

Barnes campaign: Fights for small businesses across Wisconsin

Posted on Thursday, Feb 24, 2022

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

NEW: Mandela Barnes Releases [Policy Plan to Support Small Businesses and Main Streets Across Wisconsin](#)

Mandela Sat Down with Business Owners in Eau Claire and Madison This Week to Hear Their Concerns and Discuss His Plan

This week, Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes, candidate for U.S. Senate released his new [policy agenda](#) to support Wisconsin's small businesses from the family farm to Main Street.

To get feedback on his plan and talk about expanding opportunities for working families, Mandela sat down with small business owners across the states.

On Tuesday in Madison, Mandela held a roundtable with owners of minority-owned small businesses to hear about their challenges starting a business and weathering the pandemic.

On Wednesday in Eau Claire, Mandela sat down with business owners including a child care provider, the owner of a family farm, and small business owners in the service industry, and heard about how a lack of affordable child care and health care is hampering businesses across the state.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [Mandela Barnes releases policy plan for small businesses, vows to support Tammy Baldwin 'Made in America Act'](#)

- *Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Mandela Barnes released his first economic*

policy plan of the campaign Tuesday, as he vowed to “level the playing field” to support Wisconsin’s small businesses and family farmers.

- *Barnes’ agenda including a promise to work for “a robust and fair” Farm Bill next year, while also announcing support for rural business development grants, rural broadband and cooperatives.*
- *Under the plan, Barnes, Wisconsin’s lieutenant governor, would “fight to pass” Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin’s “Made in America Act,” requiring the use of American goods and services in federal contracts.*

Leader-Telegram: [Lt. Gov. Barnes talks with Eau Claire businesses in Senate campaign stop](#)

- *Barnes listened to a panel of four local small business owners during the hourlong campaign appearance as they spoke about challenges they’ve faced.*
- *Barnes’ stop in Eau Claire is part of a tour he’s doing to promote his campaign’s plan for small businesses, which was released on Tuesday.*
- *Its policy stances include increased funding to rural business development grants, using union labor and American products on federal projects, and lowering the Medicare eligibility age to 50.*
- *The plan also states that Barnes would fight in the Senate “to deliver affordable and high-quality child care so more Wisconsinites with young children that want to work, can work.”*

WQOW: [Mandela Barnes makes U.S. Senate campaign stop in Eau Claire](#)

- *The lieutenant governor held a roundtable with four area business owners following the release of his ‘Family Farm to Main Street’ plan that he said will*

help support Wisconsin's small businesses.

- *“Look no further than Oshkosh where there is an opportunity for us to create a thousand additional good paying, family sustaining jobs — jobs that Ron Johnson won’t fight for —and on top of that, you can look at the infrastructure bill that is gonna do a great deal to help out the state of Wisconsin and cities like Eau Claire,” said Barnes.*
- *Brewing Projekt owner Will Glass said he felt heard by Barnes during the roundtable listening session, but added that legislators at both the federal and state level define all small businesses as the same.*

Channel 3000: [Barnes holds roundtable with minority-owned small business leaders](#)

- *The Democratic Senate hopeful said a central part of his campaign is finding ways to support Wisconsin's small businesses after the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *“Especially moving forward, we just want you to know we’re prioritizing you all because we’ve been typically disadvantaged,” Barnes said.*

WMSN: [Barnes hosts roundtable campaign event](#)

- *The Lt. Governor hosted a roundtable event with owners of minority-owned small businesses... [Barnes] says a central part of his campaign is finding ways to support Wisconsin's small businesses after the pandemic.*