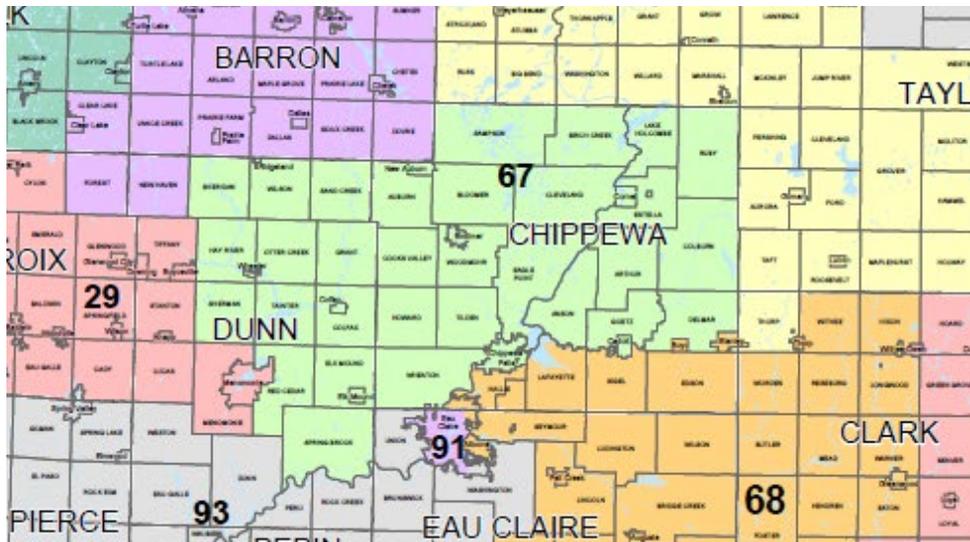




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## Wisconsin 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Legislative Election Questionnaire



**When:** Tuesday, November 6, 2018; polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Find your location: [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov). All absentee ballots must be requested by November 1st and be turned in to your municipal clerk by November 4th at 5 pm.

**What it's about:** The Democratic Party and the Republican Party each held individual primary elections last Spring. Now, their nominees are running against each other to determine who will represent the 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in the next legislative term.

**Who can vote:** The election is open to all eligible voters, and you are free to vote for any candidate, regardless of the party to which you belong.

### Where you vote and who is on your ballot:

- Go to [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov)
- Enter your voting address to learn which races are on your ballot and where you vote.

**Why this questionnaire:** The Good Government Council (GGC) is a committee of the Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce dedicated to encouraging voter participation and providing members of the business community with non-biased information about candidates' positions on important issues. Although the Chamber is active in policy issues, it is non-partisan and does not endorse political candidates.

**Who is running in the 67<sup>th</sup> Assembly District:** In the primaries, the Democratic Party nominated Wren Keturi and the Republican Party nominated Rob Summerfield.

*Q1. Why are you running for this office, and what are the top three priorities you will emphasize if elected to the next session of the legislature?*

**Wren Keturi (D):**

I am running for the 67th State Assembly district because I believe that zip codes shouldn't matter. At a time of record economic growth nationally, more than 50% of the residents in my community either cannot meet their basic needs or live in poverty. This number has grown in our region over the past several years. I am running because I believe our government should work for working people. There is no reason why at a time of economic prosperity, our public schools continue to face budget shortfalls, families continue to struggle to pay their healthcare bills, and our roads and bridges deteriorate. My top three priorities will be to fully reinvest in public education; to ensure that every member of our community has access to a low-cost healthcare plan; and to find a long-term funding solution for our roads and bridges.

**Rob Summerfield (R):**

As the father of three young girls, I understand the importance of public education. It is essential that we support our public schools, so every child has access to a quality education. Related to education is the need for broadband expansion; we made great strides last session by funding grants for broadband expansion, but we need to keep investing until broadband reaches every part of our state. Additionally, having years of experience as a small business owner, I understand the challenges that many face in obtaining quality, affordable healthcare. That is why I voted to protect those with pre-existing conditions and to allow small businesses and farmers to pool resources to drive down costs for their employees. I promise to continue fighting to make healthcare more affordable, while maintaining the quality of our state's top-ranked healthcare.

*Q2. The primary sources for transportation revenue, including gas taxes and registration fees, have been growing slower than transportation spending, leading to shortfalls in revenues vs. planned expenditures and increasing levels of debt. What measures would you support to match transportation fund revenues with the state's transportation needs?*

**Wren Keturi (D):**

One of my top priorities as a lawmaker will be to find a long-term solution to our transportation crisis. Lawmakers in Madison have kicked the can down the road for far too long. Addressing this crisis requires making difficult decisions and doing things that may not be politically expedient. National data reveals that Wisconsin has fallen to 49th in the nation in terms of the quality of our roads and bridges. Our current system of transportation funding is in dire need of change and all options should be on the table when addressing it. There is no single silver bullet to addressing this crisis, which is why I feel that it is important to look at all revenue options, including restoring indexing to the gas tax and additional state funding and bonding when crafting a thorough, multi-faceted solution.

**Rob Summerfield (R):**

Changes in technology have brought positive improvements in fuel efficiency and the creation of hybrid and electric vehicles; however, relying solely on the gas tax for transportation revenue is now a challenge as we strive to maintain our infrastructure. An essential part of the conversation on transportation funding is alternative revenue sources, tailored to the changes in vehicle technology and consumer demands. With this in mind, we have to look at all available options to fund our transportation system, so we properly maintain our roadways.

*Q3. Given recent trends in the financing of all levels of public education in Wisconsin, how should education funding be structured in the next budget to assure appropriate financing for every level of public education?*

**Wren Keturi (D):**

Over the last eight years, Wisconsin's public schools have fallen behind, especially in our rural school districts. Despite recent funding increases, we remain behind our 2010 funding levels, forcing many local districts to consider referendums as a way of funding our school districts. This is unacceptable! Our state made a commitment to fund our school districts, and we need to begin by fully restoring funding to our public schools. Our funding formula also needs to be re-examined, as it leaves many of our rural and struggling school districts behind. Finally, our state needs to make a commitment to fairly funding the educational needs of our students with disabilities. Currently, we only fund 27% of the educational costs for students with disabilities. This is unfair, and our state needs to dramatically raise the funding commitment to those students and every student in our public school system.

**Rob Summerfield (R):**

When I first ran for office two years ago, I promised that I would fight for more funding for our classrooms, and I delivered on that. I voted for a budget that increased funding for K12 education by \$636 million. In addition to that funding, I supported more money for sparsity aid, transportation aid, and voted to allow low-spending school districts to have more flexibility. I also fully supported an additional \$100 million in school safety improvement grants to help keep our kids safe while they learn. Going forward, I will continue to prioritize education funding, so our students have the tools they need to succeed.

*Q4. Our region faces several significant workforce challenges, including a "skills gap" between employer labor demands and the available workforce, as well as demographic issues related to the size of the workforce and the ability to recruit and retain employees to the area. What should be the state's role in solving these issues?*

**Wren Keturi (D):**

Our population is aging rapidly, placing severe demographic challenges on our employers. At a time of rapid economic growth nationally, now is the time to be invest in adequately funding education and skills enhancement programs at all age and career levels, including K-12 education, our UW and Technical College systems, and worker training and vocational rehabilitation programs. The state has the revenue to invest in this endeavor, our elected officials just need to make it a priority.

**Rob Summerfield (R):**

It is imperative that employers, leaders in higher education, and local government officials work together to address the workforce needs of our area. We must continue to invest in worker training and apprenticeship programs, as well as supporting additional courses at our technical colleges, in order to give workers the skills they need to move up, while giving employers the skilled labor they require. Additionally, we need to collaborate on making our area an even more attractive location for families, so they relocate here. By encouraging broadband expansion, affordable healthcare, and family supporting jobs, more people can see that the Chippewa Valley is truly a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

*Q5. The UW Board of Regents recently approved a budget proposal containing funds to build a new UW- Eau Claire science building. What is your view on this project, and what level of priority should it take among the Chippewa Valley legislative delegation?*

**Wren Keturi (D):**

UW-Eau Claire plays a large role in the economy of the entire Chippewa Valley. In order to grow the role UW-Eau Claire plays in our economy, we must continue to invest in world class educational and research facilities. This project will be a critical investment for expanding the leading role our region plays in healthcare services, research, and scholarship. I am confident this investment will create excellent career opportunities of all kinds, will improve educational and research opportunities for students and faculty, and will attract top talent to our region. For lawmakers from the Chippewa Valley, this investment should be one of our top priorities.

**Rob Summerfield (R):**

Wisconsin prides itself on our world-class university system, one that produces some of the best and brightest minds in our nation. It is crucial that we continue to make this education accessible to all of our students by keeping tuition

affordable, while ensuring that students and educators have the resources they need to be successful. An essential resource for our students is the space to learn with technological capabilities that prepare students for 21st century careers. With students outgrowing the space at UW Eau Claire's Science Building, I see this project as a priority and will work with my colleagues and the UW System to move it forward.