

[Common Threads Coalition](#) Candidate Video Response Questionnaire

2026 Primary Candidates for Governor

Viewer Instructions See full question on the subsequent pages.	 <i>Joel Brennan</i>	 <i>Francesca Hong</i>	 <i>Kelda Roys</i>	 <i>David Crowley</i>	Andy Manske (invited)	Tom Tiffany (invited)
	Democrat	Democrat	Democrat	Democrat	Republican	Republican
1-Tell us about yourself	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here		
2- School funding	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here		
3- School choice	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here		
4- Data centers	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here		
5- Voting and voter turnout	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here		
6- 287g agreements	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here		
7- Reducing polarization	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here		
8- Closing statement	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here	Click Here		

Let us know what you think of this questionnaire. Please take our [short survey](#).

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Questions

1. Tell us about yourself.

2. School Funding:

Homeowners in Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington counties have faced a wave of school funding referendums in recent years — from Arrowhead Union's \$136 million facilities ask, to Port Washington-Saukville's first referendum in a decade, to Lake Country School District warning it could shut down entirely without voter-approved tax increases. At the same time, a recent Marquette poll found a record 60% of Wisconsin voters would rather cut property taxes than increase school spending.

The state's school funding formula has pushed districts to rely more and more on local property taxpayers to fill gaps that state aid once covered. Governor Evers recently struck a school funding deal with Republican leaders that most Democratic state senators — including a candidate in this race — voted to reject, calling it a backroom deal.

If you are elected governor, what specific changes would you make to the state school funding formula to reduce WOW-area homeowners' reliance on local referendums?

3. School Choice

Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington counties have some of Wisconsin's highest-performing public schools, yet school choice expansion has redirected significant funding away from those districts.

As governor, 1) How would you measure whether that tradeoff has actually benefited students in these communities? 2) Would you change anything about the program, if so, how?

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4. Data Centers

A \$15 billion data center is under construction in Port Washington in Ozaukee County, and residents there recently passed what may be the first data center referendum in the country — in part because many say they only found out about the project after the town board had already approved it. Meanwhile, families in Waukesha and Washington counties are asking whether they'll be stuck paying higher utility bills to fund the new power plants and grid upgrades that data centers demand — especially since Wisconsin ratepayers are still carrying nearly a billion dollars in debt on shuttered power plants.

What specific steps will you take to ensure 1) that residents in communities like Port Washington, Waukesha, and Washington County have a genuine voice before these projects are approved, and, 2) that ordinary ratepayers are not left holding the bill for energy infrastructure built primarily to serve billion-dollar data center corporations?

5. Voting and Voter Turnout

In the 2024 presidential election, Wisconsin's WOW counties demonstrated some of the highest voter participation in the state — Ozaukee County reached 94.6% turnout among registered voters, while Waukesha and Washington counties each posted turnout in the mid-to-upper 80s percent range, all well above the statewide average of 76.9%. These numbers reflect a deeply engaged civic culture in this region. Lately, however, some have expressed concern that the removal of drop boxes, for example, and limiting absentee voting may impede voter turnout.

What specific policies or initiatives would you pursue as Governor to promote full voter participation, make voting easier/more accessible and ensure continued high turnout?

6. Local government cooperation with ICE (287g agreements)

Some sheriffs participate in agreements with ICE — the federal program that deputizes local law enforcement to perform immigration enforcement functions. Sheriffs in these communities have cited concerns about resource strain, liability exposure, the chilling effect on

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crime reporting among immigrant residents, and the risk of civil rights litigation. Others have expressed openness to greater federal coordination.

As governor, how would you use the office to encourage, discourage, or remain neutral toward participation by sheriffs in WOW counties? What specific conditions or funding commitments, if any, would shape that position?

7. Reducing Polarization and unifying neighbors in WOW Counties

Wisconsin's so-called "WOW" counties — Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington — account for roughly 11% of the state's population and remain among the most reliably Republican jurisdictions in the state. In the 2024 presidential election, Trump carried all three counties by comfortable margins of 19.7%, 10.5%, and 36.3% respectively. Yet these same communities are fracturing internally: Democratic support in Ozaukee County improved by nearly 7 points between 2016 and 2024, and in Waukesha County by 6 points — a shift driven largely by college-educated suburban voters moving away from the GOP. Ozaukee County, once the most Republican county in all of Wisconsin in the 1990s, has gone from being the state's most Republican county to roughly 40th. Meanwhile, Washington County has resisted that trend, with its Democratic share of the vote remaining essentially flat over the same 20-year span.

The result is a suburban Milwaukee corridor that is no longer a unified political bloc, but a battleground of competing identities — traditional conservatives, suburban moderates, and a growing Democratic minority — all living side by side with deepening mutual distrust.

In light of the current political polarization in the WOW counties, as governor, what would you do to earn the trust of *all* voters and set an example of cooperation in your work with a divided legislature?

8. Closing Statement: Why are you the best candidate to be Wisconsin's next governor?