

## **MTSD suffering from inadequate state funding**

### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

To the editor, Many of us will start receiving our absentee ballots in the mail very soon. I am writing to urge Mequon and Thiensville residents to vote yes for the Mequon Thiensville School District (MTSD) referendum that will be on the Nov. 5 ballot. I believe that a high quality public school district is beneficial to us all.

Public schools in Wisconsin have been underfunded since 2009. Prior to 2009, state funding was indexed to inflation and equitably doled out around the state in a complex formula based in part on property values.

Wisconsin used to be 11th in the nation for per pupil funding — and now we are 25th. Despite these challenges, MTSD has maintained a Aaa bond rating for fiscal responsibility and a top 10 rating from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Public education is a cornerstone of our country. Educating children to be critical thinkers and responsible citizens is a mission we can all agree on.

My children attend the public schools, and our experience there has been everything we've hoped for.

The school district has many resources on their website to help answer all of your questions. Please visit [www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/district/referendum](http://www.mtsd.k12.wi.us/district/referendum).

**Nancy Urbani** Mequon

### **Women's reproductive rights, climate change and gun violence are most important issues for voters here**

To the editor, I hope you have had a good summer. You may have met members of the Ozaukee Democratic Party as we walked in parades, knocked on doors for candidates and worked our booth at the county fair.

We hosted an issues poll at the fair, inviting people to drop a penny into jars representing issues important to them. "A Penny for Your Thoughts" revealed that "women's reproductive rights" is the most significant concern, by far.

In Wisconsin, "the people" cannot gather signatures to put binding referendums on the ballot like other states that have or will vote soon on abortion. Those who want to restore reproductive choice must vote for Democrats up and down the ticket on the Nov. 5 ballot.

The second highest issue in the poll was "climate change" with the third being "gun violence." All of our Democratic candidates in Ozaukee County support women's rights, action against climate change and common-sense gun reform. These issues are on the Nov. 5 ballot in the form of candidates in newly drawn districts.

Jodi Habush Sinykin is the Democrat running for the Wisconsin Senate. She's an attorney whose life work is in environmental protection policy.

She's also a business owner. Habush Sinykin supports reproductive freedom for women's health. (Her opponent, DUEY Stroebel, doesn't.) [www.jodiforsenate.com](http://www.jodiforsenate.com).

Dana Glasstein is a Democrat running in a newly-drawn Assembly District 22. She's a military wife and mother and an educator in the Wisconsin Technical College System, working with students entering

healthcare occupations. [www.danaforwi.com](http://www.danaforwi.com).

Incumbent Deb Andraca's District 23 includes part of Mequon. She began her first campaign as an advocate for sensible gun ownership reform after experiencing an active shooter drill as a substitute teacher. [www.debforwi.com/](http://www.debforwi.com/) If these issues are important to you, vote, and vote for Democrats because they vote for you.

**Deborah Anderson** Port Washington

### **Vote for Trump on issues, not personality**

To the editor: Recently a group of us "old timers" met for coffee in downtown Waukesha. We had all in the past worked out together at the YMCA and for the most part were politically conservative. The hot topic of discussion was of course the upcoming presidential election and who we would be voting for.

Surprisingly to me, Donald Trump was not everyone's choice. When we discussed why not vote for Trump the main reason was not about his policies or past performance, it really was his personality.

I countered with the fact that that Ralph Reed, founder of the Faith & Freedom Coalition just released his book titled "For God and Country: The Christian Case for Trump." The discussion then took a turn toward agreeing we would not be voting for who was most likable but rather who had demonstrated actually delivering what he promised. The list of things we came up with that we are voting for are as follows: Protection of our First Amendment rights to free speech and religion. Our Second Amendment right to keep our guns to defend ourselves. Providing a secure border. Establishing voting election integrity to include mandatory voter ID. Protecting and promoting our police. Establishing a military that projects peace through strength. Nominating conservative federal judges and Supreme Court justices who will follow the Constitution.

I'm not voting for Trump's personality. I'm voting for the person who will be best for America and my grandchildren. That would be Trump.

**Bob Knoebel** Hales Corners

### **Mandate seat belts on school buses**

To the editor: It is unfortunate that again a school bus was involved in another accident.

Eight children with serious to minor injuries were transported to various hospitals on Monday.

It is appalling to me that in this day and age we do not require seat belts on all buses. It is mandatory in most states to buckle in up in cars and trucks or be ticketed! Cars have air bags. What do buses have? Hard metal, equipment and sometimes three children to a two-seat bench.

Why haven't we required seat belts in buses? When a bus turns on its side, students can get thrown all around the interior, possibly hitting their heads, etc. There is absolutely no protection for the children when an accident occurs.

It is time we insist that all school buses have seat belts. If the company is only worried about the cost, what cost do we assign the children?

**Jane Haefner** East Troy

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