

Candidate Forum with CA, EXPO and JONAH

Thursday September 24 7-8:30pm

Moderated by: Kate Beaton, City Council

Guests: Democrats & Republicans running for Assembly seats in the Chippewa Valley (29, 67, 68, 91, 93)

AGENDA

- i. **Welcome, rules, introduce candidates** 7-7:10
- ii. **Issue Presentations and Questions** – questions below, 7:10-8pm
- iii. **Of the issues presented which are you most passionate about and how do you plan to get involved?** Hear from candidates (20 min divided by those in attendance) 8-8:20
- iv. **Q&A** (if time) 8:20-8:28
- v. **Closing** – (Kate) 8:28-8:30

Candidate Forum QUESTIONS

Please submit your answers to these eight questions ahead of time, or in lieu of attending, by emailing them by Thursday Sept 24 at 6pm to breana.stanley@citizenactionwi.org, sarah@expowisconsin.org, AND cjonahorganizer@gmail.com. They can be shared at any point before the election to be added to our website sharing candidate info.

During the public event, to keep us on track and on time, candidates will only be allowed to answer “YES” or “NO” to the first question in each issue.

Time for elaboration will be at the end. We will share the full results on our websites.

Question 1: Environment - Do you recognize climate change as a threat to the global society, and our community, and do you support the governor’s executive order for 100% carbon free electricity by 2050?
Yes

Follow-up (paper version only): What will you do to advance that goal?

This is the gravest threat to our security, economy and democracy. It needs to be addressed aggressively with movement to renewable energy and an emphasis on electric-powered vehicles: trains, planes, cars, etc.

Question 2: Affordable Housing – Will you increase funding for the development of more safe and quality affordable housing? Yes

Follow-up (paper version only): Where do you see this funding coming from beyond WHEDA tax credits?

During this pandemic, the state has very limited funding. At this time, we'll need to rely on federal funding.

Question 3: Child Poverty – Do you believe child poverty is an urgent problem in the Chippewa Valley that needs legislative action? **Yes**

Follow-up (paper version only): The Wisconsin 2020 ALICE Report indicates the high percentage of families that live in poverty, and concludes with a list of benefits for households and communities in which families live at or above the ALICE threshold. Based on the ALICE report, for what public policies to reduce poverty and child poverty would you advocate?

Wisconsin needs to recognize that by investing in children, we are investing in our future and actually reducing our overall cost. This unquestionably is the most cost-effective way to spend our money on effective policies such as child nutrition, healthcare, education. This will provide our youth with their best future and decrease costs in mental health treatment, drug addiction and crime. We want children to become a productive part of our society.

Question 4: Immigration – Wisconsin roads are safer when everyone is tested, licensed and insured. Will you support legislation that would allow eligible immigrant drivers in Wisconsin to access driver's cards or licenses? **Yes**

Follow-up (paper version only): Why or why not?

To improve our economy, we need a strong labor pool which an immigrant population will help strengthen .

Question 5: Transit – Do you support enabling legislation that would allow local communities to form Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs)? **Yes**

Follow-up (paper version only): Why or why not?

I'm a firm believer in local control. We need our local leaders to have all the tools available to them to strengthen their communities.

Question 6: Criminal Justice – Do you believe people who have served their time deserve equal rights, and will you support programs that reduce recidivism such as Ban the Box, access to safe affordable housing, expanding treatment courts, college education programs like IYOP, and more peer support specialists? **Yes**

Follow-up (paper version only): Why or why not?

We want every citizen in Wisconsin to have a productive and healthy life. By supporting these measures, we will help reduce recidivism and thus decrease cost to the state.

Question 7: Healthcare – We have known for a very long time about the inequities many Wisconsinites suffer in accessing and affording necessary and appropriate health care. The COVID pandemic has accentuated these inequities, especially for the tens-of-thousands of Wisconsinites who have lost their employer-based health insurance and have no other viable options. People in states that did not take federal funds for Medicaid expansion, like Wisconsin, are especially being hurt. If you are elected would you support and work hard to expand Medicaid (BadgerCare) in Wisconsin? [Yes](#)

Follow-up (paper version only): What other ideas do you have that you would promote to ensure health care coverage for those who financially fall in-between being able to qualify for Medicaid and being able to afford health insurance on the ACA exchange?

[Every person in Wisconsin needs comprehensive healthcare, including mental health, addiction services and reproductive care. We need to expand Medicaid and strengthen the ACA to cover every person in Wisconsin.](#)

8. FINAL QUESTION: Of the issues presented which are you most passionate about and how do you plan to get involved?

[I am deeply concerned about the growing inequalities that the state faces including income inequality, racial inequality and environmental inequality. We need to embrace a holistic approach to strengthen our communities and the state by investing in healthcare, public education, broadband and evidence-based environmental protection. This is how we create hope, opportunity and prosperity for Wisconsin.](#)