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**Advocacy Digest | August 2019**

**Brad Boycks, Executive Director**

**State Representative Amanda Stuck announces run against Congressman Mike Gallagher; Snodgrass to seek 57th Assembly District Seat**

Recently State Senator Amanda Stuck, who currently serves as the ranking democrat on the Assembly Housing and Real Estate Committee, announced her intention to run against Congressman Mike Gallagher. Gallagher is currently serving in his second term in Wisconsin’s 8th Congressional Districted and is expected to seek a third term in 2020.

In a press release announcing her candidacy, Stuck stated, "I'm running because Washington isn't working for Wisconsin families. For example, our Congressman voted to gut protections for people with preexisting conditions and has done nothing to lower the cost of prescription drugs while pocketing tens of thousands of dollars from big pharmaceutical and insurance companies.”

On the same day that Stuck made her announcement, Lee Sondgrass announced that she would seek the soon to be open state assembly seat currently occupied by Representative Stuck. Snodgrass challenged State Senator Roger Roth in 2018 and received 46.7% of the final vote but she noted that she took 57.5% of the vote in the 57th Assembly District that she is now seeking.

Snodrass stated, “While campaigning last summer for state Senate I met so many neighbors still struggling to make ends meet, whether it be the need for affordable healthcare or good paying jobs. There is a deep frustration with inaction in Madison and I have built a reputation in my work as someone who gets things done.” Snodgrass continues, “I love our state, I love the Fox Valley and I want to help make it a place where all our residents have equal opportunity to thrive--not just get by.”

**Issues with DSPS? Let us know!**

We are in the process of setting up a meeting with officials at the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) on several issues that have come to light recently. Some of the topics we are likely to discuss include the reappointment of WBA members to the Uniform Dwelling Code Council, concerns with the current foundation code and inspection schedule, and the time it takes to get a dwelling contractor license renewed and a septic permit approved.

Have you been having any issues with any of these items? Are there any additional concerns that you have with DSPS that you would like brought up as well? Please [email Brad Boycks](mailto:bboycks@wisbuild.org?subject=DSPS%20Issues) to add to the list of topics to be shared with DSPS.

**Link announces candidacy for 10th Senate District**

Recently Cherie Link announced her intention to challenge State Senator Patty Schachtner for the 10th State Senate Seat in northwestern Wisconsin. Schachtner has held the 10th Senate District seat since wining a special election in January 2018 to fill out the term of former State Senator Shelia Harsdorf.

Link’s family owns Indianhead Glass in St. Croix Falls and has been active with the St. Croix Valley Home Builders Association and she recently attend the WBA regional town hall meeting in Eau Claire.

“The success of our district and state is dependent on providing good, affordable education for our children, to prepare them for successful careers, while also creating a viable workforce for our prospering economy,” Link stated. “With a child at UW River Falls and UW Stout and many of their friends attending WITC and CVTC, I am committed to addressing the growing work skills gap and limited workforce in our trades.”

If others announced their candidacy on the republican side, which according to election observers seems likely, a primary would be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

# From NAHB: [FHA Announces New Condo Approval Rule](http://nahbnow.com/2019/08/fha-announces-new-condo-approval-rule/)

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) this week published a final regulation that establishes a new condominium approval process.

The new rule reinstates FHA’s ability to insure a limited number of units in projects that have not received FHA approval and will also extend the recertification requirement for approved condominium projects from two to three years.

However, in a provision strongly opposed by NAHB, FHA will no longer approve projects that are proposed or under construction. The rule will allow for project phasing, but each phase would have to be complete before approval.

The rule, which becomes effective Oct. 15, 2019, will give the agency flexibility to adjust its criteria as market conditions change by setting ranges for the maximum and minimum thresholds for owner-occupancy, FHA insurance concentration and commercial space. The ranges give FHA the ability to increase or decrease these thresholds, based on a set of triggers, without providing the opportunity for public comment.

* [HUD’s press release announcing the new rule](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_19_121)
* [FHA’s new condominium approval regulation](https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2019-17213.pdf)
* [FHA’s changes to its Single Family Handbook](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/4000.1hsgh.pdf)

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