

# FORUM

A voice for peace, social justice and reform since 1917

## As AG, I will shift funds to meet most pressing needs

For over a decade you have supported me. I come to you in this primary to ask for your vote in this important race for attorney general.

Families across the state face real problems — young people joining gangs, people struggling with drug and alcohol addictions and ending up in jail, and a growing DNA backlog at the crime lab that affects cases right here in our own community. We need fresh leadership in the attorney general's office to solve the real problems facing Wisconsin.



Falk

For 14 years I served as assistant attorney general. For 12 of those years I was your public intervenor, our state's environmental watchdog.

For the past 10 years I have been honored to serve as your county executive, managing a budget five times larger than that of the Department of Justice.

**Kathleen Falk**  
Guest Columnist

In each budget I prioritized public safety, adding 85 new deputies, cracking down on Internet predators, and combating elder abuse. I beefed up resources in the district attorney's office for crime victim's services and domestic violence at a time when President Bush and Congress cut these important dollars.

Wisconsin needs an attorney general who will lead with toughness, integrity, discipline and compassion — and who will get results. Leading is about vision and finding solutions to the most pressing issues.

In my campaign, I have proposed comprehensive policy changes to combat our most pressing needs. These detailed plans outline my vision for making Wisconsin a safer place to live. You can learn more about them on my Web site, [www.kathleen-falk.com](http://www.kathleen-falk.com).

As attorney general I will work to reform a broken criminal justice sys-

**I have spent my life putting the law and government to work to protect our children, our communities, our environment, and our most fundamental rights.**

tem that spends two times as much putting someone in prison as is spent putting a child through school, and puts a disproportionate number of people of color in prison. I want to do on a statewide level what we have done effectively here for the nonviolent drug and alcohol offenders. In Dane County we have created a communitywide collaboration to keep kids from joining gangs and intervening when they do. I want to do that statewide.

I will initiate an environmental strike force that will identify the worst environmental crimes to bring the violators to justice and protect our most precious natural resources. I also proposed an ethics and campaign finance reform package. We need to get the

money out of politics and get rid of the special interest influence in campaigns. I advocate for a ban on contributions to an attorney general from principals of an entity that has pending business in the attorney general's office and for a year after the business is resolved.

I will reprioritize resources to fix the DNA backlog at the crime lab. In the past three years the backlog at the crime lab has nearly tripled — from 478 to 1,374 cases. Delay means criminals are on the streets, cases aren't resolved, justice isn't done, and victims and their families suffer.

We need our strongest Democrat on the ballot this November. That's why Democrats and progressive organizations have endorsed my campaign — leaders like Mayor Jeanette Bell in West Allis, state Rep. Jen Shilling in La Crosse, state Sen. Bob Jauch in Superior, and Assembly Democratic leader Jim Kreuser in Kenosha. The statewide firefighters have endorsed my campaign. The 35,000 members of the Steelworkers, 40,000-member AFSCME Councils 40 and 48, and SEIU — the state's largest home health care union — have

endorsed my campaign. And Women's Choice, Wisconsin's version of Emily's List, has endorsed my campaign.

More than 70 of the state's leading environmentalists have formed Enviro for Falk and are working actively for my election.

These leaders have joined my campaign in this primary because they know I have the experience and vision we need to lead the Department of Justice.

I have spent my life putting the law and government to work to protect our children, our communities, our environment, and our most fundamental rights. That's why I am opposed to the mean-spirited anti-gay amendment proposed by the far right.

**A**s your attorney general I will fight the good fight, and we will win.

I ask for your vote and your confidence on Sept. 12.

Kathleen Falk is the Dane County executive and a candidate in Tuesday's Democratic primary for state attorney general.

## Promises made as candidate have been promises kept

Four years ago, as the Democratic candidate for attorney general, I made to you promises of what I would do if elected.

I promised that I would address the issue of crime in communities. I promised to protect the environment,

to fight for affordable prescription drugs, and to enforce laws that protect our workers, our consumers, and our most vulnerable citizens. I promised to take on public corruption. And most importantly, I promised that I would be the attorney general of the people of the state of Wisconsin.



Lautenschlager

There are some who have agreed and some who have disagreed with my actions as attorney general. No doubt, I have made some mistakes along the way. As with all of us, I have learned from experience and have become wiser, hopefully, with age.

But most importantly, today I come before you knowing my core values have never, never changed.

Today I come before you knowing that the promises from four years ago have been fulfilled — knowing that, indeed, we have gone beyond those

**Peg Lautenschlager**  
Guest Columnist

promises and done even more on behalf of you, the people of Wisconsin.

As promised, we have taken significant action to address the issue of crime in our communities:

■ Our Methamphetamine Initiative, a model for the nation, has spearheaded law enforcement efforts and facilitated community responses to this horrific drug. That's why our meth lab numbers have gone down more than 50 percent. That's why our meth statistics are far lower than those of our neighboring states.

We've made arrests of gang leaders throughout the state.

Our Special Assignments Bureau investigates attempted purchases of firearms by felons with referrals from our very own handgun hotline. And our Internet Crimes Against Children Unit is the very best, making more arrests of Internet predators than any other state in the nation.

But we have done more than promised. We also have established an elder abuse program, tackled identity theft, fought cuts in resources to local law enforcement, protected the rights of crime victims, and partnered with community organizations to ensure that our kids have a chance.

**I have questioned the constitutionality of No Child Left Behind, defended women's access to contraceptives, and fought for civil rights legislation which would protect all of our state's citizens, regardless of race, national origin, gender, religion, or sexual orientation.**

■ As promised, we have worked to protect our environment. We have aggressively enforced laws to hold polluters accountable, obtaining hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines and restoration monies. We have fought to stop discharge of all sorts into our lakes and rivers and streams. And we have fought horrible legislation that has undermined our state's environmental laws.

But we have done more. We have fought the Bush administration's weakening of mercury admissions standards, its invalidation of Clean Air Act compliance rules, its rollback of new source review regulations, and its failure to regulate ballast waters that bring invasive species to the Midwest. And with my progressive-minded colleagues like New York's Elliot Spitzer, I have taken on the powerful and joined a historic lawsuit to combat global warming.

■ As promised, we have fought for affordable prescription drugs. We have sued more than 30 pharmaceutical companies for inflating drug prices. But we have done more. We have held health care providers to high quality of care standards and closed down facilities that mistreated their patients, we have prosecuted those who commit Medicaid fraud, and we have demanded our hospitals charge all patients fairly.

■ As promised, we have enforced our laws to protect our workers, consumers and most vulnerable citizens. We have recovered more than \$10 million in back pay for workers. We have enforced our prevailing wage laws, taking on both private and public employers, and bringing the first criminal prevailing wage case in state history. And that's why I've earned the endorsement of the state AFL-CIO and many of its member unions.

We have recovered millions of dollars for Wisconsin consumers. But we have done more. I have advocated for meaningful price gouging legislation, testified before Congress about the skyrocketing costs of natural gas, and enforced laws to force gas prices down.

I have questioned the constitutionality of No Child Left Behind, defended women's access to contraceptives, and fought for civil rights legislation which would protect all of our state's citizens, regardless of

race, national origin, gender, religion, or sexual orientation.

■ Finally, we have fought public corruption.

I have established a Public Integrity Unit which has investigated and prosecuted those government officials who have abused their public trust.

But we have done more.

We have educated citizens about our public records and open meetings laws and have taken actions against those in government who violate these guarantees to give citizens access to their government. And I have advocated for long-overdue campaign finance reform and called on my opponents to commit to meaningful limits on spending.

Many seeking public office make promises they can't fulfill, and some seeking public office make promises to do one thing, but then turn around and do another. But I come here today proud that the promises I have made to you have been fulfilled, proud of the accomplishments of our Wisconsin Department of Justice, proud to be a Democrat, and proud to be your lawyer, the people's lawyer.

Peg Lautenschlager is the attorney general of Wisconsin and a candidate for the Democratic nomination for that post on Tuesday. This is a shortened version of her address to this year's state party convention.

## Voice of the People

### Mahoney choice for sheriff

Dear Editor: Fortunately for all of us here in Dane County we have a great candidate in Dave Mahoney, who is running for Dane County sheriff.

Dave has 26 years of law enforcement experience including patrolling our roads, working in the jail and also as a detective within the Sheriff's Office. He knows the law, understands Dane County and has worked with victims and their families. He also has great management experience and will fight for the funds the sheriff's department needs to keep our communities safe.

It really is no surprise that he has been endorsed by more than 250 cur-

rent and former law enforcement personnel, including 10 police chiefs from around the county. We feel that Dave has the right approach to this job — be tough when it's needed and work smart to prevent crime. We are enthusiastically supporting Dave Mahoney and encourage others to vote along with us for him for Dane County sheriff in the primary on Tuesday.

**Gretchen and Darold Lowe**  
Madison



Mahoney

### Clerk of courts Coleman: Pick Esqueda to succeed me

Dear Editor: For the past 16 years, I have had the privilege of being your clerk of circuit court and have done my very best to serve you, the citizens of Dane County. As much as my tenure has been rewarding and fulfilling, the time has come for me to leave office and pursue other interests.

I am pleased to lend my unqualified support and endorsement of Carlo Esqueda as the Democratic candidate for Dane County clerk of courts.

Carlo would bring a unique set of qualifications to the position. He has a relevant and impressive educational background.

Professionally, he has held a number of increasingly responsible positions in the public sector. Carlo got his start in the justice system with the Director of State Courts Office on the Consolidated Courts Automation Program (CCAP). He then served with distinction as a court manager in Dane County. Because of his superior performance, the Wisconsin Clerks of Circuit Court Association honored his contributions when Dane County piloted a complex statewide child support payment system.

Carlo then went on to serve as director of judicial information systems

with the Milwaukee County Clerk of Courts Office.

For the past seven years, he has enjoyed success with the Madison Police Department as a principal member of its information technology and records management team.

I am confident that he will effectively apply what he has learned over the course of his career in justice and public safety to the successful management of the Dane County Clerk of Courts office.

**Judith Coleman**  
Dane County clerk of courts

### Fair elections disregard partisanship

Dear Editor: According to The Capital Times on Aug. 29, Scot Ross says "he'd do more to help get fellow Democrats elected" and that "he wants to take over the running of state elections."

These positions are most likely incompatible with fair elections, and surely incompatible with the appearance of fair elections.

One day earlier, the Colorado Democratic Party called for the resignation of Secretary of State Gigi Dennis, charging she improperly changed state election rules to benefit Republicans.

Scot Ross has several good ideas, but a partisan elected official running elections would be a terrible regression for Wisconsin.

**Paul Malischke**  
Madison

### La Follette still the best choice

Dear Editor: Now let me see — didn't Wisconsin put the oversight of elections into the hands of a nonpartisan committee rather than trusting a partisan secretary of state to make the right decisions? Do we really want to return to those days after the spectacle we've observed in Ohio and Florida? Whatever is Scot Ross thinking?

I'm sticking with Doug La Follette because he continues to do a good job.

**Nan Cheney**  
Madison

### The point is: Plan B is danger to women, can cause abortion

Dear Editor: Joel McNally's Sept. 2 column on Plan B presents false information. "Pro-life" Americans did not want to see Plan B approved in the first place.

This mega-dose of the birth control pill not only raises a potential danger for the women who use it, but it is known to act as an early-days abortion. In other words, Plan B can prevent the human embryo from implanting, thus causing an abortion. Clearly then Plan B is not going to cut down on the number of abortions; it is going to create even more.

Plan B should never have been approved for over-the-counter status, regardless of whether the woman in question is 13 or over the age of 18. Nobody has any idea of whether or not these mega-doses are going to permanently damage the fertility of an adolescent or for that matter an adult female.

Mr. McNally seems wedded to the idea that those of us who know the scientific facts and present them in a reasonable fashion are really only "radical extremists" with no respect

for human nature or the human being's ability to choose what is good or what is bad. He therefore misses the entire point of our opposition to this dangerous pill regimen. That point is that the pills can abort human beings and could present a real danger to women. You see, we care about the unborn children and their mothers.

Finally, we would encourage Mr.

McNally to become familiar with the clinical information written in the patient package insert of every birth control pill package. He will find that they too can abort.

Facts are always helpful. Heated rhetoric is not.

**Judie Brown**  
president  
American Life League

### Falk's political moves are cold

Dear Editor: Peg Lautenschlager and Kathleen Falk are as different as fire and ice.

In the last election, Peg, driven by a sincere concern for our community, entered into what was an uphill race for attorney general. Peg showed a genuine passion for public service, what Hubert Humphrey called a "fire in the belly." Being human, Peg has made some errors, but as our attorney general she has served us well.

In this election Kathleen made a cold, calculated decision that she could spin an error by Peg in such a way as to advance Kathleen's own ambitions. Rather than show compassion for a colleague, Kathleen chose to try and further her own career by stepping on someone else's. Kathleen must have ice water in her veins. Our choice on Tuesday could not be more clear.

**Bob Kinderman**  
Madison

**NEW**  
features  
each  
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