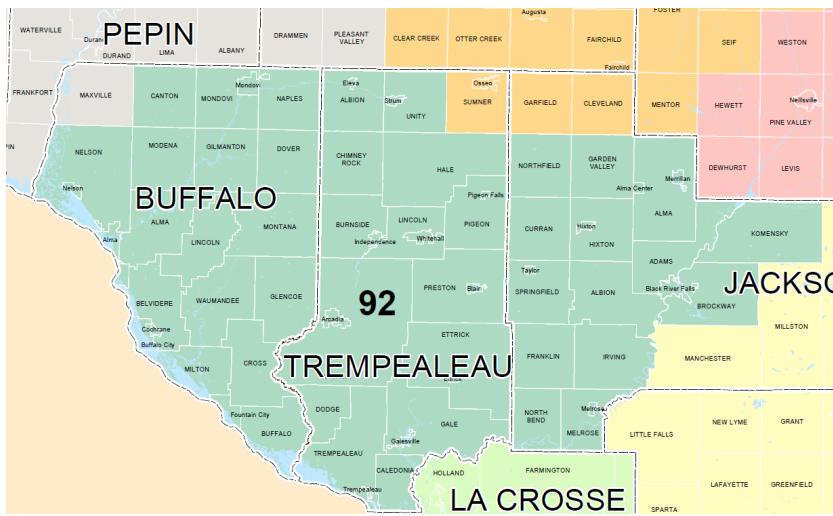




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## Wisconsin 92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District Legislative Election Questionnaire



**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 92<sup>nd</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 92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District:** In the primaries, the Democratic Party nominated Rob Grover and the Republican Party nominated Treig Pronschinske.

*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?*

**Rob Grover (D):**

I am running for the State Assembly because I have a deep passion for our communities. I am a lifelong resident of the 92nd Assembly District and I believe that my experiences as a corrections officer, and rural entrepreneur have given me a perspective that I can take down to the legislature to effectively serve our communities. There are an array of issues facing rural Wisconsin and the importance of any issue should not be undersold. My top priorities will be the top priorities of the people of my district. Through countless conversations with people over the course of the campaign, I have heard many concerns regarding healthcare, including affordability and a need for increased funding for mental health and addiction treatment, the need to fully fund our public education system, and repairing our crumbling infrastructure.

**Treig Pronschinske (R):**

I am running for re-election to the Assembly because I want to make sure our local rural communities have a strong voice in Madison. My life experience as a father, husband, volunteer, small business owner, and local government official gives me the tools and base of knowledge I need to fight for the residents of the 92nd Assembly District. In my first term, we accomplished a lot in Madison with increased funding to public education, reforms in healthcare to help bring down costs, and an increased investment in workforce development. Next session, these three areas will continue to be my top priorities, as well as a continued investment in broadband for our local communities.

*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?*

**Rob Grover (D):**

We are currently facing a transportation-funding crisis- anyone who has driven on a Wisconsin road knows that. Legislative Republicans have refused to find a sustainable, long-term solution to it. Study after study has shown that Wisconsin has among the worst roads in the nation, and the longer these issues go unaddressed the more likely it becomes that we will have major safety issues. Being a leader means having to make difficult decisions. Our current system of transportation funding is in dire need of change and all options should be on the table when addressing it. Our current representative supported the FoxConn project - which stole \$130 million of highway funding in the largest giveaway to a foreign corporation in US history. When in the legislature, I will prioritize transportation funding for my district rather than supporting projects that take funds away from repairing our roads and bridges.

**Treig Pronschinske (R):**

Last session, I helped to secure funding for several bridges throughout my district, and I will continue to work to make sure road projects in Western Wisconsin are prioritized in Madison. I will also work with my colleagues to find a long-term solution to address new road construction and maintenance needs. Currently, our transportation funding relies heavily on the gas tax, but as vehicles become more fuel efficient this puts a strain on our funding. Going forward, we need to look for the best options to increase road funding, while continuing to limit borrowing beyond our means. We must ensure that we are able to cover our debt service, and that the Department of Transportation remains as efficient and effective as possible.

*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?*

**Rob Grover (D):**

Wisconsin is at a crossroads in public education funding. Our public schools are facing massive teacher shortages across the state, and spending per student that now ranks in the bottom half of the nation. It is critical that our state is consistently

funding our public schools rather than using school funding as a political bargaining chip to cash in during an election year. I am a proud product of my district's public schools, so I know their importance to our communities. When in the legislature, I will work to find a sustainable long-term solution to the school funding formula to more equitably disburse funding between rural, suburban, and urban school districts. I am also a proud graduate of the UW – La Crosse. Our public university system is a fantastic resource for the generation of new ideas and economic development. We must fully fund our public university system.

**Treig Pronschinske (R):**

Recently, public education in Wisconsin received a significant increase in funding. In the latest state budget, we increased K-12 spending by a record \$636 million. I also supported initiatives which increase funding in our schools for student mental health and for student safety. On top of this, last session we passed a bill which will increase funding levels for our rural and lower-spending school districts, some of which have been struggling under the current funding formula. The legislature has also established a bipartisan commission to look at the K-12 school funding formula in the hopes of improving it for our rural school districts. I look forward to seeing their recommendations.

*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?*

**Rob Grover (D):**

The state needs to focus on incentivizing schools to invest in the trades and technical education programs. Creating incentives for schools to partner with private industry to help students enter internship programs from an early age can give them a unique perspective in the workforce that will allow them to create workforce connections that they may otherwise not have access to. Additionally, our state needs to provide resources to increase broadband access in rural communities. More careers in the future will be based on telecommuting and broadband access will be crucial for workers in rural communities to connect with employers.

**Treig Pronschinske (R):**

Workforce development is one of the top issues facing our state, especially Western Wisconsin. The ability of employers to find qualified workers with the right skills has become a more frequent problem over the last several years. As wages rise, and our unemployment rate continues to drop, we must work to find innovative ways to ensure that anyone who wants a job is able to find one. During my first term in office, we invested even more money into workforce development efforts, as well as investing in Fab Labs, a program that trains high school students to develop skills in manufacturing, technology, and engineering. If re-elected, I will continue to push for increased funding to workforce development.

*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?*

**Rob Grover (D):**

Projects that provide resources for STEM education will be a priority of mine in the legislature. The UW-Eau Claire science building project needs to take place. When deciding which projects in the UW system receive funding, the state must take all needed projects into account. Bumping building projects down the priority list can cause them to become more expensive due to inflation. Delaying projects may also cause proposed projects that begin as renovations to end up as projects requiring entirely new buildings further increasing costs.

**Treig Pronschinske (R):**

UW-Eau Claire is an important institution in Western Wisconsin, and produces some of the best and brightest that our state has to offer. I have always appreciated Chancellor Schmidt and his staff taking the time to update me on what has been happening with the university, and the excellent job they have done. The proposed science building at UW-Eau Claire would be an important part of the university, as well as the Eau Claire community as a whole. As a legislator from

Western Wisconsin, I will work with UW System officials and my colleagues in the legislature to push this project forward.