

State Republicans Begin Review To “Reboot” Party By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

In the wake of the 2018 election that saw Republicans lose the governorship, US Senate, and attorney general positions, the current leadership of the state Republican Party has formed a committee to review the overall structure and focus of the party. State GOP leaders have been very tight-lipped about the whole thing but agreed to release to me a list of names of the committee’s members. This is, in and of itself, a breakthrough. The state party’s website currently lists the contact info for none of the party’s leaders, not even the chairman, Brad Courtney. The website does not list the names of any of the members of the party’s executive committee or members of the staff. By contrast, the Democratic party website has names, contact info and photos of virtually every Democrat staffer and official in the state.

I have criticized the excessive Madison focus of the state GOP operation, the under-performance of grassroots operations, the failure to hire field staff to match the dozens of paid employees Democrats brought in, the milquetoast messaging from Madison and the refusal of party staff or leaders to speak out on much of anything. Party Executive Director Mark Morgan told me this week the party prefers to speak in one voice and wants all requests for comment funneled through the Madison operation. I contend that is precisely the problem. Everything runs through a Madison operation that refuses to fight and is staffed by Madison lifers terrified of the media and their own shadows. The vast majority of state Republican voters live outside the cities of Milwaukee and Madison yet the party leadership is dominated by Madison staffers. I am listing below the names and emails of the party officials serving on the review committee. I urge any interested Republican to contact them.

I have argued the state GOP operation must be moved out of Madison to better reflect where the party’s actual supporters live. I also contend that the state Republican operation is top heavy with Madison lobbyists and consultants who have conflicts of interest. Moving the headquarters away from Madison would reduce their influence. So far at least, party leaders have ignored my input. Here are the names, titles and emails of the review committee members.

Andrew Hitt	Party First Vice Chair	Andrew.a.hitt@gmail.com
Tom Schreiber	National Republican Committeeman	tom.schreiber@att.net
Mary Buestrin	National Republican Committeeman	mbuestrin@mac.com
Carol Brunner	First Congressional District Chair	carolbrunner@yahoo.com
Kim Babler	Second Congressional District Chair	kimbabler@hotmail.com
Brian Westrate	Third Congressional District Chair	brianwestrate@gmail.com
Bob Spindell	Fourth Congressional District Chair	cd4.chairman@wisgop.info
Kathy Kiernan	Fifth Congressional District Chair	katzkiernan@att.net
Darryl Carlson	Sixth Congressional District Chair	darryldcarlson@yahoo.com
Jesse Garza	Seventh Congressional District Chair	jesse.garza.gop@gmail.com
Kelly Ruh	Eighth Congressional District Chair	ruhkelly@gmail.com

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