The Ward Committeeman Project

Restoring Constitutional Principles to the Republican Party of Wisconsin... and Beyond

Summer 2011
Stated Objectives of the Republican Party of Wisconsin

1. To preserve and advance fundamental Republican principles and policies

2. To develop a statewide aggressive and serviceable Republican organization

3. To maintain harmony between all Republican organizations

4. To maintain control of the Republican Party of Wisconsin in the hands of the rank and file Republicans

5. To preserve our Republican form of government as created under the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin
The Situation Today

- An oligarchy ruling at the state party level
- Republican elected officials in collusion with the party rather than accountable to the party
- Lack of consistent constitutional principle
- Failure to seek and advance constitutionally based candidates
- Unchanging status quo
- Disenfranchised rank and file
Use the Party’s Stated Objectives to Reform the Party

1. **Unite** for the purpose of reform, creating **harmony** between conservative groups.

2. **Return the party to the control of rank and file delegates.**

3. Establish an **effective** statewide Republican organization.

4. **Restore and advance fundamental constitutional principles and policies.**

5. **Preserve our representative republic** as created under the United States Constitution.
Most municipalities in any given county are townships and villages containing one to three wards.

Depending on size, cities generally contain numerous wards.

Wards are the key to our success.
Wisconsin’s Wards

Total # of wards statewide today = approximately 6,800

Our ultimate goal:
Put one of our people in every single ward.

How do we start...?

Divide up the work, just like we’re running a statewide campaign.
Except...

We Flip the Tree Upside Down

• Obliterate the top-down structure; instead we move bottom up...GRASSROOTS.

• Restore the model the RPW constitution describes...REPRESENTATIVE REPUBLIC.

• Ensure the rank and file have...POWER.
The secret that current RPW leadership can’t afford for you to understand and the strategy they can’t withstand...

THE MOST POWERFUL POSITION IN THE PARTY: THE WARD COMMITTEE MAN
He Who Builds It Controls It

Many other state Republican parties have a formal precinct committeeman structure.

Constitutional conservatives have used that structure to regain control of their parties (e.g. AZ and MN)

Wisconsin has to build from scratch.

Not that difficult to do.

Once we’ve built it, we’re in a position to grab the reins from the establishment.
What Does a Ward Committeeman Do?

- Research ward voting patterns
- Get to know people in the ward
- Develop walking lists
- Recruit and manage neighborhood or block captains
- Get out the vote (GOTV)
- Vote at caucuses and conventions
Tools You’ll Need

- The United States and Wisconsin Constitutions
- The RPW Constitution
- Your county party’s:
  - Constitution
  - Bylaws
- Caucus and convention rules (generally revised annually)
- Maps
  - County
  - Municipalities
  - Wards
- Ward voter rolls and lists
Where Do We Begin...?

With those we already know we can trust, we build.

As we’re able, we place leaders in each:

- Congressional District
- County
- Municipality
- Ward
- Neighborhood or Block (as necessary)

The campaign tree model ensures that each person has manageable responsibilities.
Ongoing Responsibilities

• Caucusing:
  – County
  – District
  – State
• Team management
• Scouting, recruiting, and grooming:
  – Party Leadership
  – Candidates
  – Other Ward Committeemen
• Formalization of the structure
What’s the Result...?

• More informed:
  – Party rank and file
  – Electorate

• Better:
  – Candidates
  – Election results

• More principled and accountable:
  – Elected officials
  – Party leadership

• More constitutionally rooted:
  – Party
  – Government
Additional Resources

• Guide to the Ward Committeeman Project in Wisconsin, available upon request

• Web resources:
  – THE PRECINCT PROJECT, website dedicated to the precinct committeeman project
    http://theprecinctproject.wordpress.com/
  – PROCINCT, website dedicated to the precinct committeeman project
    http://party.procinct.net/
  – Precinct Power, American Majority Presentation
    http://prezi.com/izpbdhlInki3d/am-precinct-power/