

The Weekly Update will resume publication on Dec. 13th.

Local

Assembly candidate won't get publicly funded recount

Assembly incumbent Vruwink's lead over a GOP challenger dropped slightly after canvasses were conducted in Jackson, Monroe, Portage and Wood counties, but it was not enough to trigger an automatic recount.

Read more: http://lacrossetribune.com/article_65cdeb04-2ede-11e2-8925-001a4bcf887a.html

Domestic partners must prove commitment, city council says

The Janesville City Council voted to extend health care benefits to employees with same or opposite gender domestic partners, but are also seeking to define the legal standing and require proof of commitment.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/Domesticpartnersmustprovecommitmentcitycouncilsays>

Six-figure backdrop, pension followed by part-time county job

Milwaukee county executive spokesman Brendan Conway called into question the decision to hire back Terrence Cooley to work part-time on the budget after having received retirement benefits since August.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/watchdog/noquarter/178000501.html>

MATC board agrees to start union bargaining early

MATC's board of directors agreed to begin contract negotiations nearly a year early with the faculty union to take advantage of the legal window allowing them to negotiate a wide range of issues Act 10 prohibited.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/education/179033141.html>

Evers makes pitch for more school aid

Wisconsin's state superintendent Tony Evers is proposing a \$615 million increase in state aid for the state's schools while also wanting to redo the formula used to determine how much money each school district gets.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/Eversmakespitchformoreschoolaid>

Abele budget vetoes would make levy lower than he proposed

Milwaukee Co. Exec. Abele trumped himself on property tax restraint, using his veto in an attempt to trim the county's property tax levy for next year by \$2.4M. The cut would bring next year's levy down to \$273M.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/Abelebudgetvetoeswouldmakelevylowerthanheproposed>

King concedes in state Senate race

State Sen. Jessica King (D-Fond du Lac) said she called her Republican challenger Tuesday to congratulate him on his victory and thank him for a hard fought campaign. Republicans now have an 18-15 Senate majority.

Read more: <http://www.gmtoday.com/news/front/topstory22.asp>

State

Will Wisconsin Republicans wage another labor war?

The GOP could limit worker rights more by making Wisconsin a right-to-work state, meaning private sector employers would be banned from entering union contracts that require membership or dues collection.

Read more: http://host.madison.com/article_a374b796-00f6-11e2-81c4-0019bb2963f4.html

Wis. Republicans pick state Senate leaders

Senate Republicans chose Scott Fitzgerald, a Juneau Republican, as their leader again. Fitzgerald served as Senate majority leader for most of last session, losing the post after Dems won the Senate in the last recall.

Read more: http://host.madison.com/article_dfd4b31d-2a5d-52bb-916f-3d2194e8844d.html

Republican advantage in state Capitol could be long-lasting

State Dems could be the minority for the rest of the decade. The 2010 Republican takeover allowed the GOP to redraw the state's legislative maps in their favor, a process triggered every 10 years by U.S. Census results.

Read more: <http://www.postcrescent.com/article/20121111/APC010403/311110369>

Half of next year's State Assembly in first or second term

Barring some recounts, 25 representatives will be freshmen next year and 29 will be serving in their second session. When the legislature reconvenes, 54 members of the Assembly will have only served under Walker.

Read more: <http://news.wpr.org/post/half-next-years-state-assembly-first-or-second-term>

Larson new Senate Dem leader

Senate Dems elected Sen. Larson of Milwaukee as minority leader Tuesday- a surprise decision that the GOP instantly cheered. Larson was first elected to the Senate in 2010 and has since been a reliable progressive.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/179165091.html>

Republican Vos elected speaker of Assembly

Assembly Republicans unanimously elected Rep. Robin Vos as the new Assembly speaker Tuesday, making him the second speaker from Racine County in state history. Vos has served in the Assembly since 2004.

Read more: http://www.journaltimes.com/article_f011dfa0-2d9e-11e2-89a4-0019bb2963f4.html

Law enforcement union sues over Walker's law

The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Association, representing UW officers, Capitol police and Department of Transportation field agents, has filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Gov. Walker's Act 10.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/LawenforcementunionsuesoverWalkerslaw>

Nine lawmakers want to charge U.S. officials who implement Obamacare

Nine lawmakers back a bill to arrest federal officials who try to implement Obamacare. Walker must decide by Friday if the state will create the required health care exchange or leave it to the federal government.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/NinelawmakerswanttochargeUSofficialswhoimplementObamacare>

Federal

Paul Ryan explains why he lost his home county

Asked why he lost his home county and town of Janesville, Ryan said voters viewed him as “Republican” rather than “Janesville guy” and reiterated his belief that Obama won due to “record turnout in urban areas.”

Read more: <http://bit.ly/PaulRyanexplainswhyhelostthishomecounty>

Ryan plots his next steps in the House

Rep. Paul Ryan spoke briefly Wednesday with House Speaker John Boehner who “told him that he and the conference want him back in the fold and will welcome him as soon as he is ready,” according to his staff.

Read more: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324073504578105374001931746.html>

Boehner: Obamacare is law of the land, Ryan not the GOP leader

House Speaker Boehner said raising tax rates is “unacceptable,” VP nominee Ryan is not the new leader of the GOP and the reelection of Pres. Obama means the nation’s new healthcare law is “the law of the land.”

Read more: <http://bit.ly/BoehnerObamacareislawofthelandRyannottheGOPleader>

Observers say Kind, Feingold might be asked to challenge Johnson, Walker

Rep. Kind and Sen. Feingold could challenge the GOP incumbents in the next big elections for the state. Scott Walker’s re-election is in 2014 and Sen. Ron Johnson’s re-election and the presidential election are in 2016.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/ObserverssayKindFeingoldmightbeaskedtochallengeJohnsonWalker>

Congressional Democrats send Walker letter

Dems in Wisconsin’s congressional delegation are calling on Walker to implement a state-run health care exchange required by Obamacare. Walker has until Friday to decide if the state will run its own exchange.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/CongressionalDemocratssendWalkerletter>

AMA adopts facsimile of Romney-Ryan Medicare plan as its official policy

The American Medical Association House of Delegates voted to officially adopt a recommendation to formally support a plan for Medicare reform that mimics the Mitt Romney-Paul Ryan proposed reform plan.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/AMAadoptsfacsimileofRomneyRyanMedicareplanasitsofficialpolicy>

Paul Ryan takes sides in GOP leadership race

In the race for House GOP Conference chairman, Paul Ryan is backing Rep. Tom Price (GA) over Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA) in the open-seat race for the fourth-ranking spot in the House GOP leadership.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/PaulRyantakesidesinGOPleadershiprace>

Upcoming Events

For a listing of statewide events visit <http://www.seiuwi.org/events/>

For a listing of legislative hearings visit <http://committeeschedule.legis.wisconsin.gov/>