

Main Street Action: Candidate roundtables focus in small business and family farm issues

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On October 24th and 25th, voters will have a chance to hear candidates' stances on issues impacting family farms and small businesses. Main Street Action (MSA), in partnership with the Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU), is co-hosting two roundtable events to spotlight key races.

The first roundtable, scheduled for Monday, October 24th, in Oshkosh, will provide a platform for Senate candidates **Lt. Gov Mandela Barnes** (confirmed) and **Senator Ron Johnson** (invited) to share their stances. Starting at 6:30 pm at Becket's Restaurant, 2 Jackson St, the conversation will be led by local small business owners and farmers.

On Tuesday, October 25th, the discussion will shift toward the 3rd Congressional District, with a roundtable featuring **State Senator Brad Pfaff** (confirmed) and **Derrick Van Orden** (invited) at 6 pm at Root Note, 115 4th St. S., La Crosse.

Both events will touch on health care, the caring economy (childcare, paid leave, and retirement security), capital access, tax fairness, antitrust enforcement, and rural resiliency.

Main Street Alliance/Action leadership team members Irene Strohbeen of Strohbeen and Associates in Appleton and TJ Semanchin, CEO of Wonderstate Coffee in Viroqua will emcee these events.

"As a family child care business owner, it is important to get out the vote and educate voters on how to access reliable information, including by meeting with the

candidates directly. As a child care provider, I am at the center of the economy and have a wide variety of people I see every day. I can have conversations without endorsing a specific candidate, but on how to connect to candidates directly and ask about their policy positions, or how to find that information, and finally what steps they need to take in order to cast their vote. I am excited for these upcoming events,” said Corrine Hendrickson of Corrine’s Little Explorers in New Glarus.

“We could enable more people to have success if we did a better job of recognizing the plights of both small business owners and farmers,” said Julie Keown-Bomar, executive director of WFU, a nonpartisan grassroots group dedicated to improving the quality of life for family farmers. “We’re pleased to be able to host these events and elevate the issues that matter to Main Street and rural Wisconsin.”

The roundtable events are open to the media, **but there will not be an opportunity for press questions during the program.** Small business owners, farmers, organizational representatives, and candidates will be available for interviews before or after the event.