

Teacher from Wittenberg Challenges Big Money, Politician in 2nd Senate District

Written by GBP Staff

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Vietnam Veteran, History Teacher John N. Powers from rural small town Wittenberg takes on career Wisconsin Senate fixture Rob Cowles in David v. Goliath race, and he wants to do it without accepting any donations.

GREEN BAY - In a scene that reminds one of David v. Goliath, **John N. Powers** of Wittenberg officially announced his candidacy for the Senate seat in Wisconsin's 2nd District last week. John is seeking to unseat a political institution in the Senate, Republican

Robert Cowles

, and he wants to do it without accepting any donations from any source in his campaign.



Cowles has been in the Senate for 29 years, more than any other Republican. He has consistently won re-election by large margins or been unopposed. In the Senate, he is the chair of the Natural Resources and Energy Committee. You would hope that someone with that kind of seniority and position would be a voice for reason representing his district's residents first.

Powers says he will put his record of public service up against his opponent's any day of the week. That record started at age 17 when he enlisted and served four years in the military, including a year of USAF Intelligence Operations in Vietnam (1967-68).

John earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from UW-Stevens Point. He has lived in rural Wittenberg since 1974, teaching US history among other things for 31 years in Shawano County, Bowler and Wittenberg-Birnamwood schools. While teaching, he also found time to spend 15 years as a Boy Scout leader. For the past 10 years, he has worked at St. Clare's Hospital in Wausau as a unit coordinator in the emergency room.

"This will not be an ordinary campaign," Powers says. "In this time of drastic cuts to our public

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schools, a state agency that gives hundreds of millions of our tax dollars to businesses that fail to create jobs, and a complete gutting of the authority of the DNR, Wisconsin cannot continue to allow our elected officials to be exempt from prosecution for political corruption while enforcing gag orders on state employees.”

Powers points to Cowles’ recent proposal on high capacity wells, Senate Bill 291. That proposal would remove all decision making from the DNR and turn it over to the legislature. So, if the local DNR is inspecting a problem well, it may not consider the impact caused by any other wells and instead must request approval from the Joint Committee on Finance in Madison .

This loss of local control doesn't make much sense to John. He also feels Wisconsin cannot continue to give away our tax dollars with no jobs being created in return. As a former teacher, he knows Wisconsin cannot give more of our tax dollars per student to private schools than to our public schools.

Feeling very strongly that our system of elections is broken, Powers will not accept any donations from any source in his campaign. “More than 70% of the people in this state feel that Citizens United should be repealed. Yet we continue to allow money to be the deciding factor in our elections, even at this level. I will not participate in an auction,” says Powers. “You will have to decide to vote for me, or not, based on my merit, not my money. If I succeed you will have made history. If not, we go back to the status quo.”

You can find out more about John Powers for State Senate on [FaceBook](#) or at www.voterpowers.com