Local Elections Spring 2021

Dear Candidate,

Attached you will find Wisconsin Conservation Voters 2021 candidate questionnaire. Completing this questionnaire is the first step in being considered for an endorsement by Wisconsin Conservation Voters in the upcoming local elections in the spring of 2021.

Wisconsin Conservation Voters realizes the importance of passing clean energy, clean water, and voter access measures at the local level. We are focusing on communities where we are currently running issue campaigns and will continue organizing after the elections. We will, however, consider additional endorsement inquiries outside of these focus areas. Our endorsement recommendations will be made by local endorsement committees, which consist of our local organizer, local board members, our Organizing and Political Director, and, most importantly, people who call the community home. Local endorsement committee recommendations will then be approved by our Board of Directors and Executive Director.

Please take some time to fill out the enclosed questionnaire. We will use this as a tool to decide whether to set up an interview. While we would like to talk to as many potential candidates as possible, we reserve the right to make an endorsement without an interview with the approval of our local endorsement committees and board. Filling out this questionnaire will help us determine what issues are most important to you as a candidate and to the local government in which you seek office.

Wisconsin Conservation Voters' mission is to engage voters to protect Wisconsin's environment. We work locally and at the state level to pass proactive policies to protect our land, air, and water. To find out more about our work, visit www.conservationvoters.org. Contact Seth Hoffmeister at seth@conservationvoters.org or 715-579-2609 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,





Seth Hoffmeister Sheila Young

Organizing and Political Director President, Board of Directors

2021 Local Office Candidate Questionnaire

The following questionnaire will be used by Wisconsin Conservation Voters to consider candidate

endorsement for county board, village board, city council, mayoral, and school board elections in Spring of 2021. **T<u>he official deadline for completing the questionnaire for the April election is Friday, February 12, 2021.</u>** However, the sooner you complete your questionnaire, the sooner you will be considered. The Board of Directors will be making final endorsement decisions on March 9th, 2021.

You may return your completed questionnaire to Seth Hoffmeister, Organizing and Political Director via:

Email: seth@conservationvoters.org
Mail: Seth Hoffmeister, 1136 Lawe Street, Green Bay, WI 54301

Candidate Name: Kyle Lobner

Campaign Committee: Lobner for Appleton

Address: 3920 E Ashbury Dr, Appleton, WI, 54913

Email(s) FFGKyle@gmail.com (personal) district13@appleton.org (City)

Home Ph. (920)574-2092

Campaign Manager and Contact Info (optional)_ None

Office Seeking Alderman, City of Appleton, District 13

Occupation: Alderman, Freelance writer, Substitute teacher, Media Relations Assistant

Signed: _____Kyle Lobner_____ Date Completed: _____February 9, 2021_____

Questions:

1. Why are you running for office?

I'm seeking re-election because I think my experience and years of hard work on council make me the best candidate to continue to serve in this role. Nine of the 15 seats on the Appleton Common Council have turned over in the last two election cycles, as have our mayor and city attorney, and so I feel it's more important than ever to have representatives who understand the history of the issues we discuss, will work to mentor new alderpersons and can retain the momentum we've made on important topics.

2. Why should Wisconsin Conservation Voters endorse you in this election?

As president of the Appleton Common Council I have a long track record of support for conservation issues, although having a council around me that will press the issue on these topics is a relatively new phenomenon. I come from a hunting and fishing family, so working to preserve our wildlife and water quality are nothing new for me, but our ongoing climate crisis has turned these debates into more than just a question of recreational availability. Appleton needs leaders that are effective, experienced and able to gather support for real change.

3. What is the top conservation issue in your community and how would you work to address it once elected?

I would argue we have two major issues, one tangible and one more intangible. The tangible one is a very traditional viewpoint within the community regarding lawn care and chemical usage. I represent a neighborhood that highly values having green, weed-free lawns and doesn't seem to care how many chemicals they add to the water in pursuit of that goal.

In 2020 we passed a resolution creating "No Mow May," a month where our municipal ordinances regarding lawn care were waived and residents were allowed to let their grass grow. This was the right thing to do for our pollinators, but I'm hopeful it will also help normalize non-traditional lawn care.

The second issue is more philosophical: As a community we've taken a lot of "feel good" steps on environmental issues, especially climate change, but sometimes those measures get used as an excuse to avoid taking more tangible action. Sometimes vague goals and goalpost setting is counterproductive because it creates the illusion that we're doing something without any actual plan to do something.

4. What do you think local governments' role is in addressing climate change?

I think we have an opportunity to model best practices, to be sure. It's important that our new facilities and capital expenditures go towards the most efficient and environmentally-friendly goals possible. Local government also sometimes has a role to play in economic development, and there's room to do more here to prioritize sustainable and environmentally friendly projects when considering possibilities for our participation.

5. What, if any, challenges does your community face with drinking water? How would you work to address those challenges?

Appleton is tremendously fortunate to have excellent drinking water. Our Water Utility won

the Wisconsin Water Association's "Utility Achievement Award" in 2019. Like many communities we're working to address issues involving lead, but the volume of correction needed here is fortunately smaller than what many other communities are experiencing.

6. What do you think the role of municipalities is in administering fair and accessible elections? What are local initiatives you would support to increase access to the ballot? During my time on council I've spent seven years on the Safety & Licensing Committee, which oversees Appleton's City Clerk's Office, including five years as the chair of that committee. During that time I volunteered to help staff early voting during the 2014, 2016 and 2018 elections.

I think our community is doing an excellent job of utilizing the tools available to us to ensure access to voting, fair elections and prompt and accurate results. Our City Clerk Kami Lynch and her staff deserve a lot of credit for the extra time they've put in to navigate things like rapidly changing election rules handed down by the state and courts and the extreme difficulties created by running elections during the pandemic.

The biggest thing I'd love to be able to do to improve access to voting is to bring back early voting at satellite locations, including the Lawrence University campus. Unfortunately, we had to discontinue that practice due to a change in state statute.

7. What other issues would you address if elected?

The biggest challenge a lot of communities, including Appleton, will face in the years ahead is retaining momentum and not allowing our current challenges to become the excuse we use for halting progress on our critical needs. We've been through a lot together and we're going to have some tough budgets in the years ahead, but the needs of our community, our people and our planet aren't going to wait for us to decide it's time to go again.

Please check off the following policy and value statements with which you agree. If a statement doesn't apply to the elected office you are seeking or your community, write n/a. If you have a top issue, please indicate with #1. This information may be shared publicly by Wisconsin Conservation Voters.

<u>Clean Water:</u>

_X_ I will fight for safe, clean drinking water for everyone.

_X_ I will make removing lead pipes from my community's water system a priority.

n/a I will work to strengthen protections for private drinking water wells for rural families by reducing

agriculture pollution.

_X_ I believe local government has a responsibility to ensure everyone has access to clean drinking water.

_X_ Those who pollute our water, land, and air should be held accountable.

Climate Change:

_X_ I will work to move my community to commit to 100% clean energy by 2050.

(Although as noted above, I think having a plan to make tangible improvement is more important than having a distant goal.)

_X_ I believe local communities are the frontlines of action on climate change and I will work proactively to pass policies that reduce carbon emissions in my community.

_X_ Because local communities are the frontlines of climate change impacts, I will work proactively to make our communities more resilient.

_X_ I believe local governments should invest in measures to reduce energy use.

_X_ I believe local governments should invest in clean energy such as solar, wind, or geothermal.

_X_ I believe local government fleet vehicles should be electrified or converted to clean burning fuels such as compressed natural gas.

_X_ I believe schools should include climate science education in their curricula.

Inclusive and Diverse Communities:

_X_ I will work to ensure that everyone, especially people most impacted, has a seat at the table in a just transition to a clean energy future.

_X_ I believe the most vulnerable communities most effected by pollution must be among the decision makers in finding solutions to climate change and the drinking water crisis.

Democracy and Voter Access:

_X_ I believe communities should make voting as accessible as possible by ensuring weekend and evening early voting hours at multiple locations.

_X_ Communities should recruit and train poll workers to ensure that there is enough staffing to provide free and fair elections and that individuals are not disenfranchised at the polls.

_X_ Communities should adopt best practices for voting by mail, including offering secure absentee ballot drop boxes and having a robust ballot curing process.

_X_ Municipalities should train city staff to offer the opportunity to register to vote when a citizen interacts with a government agency, including but not limited to libraries and community centers.

When we receive your questionnaire, we will reach out and let you know if we would like to set up an endorsement interview. We have a tight deadline, so the earlier you submit your questionnaire the better. Please be ready to meet in person or over the phone should we decide to set up an interview.

Please indicate some dates and time ranges that you are available for an in-person or over the phone endorsement interview.

Due to the pandemic my schedule is pretty open right now, but I'm not accepting in-person meetings. I'd be happy to video chat or talk over the phone, and I'm most often available in the afternoons.

Thank you!