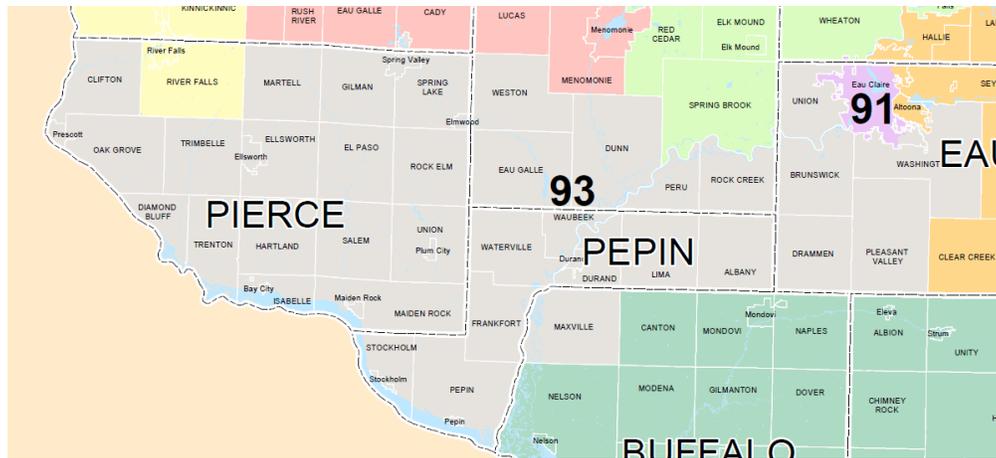




Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce
101 N. Farwell St., Suite 101, Eau Claire, WI 54703
715-834-1204

Wisconsin 93rd 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. 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 93rd 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
- 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 93rd Assembly District: In the primaries, the Democratic Party nominated Charlene Warner and the Republican Party nominated Warren Petryk.

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?

Charlene Warner (D):

I am running for the State Assembly in the 93rd district to offer options, choice and a listening ear to the citizens of West Central Wisconsin. I bring personal involvement & commitment with consensus being the path to progress. Our present representative has not been communicative with me or the majority of the district during the last 8 years and I want to be a common sense voice for everyone.

My priorities based on what the citizens have been telling me at their doors:

1. Health Care – Curbing the crippling costs, restrictions, and reining in insurance companies. Accepting the Medicaid expansion and expanding Badger Care.
2. Our school districts have paid a high price in constant referendums and seeing local tax dollars diverted to private schools state-wide. I pledge to work every day to equalize public school funding.
3. Common sense re-districting coupled with Automatic Voter Registration is necessary NOW.

Warren Petryk (R):

The privilege to continue working as my constituents' strong, experienced, independent voice is why I'm seeking a fifth term in the State Assembly:

1. Continuing my work as the Assembly Chair of Workforce Development connecting people seeking family-supporting careers with employers, and assuring they have even more opportunities to receive the training and resources needed to obtain those jobs.
2. Continuing to leverage private and public partnership resources into expansion of Broadband access, especially in unserved and underserved rural areas of Wisconsin.
3. Continuing to create an even more balanced taxation, bureaucratic, and regulatory environment encouraging entrepreneurs, farmers, manufacturers, and business owners to build and invest in our State, which will assure continuing State investments in education, transportation infrastructure, workforce development, and improved healthcare. My work has resulted in ongoing endorsements from the WI Realtors Assoc., WI Farm Bureau, National Federation of Independent Businesses, and other business advocacy groups.

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?

Charlene Warner (D):

There is no one-measure fix for a problem that has existed for decades. We must be prepared to look at all equitable options. First, examine and redirect existing transportation revenue. Gas taxes, traffic fines and registration fees all need to go to road funding. Should sales taxes on vehicles and parts be put into the transportation fund rather than the general fund? It is time to bite the bullet and do actual replace, repair and relocation if necessary. Look to quality repairs that will last 20 years rather than a 1-2 year patch job. There are new materials and methods being tested and we must be open to sustainability. I fear the starvation of state monies to our counties and towns has been a systematic effort to replace local transportation efforts with private industry groups. I am absolutely against private investors in our state roadways in any form.

Warren Petryk (R):

Transportation funding has been in a rebuilding phase ever since the previous administration raided \$1.4 billion of highway funds to pay for other State programs. Thanks to the Constitutional Amendment we passed into law, these funds are now segregated and protected from mismanagement. I have strongly advocated for increased funding for local roads along with less bonding to pay for our transportation infrastructure system. Today, we have the lowest bonding in 15 years. I voted to give local governments the largest increases in road aid in two decades. We must ensure we are spending transportation dollars in the most efficient and effective way possible while keeping our roads safe. I will work diligently

with my Colleagues on both sides of the aisle to find sustainable solutions to our transportation system challenges. Raising taxes and fees must be a last resort, only after all other prudent options are eliminated.

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?

Charlene Warner (D):

School districts are being forced to bring referendums to their communities because the present funding system in our schools is unfair and biased. Presently, the referendum process is the only alternative for struggling school districts to find needed funds because of the state imposed levy restrictions. We need to revise the funding system immediately to be fair and open. Not only is it unfair but it is impossible to know the amount invested in your school per student as the present funding system is not open or easily traceable. The Voucher/Charter system of our tax dollars being used to fund private schooling has failed and must end. A revision of the levy restrictions and phasing out of voucher schools is necessary. We all support the quality education that Wisconsin is known for from pre kindergarten through our outstanding universities. Let's get back to full funding.

Warren Petryk (R):

K-12 Education remains our top priority in the State budget with over one-third of all General Purpose Funds devoted to local school aids. I voted to provide historic all-time record funding of \$12.4 billion to our schools; this is an investment in our future. The Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding, consisting of education professionals, and Democrat and Republican legislators, is preparing recommendations to help address the funding inequity challenges we face. I look forward to collaborating with my colleagues this upcoming session to make meaningful progress. Thanks to outstanding instructors, administration, support staff, and involved parents and community members, Western Wisconsin schools remain strong, successful, and vibrant centers of learning for our young people. Wisconsin student graduation rates and SAT test scores remain among the highest in the Nation. Collaborating with the education professionals of my District, I remain committed to doing everything possible to ensure their continued success.

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?

Charlene Warner (D):

The state has missed the boat on retaining our well educated, skilled children. Spending our dollars on ad campaigns to lure them back with the promise of tax credits is wasteful and ineffective. Our youth deserve better than \$7.25 per hour, exorbitant school loans at high interest rates and a shortage of affordable housing. The state can do better. Many employees in farming and construction in my district are Hispanics who pay all our taxes and social security but we do not even allow them to have a driver's license or a viable path to citizenship. Embracing immigrants is an integral part of an area's growth. The investment in your small town start up with 5 workers could easily develop into 300 happy, healthy, LOYAL employees in 5 years. Workforce development must work from the ground up....beginning with our schools, including our roads and caring for all of our citizens.

Warren Petryk (R):

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Workforce Development and member of the Governor's Taskforce on Workforce Investment, it is apparent to me that private sector, family-sustaining careers are the fundamental key component of personal economic success and prosperity, which subsequently, through taxation, provides funding for public government programs. It is my firm belief that State government's primary role in economic development is to help create the best environment possible for private-sector job growth; that means reducing overbearing government regulation, keeping the tax burden as low as possible, and providing job training programs and opportunities that help provide skilled employees for businesses competing in the new global economy. I voted for increased funding for "Wisconsin Fast Forward" grants, and advocate strongly for early education for skilled trades, more apprenticeships, employing Veterans and people with disabilities, Fabrication Labs, and Public-Private partnership leveraging. My emphasis remains on worker attraction, retention, and training.

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?

Charlene Warner (D):

The UW Board of Regents request for new science buildings at UW-Eau Claire and UW-River Falls is the greatest news of the year. Here is the basis for filling our skills gap! Both Universities have aging, outdated facilities. The workforce demands in the science industries are not presently being met. These new buildings will bring science and technology innovation to a vast number of students. Talent development and economic growth in Western Wisconsin will grow with each year. I have complete confidence that the entire Chippewa Valley legislative delegation of Democrats will be diligently working to ensure that these budget proposals are met.

Warren Petryk (R):

As a UW-Eau Claire alumnus, I am always excited for the possibilities of new opportunities and growth at my alma mater! Already, I've had multiple meetings on this building project with Chancellor Schmidt, regional health care officials, members of the UW Board of Regents, and community leaders. It is wonderful to envision UW-EC becoming the number one pre-med school destination in the Nation. This science building will be a major factor in the achievement of that goal and will become a major economic destination attraction. Community support from the Chamber, Momentum West, UW System, and other groups will certainly assist the effort. As was true with the Confluence Project, my eight years of positive relationships and earned respect from my Legislative colleagues who are members of the Joint Committee on Finance and the Capital Projects Committee will prove invaluable as I advocate for the success of this important regional project.