

**KQYB, SPRING GROVE, MN  
2023 ISSUES PROGRAMMING Q4  
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS Q4**

<b>Issue Category</b>	<b>Broadcast Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description - PSA</b>
<b>Public Health/Wellness</b>	<b>10/3/2023</b>	<b>8:05am</b>	<b>3 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Caledonia Ambulance Service</b>
	<b>10/9/2023</b>	<b>7:30am</b>	<b>4 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Horse Sense Fall Festival</b>
	<b>10/31/2023</b>	<b>7:30am</b>	<b>2 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>IFeed</b>
	<b>11/21/2023</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>3 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Rotary Ugly 5K</b>
	<b>10/1-10/13/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>CMN Radiothon</b>
	<b>12/1-12/19/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>KQ CARES-TOT</b>
	<b>11/1-11/30/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>KQ CARES-CMN</b>
	<b>10/1-10/31/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>KQ CARES-Alzheimer's Association</b>

<b>Issue Category</b>	<b>Broadcast Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description - PSA</b>
<b>Community Organizations/Needs/At Risk</b>	<b>10/18/2023</b>	<b>7:45am</b>	<b>4 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Veterans Bonanza</b>
	<b>10/23/2023</b>	<b>8:15am</b>	<b>3 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Catholic Charities</b>
	<b>10/27/2023</b>	<b>8:30am</b>	<b>4 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>JCI Toys for Tots</b>
	<b>11/1/2023</b>	<b>7:45am</b>	<b>2 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Houston Co Vets Office</b>
	<b>11/13/2023</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>3 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Rock the Red Kettle</b>
	<b>12/6/2023</b>	<b>7:43am</b>	<b>2 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Great Rivers United</b>
	<b>10/1-10/9/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Fest for Seniors</b>
	<b>11/30-12/19/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>United Way</b>
	<b>10/15-11/3/2023</b>	<b>12P-12A</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>Rock the Red Kettle</b>
	<b>10/1-10/31/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Boys Scouts</b>

<b>Issue Category</b>	<b>Broadcast Dates</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description - PSA</b>
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<b>Business/Local Economy</b>	<b>10/17/2023</b>	<b>7:15am</b>	<b>4 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Norskedalen</b>
	<b>10/17/2023</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	<b>3 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>One day for UWL</b>
	<b>10/24/2023</b>	<b>8:45am</b>	<b>5 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>SpringGrove Monster Bash</b>
	<b>10/31/2023</b>	<b>9:27am</b>	<b>4 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>XRoads 41</b>
	<b>11/20/2023</b>	<b>7:14am</b>	<b>3 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Wis Beef Council</b>
	<b>11/30/2023</b>	<b>7/20am</b>	<b>4 min</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Alice in Dairyland</b>
	<b>10/1-12/19/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>Around River City</b>
	<b>11/19-12/19/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>Holiday Shop Local</b>
	<b>10/1-11/3/2023</b>	<b>12A-12P</b>	<b>:30</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>BF Vendor Market</b>

2023 NEWS ISSUES Q4 – KQYB

News stories are approximately thirty seconds long and air on WQYB between the hours of 6:00-9:00am

1) Health

10/24 - Three months ago, the governor and attorney general of Wisconsin came to French Island to announce a lawsuit against makers of PFAS chemicals. Not much has happened since then to bring relief to families on the island with well water tainted by PFAS. Town of Campbell supervisor Lee Donahue says efforts by the city of La Crosse to remedy the problem appear too costly: Donahue has said that Campbell residents would prefer a water option that wouldn't lead to annexing to La Crosse.

10/30 - The spread of opioid use in recent years, including overdoses of fentanyl, have led UW-La Crosse to place Narcan boxes around the campus. Boxes containing the medicine were installed last week at several UWL buildings, according to campus police chief Allen Hill: Hill says officers on campus also carry Narcan with them, but the boxes give people a more immediate chance to halt a drug overdose. He says there have not been any drug-related emergencies at the La Crosse campus in recent months.

11/17 -The Gundersen and Bellin health systems in Wisconsin will merge officially on December 1st, exactly six months after merger talks were announced in public. The combined corporation will include about a dozen hospitals and over 100 clinics in the region, with offices continuing to operate in both La Crosse and Green Bay. Merging Bellin and Gundersen is expected to provide patients of the combined company with more services and choices for medical care. Gundersen had previously tried to merge with the Marshfield Clinic.

11/22 - There's more to worry about than just COVID this winter. The flu could make many people sick, and R-S-V is spreading in the U.S. as well. Mayo Health System doctors and nurses are preparing to see a mix of

those respiratory diseases. Dr. Raj Palraj (razh PAHL-razh), an infectious disease specialist with Mayo in La Crosse, says people may be easing up on their precautions after two winters of fighting COVID: As for keeping kids out of school when they're sick, Dr. Palraj says children who have had a fever should stay home for one more day after the fever subsides, to allow more time to recover.

11/29 - If you get sick during cold and flu season, you might go to the drugstore looking for some miracle pill to make you well. If you try to get anti-biotics, that may not help much. Mayo pharmacist Sarah Lessard (LESS-ard) says illnesses like COVID and RSV are not going to respond to that type of medicine: Lessard says one of the best remedies for colds is to stay home and recover for a few days.

12/1 - A medical partnership announced six months ago is now in effect throughout Wisconsin and into other states. Bellin Health of Green Bay and Gundersen of La Crosse are officially merged now, representing 11 hospitals and more than 100 clinics. The chief officers of both companies...Scott Rathgaber from Gundersen, and Chris Woleske (wo-LESS-kee) from Bellin...celebrated the merger in a joint on-line event on Thursday. Woleske says her company and Gundersen have learned much about each other in the six months since the merger was first announced: The hospital officials say both firms will keep their current names and medical locations for now.

12/14 - The PFAS problem in the Town of Campbell continues to affect hundreds of families. Town supervisor Lee Donahue had that message for the state Natural Resources Board, while testifying by Zoom at the board meeting on Wednesday. Donahue says the concern over PFAS chemicals is being felt by children, as well as adults. She told the DNR board about a recent Campbell holiday event where Santa asked kids what they want for Christmas: The DNR board unanimously voted to create standards for PFAS levels in Wisconsin water supplies. That board failed to pass a similar plan early this year, when members couldn't agree about what the limit on PFAS should be.

12/19 - Modern hospitals are using high-tech devices for many types of work, including planning the actual design of a new building. This week, staffers at Mayo in La Crosse are using virtual reality headsets to see what their new workplaces would look like in the hospital now being built on West Avenue. Nick Worden is a supervisor on the construction project, and he says the virtual views are an improvement over old-fashioned blueprint: On Monday, Mayo staffers examined 3-D mockups of patient rooms or baby delivery areas.

## 2) Economy/Business

10/10 - You can find gas at \$3.50 a gallon this week at a couple of stations in southeast Minnesota. Four stations in St. Charles have a pump price of 3-and-a-half dollars, or slightly higher. The price is above \$3.60 at other nearby sites, like Spring Grove and Dakota. Right around La Crosse, the prices are closer to \$3.80 per gallon. The average for all of Wisconsin is \$3.98, with several western Wisconsin counties at the low end of the scale.

10/17 La Crosse's newest grocery store is ready to welcome customers. Tuesday is opening day for the Hy-Vee store at Valley View Mall opens early Tuesday morning, on the end of the mall where Sears used to be. It's the 5th Hy-Vee to open in Wisconsin, and one of the largest outlets in the entire company, at more than 100-thousand square feet. Hy-Vee president Jeremy Gosch visited the new store on Monday and pointed out that it has more than just groceries: About 600 people will work at the La Crosse Hy-Vee.

11/22 - We don't know what will become of it, but a large, long vacant building in La Crosse has a new owner. The southside Shopko store has been purchased by La Crosse businessman Alan McCormick, the owner of La

Crosse Technologies. The building has been vacant since Shopko closed in 2019. The Onalaska Shopko also has a new owner who plans to put several businesses inside that building.

11/22 - La Crosse area drivers are finding gas prices under \$3 a gallon at plenty of stations this week. The Gas Buddy website lists a price of \$2.97 at several locations around Onalaska and West Salem. That compares to a statewide average of \$3.28 for Wisconsin. The lowest price in the state is \$2.83, posted in the Milwaukee area. The pump price in the Badger State peaked around 5 dollars in June, and was still at 4 dollars a gallon in early October

### 3) Education

10/4 -issue of teacher pay isn't going away in the La Crosse school district. In July, the school board approved a pay raise of 2 per cent for teachers, compared to the nearly 5 per cent raise sought by the union ... after not getting a pay raise during the pandemic. At Monday's board meeting, former teachers' union president John Havlicek said the district is showing a 'lack of respect' to teachers for the long hours they work: Havlicek pointed to the perception that teachers put in less than 8 hours a day, and don't have to work in the summer. He says the district should admit that teachers are full-time employees and should be paid as such.

10/5 - The Wisconsin law firm which has threatened to sue the city of La Crosse over conversion therapy is also fighting in court over student loan forgiveness. The Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty has gone to federal lawsuit to block President Biden's plan to forgive loans for college. WILL says the president doesn't have the authority to order loan forgiveness and argues that the plan is discriminatory. Earlier this year, WILL told La Crosse city leaders that it might file a lawsuit against a city ban on conversion therapy.

10/10 - Kids at one La Crosse school had an up-close anatomy lesson on Monday. They learned more about human hearts and brains, by picking them up and touching them. Actual body parts from cadavers, as supplied by medical workers from Gundersen. The organ display was part of Science Medicine Day at Northside Elementary School. Dr. Robyn Borge (BORG-ee), the chief of medical staff at Gundersen, hopes that hands-on lessons about medicine could inspire future doctors and nurses: The Northside students also learned about X-rays and how to repair broken limbs, and tried giving vaccinations, sticking needles into oranges.

10/14 - Viterbo University officially welcomes a new president, even though that leader has headed the college for over a year now. Rick Trietley (TRITE-lee) was inaugurated as Viterbo's 10th president on Friday at the campus Fine Arts Center. Trietley's inauguration is the high point of four days of celebration at Viterbo, which includes Saturday as a day of service for people at the university.

10/16 - Taxpayers in the La Crosse School District will get a chance tonight to speak out on spending for this school year. A public hearing on the district's operating budget will start at 6 p.m., just before the regular school board meeting at the Hogan Administrative Center. This summer, the district predicted a \$2 million deficit for the school year, which limited the size of teacher raises to just 2 per cent. The hearing also comes three weeks before voters will be asked to approve a \$194 million referendum, aimed at developing a new high school building to merge Central and Logan into one big school. Another information session about the referendum is scheduled Tuesday night at Central High.

10/18 - One La Crosse elementary school is now running partly on solar power. The installation of solar panels on the roof of Northside Elementary has been completed, according to Ben Golden of the volunteer group 'Solar on La Crosse Schools': Golden tells WIZM's La Crosse Talk that the panels will help the school district

save about \$11,000 a year in utility costs. His group collected private donations, including grants, to get the panels installed at the school. They're expected to operate for about 25 years.

10/24 - The La Crosse School Board has passed two potential district budgets for this year. Only one of them will take effect, depending on whether a large school referendum passes or fails next month. School board president Juan Jimenez conducted the votes on Monday night: If the referendum fails, this year's tax levy will be \$14 million lower. The November ballot question calls for \$194 million to remodel Trane Company offices into a large high school which would combine Central and Logan.

10/26 - The La Crosse School District has one more scheduled information session on a high school building referendum, before the November 8th election. That session is set for tonight at 6:30, at Logan High School. The \$194 million plan on the ballot would remodel the Trane Company headquarters in south La Crosse into a large school that would combine the two existing public high schools, Logan and Central. Critics of the consolidation idea say the district's plans would turn Logan High into a middle school, no matter how the referendum turns out. There have been 10 previous information sessions about the referendum in the past three months.

10/26 - three-month series of meetings on future school plans for La Crosse has concluded with a session at Logan High School. Superintendent Aaron Engel said that the current plan to combine Logan and Central will save money, but it won't solve all the deficits existing in the school district: Engel says the ballot question to buy a Trane Company building for a high school is the best chance to acquire property needed for one large school. The referendum calls for \$194 million in spending.

10/31 - nearly \$200 million school referendum for La Crosse will be decided in next week's election, and a citizens' group is asking voters to say 'yes' to the question. Amanda Jackson is one member of the 'Vote Yes for La Crosse' organization, who says a few problems within the school district could be tackled by passing the referendum:

Opponents of the referendum have objected to the dollar amount requested to remodel a Trane Company building, and to the far south-side location of the proposed new school. But backers say a merger of Central and Logan would provide new opportunities for students now at both schools.

11/7 - Voters in the La Crosse school district have a big money decision to make on Tuesday. They're being asked to approve a referendum for \$194 million in spending, primarily on a plan to convert the Trane Company headquarters near Ward Avenue into a large high school that would combine the current Central and Logan High Schools. District leaders say La Crosse no longer has a big enough student population to justify having two public high schools, and they suggest a merger will happen anyway even if Tuesday's referendum is defeated. Many north-side families are opposed to the referendum, objecting to the increased travel that would be needed for their students to attend a south-side school. The existing Central and Logan would be used as middle schools under the plan, which could take several years to put into effect.

11/9 - The \$194.7 million consolidation plan by the La Crosse School District has been voted down. The plan to build a new high school on the south side and convert Logan and Central into middle schools received just 30.9 percent of the vote. The referendum was voted down by 10,442 votes of 27,304 cast. The plan to build to consolidate La Crosse down to one high school, converting Logan and Central into middle schools, at the cost of \$194.7 million was easily voted down Tuesday. The La Crosse School District's plan received just 30.9 percent of just over 27,000 votes cast.

11/9 - It appears to be back to the drawing board for the La Crosse School District, after a large building referendum was defeated by a 2-to-1 margin on Tuesday. District leaders say the school board will have to

discuss other plans for dealing with aging buildings. School board president Dr. Juan Jimenez says despite the referendum loss, it was important to tell taxpayers about the need for school consolidation: Jimenez and Superintendent Aaron Engel said the idea of converting a Trane Company building into a large high school was the best chance for merging Central and Logan into one building, reflecting falling enrollment.

11/15 - There wasn't much public discussion of a failed school referendum, during the La Crosse School Board's first regular meeting after the November election. The open meeting Monday night lasted 10 minutes, after which the board went into closed session. One member of the public spoke about the \$194 million referendum to convert an office building into a high school. The issue lost by a 2-to-1 margin, and speaker Tamra Dickinson said the La Crosse district is 'stuck in a numbers game' that school leaders are 'no good at.' She did praise Onalaska's approach to a referendum that passed: Dickinson urged the school board to listen to ideas from the voters about future plan for city schools.

11/30 -The La Crosse School District still has a declining numbers problem. It still has too many buildings and tens of millions in deferred maintenance on those buildings. But voters said no to a \$194.7 million, one-high school plan. So, the district will move in another direction. La Crosse Schools Superintendent Dr. Aaron Engel added, however, that the numbers show enrollment totals point to a one-high school option. Engel, on La Crosse Talk PM yesterday, said administration and teachers are in talks and decisions about where to go will begin to come to fruition in January.

12/1 - La Crosse's school board race may get extra attention this spring, with 4 of the 9 board seats coming up for a vote. Normally, 3 seats are on the spring ballot every year, but a recent resignation from the La Crosse board has led to the 4th listing on the ballot. All board members are elected at-large, rather than from districts. It will be the first board election since La Crosse voters defeated a referendum to spend almost \$200 million on a new south-side high school. Candidates can start circulating nominating papers today. The deadline is January 3rd.

#### 4) Community Needs

10/12 - Gundersen in La Crosse will be back on the radio for a couple of days, raising money for the Children's Miracle Network. The CMN Radiothon lasts for 12 hours a day on both Thursday and Friday, beginning at 6 a.m. both days. Funds for children's medical needs at Gundersen will be collected during the broadcasts on the Rock, Z-93, and KQ-98. Activity for the radiothon will be based at the main hospital on South Avenue.

10/17 - Twenty-four hours of live broadcasts sharing stories from Children's Miracle Network families and health care workers brought much needed funds that will all benefit the La Crosse Area Community. Over the course of two days this past week, listeners on Mid-West Family stations heard from local children and families helped by Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The 24-hour live broadcasts from the lobby of Gundersen Health System in La Crosse encouraged our community to donate \$95,000 and counting. Beth Noffsinger, CMN Hospitals Specialist at Gundersen, told Z93's Tracy Ballzer some of how the donations will be used.

10/20 - Rotary Lights in La Crosse is giving people more chances to donate food to area pantries, if the lines to get into Riverside Park are too long. Organizers of the holiday light display are starting an external food drive at several local employers. Food donations will be accepted at 36 different locations during the holiday season. Also, the traffic pattern into Rotary Lights is changing, so cars will enter the park from the south on 2nd Street, instead of directly from State Street. The holiday light display runs from November 25th to New Year's Eve.

11/1 - A fundraiser for breast cancer research which had to be called off because of bad weather has still collected \$350,000 this year. The Steppin' Out in Pink campaign by Gundersen Health System met its goal recently. Rainy conditions on September 10th forced the sponsors of the fundraiser to cancel their walk-through Riverside Park, and it could not be rescheduled.

11/3 - An expansion of a long-time grocery store at George and Gillette in La Crosse is continuing, as the building is being converted into a new WAFER food pantry. This week, WAFER kicked off a new fundraising campaign, seeking a total of more than \$3 million for the combination food store and headquarters. The director of WAFER, Erin Waldhart, says her agency wants to provide a good shopping experience for clients, better than what's available at the current Causeway location: Waldhart says WAFER provided enough food for a million and a half meals for area residents last year.

11/17 - Nearly 1,000 children will be getting gifts for Christmas that they otherwise might not receive, thanks to a local program. J-C-I La Crosse's Toys for Tots is going on now at 90 different locations through December 1st.

The program ... going on for over 80 years now ... helps provide for kids 12 and under, and Media Chair Lyndsey Langer gives Z93 some help in what to possibly donate...

Along with the collection drive, JCI is also holding its huge Stuff the Truck event Saturday at the La Crosse Center.

11/21 - It's the 40th year of serving the Coulee Region ... the La Crosse Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Doors open at 10 am Thursday and the food is served from 11 to 3.

Thanks to community donations, the meal is completely free meal and available for everyone ... family, friends, neighbors ... and football fans. Vince Ristow told there will be a 65-inch TV for the NFL games, along with other entertainment. Also, for those who cannot make it, but still need or want a Thanksgiving meal, Ristow said they're still taking pre-orders up until 5 p.m. today for delivered meals. For more info to sign up for that, check this story featured at WIZM news dot com.

12/7 - The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year when blood supplies need to be high. The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive in La Crosse a week from now, on December 15th, at the Pearl Street Brewery. Kyle Kriegel (KREE-gul) from the Red Cross says it can be hard for donors to find time to give blood around Christmas: The Pearl Street donation drive will run from 11:30 to 5:30 on Thursday, the 15th. The goal is 70 pints of blood. Donors will be rewarded with Amazon gift cards, and coupons good for drinks at Pearl Street Brewery, at the La Crosse Footwear building.

12/18 - A surprise Christmas party for La Crosse area families with kids has been a tradition for 10 years now: The kids were given presents by Santa, while their families received bundles of food and other gifts, provided by area businesses. The Henderson Motorsports Group has put on the holiday party for the past decade, and spokesman Tom Ludwigson says the kids from the chosen families get a chance to ask for the presents they'd like: In the past decade, the Henderson group has collected \$60,000 in presents for the families invited to the holiday party.

## 5) Elections

10/7 - The first of three October debates tonight for a US Senate seat in Wisconsin.

The 7 p.m. debate is between Republican US senator Ron Johnson and Democratic Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes. The hour-long debate hosted by the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association, will also include WIZM's Brad

Williams. Williams added yesterday on La Crosse Talk PM those teams would begin work at 9 a.m. this morning to get ready for the debate ... which can be heard on WIZM or the WIZM app. The Wisconsin Broadcasters Association will also host the only debate happening between Democratic Governor Tony Evers and Republican Challenger Tim Michels. Meanwhile, on this side of the state, two debates coming up in just under two weeks for Wisconsin Assembly ... the first between Democratic incumbent Jill Billings and Republican challenger, La Crosse city council member Chris Woodard. After that, UW-La Crosse will also host a debate between Democratic incumbent Steve Doyle and Republican challenger Ryan Huebsch (Hib-sch)

10/9 - Water pollution in Wisconsin, including the PFAS problem seen on French Island and in other places, is getting attention from the state's candidates for U.S. Senate. During a Friday night debate in Milwaukee. Republican Senator Ron Johnson said that federal money should go toward real pollution instead of reducing carbon emissions: Democratic challenger Mandela Barnes also said Washington should address PFAS pollution: But Barnes also criticized Johnson for voting against plans to eliminate lead pipes that carry water in many cities. The two candidates will debate again later this week.

10/12 - The race for governor in Wisconsin is getting closer, while the incumbent U.S. Senator is pulling away from his challenger. The latest Marquette Law School poll shows Governor Tony Evers with a single-point lead over Republican Tim Michels, 47 to 46 per cent. In the last month, Michels has picked up two points, while the percentage for Evers didn't change. Marquette says Senator Ron Johnson now has 52 per cent support in his bid for a third term, compared to 46 per cent for Democrat Mandela Barnes. Johnson gained support, and Barnes dropped since September. In both races, independent voters have switched their support from the Democratic candidates to the Republicans, as campaign ads criticize Democrats for inflation and high crime. Johnson and Barnes will have their second and last debate Thursday night. Evers and Michels meet Friday night, for their only debate before the election. 10/14 Wisconsin's Democrat in the U.S. Senate tells La Crosse voters she wants a Democratic partner in Washington, so they should elect Mandela Barnes to the Senate. Tammy Baldwin made a stop at the La Crosse Democratic party office on Thursday, campaigning for Barnes and criticizing Republican Senator Ron Johnson. Baldwin takes a position of 'Ron versus Roe,' taking issue with Johnson's approval of the Supreme Court ruling reversing the Roe versus Wade protection of abortion rights: Baldwin says Johnson has favored nationwide limits on abortion, which differs from his claim that the issue should be left to the states.

10/25 - Early voting has begun in Wisconsin for the November 8th election. Democrats spread out around the state on Tuesday, to make citizens aware of the process for casting a vote before Election Day. In La Crosse, state treasurer Sarah Godlewski joined Congressional candidate Brad Pfaff at a news conference outside City Hall. Godlewski, who ran for U.S. Senate this year, said reproductive rights are at stake this fall Pfaff says he hopes candidates will be willing to accept results of the voting, and will not claim fraud after the elections.

11/2 - Getting more money into your pocket is a big goal of the Republican hoping to become the next governor of Wisconsin. Tim Michels tells WIZM's La Crosse Talk that bold tax reform will be one of his major goals if he defeats Governor Tony Evers. Michels intends to reduce the nearly \$6 billion state surplus through tax cuts, instead of sending checks to people: Michels also puts education and better law enforcement high on his list of goals for Wisconsin.

11/4 — Wisconsin's hotly contested race for governor is the most expensive in state history. The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign said Thursday that spending as of last week by Gov. Tony Evers, Republican challenger Tim Michels and special interest groups on both sides neared \$115 million. That tops the previous record of \$93 million, set in 2018, by \$22 million and doesn't include the final days of the race ahead of Tuesday's election. The seven candidates for governor spent more than \$69.4 million between Jan. 1 and Oct. 24 on the race Evers spent about \$37 million compared with about \$24.5 million by Michels.



11/4 - If western Wisconsin turns out to be a pivotal region of the state on election night, college students could be the reason. Just this week, UW-La Crosse has hosted Governor Tony Evers, Senate candidate Mandela Barnes...and today, Senator Bernie Sanders. UWL political scientist Anthony Chergosky says a large turnout of younger voters could make a big difference: Chergosky says Barnes especially has sought out college voters, to make up for less support in places such as farming regions.

11/8 - La Crosse County appears to have chosen John Siegel as its new sheriff. With one precinct left to report early Wednesday, Democrat Siegel had a 500-vote lead on Republican Fritz Leinfelder. Both men are veterans of the sheriff's department, seeking to replace retiring Sheriff Jeff Wolf. Steve Doyle had a one-thousand vote lead on Ryan Huebsch, in a re-election bid for the Assembly in northern La Crosse County. Jill Billings will still represent the city of La Crosse in Madison, outpolling Chris Woodard 2-to-1. About 70 per cent of La Crosse school district voters turned down the nearly \$200 million referendum being sought to develop a new south-side high school. In other districts, Onalaska voters passed two school referendums, adding up to \$75 million. Voters in Holmen approved more funding to increase police and fire protection in the village.

11/9 - Gov. Tony Evers has defeated Republican Tim Michels to keep battleground Wisconsin under a Democratic governor heading into the 2024 presidential election. Evers had argued that democracy was on the ballot with Michels, who was endorsed by Donald Trump and who cast doubt on Joe Biden's 2020 presidential win in Wisconsin. Evers has repeatedly vetoed attempted changes passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature. Evers noted in his victory speech that he is frequently described as boring, but said: "As it turns out, boring wins."

11/9 The outcome isn't official yet, but Derrick Van Orden is talking like a winner in the 3rd District House race. Republican Van Orden has roughly a 3-point lead over Democrat Brad Pfaff, and the Van Orden campaign issued a statement early today quoting two news agencies as saying Pfaff 'no longer had a path to victory.' Van Orden says he looks forward to working with anyone 'who will put the mission first, and the Mission is America.' The 3rd District seat has been held for 26 years by Democrat Ron Kind, who announced last year he would not run again in 2022. Kind was upbeat watching the results Tuesday night: Pfaff will meet with reporters later today to talk about the election.

11/9 - News organizations are declaring Republican Derrick Van Orden the winner of the 3rd District House race in Wisconsin, with a 13,000-vote lead over Democrat Brad Pfaff. Late this morning, Pfaff issued a statement thanking the people who backed his campaign, saying 'we left it all on the field.' The local election got national attention, after incumbent Democrat Ron Kind announced his retirement. Van Orden came close to unseating Kind in the election two years ago and launched another campaign in early 2021. The 3rd is the only House district in Wisconsin which was flipped in Tuesday's election.

11/16 - There will be a recount of the race for La Crosse County sheriff, and it happens on Friday. The request for a new count was filed by Fritz Leinfelder, who finished with 175 fewer votes for sheriff than the declared winner, John Siegel. Leinfelder's petition for a recount argues that some ballots were filled out by unqualified voters, and that there were also problems with some absentee ballots. Improper registration, lack of voter ID, and incorrect marking of ballots are other problems reported in the vote for sheriff. The recount involves 13 wards in the city of La Crosse where the outcome was affected by 'mistake or fraud,' according to the petition. Siegel was declared winner of the election to succeed retiring La Crosse County sheriff Jeff Wolf.

11/18 - A little post-election drama during a La Crosse County recount today: County clerk Ginny Dankmeyer heard arguments from attorneys for both candidates for county sheriff, at the start of an official recount in that race. The tentative election winner, John Siegel, protested the partial recount requested by opponent

Fritz Leinfelder. Siegel's camp argues that if there's a recount, then all the votes cast in the county should be counted again. Leinfelder had a brief statement for reporters: Siegel's margin of victory was 175 votes. Observers for both sides have been watching the counting, with a result expected late in the day.

11/20 - More than a week after Election Day, the vote counting for a new La Crosse County sheriff has been finished. John Siegel remained the winner of the election, after picking up two more votes in Friday's canvass. Opponent Fritz Leinfelder received one extra vote, so a difference of 176 votes was recorded for Siegel. Ginny Dankmeyer, the county clerk, says the day-long recount shows the security in the local system: Dankmeyer says the vote changes found in the canvass were traced to one ballot being counted twice in the machine, and other ballots marked more than once for sheriff. Fritz Leinfelder has conceded the race for sheriff of La Crosse County, following a partial recount of the votes in the November election. Leinfelder has congratulated John Siegel on his victory, by a margin of 176 votes. Both candidates picked up a vote or two in Friday's recount, which was sought by Leinfelder out of concern for same-day registration and the practice of permitting college students to vote in local races outside of their hometowns.

12/4 - It took about a half-hour in court for a judge to dismiss a challenge to the recount for sheriff in La Crosse County. Mary Jo Werner filed a suit against County Clerk Ginny Dankmeyer because she thought the recount process was confusing and not entirely transparent. Werner is not disputing the outcome of the election, which was won by John Siegel over Fritz Leinfelder: Judge Elliott Levine said Werner's complaint as an elector would have been legally valid if the election had been a referendum. But since it was a contested race for a public office, only the candidates themselves would have legal standing to file a lawsuit. Another court hearing dealing with contents of the suit may be scheduled in about 30 days.