

‘UpFront’: Lasry says raising funds for 2020 DNC will be ‘team effort’

Posted on Monday, Mar 18, 2019

Wisconsin Democrats will make it a “team effort” to raise the \$60 million or more needed to pull off the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, the chairman of the city’s bid committee said.

Alex Lasry, a senior vice president with the Milwaukee Bucks, said prominent Democratic leaders including Gov. Tony Evers, U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, and U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore would all be working to raise money and make the convention successful.

“We want to show the DNC and the world that cities like Milwaukee can take care of a convention like this,” Lasry said in an interview that aired Sunday on “UPFRONT,” produced in partnership with WisPolitics.com.

“If we are successful, that paves the way for a lot of other cities like Milwaukee to be able to put in a bid, and give them confidence to put in a bid,” he said.

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Lasry also promised a convention with a “local vibe” that would be “very Wisconsin.”

“This is our chance to reintroduce Milwaukee to the world,” Lasry said. “I think this is hopefully just the start of Milwaukee becoming that top-tier city.”

Also on the program, ABC News Political Director Rick Klein said the choice of Milwaukee as the DNC convention site is “a very clear signal that the Democrats recognize that they cannot win the White House, really functionally win it, without carrying the state.”

Another segment explored the impact on the city of Cleveland when it hosted the 2016 Republican National Convention.

“It absolutely lived up to what we hoped it would be,” said Emily Lauer of Destination Cleveland, the city’s convention and tourism bureau.

Cleveland’s RNC host committee projected a \$200 million economic impact before the 2016 convention. A study released about a year later showed the convention delivered almost \$190 million in economic impact.

The “short-term revenue” was important, Lauer said, but so was the boost to the city’s image.

“It was really more about changing Cleveland’s narrative, putting us on that national and international stage to really accelerate the trajectory of changing the narrative, changing perceptions about Cleveland,” she said. “And in that regard, it absolutely didn’t disappoint.”

See more from the show:

<https://www.wisn.com/upfront>