



For Release: November 17, 2020

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County Exec. Parisi Announces Run for Re-Election

Congressman Mark Pocan and State Representative Shelia Stubbs to Serve as Parisi's Campaign Co-Chairs

Citing the need for county government to continue its coordination of the community's response to and eventual recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, Joe Parisi announced today he is running for re-election as County Executive.

"Covid-19 has tested us, tearing at the very fabric of our physical, emotional and economic well-being," Parisi said. "The challenges before us from this pandemic are like none we have faced in our lifetime. They also present great opportunities to do what we do best in Dane County – bring people together, get work done, and deliver tangible results. That's how we built from scratch mental health teams for Dane County schools, started cleaning our lakes by 'sucking the muck,' from miles of waterways, helped young people struggling with poverty earn drivers' licenses, and have county government on the verge of being 100% renewable thanks to our efforts at increasing clean, green energy production."

"County Executive Parisi has shown amazing skill in navigating the complex challenges posed by COVID-19," said Parisi's 2021 campaign co-chair, Congressman Mark Pocan. "Joe's calm and steady demeanor, coupled with his incredible competence as a leader, has been central to the success Dane County has had addressing the virus and the economic fallout it has caused."

Campaign co-chair State Representative Shelia Stubbs praised Parisi's "inclusive and compassionate leadership" during the current crisis. "Under Executive Parisi's leadership, Dane County has led the state with our humanitarian response to the current health crisis. Only weeks into the pandemic, the County Executive put together initiatives to help renters, small businesses, food pantries and daycare centers weather the storm."

Former County Executive Kathleen Falk also praised Parisi's leadership. "Dane was the first county in the state to have stay at home guidelines and first with an indoor masking requirement. I have no doubt that due to Joe's decisive leadership, lives have been saved and vulnerable populations have been protected from the terrible harm this virus can cause."

Parisi, who was born and raised in Dane County, received 70% of the vote when he was elected County Executive in a special election in the spring of 2011. Prior to that he was a State Representative in the 48th Assembly District which at the time included Madison's east side, the City of Monona, Village of McFarland, and Town of Dunn. Prior to that, Parisi was Dane County Clerk from 1996 to 2004.

Building Trades Council President, Dave Branson, who stood with Parisi four years ago during his last re-election announcement, said: “The Building Trades Council was proud to endorse Joe four years ago, and we are proud to support him again in 2021. Joe grew up in a blue collar, union family. He understands and respects working people, and he understands the importance of organized labor, both for the well-being of our community and for our workers. His skill set will be critical as we work to re-build our economy in the wake of COVID-19.”

“We have gotten an awful lot done – but it’s clear there’s still much to do. I’m honored to have the trust of these leaders and the opportunity to serve the community I grew up in and love,” Parisi concluded.

The election for County Executive will be next spring.