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Marshfield

News Herald

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026 | MARSHFIELDNEWSHERALD.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

WOOD COUNTY



District 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10 voters head to the polls at Oak Avenue Community Center in Marshfield on April 1, 2025.
GABI BROEKEMA/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

Meet the candidates running for District 9

Erik Pfantz
Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

Incumbent Scott Brehm will face challengers Paul Goldberg and Margaret M. Straka for the District 9 seat on the Wood County Board in the Feb. 17 primary election.

County Board supervisors serve two-year terms. The two candidates that receive the most votes will advance to the April 7 spring election.

To learn more about registering to vote and to find your polling place, visit My Vote Wisconsin.

USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin asked each of the candidates to address important issues in the district and why they are running for the position.



Scott Brehm

Age: 58
Residence: Village of Vesper
Occupation and education: Wood County supervisor, Vesper zoning administrator, small business owner, college degree in police science
Relevant experience: Multiple terms as Village of Vesper trustee and currently Wood County supervisor for

District 9
Campaign website/Facebook page: Scott Brehm for Wood County Supervisor on Facebook

Paul Goldberg

Age: 73
Residence: Town of Hansen
Occupation and education: I graduated from Lincoln High School in 1970. After that I served nine years for the National Guard. I am retired from the Wisconsin Rapids Kraft Mill, where I worked for 39 years. Currently, I serve as town chairman for the Town of Hansen, which I have held for the past several years and plan to

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UW-Stevens Point adds social work pathway

Nida Tazeen
AI-assisted reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK

STEVENS POINT – The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is adding a School Social Work pathway to its Master of Social Work program.

The addition comes after two years of work to gain approval from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, according to a community announcement.

To become a school social worker in Wisconsin, candidates must graduate from an Master of Social Work program approved by the DPI, according to UW-Stevens Point professor and MSW program director Amy Zlimen Ticho.

Program will require additional coursework, practicum

The new pathway will require students to complete three school social work-specific courses in addition to the core MSW program courses. Students also must complete an advanced practicum in an educational setting under the supervision of a licensed school social worker.

Currently, only 39% of Wisconsin school districts have a school social worker, according to the DPI.

“There is a shortage of school social workers across Wisconsin,” Zlimen Ticho said in the announcement. “Even though we knew it was going to be a lot of extra work to gain DPI approval, we chose this pathway for our MSW program because we want to contribute to addressing those important workforce needs.”

The launch of the pathway is a collaborative effort between the MSW program and the university’s School of Education.

UW-Stevens Point launched its online MSW program in fall 2025 to

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President Donald Trump’s second-term policy proposals have been bolder and more far-reaching than those in his first term. KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS

COMMENTARY

Second-term curse may loom for Trump

Warning signs seen on Greenland, immigration

Susan Page
USA TODAY

In the space of a week, President Donald Trump has reversed course on Greenland – that invasion threat? Never mind – and is in the midst of a retreat over the immigration enforcement policy that has been his pride and joy.

Does the second-term curse loom?

No president in modern times, Republican or Democratic, has scored a second term that was more successful than his first. Richard Nixon had to resign. Bill Clinton was impeached. Ronald Reagan became ensnared in the Iran-Contra scandal. Lyndon Johnson was engulfed in a divisive war.

And of seven two-term presidents since World War II, six lost seats in the House of Representatives during the midterm elections the second time around.

Trump has one of those coming up in November.

Of course, it’s foolhardy to forget that Trump’s political signature has been doing the unprecedented, starting with his unexpected election in 2016 and his re-election eight years later.

So far, Trump 2.0 has had a smoother ride than Trump 1.0. His first term was marked by turmoil, a string of White House chiefs of staff, anonymous dish from behind the scenes, and a drama that was capped by two House impeachments, though the Senate acquitted him both times.

In Trump’s second term, Susie Wiles has been his sole chief of staff and Cab-

inet ranks have been stable – even with such controversial figures as Secretary of War Pete Hegseth and Attorney General Pam Bondi. Those tantalizing leaks from his inner circle are rarer.

But that relative comity seems to be eroding in the wake of a firestorm over the killing by federal agents of protester Alex Pretti in Minneapolis. False claims by administration officials that the ICU nurse had brandished a gun were debunked by citizen videos that showed a very different confrontation.

Trigger the blame game: Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, facing calls in Congress for her resignation or impeachment, has blamed her errant statements on White House aide Stephen Miller, who has blamed his guidance from the Border Patrol, whose agents fired the

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