

Go Gwen! is now Go-to Gwen

Here's a safe bet – many voters didn't know the name of Gwen Moore's opponent until they read it on the ballot.

The freshman (make that freshwoman) Milwaukee representative, Wisconsin's first African American in Congress, may turn out to be a guarantee of failure for a longstanding Republican dream – which is to break up the county as a Democratic stronghold.

On Nov. 7, in unusually heavy midterm turnout, she scored figures to relish. She drew 71.5% of the vote in her district, helping drive Gov. Doyle and Lt. Gov. Lawton to nearly 62% of the county vote on their way to a 160,000 margin over Mark Green.

The percentage of Moore's win was not only crucial for Doyle. It was also higher than every

other member of Wisconsin's Congressional delegation. It even surpassed the remarkable statewide margin for Sen. Herb Kohl, 67.4%, though the better known Kohl surpassed her by 3% within the county.

While the GOP wound up offering only token resistance, Moore campaigned like she was running against Ronald Reagan.

She hired a campaign manager, flooded the community with flyers and yard signs, sent money to other candidates and still flew back to D.C. to do the public's work.

Add fund-raisers, forums, and showing up as she always has at union rallies. She shrugged off personal health issues to fulfill what became her main function – serving as cheerleader, champion

Moore continued Page 6

[More election coverage and photos inside](#)



Even Sen. Barack Obama knows Milwaukee is her House

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What now?

State's top Dems explore the near future

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

"Democrats have been given a gift -- the majority," said Sen. Judy Robson, shortly after the Democratic caucus met and named her the new majority leader in the state Senate.

"I believe that we can now get things done that are very important to labor, including minimum wage and (Ted Kennedy's bill on collective bargaining," said US Sen. Russ Feingold.

"It was a tremendous victory, but it's important that we Democrats don't emulate the Republicans in the arrogance they have shown," said US Rep. Gwen Moore.

"Part of my expectations involves the congressional distribution of money," said Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. "For the last 12 years earmarks have been directed into Republican districts more



Feingold looks ahead

than to the people and cities that need help. With (Wisconsin Rep. David) Obey in charge of appropriations, it's going to be fairer and better."

Right after the election that changed the balance of power, Labor Press asked Wisconsin's top Democrats to offer in interviews some realistic expectations about what will change and what can be done.

The weight of what happened was just settling in when we spoke:

In Wisconsin, Gov. Doyle is back in office, the Democrats control the Senate -- and the Assembly Republicans have a narrow five-person majority rather than the two-thirds dominance they once held among 99 members.

In D.C., Democrats have Congress, by one vote in the Senate and by about 30 in the House (with some races still being recounted as we went to press). But there is still President Bush with the biggest megaphone and executive authority, plus a lame duck session with Republicans in control until January.

"We're going to have to watch this," said Feingold, particularly concerned that the appropriations bill that must be passed will tempt the Republicans to "tack on" such things as a repeal of the estate tax. Another on-guard area is Bush seeking to push through

Future continued Page 4



Security guards hover with hands out to keep Bill Clinton from being pulled off the Milwaukee Theatre stage by ardent handshakers Nov. 3. See story Back Page.



Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton plunges into a Pere Marquette Park crowd to kiss and hug longtime supporters.

Rove beached by swifter Labor 2006

Things were looking good for the Democrats in the weeks before the election. But too few believed it.

Conservative talk radio endlessly twisted expectations against the inevitable. (Nor did they apologize Nov. 8. They were still broadcasting from President Bush's 51st State of Denial.)

For progressives, the doubts stemmed from bad memories: 2000 (where Al Gore won the

popular vote and still lost). 2004 (when Iraq was clearly going south and tax relief was only noticeable for the very rich). A cloak of invincibility, or at least Teflon, had stuck to the GOP coupe driving the wrong way on I-94.

Mainstream pundits were also dubious. Virtually every news commentator threw in a caveat up to Election Day: Karl Rove was coming, with his proven last-minute professional

operation to turn around the vote.

Doubt is unavoidable, but it should never lead to paralysis.

It certainly didn't paralyze Labor 2006.

Don't just ask re-elected Gov. Doyle, whose numbers went up in Milwaukee and other centers of strong union membership. Don't just ask Jim Sullivan in District 5 or John Lehman in District 21. They now occupy

Labor 2006 continued Page 7

A squeaker, but it's Sullivan

Just as Jim Sullivan was about to begin his acceptance speech at Miller Park's Fridays restaurant on election night, the management turned off the lights.

It was closing time and the count had been delayed in Wisconsin District 5, which straddles Milwaukee County and Waukesha County. And this time (poetic justice after all the false cries of fraud and finger-pointing at Milwaukee's election operation) it was Waukesha that was overwhelmed by the new machines and voter turnout and ran hours behind deadline in counting ballots.

The final count loomed as crucial. A victory for Sullivan was central to returning Democrats to a majority in the Senate.

A win for incumbent GOP Sen. Tom Reynolds would be a disaster for unions, which had butted heads with Reynolds on labor bills and as the only no vote in both parties on a vital energy conservation initiative.

A Reynolds win would actually make moderate Republicans in the legislature secretly cringe, so difficult has he been to anticipate or work with. But it would delight newspaper columnists, who have had grand fun with the eccentricities, ideological zeal and conversational gaffes of Reynolds.

Yet the district also had a strong conservative contingent that regarded voting for any Democrat as a move to the dark side.

All that guaranteed a tough race for Sullivan, a Wauwatosa alderman determined to bring



Only flashbulbs illuminated the acceptance speech of Jim Sullivan, surrounded by his sleepy family.

balance and intelligent progress to the district. He had opened himself to tireless door-knocking and engaging the public individually and in groups.

Reynolds in contrast seemed to have an almost paranoid response to TV cameras and the concept of open debate.

But Sullivan had strong organization and support not just from community groups but through a landmark cooperation in political activism between the Waukesha and Milwaukee labor councils.

The embarrassments of Reynolds, and the strong case being made for Sullivan, carried the day, but just barely. By 2 a.m. on Nov. 8, he had taken a comfortable margin of 2,000 plus votes, but the final count a few days later brought his margin down to 658 votes.

Helping was the lopsided two-to-one win in Assembly District 13 by David Cullen, who shared the victory party with Sullivan.

Organized labor also helped elsewhere to turn Beloit's Sen. Judy Robson from minority leader to majority leader as the Senate went Democratic 18-15.

JOHN LEHMAN, an Assembly veteran seeking to move up to the open District 21 senate seat, seemed far behind in early returns until the full vote gave him a comfortable 53-47 percent win out of some 60,000 votes over Racine's well-heeled county exec.

This was also a much-watched tally since William McReynolds' outside support groups had flooded the region TV and radio stations at the last minute with particularly ugly ads smearing Lehman's reputation and principles, but to no avail.

In Senate District 31, KATHLEEN VINEHOUT bumped GOP veteran Ron Brown by 3 percentage points while District 23 was a cliffhanger that eventually ousted GOP conservative Dave Zien, replacing him with PAT KREITLOW.

The 1,000 vote margin was another backfire example for the GOP strategy of placing two constitutional amendments on the ballot. See opposite page.

What totally surprised the Republicans were the results in the Assembly, where Democrats haven't gained seats for 16 years. But gain they did.

The dominant Republican majority of 21 seats (60-39) shrunk drastically. By the time the smoke cleared, the Democrats were within five votes.

Among the victors was a labor figure. Lehman's District 62 Assembly seat was won by former AFT organizer CORY MASON.

Dominique Paul Noth, Editor of the Milwaukee Labor Press, produced the political stories, profiles, opinions and photos in this edition.

Finally, state voters see the Dawn

You can't say three times is a charm for Dawn Marie Sass. You wouldn't be counting high enough. This was her third attempt to replace Jack Voight as state treasurer, and it was a charm, but if you tote up all her past attempts to win public office it's more like six, seven times the charm.

Even her supporters have lost track. But for more than a decade she's been on some ballot somewhere.

Sass has long lived in the twilight zone of try, try again. Fellow union members who know her either admire her persistence or have written her off as a perennial also-ran.

No more, though. Riding the Democratic gale, the former treasurer of her AFSCME District 48 local, a longtime Milwaukee County employee now working out of Children's Court, Sass broke through Nov. 7. By some 9,000 votes in the current count, she supplanted Voight, the veteran incumbent who had been under Doyle the highest Republican official in state government.

Sass has also run for Milwaukee alderman and for Milwaukee County treasurer and clerk. The new job, in the \$62,000 salary range, represents about an \$18,000 bump in pay for a largely unnoticed statewide race on which she spent very little money.

To give her credit, the last time she tackled Voight, she questioned the reliance on Strong Funds to handle the state's major college fund investment program known as EdVest. Well, today, Strong is no more and the administration fees she questioned are dispersed.

As treasurer, Sass will handle a budget in the \$2.5 million range, a staff of 15 and responsibility for disbursing all the state's money.

Members of both parties had nice words for Voight as an efficient nonpartisan and worried that Sass' win was a political fluke. She has four years to prove them wrong - that good things happen from perseverance and good people get into office when least expected.

Come to think of it, there were a lot of long disheartened Democrats who also learned that this year, Sass could become their Braveheart.



Dawn Marie Sass

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Ballot questions pass but slap GOP silly

Around the nation, politicians learned the danger of using ballot referendum and questions to try to drive their base to the polls. In Wisconsin it helped drive some of that base right out of office.

At first blush, the Republicans and their allies hailed success in the passage of an advisory "return of the death penalty" and a mandatory change in the state's Constitution (perhaps intended to confirm the illegality of same-sex marriage but actually opening up a judicial Pandora's box of uncertainty about civil unions, heterosexual or otherwise).

Both questions won easy victories in Wisconsin, which the polls had anticipated.

But then the elected GOP conservatives, now far fewer of them, looked again.

Both amendments were rejected two to one in Dane County and ran close to even in Milwaukee County. The rest of the state recorded on average 55-59% approval, lower than polls had suggested and 10% or more lower compared with how such questions fared two years ago in other states.

Dane County also set a record voter turnout among students. Milwaukee also saw a surge. So did every locality where there was strong campus population.

And where there was a strong "no" vote, many Republicans lost local elections. Wisconsin's two largest population centers drove up Gov. Doyle's numbers to new records for him — well ahead of the votes on the two questions. All that helped power him to an 8% range victory over Republican Mark Green. And yes, around the state it seems that hundreds of thousands of voters for the marriage amendment also put their values behind Doyle.

Psychologically, gay couples react to these marriage definitions as unnecessary, demeaning and encouraging homophobia, probably indisputable. They are certainly not a welcome mat. But passage may not induce activist judges, of the dominant reli-

giously conservative variety, to mischief in decisions, as the opponents fear.

It was true that a successful "no" vote would not have changed anything. And the yes may also change nothing — it just opens the door.

More likely is that businesses that seek to keep skilled personnel regardless of sexual orientation may pass Wisconsin by as a location since there are now potential hurdles to domestic benefits and protections.

A simple reality of business decisions is to weigh an inviting climate within a state — a far broader question than taxes.

The passage also robbed Wisconsin of the opportunity to be the first state to reject this sort of marriage amendment. One state beat us to the punch, largely over the concern about partnership benefits.

That was Arizona. Yes, the Arizona that attracts many con-

servative Wisconsin retirees. The same state that wants to be almost unenforceably tough on immigrants but also approved a raise in the minimum wage.

For Wisconsin to be labeled as less progressive than Arizona has got to hurt.

If you dig deeper into statistics around the nation, you will detect more than burst of success for the Democrats and for union-backed candidates. There is also a generational gap and a gender gap at work.

- Initial results suggest that a fifth of white evangelical voters, once regarded as Republican-safe, moved to Democrats.

- For the first time, both sexes voted in the majority for Democrats, but women again far more than men. And women's voices were loud and clear not only in House and Senate results but also on ballot questions.

- South Dakota voters rejected the toughest anti-abortion law

in the nation (no exceptions for rape or incest).

- Stem cell research expansion passed in Missouri.

- Not just Arizona but every state asked to raise the minimum wage agreed.

- National voter turnout increased by about 20% over the last midterm election.

- Virtually every advisory question on the ballot pushing for a speedy orderly withdrawal of US troops from Iraq was backed.

Health care rules

But there was commonality among conservatives and liberals, a remarkable one for Wisconsinites.

The astounding winners were not the headline-making statewide questions but the votes in localities pleading for state policy and state relief on health costs.

Citizen Action of Wisconsin

supported having this question on the ballot in six counties and five municipalities (from Racine to Manitowoc) — and even this community action group was startled by the depth of success.

Sure, no one is against cheaper health care, but then, no one is against modern schools or better sewers, but such questions are often defeated.

And these were not vague referenda but quite specific.

The Eau Claire County question was typical: "Should the Wisconsin Legislature establish a plan that will reduce health care costs by at least 15%, and guarantee access to universal, affordable health care coverage for all Wisconsin residents and families by 2008?"

On average, 82% of the voters on these 11 questions demanded legislative action.

Citizen Action called the results a mandate that legislators ignored at their own peril.



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So really, how did Labor 2006 do?

The AFL-CIO's Labor 2006 recorded these estimates:

More than 205,000 union members volunteered. Union members knocked on more than 8.25 million doors, made 30 million phone calls and passed out more than 14 million leaflets.

More than 20 million pieces of mail went to union households, not including those sent by affiliate unions.

The final four days turned out 187,000 volunteers, nearly 8 million phone calls and 2.5 million door knocks.

Future From Page 1

appointments before the changeover to Democrat control of committees.

"We need to assert our oversight role in Congress," said Moore.

But with power comes responsibility, and all these Democrats say they will honestly pursue bipartisanship, not just giving lip service to it, because "it will take everyone to solve these problems," said Robson.

Barrett has a unique perspective, having served legislative roles both in Madison and the US House before becoming mayor - and boy, is he looking forward to that change in committees.

The Republicans under one-party rule "have so controlled the bully pulpit with the media and the public," said Barrett. "But now the leaders of the committees will be Democrats, they'll have the cameras and they'll set the hearings."

There is some skepticism about how genuinely cooperative the White House will be, but from Madison to Washington there is a determination not to punish but to quickly move forward.

"We know what it's like to be in the minority," said Robson. She intends the Republicans in the state Senate to get far better treatment than they dished out because "we have to restore confidence in the legislature."

Transparency is a key. She never expects the Democratic caucus to do what the GOP did, meet in secret caucus and then vote without explanation.

No longer, she says, will a bill be written up with lobbyists, passed by a committee and only then get a belated dismissive public hearing. "We have to make sure there's a real committee process, with true public hearings and an opportunity for citizens" to openly shape the legislation, said Robson.

Still, "there will be some bold initiatives," Robson added. The smaller gap in the Assembly is also giving her hope, as is the reality that Doyle will no longer be peppered with wedge issue he has to veto.

Barrett notes that he will no longer dread going to Madison to lobby for the city. He expects a far more understanding hearing.

Barrett noted that Robson comes from Beloit, "and while it's a smaller city both demographically and economically it has problems similar to Milwaukee's." It is the sort of recognition of like needs he has longed for in the majority.

But what sort of reception will Milwaukee County get, given that the property tax has to absorb Madison mandates and the GOP routinely ignored cries for help?

Considering some of the things County Executive Scott Walker has said about Doyle and the Democrats, that trek may be harder for him now, but the new legislature should produce a

stronger platform for its Milwaukee representatives. Also taking a bigger role in Madison may be the Milwaukee County Board, given its constant need to revamp Walker's budget and seek support outside his office.

The change in Washington also gives Barrett hope. Noting

that the expected new Speaker of the House has set forth an agenda for quick action, Barrett says, "I totally agree with it, and I worked with Nancy (Pelosi) in Congress and she will get things done."

Pelosi's action list includes a minimum wage increase, alternative energy, keeping jobs in the US, letting the government bargain directly for lower prescription drug costs, lower tuition costs for college, returning to the stem cell research issue that prompted Bush's only veto in six years -- and, of course, pressing for solutions on the Iraqi war, well beyond the removal of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, and passing the homeland security recommendations of the 9/11 commission.

Of special interest to unions is the collective bargaining bill, the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), which both Feingold and Moore want to see movement on and Senate Republicans are still threatening to filibuster.



Sen. Judy Robson

State AFL-CIO already outlining agenda

The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO is already shaping and asking input for its Working Wisconsin Legislative Agenda for the 2007-2008 session that begins in January in Madison.

Among the concerns already in play are affordable health care, economic development that provides family-sustaining jobs and includes family-friendly policies, and workers' rights - especially the right to organize a union without fear.

Ideas, input and support are being sought from all union members. Contact Phil Neuenfeldt, the legislative director, at (414) 771-0700, ext.13 (also pneuenfeldt@wisafclcio.org), or Joanne Ricca, legislative staff, ext. 24 (also jricca@wisafclcio.org).

"I'm waiting to see a glimmer of light there," said Moore.

With minimum wage and EFCA, Feingold believes, there are Republican sympathizers that may even provide a veto-proof Senate majority, if needed.

We spoke a day before Feingold announced that he would not run for the presidential nomination in 2008, partly because the new makeup of Congress appeals to him and what he calls an electorate "hunger" for progressive issues.

The Democrats entering power are unlikely to forget how they were treated in D.C. by the Republicans - "throwing people out of the room, locking the door, not even talking to the other party," said Moore, but she emphasized again and again:

"We have to resist being vindictive - and we have to address the great deal of frustration reflected in the election over the war, the (nonexistent) weapons of mass destruction, the infringement of rights."

And the budget is much on her mind: "We must stop some of the extension of these tax cuts for the very rich and not burrow ourselves deeper into debt."

"Part of Republican philosophy was putting government in such horrible (fiscal) shape that it's tough to find a way out," added Barrett.

The hearings in D.C. are unlikely to focus on impeachment but they will focus on waste in such areas as Iraq and Hurricane Katrina, these leaders speculate.

But there are many issues "we have to get moving on," said Feingold, itemizing such areas as "health care for all Americans" and "the better Senate bill on immigration."

Feingold has a bill in the Senate that would allow states freedom to find their own paths to universal health care. Robson hopes that pressure from "people like Feingold and (Madison area Rep.) Tammy Baldwin will get that bill to us - this is something we must address and the voters clearly want us to."

Moore offers the caution that if the "shopping list" gets too long, it could make progress more difficult. She points out that the new House will include many "moderate Democrats, and we can't expect to hold them together on every vote."

But she also sees a pragmatic reason for the Republicans to cooperate.

"We're going into a presidential election period," she said. "The greatest harm they (House Republicans) could bring to their nominees or to recapturing Congress is coming off as petulant children."



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CWA presses AT&T to fulfill job pledges

It took a four-day strike by some 100,000 employees at AT&T back in 2004, but the Communications Workers of America emerged with an innovative contract and a company pledge to bring contracted and outsourced jobs back into the union fold in new areas of service.

The contract and the CWA concessions made good economic sense for AT&T — and produced immediate rewards for CWA as thousands of union-less workers in AT&T Wireless stores joined up.

But now, as the potential for good jobs expands in high-speed video services, the union is determined that AT&T live up to its commitment. And CWA has reason to worry that AT&T is hiding behind the thicket of the contract language rather than buying in enthusiastically.

All those concerns erupted in Downtown Milwaukee October 26, surprising passersby at AT&T's headquarters on Broadway St. Some 90 marchers from statewide CWA locals, including Milwaukee's Local 4603, joined in informational picketing that looked a lot like traditional strike picketing — signs, speeches and chants.

A union that has been cooperative in changing times was laying down a marker that future expansion live up to the promises.

On the line are not just replacing jobs the union knew it would lose when AT&T was bought by SBC and appropriated the better-known AT&T brand. It is the emergence of many new jobs as the reconfigured AT&T rolls out its head to head competition for television and video services. (Many more homes contain phone wires than cable



90 marchers from CWA locals urged AT&T on Oct. 26 to think union, as it promised, as it pushes into the video world.

— and thanks to fiber technology and router boxes, both work in the high-speed Internet world.)

The union is unhappy at reports that AT&T is using managers and nonrepresented employees for the U-verse service and its video hub operations, with Wisconsin a key market in the fight against entrenched cable systems.

AT&T, if you hadn't figured it out, is behind the television ads complaining about cable monopoly and pricing in the state. It expects unions to support its efforts, since firms like Time Warner have laid cable and run services with a determined exclusion of union workers.

AT&T points out that difference in response to CWA marches — basically, we're union so you should support us.

But the CWA fears that network technical specialists nationwide and the folks building Internet hubs and routers for AT&T look pretty much like the cable guys. The contracting and subcontracting process, union leaders say, do not yet fulfill the 2004 understanding.

The CWA contract language requires an effort to convert contract jobs in growing parts of AT&T's business into company positions.

Another crucial concern is the jobs that CWA's displaced workers thought they had first dibs on, if they are willing to take a geographical move and some lower benefits.

These so-called "premise technicians" install and service the new products. The union fought to keep these employees part of its health plans though they have no pension or 401(k) opportunities, said Jim Courchane, the executive vice president of CWA Local 4603 who, along with VP Rich Pearson, was key organizer for the protest.

Also marching Oct. 26 were

a District 4 vice president, Seth Rosen, Local 4603 President George Walls and district staff representatives Ann Crump and Tom Verkuilen.

AT&T points to an announcement in September that it would move back inside the company some 2,000 jobs it had either contracted or outsourced. These are customer service and installation work in new media. About 1,200 of those jobs were customer service help for broadband users that had been positioned in countries like India.

Where these jobs will land is still undetermined, however, and the moves will not be completed until 2008.

The CWA welcomed that announcement but remains keenly aware how mergers and expansions also bring pitfalls.

Several hundred jobs in Milwaukee disappeared when SBC became AT&T — workers who under regulation made sure that phone competitors of SBC had fair access to the market. They placed and monitored orders and the speed of repairs. One of those big competitors, of course, was AT&T long distance, so when it became the boss, not a client, the need to monitor vanished. Yet these dropped workers expected first crack at new jobs.

"AT&T is in effect saying the union should help them change the regulatory climate to get these expanded digital services going," commented one CWA

leader. "The union is saying we first want promises that these jobs will indeed be union."

Said a rank and file CWA member, "All these communications companies need to change and break the cycle of temporary contracted hires, here today and vanished tomorrow. That hardly helps build the community."

Quality service through training and experience is a basic advantage of CWA's skilled workforce. There is, intriguingly enough, a trend away from outsourcing. One respected report found that 25% of media companies in 2005 were disappointed with the results and already bringing work back to America.

Alex Colvin, a labor studies professor at Penn State University, suggests that AT&T's decision to bring jobs in-house reflects that growing corporate realization that not all technical support and customer service work can be effectively sent overseas.

At a time when businesses talk about "unions' dwindling influence," Colvin said, what CWA won at the AT&T bargaining table reflects a growing reality about traditional union leverage and skills.

"On the Internet it comes down to whether people think unions are good or not," said Courchane. "The way we fight to keep and expand these jobs will be a key — and who else is doing that?"

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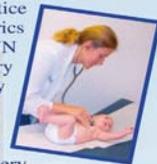


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Moore

From Page 1

and major draw for the entire Democratic ticket.

Kohl — the other guaranteed walk-homer on the ballot — openly jokes how much he loves Moore's basketball-analogy introductions and says it's the best icebreaker he's ever had.

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, backing Doyle's bid Oct. 31, stood casually in his Gentleman's Quarterly jacket in a chilling wind at Pere Marquette Park, but held onto Moore affectionately through the speeches.

And while the affection is genuine, "I also think he wanted to stay warm," laughed Moore.

Former President Clinton, at a packed similar event at the Milwaukee Theatre, kept turning to Moore for local references and scribbling notes from her before his speech.

Moore, her longtime fans say, has emerged on the national stage without changing an iota from the "You Go Gwen" who served 16 years in the state legislature.

But political insiders say she actually has changed, -- getting smarter and deeper on more issues, and crisper in her always spontaneous delivery.

Three years ago, conservative talk radio universally scoffed at her run for Congress, painting any of her three primary opponents as stronger. Moore breezed by them across the Fourth Con-

gressional District.

She went to Congress saying her job was to learn. Well, she must have been a quick study back at Marquette University. She is now regarded as a rising star in the black congressional caucus and a shrewd voice on both politics and policies.

These same radio shows predicted she would be political dead meat because her son was part of the election night tire-slashing trial, yet the community responded to her lack of pretension or evasion, her simple stand-up support as a loving mother.

Cajoling, arguing and rallying her party and state colleagues, she worked across the aisle and in both houses of Congress to bring millions of dollars in jobs, entrepreneur and environmental support to Milwaukee.

All that never deterred her from speaking out against the course of the Iraq war, the genocide in Darfur, the privatization efforts on Social Security, the hole in Medicare prescription payments you can drive a truck through, and the mean spirit behind the immigration bill pushed by her Wisconsin Repub-

lican colleague James Sensenbrenner.

Moore may have actually been itching for a real challenge in this Nov. 7 race to demonstrate her growth in local effectiveness and national issues.

Instead she had a weak and obviously inept GOP opponent who ended up simply testing her patience. She was shrewd enough to know that any response to his increasingly desperate press releases would simply give him unearned media attention.

In conversation at one of her fund-raisers, Moore indicated she had been fuming as he falsely criticized her for not attending a forum on immigration (she had organized it), or suggesting she was against Christmas trees or, most painful given her priorities, accusing her of "hurting" black children.

"I HAVE had worthy opponents," said Moore in that memorable upward inflection. "From both parties. I HAVE HAD worthy opponents," she repeated, emphasizing the past tense.

Both labor (enthusiastically) and business (more privately) know she has been effective, but she never walks and talks like a slam-dunk incumbent. Quite the opposite. She shushes supporters who suggest she has some lock on her seat. "I'm always only having a job for two years," she said. "I have to earn my way back."

That might seem a basic civic lesson, but it flies in the face of the attitude of most incumbents (though this election may change that arrogance).

"She and Herb (Kohl) truly believe they have to go back to the people," said an aide who has worked for both.

But there was also method behind the \$5.5 million of his own money Kohl threw into a race against weak opponents, the frequent fund-raisers Moore held, and their dual constant public presence.

They were making deliberate efforts to strengthen the entire Democratic ticket, not piling on an assured personal triumph.

Kohl is popular throughout the state and Doyle and other candidates knew the advantage of standing shoulder to shoulder with him.

But in Milwaukee in 2006, it was Gwen Moore who had the coattails (or should that be skirts?) — the personal power to drive out the inner city and South Side vote.

A line of candidates hung on to "You Go Gwen" for dear life. And Nov. 7 she kept all of them warm.



Union leaders (Doug Drake of USW and John Schmitt of Laborers Local 113) bracketed Gwen Moore at her Nov. 2 fund-raiser.



Machinists business agents cheering Sen. Kohl at a Labor 2006 rally were (from left), Bill Christianson, also an MCLC board member, Don Griffin and Scott Parr.



Waiting game



Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett (prominently quoted in our Page 1 story) and Kathleen Falk wait their turn to speak at the Obama rally. Falk also kept the public waiting. As we went to press she had not decided whether to concede the Attorney General seat to the GOP's J.B. Van Hollen or seek a recount after the official canvass. A concession is most likely in the razor-thin race, though even exit polls had predicted the winner would be the Democrat.

APRI gets busy

Gearing up for 2007, the Milwaukee chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI) has elected its officers and resumed regular meetings, which are held once a month at Laborers 113, 6310 W. Appleton Avenue, on every second Friday at 5 p.m.

APRI is an organization of trade unionists. Among its goals are encouraging African American trade unionists to become active in their community -- and in the Labor Movement and the ideas it supports.

Anyone interested in joining should attend the next meeting, December 8, 2006, or call the membership and organizing chairperson, Nacarci Feaster, at 414-873-4520.

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OBAMA GROUPIES?

Certainly that could be a fair description of the enthusiastic students and workers in the top photo. But the Labor Press camera also spotted two MCLC executive board members, Mary Jo Avery (left) and Stanthia Grier. For more on Milwaukee's rousing support for top Democratic speakers, see story on Page 12.

Labor 2006

From Page 1

seats once held by Republicans, giving the state Senate a Democratic majority. Both had concentrated union member-to-member support from the Labor 2006 Milwaukee area zone.

Look at the national exit polls and surveys. Union households represented one out every four votes cast and went by more than 74% to union-endorsed candidates.

Union members who hadn't voted at all in the last midterm race - the 2002 survival of the Republicans - returned in heavy numbers in 2006, a large part of a 20% national increase in turnout.

And while non-union voters split between Democrats and Republicans, union households went nearly 75% for union-backed candidates in the Senate races. Union voters broke overall 63% for Democratic candidates while non-union were about 50%.

The Republicans took a "thumping," as even President Bush admitted, but it was not a blowout. It was a contest fought an inch at a time. Real change will also be by inches.

The Republicans thought the split in federations reflected a weakness in political unity. The media thought the labor efforts were a sideshow to the GOP juggernaut of private companies and Madison Ave. marketing to activate voters. They were wrong.

Love's Get Out the Vote was not as good (hear this, networks) as stubborn grassroots efforts led by a few trained and paid leaders but relying on people willing to take off work or give up their evenings and weekends, pound the streets, and do it again and again.

It helped to have a message of competence on your side. It helped to have trained leaders using the same technology as the GOP but with authentic voices. It helped, in union terms, that Wisconsin had a fractional advantage over many other states



- higher penetration (about 17% of households) than the national average of 13%.

It hurt that unions are handcuffed by rules and carefully honor the limitation on only contacting union households on their lists. This year it doubly hurt because the teams of workers had to skip homes they knew would give them a positive response.

There was a price to the effort -- exhaustion. More rank-and-file participants will certainly be needed in 2008. This time Labor 2006 turned time and again to its most reliable volunteers.

But gradually, too gradually for comfort as the election grew close, the field of participants expanded mightily. More unions pitched in with money for the campaign, money for the candidates and growing numbers for Labor 2006 itself.

The real goal was met, because even union members who weren't actively working in Labor 2006 were actively contacted - multiple times by multiple means: flyers, mailings, phone calls, emails, visits.

Labor 2006 sometimes set up shop in union halls, but the Milwaukee County Labor Council building owned by the GCC was Election Central -- a battery of phone banks, a launchpad for neighborhood walks.

The resident taskmaster was Sue Ledbetter, the Wisconsin

AFL-CIO coordinator for Labor 2006 Zone 1.

Setting goals for the state AFL-CIO was the executive vice president and political chief, Sara Rogers, while similar oversight was provided for the Milwaukee County Labor Council by Sheila Cochran, secretary-treasurer and chief operating officer.

Among the labor leaders dropping in to thank the participants were Andy Stern, international president of SEIU, Anna Burger, who runs the Change to Win federation, and AFSCME International President Gerald McEntee.

On a pickup truck provided by IBEW's Forrest Ceel, Sen. Herb Kohl and AFSCME President Gerald McEntee (right) picked up the Labor 2006 crowd. Two days earlier, SEIU President Andy Stern (below) stopping by the MCLC to thank phone bankers. Every day, Labor 2006 bubbled with unions working together.



Top candidates on the state ticket and local candidates facing tight contests also stopped by to thank and motivate the troops. There were other coordinated campaigns - by the candidates themselves, by community groups, by the Democratic Party. What was different from 2004 was that all these campaigns had more voters responding.

And thus, aside from the governor's office and the state Senate, aside from the US House

and Senate, the Democrats grabbed control of more state legislatures and a majority of governorships.

National AFL-CIO President John Sweeney pointed out all that but he also sounded a necessary warning - don't rest on your laurels and don't assume that working families will win without intense further scrutiny and effort.

"We have no intention of depending naively on the Democrats to lead the way toward the changes working families showed they want," said Sweeney.

"It was working people acting together who made the difference in the elections, and we're going to keep . . . working people working together to demand that Congress take decisive action."

Among labor's top domestic priorities are a real minimum wage, restoring freedom to organize and bargain, giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower drug prices, stop rewarding companies for sending jobs overseas and restoring funding for college so all the children, not just children of the wealthy, can get a higher education.

The change has started. The agenda is on. But scrutiny is essential.

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How to value each vote

How hard should you work to keep a single vote from being suppressed? Milwaukee got a theatrical reminder 10 days before the election and radio listeners got an unintended front-row seat to a real example Nov. 7.

On Oct. 29 at Serb Hall, the MCLC under the urging of Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran brought in actress mZuri to present her one-woman show built around the life of 1960s voting rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer, who survived beatings in Mississippi to stir the nation's conscience. The actress added freedom songs of the era in her rich voice and contemporary comments as if Hamer were speaking from the skies, a performance and message that brought the audience to its feet in applause.

The afternoon of Election Day, Cochran had on her nonpartisan hat to explain on WMCS 1290 her work with the voter protection team, a collection of trained experts and lawyers constantly on their phones and computers in a basement on Vliet St., hooked up to the election commissions, community groups and similar agencies. All day and night, the team sent helpers to backlogged or hassled poll workers, anticipated dilemmas, clarified rules and procedures, and started reports on what worked and didn't in Milwaukee's election machinery.

Prepared for disaster, the team funded through the nonprofit LaborCommunity@Work mainly found brushfires of intimidation. As Cochran explained to radio host Eric Von how the team responded to single voters as well as systemic failures, listeners called in to relate their experiences.

But one called in out of confusion and frustration. A former felon who had legally voted for 10 years, the distressed caller had left the Hillside Terrace polling place unsatisfied because his name was on a no-no list — not once but three times.

Cochran had her cell phone out and was out the studio door in minutes, abandoning the interview,

heading for Hillside and consulting along the way with the protection team. Meanwhile, Sen. Lena Taylor, a lawyer, heard the same broadcast and hurried to help. Within hours the confusion was resolved, the voter was recontacted and legally cast his ballot.

This was one confusion the protection specialists had battled all day. Felons free of paper (completing their parole or probation) are emancipated in Wisconsin, with full rights restored. The issue of their names should have been solved through a statewide voter database, but delays from the private company hired to build it put this confirmation service on the shelf for this election.

Instead, the state Department of Corrections has put out a list for poll workers riddled with errors — names and aliases of felons who can't vote but also of citizens who had completed all legal obligations. People in the latter group can fill out a challenge ballot that is later verified and counted, but here's the rub. If they are wrong in their insistence they are emancipated, they've committed felony fraud and face arrest. On Nov. 7 both poll workers and named citizens were understandably leery about filing a challenge ballot without confirmation from the state.

The frustrated caller turned out to be absolutely honest, but the worry about potential criminal hazard probably kept other ex-felons from exercising their rights, especially if they weren't listening to the radio at just the right time.

The error-prone felon list was not the main problem encountered. Most complaints dealt with understaffed, undertrained or underprepared poll wards and workers on a day when full databases were still not available, voting machines broke down here and there, lines moved too slowly and thousands of voters were taking advantage of absentee ballots and same-day registration. But all these problems can be managed by better preparation and ongoing technological attention.



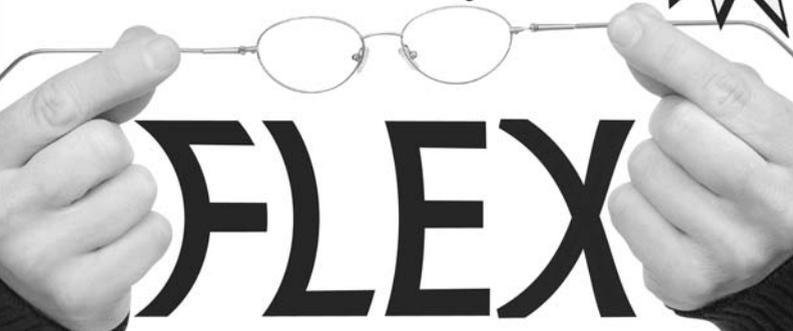
With only a few hours email and voice mail notice, the MCLC hosted an election celebration party with food and drink Nov. 9 for Labor 2006 workers. While the hall was packed, DJ Jay Reinke (right) found singalongs the hardest part of field mobilization.



Actress mZuri works with Milwaukee stagehands (here it's Bill Burgardt) to set up her one-woman performance at Serb Hall Oct. 29. The event drew about 100 persons to see mZuri resurrect the spirit of voting rights pioneer Fannie Lou Hamer.



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Memories overcome sadness at passing of Janie Jackson

If you measure wealth by influence on others, and the depth of loss by the look in people's eyes, then Janie Lee Jackson died very rich indeed while the Milwaukee community suffered a painful wound Oct. 27 when Jackson's heart failed.

Her death came after a 2005 diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease). News of her passing spread quickly among her families – and that should be plural. Aside from her family of kin her families included her church, her civil rights groups and her union (United Auto Workers).

A native Milwaukeean, Jackson's universe of friends was large, including many who participated for years in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. memorial events at Washington Park she helped organize.

Her own family was large as well – starting with her husband, Major Jackson Jr., two sons, Erick McWilliams and Kevin Jackson, and five "special daughters" she helped raise: Ta Jaun Mudd, Maura Bond, Lauri Grayson, Darice Brown and Toni Clark, now a Milwaukee County supervisor.

Another close friend who remembers Jackson as a mentor is Sheila Cochran, now secretary-treasurer of the MCLC. Cochran simply said: "I lost my anchor."

A comforting but tough pillar of values and purpose – that's how many describe Jackson, a graduate of North Division High who earned her practical nurse license at MATC. It was a profession she would return to, as a volunteer nurse, after her retirement from Delphi, where she worked 28 years as a surface mount operator. Not just Cochran speaks of her



Putting together the King celebration last January even while Lou Gehrig's disease was consuming her, Janie Lee Jackson (right) was presented the Owen Bieber Social Activist Award by her longtime friend, Sheila Cochran.

spiritual mentoring by example, a determination to see those around her reach their full potential. Her religious devotion was reflected in her work for the Mission of Christ Lutheran Church.

Her union drew some of her deepest involvement. Over the years she served the local as financial secretary, executive board member, UAW CAP council delegate, civil rights chair and related roles on committees, councils and as MCLC delegate. For the international union she was an executive board member of the national UAW civil rights council.

She was also a member of the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women) and CBTU (the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists)

Because her life reflected the

theme of "A Duty to Give Back," the UAW and her local presented her the Owen Bieber Social Activist Award. Even last January, while fighting the paralyzing onset of ALS, she helped organize the King event. She was 63 when she died.

Calendar

For updated master list of events, visit www.milwaukeeelabor.org

Wednesday, November 29

MCLC Executive Board, 2 p.m.
Yatchak Hall, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Tuesday, December 5

Rock 'n' Roll Closing Celebration
United Way Community Campaign
Must register online at
unitedwaymilwaukee.org/2006closing.html
or call (414) 263-8160

We Energies Auditorium, 231 W. Michigan St.

Wednesday, December 6

Delegate Meeting

Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Friday, December 15

MCLC Holiday Open House

Noon to 4 p.m.

Yatchak Hall, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

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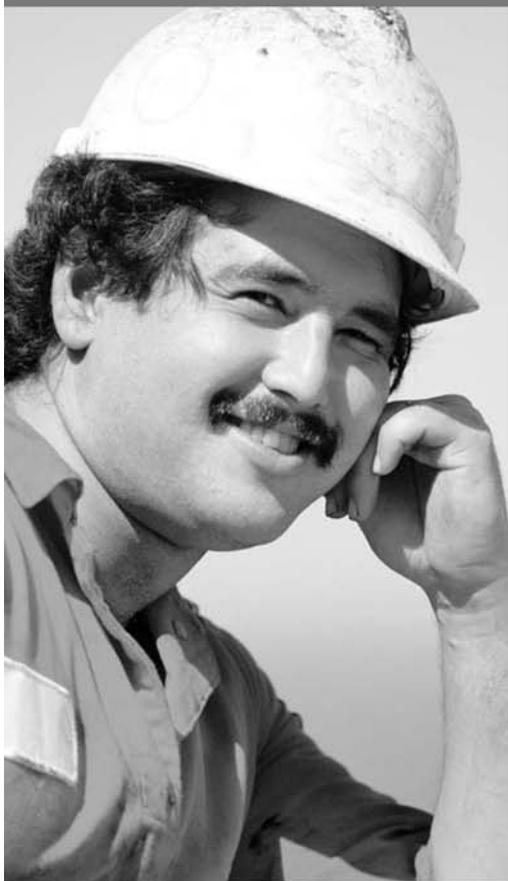
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Twice bitten enough for Bryan Kennedy

The Democrats had better candidates, and more of them, in 2006 over 2004. Advance footwork succeeded in finding them, matching them to their districts' temperaments, and standing by them.

That's the general national consensus. But the match either didn't exist or didn't catch fire in Wisconsin's 5th US Congressional District.

Making his second run against a 28-year House veteran, James Sensenbrenner, Bryan Kennedy and his supporters ended up with some harsh realities in a year that Kennedy himself described as the "perfect storm" to propel him into office.

After \$600,000 in campaign donations over three years, after being forced to rely on press releases as Sensenbrenner

ducked extensive open debates, and even while Gov. Doyle gained noticeably in the district, Kennedy could only add 4% to his losing 2004 total. That made 2006 another blowout -- nearly 62% voting for the Republican, a vote difference of nearly 82,000.

Sensenbrenner would be a "tough nut" (in all senses of that phrase) for anyone to crack. But this was a year - if not the year - he had made himself vulnerable. His grumpy demeanor as House Judiciary Committee chair angered his own party as well as the opposition. He insisted on his own agendas against the wishes of the White House and the party leaders (not an endearing trait when you look at those agendas).

He was revealed as one of the House's leading free-load junketeers and corporate best

buddies.

More states will soon be in rebellion against the unfunded headaches of his Real ID bill, which hardly looks like a smart way to advance homeland security. The immigration border fence bill he pushed through the House, plus his efforts to turn undocumented workers from civil violators into felons, almost single-handedly brought millions of citizens and foreign workers to the nation's streets in protest.

He bent over for the National Rifle Association against the wishes of law enforcement experts who wanted to check dealer records to monitor guns used in crime and called those who objected "crybabies."

All this made suburbanites in Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties a national



Bryan Kennedy made a strong case for change (here at a UAW Brewery Workers Local 9 gathering) but most voters didn't seem to be listening in Rep. James Sensenbrenner's district.

laughingstock of Republican extremism and added a new word to the national political lexicon: "Senselessbrenner."

It also poisoned the Republican hopes of wooing Latino voters, which soared to 44% GOP in 2004 and, according to recent exit polls, shrunk to a virtually irretrievable 27% across the nation this year.

Kennedy made those points, but not in a devastating "what are you folks thinking?" manner.

Well-spoken, moderate and genuinely thoughtful, the UWM professor would make a better Congressman, as even the state's largest newspaper pointed out in its endorsement. But it was a bit like sending an intelligent collie against an attack dog.

Wednesday after the election, Kennedy thanked his supporters and said he would remain politically active but not run for a third time.

County workers about to lose big in an effort to hoard wage checks

Given the uncertainties about the Milwaukee County budget and the continued speculation about job cuts under County Executive Scott Walker, it could be that hundreds of county workers thought they were frugally saving for a rainy day.

Instead, they are about to wash away thousands of dollars in wages, warns Dan Diliberti, the county treasurer.

Diliberti is taking the unusual extra step of notifying all these workers by mail that those long uncashed checks (probably in most cases) or lost checks will soon not be worth the paper they're printed on. So get them cashed or deposited - or they will be void.

Diliberti says a new bank has been awarded the county's checking account contract and that all checks have a redemption date at which they expire.

Between those two realities, the checks will soon be worthless.

The dilemma of lost, misplaced and/or uncashed checks extends to hundreds of workers, union and non, that he is contacting by letter. In one case, Diliberti found a worker with \$30,000 in uncashed wage checks.



County Treasurer Dan Diliberti

Nor will it be wise in the future to hang onto checks, since new ones will have a tighter void date (60 days).

It's not only a bad idea to hang onto checks, Diliberti pointed out, but "some employees have lost thousands of dollars in interest earnings."

Don't phone the treasurer's office, he said, since letters are being mailed out to all affected workers. He just wants to be sure that people who don't cash checks DO open their mail from the county.

Bowling

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TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
GUTTER RATS	37	19
8 BALLS	30	26
LABORER'S 113	29	27
CRAZY 8's	26	30
ONE BOARD OVER	24	32
SLAMMERS	22	34

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 470

SAM SAMUELSON	635
DAN LAACK	591
BOB WAGNER	579
DON WIEDMANN	562
DEL GROSS	541
WAYNE FRANZEN	536
DUANE DEUEL	473

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 180

SAM SAMUELSON	237
BOB WAGNER	226
WAYNE FRANZEN	223
DAN LAACK	217
DON WIEDMANN	216
DEL GROSS	204
ELMER HELM	194
DUANE DEUEL	182

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 400

RAE MATOWSKI	436
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	410

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With labor and community supporters behind him, Bill Clinton charms a large crowd at the Milwaukee Theatre Nov. 3 while (right) on Oct. 31 Illinois Sen. Barack Obama applauds the crowd gathered to hear him at Pere Marquette Park.



BELOW: A week before the election, Wisconsin's first family, Jessica and Jim Doyle, are relaxed pictures of confidence at the Obama rally. Next to them was the senator with even greater reasons for confidence, Herb Kohl.



Dems' big draws put substance into stumps

It's old news that the two biggest "rock stars" of the Democratic Party descended on Milwaukee just before Election Day to stir support for Gov. Jim Doyle and the rest of the state ticket.

What was not much noticed in the news, though, was that neither the incarnation of "The Audacity of Hope" nor the man from Hope delivered typical stump speeches.

Both engaged large crowds with philosophy and challenged

them with intellectual observations. Both found it revealing that, amid the partisan hoopla and celebrity enthusiasm, their listeners were willing to turn quietly attentive when they addressed how Democrats should act in the future.

Not that the speakers didn't get off some devastating condemnations and rousing quips about the GOP along the way.

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, riding presidential fever and his

second book that is the nation's top best seller, "The Audacity of Hope," anchored a Halloween morning rally at Pere Marquette Park. He drew cheers of recognition from a crowd of about 2,000 when he described the Republican campaign as "name-calling, slash and burn and smack-downs."

"We've been fed a politics of cynicism," said Obama, as opposed to the hope that embroiders his personal experience and national reputation.

Former President Bill Clinton (born, of course, in Hope, Arkansas) strolled with Doyle onto the Milwaukee Theatre stage the afternoon of Nov. 3, setting a crowd of about 4,000 to waving and dancing.

And Clinton got off his own more frequent zingers, particularly when he encapsulated the GOP message:

"If you vote for those Democrats, they will tax you into the poorhouse, and on the way to the poorhouse you will meet a terrorist on every street corner, and when you try to run away from the terrorist, you will trip over an illegal immigrant."

Clinton also drew laughs when he explained his answer to people who wonder, "What great economic idea did you bring to Washington?" and I say

— arithmetic."

But both also turned serious with similar reflections in quite different styles about the moral crisis in America exposed not just by the actions of the administration but also by the tenor of the campaign.

Obama: "We may be the first generation in a long time to pass on an America that is a little poorer and a little meaner than the one we inherited from our parents."

Clinton: "People know something is profoundly amiss in our national life, that basically we're not relating to each other as we ought to."

Obama lamented the loss of a quality he called "essential to the American spirit."

"At each and every moment, we have believed in the possibility of something better," he said, offering a motivational history of America's path of setbacks followed by more embracing advances.

Clinton also traced the history of how America jumped off the tracks and discussed relying on an ideology that doesn't look reality in the eyes and makes the "No. 1 priority the concentration of wealth and power."

When you govern through only your own ideology, Clinton said, "You have nothing to learn.

You know everything already (so you) govern by assertion and attack. Competence is irrelevant. Consequences are irrelevant because you've got all the answers."

"One of the things I've learned is that if you're in a hole, quit digging. But if you've got an ideology, you say, 'Hand me a bigger shovel.'"

"Well, 'stop and think' is not the same as 'cut and run.'"

Outside, blowing their airhorns, garbage trucks rented by the National Rifle Association circled the Milwaukee Theatre with "Dump Doyle" vinylled on their sides.

Inside, Clinton cautioned a partisan crowd to "not give up on anybody."

He certainly anticipated an election switching sides.

"Essentially," he argued, "it's not fair to blame the Republicans, because it is only a narrow strip of the Republican Party that was in control of this country's machinery in the last six years."

Democrats, he said, "have become by default both the progressive and the mainstream conservative party in America."

Emcee for the Clinton event was an old friend and one of his early supporters, AFSCME International President Gerald McEntee.

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