

# Paca Blue News

## Waupaca County Democratic Party

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### July 2024

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Next meeting: 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, 2024 401 South Bridge Street, Manawa

### RECOGNIZE THE GISH GALLOP

If you figure out what's happening in some political debates these days, you'll realize it's not new.

Anthropologist Eugenie Scott (1945-) named it for a 1994 user, creationist Duane Gish (1921-2013). Wiki sums up the **Gish Gallop**: "In a short space of time, the galloper confronts an opponent with a rapid series of specious arguments, half-truths, misrepresentations, and outright lies that makes it impossible for the opponent to refute all of them within the format of the debate. Each point raised by the Gish galloper

takes considerably more time to refute or to fact-check than the amount of time taken to state each one in the series."

It's also called **Brandolini's Law** (coined in 2013 by Italian programmer Alberto Brandolini (born in the '70s): "The amount of energy needed to refute bulls\*\*t is an order of magnitude bigger than that needed to produce it."

Wiki says British journalist Mehdi Hasan (1979-) provided a way to deal with the technique:



^ Because there are too many falsehoods to address, it is wise to choose one as an example. Choose the weakest, dumbest, most ludicrous argument that the galloper has presented and tear that argument to shreds ("the weak point rebuttal").

^ Do not budge from the issue or move on until having decisively destroyed the nonsense and clearly made the counter point.

^ Identify it. Say, "This is a strategy called the 'Gish Gallop' — do not be fooled by the flood of nonsense you have just heard."

Speaking of a "flood of nonsense," you may hear how great it would be to return to the era of the 1873 Comstock Act—named for activist Anthony Comstock (March 7, 1844-September 21, 1915). Here's how cartoonist Louis Glackens (1866-1933) pictured him in "St. Anthony Comstock, the Village Nuisance" in the August 22, 1906 issue of *Puck*. [Center "The Temptation of St. Anthony" (Revised.)] [Left above "St. Anthony in the Park." Left below "St. Anthony pursuing a shameless French poodle." Right above "St. Anthony at the bath." Left below "If he gets what is coming to him."]



For State Senate  
District 2  
**Kelly Peterson**  
[www.kellypetersonforwisconsin.com](http://www.kellypetersonforwisconsin.com)



For State Assembly  
District 6  
**Shirley Hinze**  
Pittsford  
"Shawano County  
Democratic Party"



For State Assembly  
District 56  
**Emily Steffos**  
[www.emilysteffos.com](http://www.emilysteffos.com)



For State Assembly  
District 57  
**Ruth Caves**  
Facebook  
"Ruth Caves for Assembly"



For State Assembly  
District 87  
**William Switalla**  
Facebook  
"Friends of William Switalla for 87th  
Assembly seat"

**WAUPACA COUNTY DEMOCRATS RUN UNOPPOSED IN THE AUGUST 13 PRIMARY  
VOTE ANYWAY!**

**IT'S VITAL TO VOTE NO! ON THE TWO STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS!**

**State of Wisconsin Delegation of Appropriation Power Referendum - QUESTION 1**

"Delegation of appropriation power. Shall section 35 (1) of article IV of the constitution be created to provide that the legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated?"

**State of Wisconsin Allocation of Federal Moneys Referendum - QUESTION 2**

"Allocation of federal moneys. Shall section 35 (2) of article IV of the constitution be created to prohibit the governor from allocating any federal moneys the governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule?"

Did you notice there's no run-off among Waupaca County Democrats in this primary?

Do you think Republicans noticed it? Did they figure many districts statewide would be the same? Did they think that means Democrats won't bother to vote? Is **that** why they put two *statewide* Wisconsin Constitutional Amendments in the state **primary** election instead of the statewide November 5 general election?

**VOTE – AND VOTE NO!**

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin says: "When Wisconsin gets federal funds, it's our tax money we paid to the IRS coming back to us. Don't let the legislature create obstacles for our communities and play partisan games with our money. We can't afford delays when crises and disasters strike."

"Wisconsin Votes No" comments: "These Amendments eliminate check and balances by trying to trick voters into

giving sole power of spending these federal funds to the legislature. Currently, the governor and legislature work together to decide how to distribute most federal funds. These Amendments could slow or block funding for emergencies ... During a crisis, communities can't afford delays caused by requiring legislators go to Madison to vote, or the political gridlock and fighting over how to spend federal funding.

"These Amendments would give more power to Wisconsin's unproductive legislature, which has been one of the most extreme in the country. When hospitals and first responders needed funding they didn't pass a single bill for six months. ... These Amendments were designed with deliberately confusing language and are the first Constitutional Amendments ever put on a low-turnout August election ballot."

In addition to League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, other opponents of the questions include the union Wisconsin Education Association Council and the organizations Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments & Boards, Wisconsin Conservation Voters, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, and Wisconsin Public Health Association.

Share the information and ...

**VOTE NO!**

**REMEMBER**

Also on your ballot:  
In **U.S. Congress Wisconsin District 8** (on *two* ballots)  
**Dr. Kristin Lyerly** [www.kristinforwisconsin.com](http://www.kristinforwisconsin.com)  
And remember to vote for **Tammy Baldwin** for **U.S. Senate**  
and for **Joe Biden** and **Kamala Harris** for the team of **U.S. President** and **U.S. Vice President!** [Did you think we'd forget?]

*Don't know what your Wisconsin State District is  
or which Dem might be running there?  
Check Pages 3 and 4 of **Paca Blue News** for June 2024.*



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