



The Welch Group

# 2024 Election Update

Wisconsin August Primary

*On Tuesday, August 13, 2024, partisan primaries were held across the State of Wisconsin. Below are the results from some of the races that we were watching closely.*

## United States Congress

- **U.S. Senate – (Republican Primary) – Eric Hovde.** Three Republicans sought to challenge current Wisconsin U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D). Eric Hovde prevailed in the Republican primary over Rejani Raveendran and Charles Barman.
- **U.S. Congressional District 3 (Democratic Primary) – Rebecca Cooke:** Three Democrats battled each other in the Democratic primary for a chance to challenge first-term Republican U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional district. Rebecca Cooke prevailed in the Democratic primary over State Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) and Eric Wilson (Eau Claire).
- **U.S. Congressional District 8 OPEN (Republican Primary) – Tony Wied:** U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-CD 8) retired this year leaving his seat open. Three Republicans ran in the primary for the chance to be on the November ballot. Tony Wied, a businessman from DePere, defeated State Sen. André Jacque (R-De Pere) and former state Sen. Roger Roth (R-Appleton) for a chance to be on the ballot opposite Kristin Lyerly, a physician from DePere.

## Wisconsin State Senate

- **Senate District 4 OPEN (Democratic Primary) – Dora Drake:** Current State Rep. Dora Drake beat current State Rep. LaKeshia Myers (both D-Milwaukee) in the primary for the Senate seat previously held by Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee), who resigned earlier this year after being appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court. Drake will not face a Republican challenger for this seat in November.
- **Senate District 16 OPEN (Democratic Primary) – Melissa Ratcliff:** The SD-16 was left open when current State Senator Melissa Agard (D-Madison) announced she was not seeking reelection to the Senate because she is running for Dane County executive. (NOTE: Agard won the Democratic primary for County Exec.) Current State Rep. Melissa Ratcliff (D-Cottage Grove) prevailed in the three-way Democratic primary over Reps. Jimmy Anderson (D-Fitchburg) and Samba Baldeh (D-Madison). She will not face a Republican challenger in November.

- **Senate District 20 OPEN (Republican Primary) – Dan Feyen:** State Senator Dan Feyen (currently, R-Fond du Lac, representing SD 18) beat former Rep. Tim Ramthun (R-Campbellsport in the 2021-22 session) in the primary in this newly drawn district. Ramthun challenged Feyen based on his platform challenging the GOP establishment. He also unsuccessfully sought the party's nomination for governor in 2022.

### Wisconsin State Assembly

- **Assembly District 4 (Republican Primary) – David Steffen:** Incumbent State Rep. David Steffen (R-Green Bay) defeated challenger Darwin Behnke, father of current State Rep. Elijah Behnke (R-Oconto, currently AD 89, now running for AD 6).
- **Assembly District 6 (Republican Primary) – Elijah Behnke:** Two current State Representatives, Peter Schmidt (R-Bonduel) and Rep. Elijah Behnke (R-Oconto, currently AD 89), faced each other in the primary for the newly drawn AD-6.
- **Assembly District 19 (Democratic Primary) – Ryan Clancy:** Incumbent State Rep. Ryan Clancy (D-Milwaukee) beat challenger attorney Jarrod Anderson (D-Milwaukee).
- **Assembly District 24 OPEN (Republican Primary) – Dan Knodl:** Current State Sen. Dan Knodl (R-Germantown – currently SD-8) easily defeated State Rep. Janel Brandtjen (R-Menomonee Falls – currently AD-22), setting the stage for Knodl to return to the State Assembly. Knodl beat Brandtjen in a February 2023 primary on his way to winning a special election for the 8th SD. But he decided to make a bid to return to the Assembly, where he served for 14 years, after he was drawn into a state Senate seat with fellow Republican Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville).
- **Assembly District 25 (Republican Primary) – Paul Tittl:** Incumbent Rep. Paul Tittl (R-Manitowoc) defeated challenger David Wage, a former Manitowoc County Board member and retired owner and CEO of a tube bending and fabrication company.
- **Assembly District 37 (Republican Primary) – Mark Born:** Incumbent Rep. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam), who is the Assembly co-chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, easily defeated a primary challenge from Steve Rydzewski (Beaver Dam).
- **Assembly District 40 OPEN (Democratic Primary) – Karen DeSanto:** The current State Rep. Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) for this seat decided not seek reelection. The current AD 40 incumbent State Rep. Kevin Petersen (R-Waupaca) was affected by redistricting and redrawn into the 57<sup>th</sup> (see below).

In this open seat three-way Dem primary, Karen DeSanto (Baraboo) prevailed over Brad Cook (Pardeeville) and Kyle Kunicki (Merrimac).

- **Assembly District 55 (Republican Primary) – Nate Gustafson:** Incumbent State Rep. Nate Gustafson (R-Fox Crossing) beat current Rep. Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh, currently AD 53) in the primary in the 55<sup>th</sup>. These two were paired due to redistricting.
- **Assembly District 57 OPEN (Republican Primary) – Kevin Petersen:** Rep. Kevin Petersen (R-Waupaca, currently AD 40), who was redrawn into this district, easily defeated Duane Wilson (Waupaca) to secure the Republican spot on the November ballot.
- **Assembly District 86 (Republican Primary) – John Spiros:** Incumbent State Rep. John Spiros (R-Marshfield) beat State Rep. Donna Rozar (R-Marshfield, currently AD 69), who was paired with him in the newly drawn district, and a second challenger, Trine Spindler (Stratford).
- **Assembly District 99 OPEN (Republican Primary) – Barbara Dittrich:** Barbara Dittrich (R-Oconomowoc, currently AD 38) who was redrawn into the new 99<sup>th</sup> defeated Republican challenger, Jeffrey Pfannerstill, the Hartland Village President.