

# MANDELA BARNES FOR

To: Interested Parties

From: Kory Kozloski, Campaign Manager

Date: October 13, 2021

Re: Mandela Barnes Posts Record-Setting First Fundraising Quarter

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Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes announced today that he raised over \$1.12 Million in Q3 2021 in his race for US Senate. Not only is this the best quarter posted by any Democrat in the race, but it also represents **the largest first quarter raise by a first-time US Senate candidate in Wisconsin's history.**

Even more impressively, Lt. Governor Barnes raised this total in only 10 weeks and did it with an average contribution of under \$50. He received 19,000 donations from over 15,000 donors, with donations from every single one of Wisconsin's 72 counties. This perfectly underscores the statewide coalition of grassroots supporters who are coming together to beat Ron Johnson and elect Mandela Barnes to the United States Senate.

Living up to his promise, Mandela took no money from corporate PACs.



# \$1.12 MILLION RAISED

**Best first quarter raise by a first-time Senate candidate in Wisconsin history.**

- ✓ Donors from all 72 counties in Wisconsin
- ✓ Over 19,000 Donations
- ✓ Average Contribution: Under \$50
- ✓ No Corporate PAC money

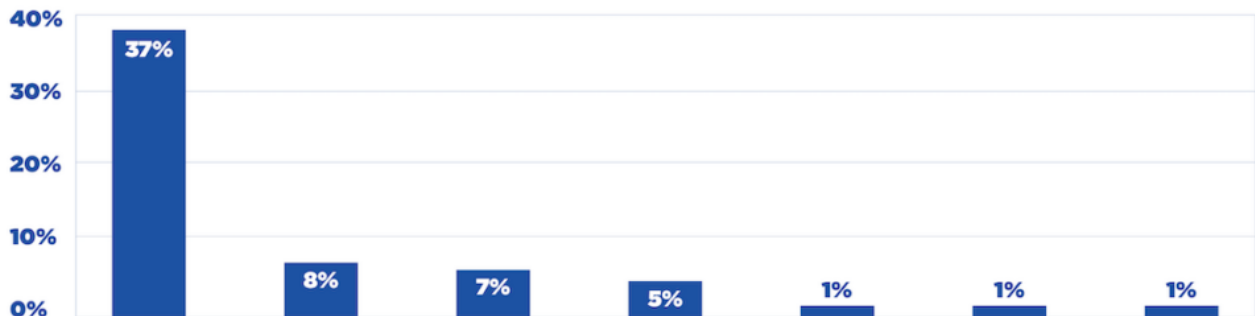
This report caps off 3 months that saw Lt. Governor Barnes emerge as the clear favorite to take on Ron Johnson and flip the seat for Democrats.

### Mandela Leads the Field by a Wide Margin, is Tied with Ron Johnson

Two polls released in September clearly demonstrate that Mandela is the early favorite to flip this seat. In a matchup between Democratic primary challengers, Mandela emerges with 37% of the vote, with every other Democrat in the race below 8%. Mandela is winning every media market and holds a double-digit lead even among those who have favorable views of his primary opponents.

In a general election matchup, Mandela is tied with Ron Johnson 43/43, and Mandela is the only candidate tested who received net-positive favorability ratings from voters. Critically, after voters learned about Mandela's story and record, he jumped into a 50/45 lead over Ron Johnson.

## MANDELA BARNES LEADS BY 29 POINTS IN NEW PRIMARY POLL



**Mandela Barnes**



**Tom Nelson**



**Sarah Godlewski**



**Alex Lasry**



**Gillian Battino**



**Chantia Lewis**



**Steven Olikara**

## **Leaders Across Wisconsin are Supporting Mandela**

Mandela has earned the most support from both the grassroots and from local elected officials across the state:

- Congresswoman Gwen Moore – the only member of Wisconsin’s congressional delegation to endorse in this race.
- 14 state legislators – more than all other candidates combined.
- More mayors, county executives, and local elected officials than the rest of the field by a wide margin.
- Grassroots donors in all 72 counties.

This support is a testament to the work that Mandela has done in every corner of Wisconsin, and the trust he has built up as a leader who will fight for every single community in the state.

### **“The Biggest Endorsement in the Race”**

In what the Journal Sentinel called “the biggest endorsement yet in Wisconsin’s Democratic U.S. Senate race,” United States Senator Elizabeth Warren announced her support for Mandela in September. This endorsement was especially notable because Sen. Warren does not typically get involved in primaries. Here’s what Sen. Warren had to say about Mandela:

*“Growing up in a proud union family, Mandela knows that to rebuild the middle class we need to change the game in Washington. In the Senate, we will work together to root out the corruption and special interest influence that delivers handouts to the wealthiest people and largest corporations while leaving working people and small businesses behind... he’s the best candidate to defeat Ron Johnson and flip this seat in November.”*

### **Prominent Progressive Groups Come Out Big for Mandela**

While staying sharply focused on building a broad coalition of grassroots support in Wisconsin, Mandela is proud of the overwhelming support he’s received from prominent progressive groups that are leading the fight for change at the national level. These include:

MoveOn  
End Citizens United  
Let America Vote  
Democracy for America  
Collective PAC  
Working Families Party

Progressive Change Campaign  
Committee  
People for the American Way  
Democratic Lt. Governors Association  
We Have the People PAC

These groups will be critical in ensuring that Wisconsin has the resources it needs to energize and turnout voters in 2022.

## Conclusion

When Lt. Governor Barnes kicked off his campaign in late July, he said he would build a broad grassroots statewide coalition to defeat Ron Johnson and flip this seat in November. His record-setting fundraising numbers and outpouring of support from across the state prove he is doing just that.

## What They're Saying About Mandela

*"Eric Holder, the U.S. attorney general under President Barack Obama, described Barnes as a 'budding star for the Democratic Party' and equated his authenticity to that of Obama's."*

### ~Huffington Post

*"Barnes's campaign messaging of unity around economic opportunity and quality of life is certainly appealing in one of the most notorious swing states in the country ..."*

*Regardless of the outcome of this election, Barnes will remain seated around kitchen tables, more figurative now than literal, pushing his clear, relatable Democratic messaging across to larger and larger constituencies: Let me help make life better for you."*

### ~Fortune Magazine

*Barnes has the support of 37 percent of Democratic primary voters in Wisconsin ... his closest rivals ... are statically tied at 8%, 7%, and 5%. ..."*

*The lieutenant governor [is] leading across a broad swath of Wisconsin voters, including among both men and women, as well as in each of the state's media markets."*

### ~The Hill

*"Wisconsin Democrats have long anticipated the entrance of Mandela, who's seen as a rising star within the party, and continue to believe he's now the frontrunner."*

*"And one of the reasons Democrats are so high on Barnes is that they see his background as a compelling one that could help turn out Black voters, especially in Milwaukee — something Democrats have struggled with in recent elections but were successful when President Obama was on the ballot in 2008."*

### ~Cook Political Report (Moving the Race to Toss-up)

*Mandela Barnes comes to his political race and the center stage of the Democratic Party and progressive movement as a young person with a wealth of lived and governing experience. ..."*

*With more than two years under his belt as lieutenant governor, Barnes has been the leading force behind the state's efforts for equitable and sustainable governance—a call that has become even louder during the dual-pandemics of COVID-19 and fight against racial injustice."*

### ~Forbes

*"Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes is the front-runner in the Democratic primary."*

### ~Wisconsin State Journal