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THE REPORTER

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From Wisconsin to the nation



State GOP leaders hold a rally at The Little White Schoolhouse in Ripon in 1960. MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL FILE PHOTOS

These state-born political movements have lasted, evolved

Hope Karnopp Milwaukee Journal Sentinel | USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Wisconsin's political history runs wide and deep. It's the birthplace of both the Republican Party and some of the nation's most progressive movements.

As part of the USA TODAY NETWORK's USA250 project - a look at our nation in its 250th year - the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel explores three political eras in Wisconsin that influenced national politics and still resonate today.

The Republican Party is born in Ripon

Many Wisconsinites know the Republican Party was founded in Ripon, when 54 of its about 100 voters united under a new banner to oppose the expansion of slavery in 1854.

But parts of the story fly under the radar. The first meeting was held March 1 at a church and included several women, who couldn't vote. On March 20, the budding movement met in a new public schoolhouse to avoid entangling politics with religion.

See **POLITICS**, Page 6A



The inside of The Little White Schoolhouse is shown as local leaders meet there in 1960.

ELECTION PREVIEW

Contested races and referendums for April 7

Daphne Lemke

Fond du Lac Reporter
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

FOND DU LAC - Election Day is almost here - polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 7.

Election Day voter registration will be available at the polls, and voters will need photo ID to register.

If not already returned by mail, absentee ballots need to be returned to the clerk's office by 5 p.m. April 7. You can also drop them off at your polling location by giving it to a chief inspector by 8 p.m.

Voters can visit myvote.wi.gov for information about their municipal clerk, their polling place, what races are on their ballot and how to check if they're registered to vote.

Fond du Lac County voters will find the state race for the Justice of the Supreme Court, as well as the Court of Appeals Judge for District 2, their district's county board supervisor, and other more local races.

Here are the contested local races and referendums on the ballots.

Fond du Lac City Council

Five people are running for four open seats on Fond du Lac City Council: incumbents Antonio Godfrey Sr., Angela Luehring and Brett Zimmerman, plus newcomers Andrea Mayweather and Joseph Biber.

Fond du Lac School District Board

Fond du Lac School District Board incumbent Katie Moder will run for re-election for one of two spots, along with Luke Tranel. Antonio Godfrey Sr. was appointed to the board March 2, but his name will still appear on the ballot.

Fond du Lac School District referendum

"Shall the Fond du Lac School District, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$7,500,000 per year for four years, beginning with 2026-2027 school year and ending with the 2029-2030 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses, security upgrades, staff compensation and educational programming?"

See **ELECTION**, Page 5A

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