

Barnes Campaign: Mandela Barnes builds momentum, holds commanding lead in Democratic primary

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A [new poll released](#) by the Mandela Barnes for Wisconsin campaign this morning finds Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes with a commanding lead over the Democratic primary field in Wisconsin. Wisconsinites' overwhelming support and excitement for Mandela points to a larger trend of voters looking to support candidates whose lived experiences and visions mirror their own.

Here's what they're saying...

The Hill: [Democrats look to diversify ranks in bid to keep Senate](#)

- “You’re starting to see candidates’ backgrounds and experiences reflect those that they’re trying to represent,” said Antjuan Seawright, an adviser to House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-S.C.), who has endorsed Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes (D) in the upcoming Wisconsin Senate contest.
- **Barnes, who is the first Black official to serve as Wisconsin’s lieutenant governor, has consistently led the 11 other Democrats running in the Democratic Senate primary by double digits. He currently holds a 29-point electoral lead, according to an internal poll from his campaign released exclusively to The Hill on Friday.**

- He entered the state's Democratic Senate primary in July against a crowded field, including state Treasurer Sarah Godlewski and businessman Alex Lasry.
- **The internal poll found that his support with primary voters grew to 46 percent once they received his biography,** which includes some notable hardships like being less affluent than his opponents and receiving a state-run Medicaid supplement as recently as the last midterm cycle, according to a report by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.
- **“There’s a tremendous amount of excitement not only inside the Democratic Party right now, but I think among voters who reflect the day-to-day experiences that Americans have,”** the source said.

WisPolitics: Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes today released a new poll showing him with a significant lead over his Dem rivals for the U.S. Senate nomination.

- The survey found 40 percent of likely Dem primary votes backed the lieutenant governor. Meanwhile, Alex Lasry, who's on leave from his job at the Milwaukee Bucks, was at 11 percent and state Treasurer Sarah Godlewski was at 10 percent.
- Outagamie County Exec Tom Nelson was at 8 percent, while 29 percent of respondents were undecided.
- A poll for Barnes' campaign in late August found him at 37 percent with Nelson at 8, Godlewski at 7 and Lasry at 5. Since then, Lasry has launched a more than \$1 million TV buy and Godlewski has done digital ads. That survey was conducted by a different pollster.
- See the release: <https://www.wispolitics.com/2022/barnes-campaign-poll--shows-lt-governor-mandela-barnes-opening-up-commanding-lead-in-democratic-prim>