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Special Election Edition

The Union Bug

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APRIL 3RD IS ELECTION DAY

It is that time of year again, election time. Along with raking leaves, fertilizing the lawn, and washing windows, spring means election time and voting. Or at least it should!

This spring in addition to important school board races, a 10 year seat on the Supreme Court will be determined. Who knows what will be decided by the Supreme Court in the next ten years? If the last ten years are any judge, the next ten years will determine a lot in public education and our laws in general. The following issues have been before the court in the last ten years:

- The constitutionality of Wisconsin's school aid formula.
- The union's right to bargain and protect contractual benefits.
- Public employee privacy rights.
- Family medical leave rights.

There is no reason to believe that the next ten years will be any less important and in fact many believe even more important to the working men and women of Wisconsin.

Which is why it is important to be active in the process, do your research and then vote. Don't let other people decide for you. Insist on having your voice heard. The Supreme Court will make decisions that will affect you.

This issue of the Union Bug is intended to raise your awareness of the importance of the election and to familiarize you with the WEAC recommended candidate, Linda Clifford. They have done their research and have determined that she will best decide the important issues before the Supreme Court and support public education.

And when all is said and done, without public education, our society would be dramatically different and all of our careers will be significantly altered, which is why every election is important, including this one! **VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**



"If workers don't believe that change is possible because of their experience in the union day to day, forget about politics."

Sam Gindin, 1989

LINDA CLIFFORD WOULD BRING A LOT TO THE SUPREME COURT

A former Assistant Attorney General, Linda is the only candidate who has argued a case before the Supreme Court. She will stand up for the rights of consumers and working people, and she is a big supporter of public education, as demonstrated by the following quote:

"I believe a child's right to a sound, basic education is a fundamental right. The Wisconsin Supreme Court should uphold this right and make sure all children are given the education they need to be successful."

Clifford experience includes:

1. *Clancy v. United States Department of Treasury*. She is currently representing Ryan Clancy, a small business owner and former English teacher, in federal court alleging that his first amendment rights were violated by the government.
2. *Wisconsin Bell, Inc. v. Public Service Commission*. She has represented a wide variety of interests in technical areas of law such as environmental and utility regulation.
3. She has provided *pro bono* representation for clients seeking political asylum in this country.
4. *Seep v. State Personnel Commission*. The Personnel Commission held that the Department of Health and Social Services had abused its discretion by denying reinstatement for a retired institution aide who had worked at the Center for the Developmentally Disabled. The Department appealed and Clifford represented the Commission. The Court of Appeals affirmed the Commission's decision ordering that the aide should be reinstated.

Site Source Linda Clifford for Justice Campaign

Linda Clifford is the most qualified candidate to be our next Supreme Court Justice. She has thirty-two years of quality legal experience and is the only candidate who has ever argued a case in front of the Supreme Court.

A Clear Choice: Standing up for working families...

Linda Clifford will be a Supreme Court Justice that Wisconsin families can count on. She understands the need for the state Supreme Court to stand up for the rights of consumers and working people.

She grew up in a blue collar family and was the first in her family to attend college. To pay her way through school, Linda worked at the same factory her father and grandfather did and was a member of the Steelworkers union.

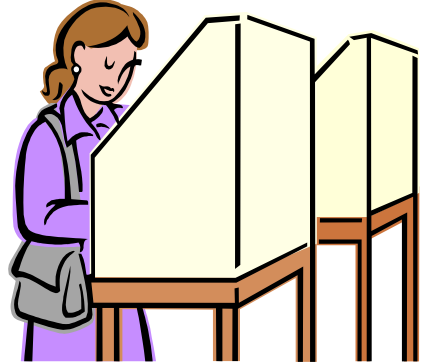
As a prosecutor and Assistant Attorney General with the Department of Justice, Linda has taken on polluters, big insurance companies, and special interests when they have used their money to take advantage of average Wisconsin families.

"If the political mainstream doesn't address the issue of economic insecurity, the political fringe surely will – by scapegoating immigrants, minorities foreigners and by stroking people's fears."

Robert Kuttner

UNIONS SUPPORT LINDA CLIFFORD

Linda has earned the endorsement of many unions including WEAC, the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Laborers, AFSCME-PEOPLE, American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin, Service Employees International Union, United Auto Workers, Madison Teachers, Inc, Teamsters, Communications Workers of America, Human Rights League, Teaching Assistants' Association, and the Building & Construction Trades Council of South Central Wisconsin.



LINDA CLIFFORD IS THE CLEAR CHOICE

A Clear Choice: Serving with independence and integrity...

Linda Clifford will be the experienced, nonpartisan, independent Justice we need. She has been endorsed by two of the most independent-minded leaders in Wisconsin – former Republican Governor Lee Dreyfus and Democratic Senator Russ Feingold.

Linda has consistently earned recognition for her strong integrity and ethics. She was elected by her colleagues as president of her local Bar Association, and for nine years she has served the Supreme Court to ensure that lawyers are held accountable for their actions by leading the effort to crack down and punish corrupt lawyers.

Linda's work has been honored with such awards as "Leader in the Law" and "Best Lawyers in America" and she has the endorsement of former Supreme Court Chief Justices, Nathan Heffernan and Roland Day.

A Clear Choice: Protecting our environment...

Linda Clifford has consistently stood up to protect the environment and take on polluters. In the Attorney General's office, Clifford prosecuted and enforced the state's environmental laws, including clean air and clean water regulations, while she also protected the rights of all citizens to have access to public waterways.

Linda graduated from college the year Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day, and it was his environmental efforts that inspired her to pursue law school. Linda is proud to have the endorsement of the Sierra Club.

"The working class who make the sacrifices, who shed the blood, have never yet had a voice in declaring war. The ruling class has always made the war and made the peace."

Eugene Debs, 1918

A Clear Choice: Linda Clifford for Supreme Court Justice...

The wealthy special interests are trying to stop Linda from winning, but she is the ONLY candidate that Wisconsin families can count on to represent them on the Supreme Court. These extremist groups have already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in an attempt to buy this election.

Linda Clifford has the experience, the integrity, and the independence we need in our next Supreme Court Justice. With over thirty years of experience and as the only candidate who has ever argued a case in front of the Supreme Court, Linda Clifford is the most qualified candidate and she deserves your vote on April 3rd.

MANY IN THE USU PARTICIPATE

Many in the USU recognize that our careers are directly influenced by politics. And part of politics is donating to candidates. Large special interest groups such as the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) have donating to candidates of their choice down to a science.

*"Politics is the science of who gets what, when, and why."
Sidney Hillman*

However, they do not have to be the only ones that assist candidates being elected.

The USU has a Direct Givers Program. Participation in this program is totally voluntary and you are under no obligation to make deposits or contributions if you do not want to. You may from time to time get suggestions, such as this newsletter asking that you make personal contributions to specific candidates, committees, or parties; but no contribution will be made unless you authorize such a contribution in writing. You need not give any contribution to the recommended candidates, committees, or parties and you may give to those candidates, committees, or parties who are not recommended. You may also, at any time, request that some or all of your USU DGP money deposited in your account simply be returned to you.

If you would like to participate, you may make regular payments of at least \$2.00 per paycheck through your payroll deductions by requesting a payroll deduction form from Jim Blank, the account administrator. The money you deposit each pay period will be credited in your name to a separate and segregated account managed by the USU DGP account administrator. Periodically, or upon request, you will be notified of the amount of money you have deposited, the amount you have already donated, and the amount still available for your use. You may also participate by making occasional direct deposits by check to the USU DGP through the account administrator.

If, at any time, you wish to make a contribution for any political purpose, simply fill out an authorization form indicating the amount you want to contribute and to what candidate, committee, or party the money should be sent. A check will then be mailed or delivered directly to the candidate, committee, or party of your choice with information identifying you and your contribution.

If you have any questions regarding this program and/or are interested in participating through payroll deductions, please contact one of the USU officers whose contact information is found on the front page of this newsletter and they will put you in contact with Jim Blank. You could also ask some of your colleagues because chances are they are already involved as well. Additionally, plans are being made to put the USU DGP forms on the USU webpage as well.

For more information about the effect the Direct Givers Program has on the political landscape, a report was included in your Annual Meeting materials. Please review that document and consider participating in the process. Together we can do great things.

"Pure capitalism is a system of extremes. It is capable of marvelous innovations and stunning brutality. Only political democracy can temper those excesses, diffuse the benefits and allow the nonrich to fight back."

Robert Kuttner

