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Democracy Defenders

Black, Spencer	A77
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WDC Ranks Legislators on Political Reform

76 Lawmakers Fail to Pass Muster on Cleaning up Capitol

A group called the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign (WDC) works to put ordinary citizens in the driver's seat and restore the state's reputation for clean and open government. The WDC measured support for democracy reform among legislators. Points were given for various positions on these four issues. After totaling the points, legislators were ranked by score and divided into four categories.

- **Democracy Defenders** - 6 to 7 points (nine legislators). Consistently voted for reform and regularly sponsored and worked for passage of reform initiatives.
- **Public Allies** - 4.5 to 5.5 points (45 legislators). Supported most but not all reform proposals.
- **Bystanders** - 2.5 to 4 points (22 legislators). Supported some reform measures but did not actively push for changes limiting special interest influence and cleaning up state politics.
- **Public Enemies** - 0 to 2 points (54 legislators). Regularly stood with the special interests and worked to defeat reforms that would restore power to the general public.

Public Allies

Carpenter, Tim	S3	Seidel, Donna	A85
Cullen, David	A13	Sheridan, Mike	A44
Garthwaite, Phil	A49	Sinicki, Christine	A20
Harsdorf, Sheila	S10	Soletski, James	A88
Lassa, Julie	S24	Turner, Robert	A61
Parisi, Joe	A48	Vinehout, Kathleen	S31
Schultz, Dale	S17	Zepnick, Josh	A9
Smith, Jeff	A93	Boyle, Frank	A73
Sullivan, Jim	S5	Breske, Roger	S12
Van Akkeren, Terry	A26	Coggs, Spencer	S6
Wirch, Robert	S22	Ellis, Michael	S19
Benedict, Chuck	A45	Hixson, Kim	A43
Cowles, Robert	S2	Jauch, Bob	S25
Hansen, Dave	S30	Kessler, Frederick	A12
Hilgenberg, Steve	A51	Kreuser, James	A64
Hraychuck, Ann	A28	Krusick, Peggy	A7
Jorgensen, Andy	A37	Nelson, Tom	A5
Kreitlow, Pat	S23	Richards, Jon	A19
Mason, Cory	A62	Robson, Judith	S15
Miller, Mark	S16	Sherman, Gary	A74
Molepske, Jr., Louis	A71	Shilling, Jennifer	A95
Olsen, Luther	S14	Vruwink, Amy Sue	A70
Pope-Roberts, Sondy	A79		

For Your INFORMATION...

The roll call votes on an ethics enforcement reform bill (January 2007 Special Session Bill 1) that was enacted into law last year were included in the analysis for both houses. The other three roll call votes in the Senate

Public Enemies

Davis, Brett	A80	Townsend, John	A52	Lemahieu, Daniel	A59	Petrowski, Jerry	A86
Grothman, Glenn	S20	Van Roy, Karl	A90	Lothian, Thomas	A32	Pridemore, Don	A99
Kanavas, Ted	S33	Williams, Mary	A87	Meyer, Dan	A34	Rhoades, Kitty	A30
Kedzie, Neal	S11	Ballweg, Joan	A41	Montgomery, Phil	A4	Stone, Jeff	A82
Lazich, Mary	S28	Fitzgerald, Jeff	A39	Moulton, Terry	A68	Strachota, Pat	A58
Ziegelbauer, Bob	A25	Friske, Donald	A35	Mursau, Jeffrey	A36	Suder, Scott	A69
Albers, Sheryl	A50	Gunderson, Scott	A83	Murtha, John	A29	Tauchen, Gary	A6
Bies, Garey	A1	Honadel, Mark	A21	Nass, Stephen	A31	Vos, Robin	A63
Fitzgerald, Scott	S13	Huebsch, Michael	A94	Nerison, Lee	A96	Vukmir, Leah	A14
Gottlieb, Mark	A60	Kerkman, Samantha	A66	Newcomer, Scott	A33	Wieckert, Steve	A57
Hahn, Eugene	A47	Kestell, Steve	A27	Nygren, John	A89	Wood, Jeffrey	A67
Hines, J.A.	A42	Kleefisch, Joel	A38	Ott, Jim	A23	Zipperer, Rich	A98
Jeskewitz, Suzanne	A24	Kramer, Bill	A97	Owens, Carol	A53		
Ott, Alvin	A3	Lasee, Frank	A2	Petersen, Kevin	A40		

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Bystanders

Colon, Pedro	A8
Darling, Alberta	S8
Decker, Russ	S29
Fields, Jason	A11
Grigsby, Tamara	A18
Gronemus, Barbara	A91
Hubler, Mary	A75
Plale, Jeff	S7
Staskunas, Tony	A15
Steinbrink, John	A65
Taylor, Lena	S4
Toles, Barbara	A17
Wasserman, Sheldon	A22
Williams, Annette	A10
Young, Leon	A16
Schneider, Marlin	A72
Kapanke, Dan	S32
Kaufert, Dean	A55
Lasee, Alan	S1
Leibham, Joseph	S9
Musser, Terry	A92
Roessler, Carol	S18

WDC Ranks Legislators on Political Reform

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were on electioneering disclosure (Senate Bill 77), publicly financed state Supreme Court elections (SB 171) and requiring legislators to wait one year after leaving office before becoming a lobbyist (SB 23). In the Assembly, the other roll call votes were on banning campaign fundraising during the state budget process (Assembly Bill 61), publicly financed Supreme Court elections (AB 250) and electioneering disclosure (AB 272).

The reform bills legislators were credited for sponsoring include ethics enforcement reform (SB 2), comprehensive campaign finance reform (SB 12), prohibiting campaign fundraising during state budget deliberations (SB 25/ AB 61), electioneering disclosure (SB 171 / AB 250), and full public financing of all state races (SB 182 / AB 355).

We Need a President Who Supports Health Care for Children and Families

One of our core values as educators is our belief that children need to be healthy in order to learn. And the reality is that children can be healthy only if they have access to quality health care.

That's why it is so important that we elect a president who truly supports health care coverage for children and their families. One federal program that has been very successful in reaching this goal is the State Children's Health Insurance Program or SCHIP. In Wisconsin, SCHIP funds are being used to support the BadgerCare Plus program, which is extending coverage to all the state's uninsured children and thousands of uninsured adults.

One candidate for president, John McCain does not support SCHIP. In 2007, McCain voted against the reauthorization of the program. Not only did he oppose the bill in the Senate, but when President Bush vetoed the legislation, McCain said the president "made the right call" and called the program an "unfunded liability like the Medicare prescription drug program." (H.R. 976, Senate Roll Call Vote 307, August 2, 2007)

McCain believes the burden for ensuring that our children get proper medical care is on the parents, regardless of their income. In addition, McCain blamed parental neglect and "political correctness" for some childhood illnesses. What McCain doesn't seem to realize is that many of the diseases he was talking about are genetic.

For his opposition to SCHIP and other programs that serve children, the Children's Defense Fund rated McCain among the worst senators in Congress.

Last year, in Maryland, a little boy died because of lack of dental care. Tragedies such as this happen all over our country despite our overall wealth. We can and we must do better.

In November, we will have a choice in the race for president. Our track record speaks for itself - Education Votes. It is our right and our responsibility to vote for the candidate whose values reflect our own. Should we vote for a candidate unwilling to fund a successful children's health insurance program? Should we vote for a candidate who would stand in the way of Wisconsin's historic efforts to extend quality health care? The answer is clear.

This is an 11.29 communication with WEAC members.