, spending \$6.53 million so far, and Building America's Future, spending \$4.54 million, according to the Democracy Campaign.

Three other pro-Schimel organizations have been funded by Uihlein, owner of the office supplies company Uline: Fair Courts America, Americas PAC IEO, and American Principles Project PAC. Another Uihlein organization, Restoration PAC has also contributed to the American Principles Project PAC, according to the Democracy Campaign.

Launched 30 years ago, the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign tracks political spending in the state. The nonpartisan organization also promotes campaign finance reform as well as voting rights and access, along with other pro-democracy policies.

Ramos said voters shouldn't let the immense sums that a few are plowing into the race discourage them from going to the polls or to believe their vote won't matter. "At the end of the day, money does not vote, people do, and your power and your voice is that vote," he said.

Early voting began in late March in Wisconsin, and the Democracy Campaign is taking part in campaigns to encourage people to vote early and "for folks to just continue to be civically engaged," Ramos added.

The Democracy Campaign also tracks spending on issue ads

— advertising that does not include direct messages to vote for or against a candidate, but highlights information that paints candidates in a favorable or unfavorable light.

Issue ad spending is more difficult to track, and donors behind issue ad spending aren't required to be disclosed under Wisconsin law. Total issue ad spending data will probably not be available until the summer, said Molly Carmichael, the Democracy Campaign's communications director.

**“Phony issue ads flood our airwaves with disinformation and, somehow, have even less reporting requirements than other forms of spending,” said Ramos. “It’s another part of our unregulated, unruly money in politics problems we’re going to need to clean up.”**

One set of issue ads in the Court race has come under scrutiny for masquerading as a pro-Crawford campaign while it's funded by a conservative group with ties to Musk.

The Facebook and Instagram ads as well as related text messages “are labeled as coming from a group called Progress 2028 and are made to look like authentic messages of support” for Crawford, the Associated Press reported March 5. But records for the ads showed they were underwritten by a conservative PAC for which Musk is a major contributor, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The ads describe Crawford as a “progressive champion,” the AP reported, while they focus “on hot-button issues” and use language “that potentially diminishes her standing with moderate or conservative voters.”

#### **High court spending dwarfs superintendent race**

Spending in the hotly contested race for the office of state superintendent is just a fraction of the money being spent on the state Supreme Court race. That election will choose the person to head the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Incumbent Jill Underly has raised \$139,495 as of Monday, according to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. Kinser, a former charter school leader and school choice lobbyist, has raised more than double that, \$316,316.

As with the high court race, the DPI contest is officially nonpartisan, but each candidate has been favored by one particular political party. The Democratic Party of Wisconsin has given Underly \$56,118 from its PAC. The Republican Party has given Kinser \$2,500.

Kinser has also benefited more from independent expenditures, with \$40,518 spent to promote her or oppose Underly. Independent spending in favor of Underly or opposing Kinser has been about half as much, \$23,177.

## **Why more of Wisconsin’s election law disputes are ending up in court**

*The state Supreme Court’s occasional flip-flops have emboldened activists to file more legal challenges, while local clerks and voters must deal with the fallout.*

by [Alexander Shur / Votebeat](#)

Reprinted from [Wisconsin Watch.org](#)

In 2022, the Wisconsin Supreme Court, then dominated by conservatives, banned the ballot drop boxes that had been used for decades but became especially popular during the pandemic. Then, in 2024, after an election shifted its majority to liberals, the court reversed itself and [made drop boxes legal again](#).

Yet [the number of drop boxes](#) available to voters around the state has dwindled. The flip-flopping rulings from a court that's supposed to serve as the last word on Wisconsin law made many

election administrators wary of offering drop boxes at all. So a state that once had nearly 600 drop boxes now has just a few dozen, largely clustered around Madison and Milwaukee.

It's an example of how ideological swings on Wisconsin's highest court and an influx of lawsuits in all Wisconsin courts are roiling parts of the state's election law and complicating the work of local election administrators, with a real impact on voters.

The court also reversed itself in 2023, when under liberal control it ruled that legislative maps chosen by the court in 2022, then under conservative control, were unconstitutional. That forced county clerks across the state to redraw their districts just months before an election.

And in [a recent opinion about the tenure of political employees](#), liberal justices were explicit about their willingness to overturn more precedent-setting cases.

As a swing state with routinely close elections, Wisconsin was already a key battleground for fights over election law issues, but because of the state's divided, gridlocked government — Democratic Gov. Tony Evers and the Republican-controlled Legislature have been at loggerheads since 2019 — more of those fights are ending up in court, with some high-profile cases before the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

The court only rarely revisits past decisions, but those few instances have emboldened activists to initiate still more legal challenges. A case currently before the Wisconsin Supreme Court seeks to undo a law that gutted collective bargaining for most public employees — a law the court previously upheld under a conservative majority.

With another Supreme Court election approaching April 1, the court's balance of power is once again at stake. That means its positions on voting rights and political appointments could shift yet again from where they were just a few months earlier.

#### **How legal experts view the court’s instability**

Law experts say that the high court doesn't often reverse itself on cases involving election administration and that some shifting is natural in a state where voters choose Supreme Court justices.

Stability is a critical value in the law, said Chad Oldfather, a constitutional law professor at Marquette University. But there are other values that conflict with stability, he said, such as — in the case of redistricting — ensuring laws are constitutional.

But the recent instances, the experts say, reflect the increasing number of election issues being settled by the courts.

“This is a national problem, but we experience it disproportionately in Wisconsin because our elections are so close,” said Jeff Mandell, founder of the liberal law firm Law Forward and one of the state's most prominent election attorneys.

Ultimately, the more intense fights over election law are a sign of changing political tactics, said Michael Kang, a law professor at Northwestern University. Political parties that once focused more on messaging and mobilization have gotten better at identifying how different voting rules can affect their turnout, so “election law generally has become more partisan.”

“What's more, I think judges have become more partisan, in terms of the spread between them ideologically and the way that they've applied their kind of philosophy to election rules,” he said.

#### **Clerks and election workers feel the impact**

For election officials, the growing volume of lawsuits often

*(Continued on page 5)*



# UNION CALENDAR

## April

- 8 Executive Board Mtg.  
6:30 pm  
Union Office
- 16 Membership Mtg.  
7:00 pm  
Pallas Restaurant  
1657 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St.  
West Allis, WI 53214

## May

- 13 Executive Board Mtg.  
6:30 pm  
Union Office
- 21 Membership Mtg.  
7:00 pm  
Pallas Restaurant  
1657 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St.  
West Allis, WI 53214

**Please be safe!**  
For more news,  
information and  
updates, visit the  
CWA 4603  
web page at:  
**cwa4603.org**

To learn more about  
the Communications  
Workers of America,  
visit:

[https://cwa-union.org/  
about/cwa-history](https://cwa-union.org/about/cwa-history)

This link and others  
can be found on the  
[cwa4603.org](https://cwa4603.org) webpage!

## CWA Local 4603

### LAS SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

1. \$1,000.00 scholarship will be awarded one time only to an individual.
2. Must be a child, stepchild or grandchild of a member (active or RMO members only).
3. The member must be in good standing with CWA 4603 for a minimum of one year.
4. Acceptance into an accredited college, university, community college or technical or trade school at the time of the award. (First 4 years of college only—graduate students are not eligible.)
5. Awards must be for the following fall school year tuition (2025-2026).
6. **Applications must be received by April 25, 2025.**
7. All requirements must be met and information on the application must be completed to be considered.
8. Applications can be hand written; the essay must be typed.
9. *A letter of reference from a teacher on school letterhead must be included as well as an essay of a maximum of 500 words entitled "What impact has the union had on my life?"*

You can request an application by contacting your CWA union steward, the CWA 4603 union office at 414-258-4010 or print a form by visiting:

**CWA4603.org**

Applications should be mailed to:

**Kwami Barnes**  
CWA 4603  
6511 W. Blue Mound Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53213

## THE CWA WIRETAP

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
THE COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA  
LOCAL 4603  
6511 WEST BLUE MOUND ROAD  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53213

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## Submissions Always Welcome

If you are interested in submitting an article,  
cartoon or photograph for the newsletter, please  
forward it to the CWA 4603 Union Office or  
e-mail it to: [rhinderholtz@yahoo.com](mailto:rhinderholtz@yahoo.com)

**Please include Wiretap in your email subject line!**

## To contact the RMO Report

Write c/o RMO Report  
6511 West Bluemound Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53213  
414-258-4010



*(Continued from page 3 - More of Wisconsin's Election Law)* makes the job harder. Courts take time to rule on cases, but once they rule, clerks have to move quickly to ensure compliance with new rules in time for the coming election.

In the past that has meant clerks — many of whom have part-time positions and whose roles extend far beyond just running elections — had only a few weeks before an election to remove drop boxes and change procedures to stop filling in missing information on voters' absentee ballot envelopes.

It's especially challenging in a state like Wisconsin, where elections are run at the municipal level, said Sun Prairie Clerk Elena Hilby. "It's not like you can tell this core group of 50 people, 'This is how the law changed.' You have to tell a core group of 1,850 people that it's changed, and they need to change their ways."

Hilby says she and other clerks hear the frustration from voters.

"They're like, 'What are you guys doing?' And we're like, 'Well, it's not us,'" she said. "And most of them know that, but just as it's confusing for the voters, it's confusing for us."

Litigation can sometimes clarify murky election laws, Rock County Clerk Lisa Tollefson told Votebeat, but the frequency of lawsuits makes coordination difficult. It is her responsibility to communicate changes in the law to all of the county's 29 clerks. Those municipal clerks then have to relay those changes to their election inspectors — some of whom work part time every few years.

#### **How the court cast a cloud over drop boxes**

The drop box cases illustrate how the court's inconsistency can undermine the effect of its rulings.

Drop boxes had been used widely across the state for decades, but their use grew significantly during the 2020 election, as voters sought a safer method for returning ballots amid the peak of COVID-19.

After the then-conservative Wisconsin Supreme Court banned drop boxes in July 2022 — ruling that voters had to return their ballots directly to the clerk — clerks had to adjust to the ruling quickly. A lower court had already ruled drop boxes illegal in January 2022, just weeks before a primary election, but the high court ruling made clear to clerks that their drop boxes couldn't be used for ballots anytime soon.

But it wasn't as simple as removing or sealing off the drop boxes. Some Wisconsin municipalities used the same boxes for utility payments, which they wanted to continue collecting that way. So they had to put new instructions on the boxes that superseded the instructions included with the ballot.

Still, in some cases, voters kept returning their ballots to those drop boxes. Sometimes, clerks would return those ballots to the voter, only to have the voter hand it right back. In other cases, the [ballot didn't count at all](#). Voters who might have followed the procedure they had used in previous elections suddenly stood to lose their vote.

After liberals gained control of the Wisconsin Supreme Court, a lawsuit successfully challenged the ban, leading to the reinstatement of drop boxes in 2024 — again, in July, just weeks before a primary election. Municipalities had to move quickly to make decisions about whether and how to make them available for the August and November elections.

Some municipalities [decided not to use drop boxes](#) due to cost concerns and a belief that they were mainly useful during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In other places, the drop boxes returned, but with evidence of

lingering suspicions from the legal arguments that led to the 2022 ban. Clerks had to take extra steps to reassure voters that the drop boxes were secure and not vulnerable to fraud. There would be fewer of them, and access would be limited. In Wausau, Mayor Doug Diny unilaterally removed the drop box against legal advice, leading to an ongoing local ethics probe and state criminal investigation into his conduct.

Despite being reversed, the court's ban of drop boxes in 2022 has contributed to a persistent narrative that drop boxes aren't an acceptable way to return ballots, said Bryna Godar, a staff attorney at the University of Wisconsin Law School's State Democracy Research Initiative.

#### **Court opens the door to more challenges**

The Wisconsin Supreme Court's position on the state's legislative maps has also swung back and forth, creating problems for election officials and voters and contributing to the perception that the court's position is driven by partisanship.

In 2022, after the governor and Legislature couldn't agree on a set of legislative district maps, the court chose boundaries that all but ensured significant GOP majorities in the statehouse. After liberals took control in 2023, the justices struck down the Republican-drawn maps as unconstitutional, ordering the creation of new politically neutral maps.

After those new maps were enacted in February 2024, six months ahead of the August legislative primary, clerks had to rearrange their voters, again, into new wards and districts — work that typically takes place once a decade. Mistakes were rare but consequential: In a couple of cases, [clerks initially drew some voters into the wrong legislative districts](#), and in the northern town of Summit, voters showed up during the August 2024 primary to find that their ballots had the candidates for the wrong Assembly district. Ultimately, 188 voters were unable to vote for the candidates who would represent them.

Under liberal control, the court has also expressed a willingness to reverse more of its previous rulings.

In allowing Wisconsin's chief election official, Meagan Wolfe, [to remain in office past her term](#), the justices relied on a 2022 ruling by the then-conservative-led court that permitted other political appointees to stay on after their terms expired. But liberal Justice Jill Karofsky, in a concurring opinion joined by two other liberals, said "it may behoove" the court to overturn that same decision. That comment prompted conservative Justice Rebecca Bradley to suggest that the liberal majority didn't respect precedent.

Such an apparent invitation to overturn precedent is somewhat common in the U.S. Supreme Court but far rarer in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Mandell of Law Forward said.

Mandell sees the potential risks of that pattern but said the volume of election litigation is unlikely to ease anytime soon. He is one of the state's most prolific election lawyers, frequently arguing before all sorts of state courts and the Wisconsin Elections Commission on behalf of clients seeking to expand voting access.

"I get it, I'm part of the problem. We would be better off with less of this election litigation," he said. But if people advocating for wider voting access stop fighting these cases, he said, the other side will have the unilateral ability to shift policies.

"It's not quite clear what the path out of this is," he said, "or where we're going to get some kind of rational, deliberative process that tries to fill these holes and bring our election code up to speed."

## Paul A. Anderson Scholarship

The Paul A. Anderson Scholarship has been established by Paul A. Anderson, Former Local 4603 President of the Communications Workers of America (CWA). The scholarship will provide up to five (5) one-year scholarships of up to \$5,000 to dependent children or stepchildren of a Local 4603 member in good standing who meet the specific criteria below as they pursue their postsecondary education. Students will be randomly selected.

### ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

- A dependent child or stepchild of a Local 4603 Member in good standing
- Attend a public community college, college, or university in the state where the Local 4603 Member resides
- Be a freshman, sophomore, or junior in college when submitting the scholarship application
- Have a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA
- Additionally, the Local 4603 Member must have been a Local Member with at least one year of service as of January 1, 2025

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- To apply for this scholarship, you will need:
  - Most recent transcript
  - Essay/Personal Statement (maximum 200 words) stating why you wish to further your education and how this scholarship will help you achieve this goal

For further details and to apply:

<https://engc.org/2025PaulAndersonApplication>



**Application  
Deadline  
April 2, 2025  
7:00 PM EDT**

For questions, contact:

Senior Scholarship and Financial Aid Coordinator  
Carolyn Rodriguez  
at: 216.635.0120 or [crodriguez@collegenowgc.org](mailto:crodriguez@collegenowgc.org)

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## CWA Joe Beirne Foundation Scholarship

**About the Scholarship:** Sixteen partial college scholarships of \$4,000 each are being offered for the 2025-2026 school year. Winners, selected in a lottery drawing, also will receive second-year scholarships of the same amount contingent upon satisfactory academic accomplishment. Part-time students, less than 12 credits, will receive half of the scholarship monies.

**Eligibility:** CWA members, their spouses, children and grandchildren (including dependents of laid-off, retired or deceased CWA members) may apply. Applicants must be high school graduates or at least high school students who will graduate during the year in which they apply. Undergraduate and graduate students returning to schooling may also apply. Prior winners may not reapply.

**Applications are accepted during the months of November through April. Final deadline for the 2025-2026 school year is at 11:59 p.m. April 30, 2025.**

### Study Requirements

No specific studies are required. Scholarship winners may pursue whatever courses they wish.

### Funding

The CWA Joe Beirne Foundation has been built up by voluntary contributions and is self-perpetuating. Contributions and pledges are received from CWA Locals, members and officers.

### Applications

Applications should only be submitted through the **online application form**. You can find this form online at:

[https://cwa-union.org/pages/beirne\\_scholarship\\_application](https://cwa-union.org/pages/beirne_scholarship_application)

## The Kierzek Chronicles

A few weeks ago, I watched a live breaking news broadcast of a meeting at the White House between President Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Things did not go very well at this meeting. The meeting started out with Brian Glenn, a correspondent for the conservative Real America's Voice network, asking Zelenskyy why he was not wearing a suit. I thought that question was inappropriate. Your at a meeting to solve a world conflict and your worried about what a person is wearing? I thought to myself, maybe he should have worn a tee-shirt that said I'm with stupid, with the arrow pointing to one side. Trump and Vance then went on to berate Zelenskyy for several minutes and told him that he did not say thank you enough to America.

After this meeting Russian state media and allies of Russian President Vladimir Putin celebrated the outcome of the White House meeting. Prior to this meeting I thought that we were supporting Ukraine along with Europe. Now it looks like things could get even worse. I hope I'm wrong. My conservative friends tell me that Trump is the greatest President ever. After all, more Americans voted for him than Kamala Harris. I guess time will tell.

**Thank you Fact Check:** According to PBS, during the Oval Office conversation, Zelenskyy opened his remarks by saying, "Thank you so much, Mr. President." Throughout the meeting, Zelensky reiterated his thanks to the U.S. and after the meeting ended, Zelenskyy posted on X, "Thank you America, thank you for your support, thank you for this visit. Thank you @POTUS, Congress, and the American people. Ukraine needs just and lasting peace, and we are working exactly for that."



**4603 Retired Members  
Organization**

**President**

George Walls  
262-377-7744

**Vice President**

Jim Courchane  
262-893-3068

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Rich Hinderholtz  
262-886-9408

**April 2025 RMO Report**

**From RMO Secretary/Treasurer Rich Hinderholtz:**

**Our next RMO luncheon will be held on May 21, 2025 at  
Meyer's Restaurant and Bar, 4260 S 76th, Greenfield, WI.**

**RMO business meeting begins at 11am**

**Lunch scheduled to be served at 12:15**

**Lunch is \$15.00 per person. Please send a check payable to CWA 4603 RMO**

**Mail checks to: CWA 4603 RMO - 6511 W Bluemound, Milwaukee, WI 53213**

**Please mail payments by May 6, 2025 OR SOONER!**

**They need to be received by the May 14, 2025 deadline!**

**RMO 2024 Membership Meeting & Luncheon Dates**

**May 21, 2025 September 17, 2025 November 19, 2025**

The March RMO Luncheon meeting featured guest speaker Ginger Rogers from the Milwaukee County Aging and Disabilities Center. Ginger gave a 30 minute presentation explaining the basics of Medicare. Medicare is a health insurance program for people age 65 or older and some people under 65 who have certain disabilities or conditions.

**[A Guide to Medicare and Medicaid](#)**

**Basic Medicare includes: Medicare Part A (Hospitalization)**

**Medicare Part B (Medical Coverage)**

**Medicare Part D (Drug Coverage)**

**The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 created a redesign of Medicare Part D the prescription drug plan.**

**The redesign changes took effect this past January 1, 2025.**

**Medicare Part D Redesign**

- Elimination of the coverage gap and reduction of the out-of-pocket threshold to \$2,000.00
- Creation of the Discount Program
- Changes in the liability of enrollees, sponsors, manufactures and CMS in the new standard Part D benefit design
- Provision of the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

**First Phase: Deductible:** Beneficiary pays full cost of medication to \$590.00

**Second Phase: Initial Coverage Phase \$2,000:** When you've reached the \$590.00 out of pocket, the beneficiary pays either 25% or actuarially equivalent tier structure cost for each medication up to the limit of \$2,000.00

**Third Phase: Catastrophic Phase:** Beneficiary pays \$0 out of pocket for the remainder of the plan year for medications.

**[How Do I Stop a Medicare Scam?](#)**

In February 2025, the U.S. Attorney's Office charged a North Carolina man with conspiracy to launder \$3 million as part of a [shocking Medicare scam](#). Together with his "business partner," the man submitted over \$100 million in false medical equipment claims during the course of just four months. Separately, a federal grand jury indicted two Texas residents who conspired to file more than \$359 million in [fraudulent genetic testing claims to Medicare](#).

Sadly, this is just the tip of the iceberg. In 2024 alone, the U.S. Department of Justice [identified and charged](#) dozens of criminals with Medicare fraud totaling billions of dollars.

**Join the CWA Local 4603  
Community Services Committee and**



**Ronald McDonald House Charities'  
of Eastern Wisconsin**

**For the 2025 Pop Tab Collection  
All pop tabs will be donated to the  
Ronald McDonald House**

**They recycle them and use the proceeds to help the Children  
undergoing treatment at local hospitals.**

**You can drop your pop tabs off at the Local Office at  
6511 W. Bluemound Rd.**

**You can also bring your collected tabs to the Membership  
Meetings or just bring them to the Union Steward in your  
work area. We will be collecting Pop Tabs year round!**

**Retiree Benefit Issues**

**Benefit Specialists are unable to help with  
Medicare Supplemental Issues.**

**All other issues: First call your company's Benefits Office.  
If your issue is not resolved, then refer all problems to the  
appropriate CWA Benefit Representative:**

**AT&T Legacy Midwest SBC**

Carrie Dercola - Local 4603 Office 258-4010

**Alcatel-Lucent-Nokia**

Brian Sawyer - 984-389-7610

**bsawyer@cwa-union.org**

**[Legacy] AT&T**

Kim Wilburn - 614-868-2215

**kwilburn@ems.att.com**

**RMO Dues: \$100 for Lifetime. Checks payable to: CWA Local 4603 RMO.  
Mail to CWA Local 4603 RMO, 6511 West Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53213**

**CWA Local 4603**

6511 West Blue Mound Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53213

Office 414-258-4010  
Fax 414-258-8542

**cwa4603.org**

**April 2025**

**Volume 56-4**

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Permit No. 1293

**8 Hours for Work - 8 Hours for Rest  
8 Hours for What We Will**  
*When workers died in the march for the 8-hour day*  
**139<sup>th</sup> Annual Commemoration of the  
Bay View Tragedy**  
**3 p.m. Sunday, May 4, 2025**  
**State Historical Marker Grounds**  
**S. Superior St. and E. Russell Ave.**  
**Dramatic Re-enactment Of  
the Historic May 1886 Event**



A procession will meet at 1:30 pm at Lincoln Ave & Bay St. and march to the State Historical Marker Grounds at S. Superior St. and E. Russell Ave. arriving prior to the 3 pm program.

The program features a dramatic re-enactment of the historic May 5, 1886 event. The re-enactment is performed by the Milwaukee Public Theatre with the Milwaukee Puppet and Mask Theatre.

Reading of the names of the seven fatalities - Music by Folksinger Craig Siemsen. Percussion by Ojumire Charlston.

Laying of the Memorial Wreath

**LEST WE FORGET . . . *On the Fifth of May, 1886, thousands of Milwaukee workers marched peacefully on the huge Bay View Rolling Mills as part of a nationwide effort to bring about the 8-hour day. When the marchers were 200 yards away, the State Militia opened fire on the marchers, killing seven. This was the bloodiest labor disturbance in Wisconsin's history, and began a new struggle for a more humane workplace and a more just society. Join us now, 138 years later, as a diverse group of Milwaukeeans commemorates this historic event. Learn a little labor history!***

**This program is free and open to the public!**

This event is sponsored by the Wisconsin Labor History Society

**Following the Event join us for fellowship, music and refreshments at  
Puddler's Hall - 2461 S. St. Clair St.**