



July 16, 2025

Dear Friends of United Wisconsin,

### **NOTE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS**

Dale Schultz and Dave Mahoney here. Thank you again for signing up for updates from United Wisconsin. We continue to be busy getting the word out about the founding of United Wisconsin and our lawsuit seeking to re-legalize fusion voting in the state. (See “The Latest in Wisconsin” section below.)

**We have some good news: national recognition.** A recent national Newsweek opinion piece touches on our work, specifically mentioning United Wisconsin! Bill Kristol (editor at large at The Bulwark) and Tom Rogers (an editor-at-large for Newsweek and the founder of CNBC) are both members of the [American Bar Association Task Force For Democracy](#). Together they penned this great article explaining fusion voting and how re-legalizing it could “break political polarization and empower the center.”

### **[NEWSWEEK: This Century-Old Practice Could Break Political Polarization and Empower the Center](#)**

If we’re successful, we’ll become a powerful new party of the center. This is good, because the center is currently not holding. On the national scene, two swing-state Republicans recently announced they are departing, further decreasing the slim ranks of moderate congressional Republicans. Democrats, too, have seen their centrist ranks shrink in today’s polarized politics. It’s no surprise that we are seeing a number of elected officials announcing they will not run for re-election.

Now Elon Musk is the latest to come forward and say, “A new political party is needed in America.” We obviously agree on the need for more parties, but Musk won’t be able to make water run uphill better than anyone else. In our current system of single-winner plurality elections, third parties have no meaningful chance to do anything more than show up as occasional spoilers. That’s why we want United Wisconsin to become a

fusion party – to give voters more voice at the ballot box, prevent votes from being wasted on candidates with no chance of winning, and incentivize politicians to work together.

Help us expand our reach and our goal of transcending the politics of division. **Please share [our website](#) with your friends and neighbors and ask them to sign up!** Our website covers our platform, the history of fusion voting in Wisconsin, and how to get involved. Finally, we welcome any [donations to support the cause](#) (though that's not required to be a part of it).

If you have any questions, comments, or reactions, please send an email to Kris Andrews, United Wisconsin's Executive Director, at [kristinedandrews@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinedandrews@yahoo.com).

Let's get to work,

Dale Schultz and Dave Mahoney, United Wisconsin Co-Chairs

## **THE LATEST IN WISCONSIN**

We had an excellent turnout for the Milwaukee Rotary Club presentation on June 17. The program was well-received and sparked significant interest and questions. You can view the presentation here, on [YouTube](#).

We have two upcoming meetings – one in La Crosse on August 6 and one in New Glarus on September 17, Constitution Day. The La Crosse event will be held at the Black River Beach Neighborhood Center, 1433 Rose Street, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Attendance is free, but registration at [www.leaderethics.org](http://www.leaderethics.org) is required. Pack a brown bag lunch, bring a guest, and join us! (More details on the New Glarus event coming in August.)

## **UPDATES FROM ELSEWHERE**

In New Jersey, two former Governors – one Democrat and one Republican – have called on New Jersey's Supreme Court to re-legalize fusion voting. Here's how [Politico](#) reported on the piece:

FUSION VOTING: THE NUCLEAR OPTION — “[Americans desperately need more political choice. NJ could lead the way](#),” by Christine Todd Whitman and Jon Corzine for Gannett: “American democracy is at risk of succumbing to authoritarianism. We see it in false claims about our elections, the willful disregard of the rule of law by the executive branch and the use of federal power to punish opponents and silence dissent. How did we get here? ... [A]bove all, a widespread sense that democratic governance itself can

no longer solve important problems. As two former governors, this last point holds special importance. We want the government to be effective and to be seen as such. When it is seen as failing, the lure of the strongman grows. Governance is failing because politics is failing, and politics is failing because our two major parties are no longer the 'big tents' they once were. ... There's a remarkable court case underway in New Jersey that could help us break out of the two-party "doom loop." ... These cases are about reviving "fusion" voting, also sometimes referred to as cross-nomination. It's a very simple system that gives voters more choices and stronger voices."

## **IN CLOSING**

As we continue working to bridge divides and restore balance in our democracy, we're reminded of the timeless words of cultural anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."