



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2016

3:58 PM

[Ryan urges GOP voters to 'come home' and vote, Johnson hits Feingold at rally](#)

MUKWONAGO -- House Speaker Paul Ryan told GOP voters Saturday "it's time to come home and go out and vote," while U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson warned there is a "razor-thin margin" in his race with Dem Russ Feingold.

Meanwhile, GOP vice presidential nominee Mike Pence called Donald Trump "a winner, a fighter" during a rally here. "And until very recently it seemed like he was out there fighting all on his own," Pence said. "But now this movement is coming together, this party is coming together, Wisconsin is coming together. Let's elect Donald Trump the next president of the United States."

The three, along with U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, Gov. Scott Walker, and other GOP candidates addressed a crowd gathered at Field Park in Mukwonago, a largely rural community at the far southwest corner of Waukesha County. Johnson's campaign said more than 500 attended.



The rally was not far from Walworth County, where Pence was supposed to appear last month at a GOP rally. But Ryan pulled Trump's invitation to the event following the release of a 2005 videotape showing him making vulgar comments about women, and Pence dropped out.

Pence, who said "I was for Ron Johnson before he was cool," said the Oshkosh Republican brought common sense to Washington, "just like another businessman we're going to send to the White House."

Pence blasted Dem presidential nominee Hillary Clinton over Benghazi, the Clinton Foundation and her email controversy. Pence expressed frustration the FBI earlier this summer determined only that Clinton had been careless in her use of a private email server while secretary of State and did not recommend

charges. But he said new information has come forward, and "The director of the FBI has now informed Congress that they have re-opened the investigation into Hillary Clinton's private e-mail server while she was secretary of State."

That prompted shouts from some people in the crowd of "Lock her up!" Earlier, state Sen. Steve Nass, R-Whitewater, replied, "I'm with ya!" to similar chants.

But Ryan, faced with the same chants, told the crowd, "I've got a better idea. Let's make sure she never becomes president of the United States in the first place." Saying that the First Amendment, Obamacare and the national budget are on the line, Ryan declared, "As the speaker of the House, we are ready and willing to repeal and replace Obamacare."

Ryan opened his speech with praise for Johnson, calling him a manufacturer who took out Feingold. Pulling a list from his pocket, Ryan urged voters to elect local GOP candidates on the Tuesday ballot. People began to shout, "Trump! Trump! Trump!"

"I'm getting there," responded Ryan.

"Let's hear it," shouted a man in the crowd.

Walker called the Feingold-Johnson match up "one of the closest U.S. Senate races in the country" and urged voters to give Johnson "just one more term."

"Eighteen years and what did Wisconsin get for it?" Walker asked about Feingold's three terms in the Senate.

"Nothing," the crowd answered."

"We got worse than zilch," Walker said. "We fired Russ Feingold because of Obamacare. We're not going to send him back to screw it up again."

Johnson slammed Feingold as dedicated to growing government. He said when that happens, "your freedoms recede" and the government demands "more of your hard-earned money." Johnson said, "Folks, this is going to a razor-thin margin in Wisconsin," but a few moments later, after urging each member of the audience to find 10 more people to vote Republican, he said, "We're going to win this election in a landslide."

-- By Kay Nolan

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2016

11:42 AM

[Kaine: Excited, but not taking anything for granted](#)

Democratic vice presidential candidate Tim Kaine told Hillary Clinton supporters in Milwaukee today, "We're really excited but we're not taking anything for granted."

"Polls can be wrong, and it's been a season of surprises," Kaine warned, urging volunteers not to slow their efforts before Tuesday's election.

He also said "we've got this weird thing with the Russian government trying to tinker around and influence our election."



"If you need just one more reason to vote, how about send a message to any nation: 'Don't bother trying to come in here and affect the outcome of America's election,'" Kaine said.

Kaine, who stopped at a Dem Field office on Milwaukee's northeast side with Senate candidate Russ Feingold, praised Wisconsin for setting a new early voting record.

Kaine said Dems are seeing the "expansion of a new coalition" of voters who came together to support Barack Obama in 2008 and 2012, in the form of "dramatic improvement" in support among women, African American, Latino and millennials.

"Millennials now make up one-quarter of the electorate," said Kaine. "Fifty million of the 200 million Americans who are registered are between 18 and 34. We're seeing them participate in major ways."

Feingold introduced Kaine, telling the get-out-the vote volunteers that they're making history.

"All across the country, I think we're the top state for that," Feingold said. "The reason it's so great is these guys in Madison, these Republicans, are trying to shut it down."

Feingold added to cheers, "They didn't want voter ID, they didn't want early voting and all this, and you know what we said? We're going to federal court and get that early voting extended."

A Clinton-Kaine administration will help raise the minimum wage, enact paid family leave, hold down costs of medicine, protect Social Security and do something about the cost of college, Feingold said.

In return, Kaine said, "not only Wisconsinites, but all Americans" need Feingold to win back his Senate seat. "Russ Feingold was such a fantastic senator, and is going to be such a great, great senator," he said. "We feel really excited about this race, but like all races, we take nothing for granted."

Kaine also gave a shout out to Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, who attended the rally wearing shorts and a polo shirt.

"I used to be a mayor -- it's a tough, tough job, and Tom has done a super job," said Kaine, a Virginia Senator, who was mayor of Richmond, Va., before becoming governor.

"You're not under-dressed," he assured Barrett with a laugh. "Anytime you're wearing shorts in November in Wisconsin, that's newsworthy."

-- By Kay Nolan

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2016

6:05 PM

[Clinton says American can't go back to trickle-down economics](#)

MILWAUKEE -- Former President Bill Clinton told about 250 supporters Saturday that Americans can't go back to trickle-down economics, calling it a broken economic theory that doesn't work.

The get-out-the-early-vote event was sponsored by local union 494 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and Clinton directed much of his 40-minute speech to calling for widespread infrastructure improvements across America, saying it would create millions of jobs.

The former president did not discuss the vulgar comments Donald Trump made in 2005 that were released Friday and have roiled the campaign. Instead, he focused on the need to rebuild the nation's economy, saying, "The financial crisis of 2008 had a very long tail. Until this year and last year, most people were living on the same income, adjusted for inflation, they were making the last day I was president, and the cost of everything has gone up."



Clinton called the expansion of health care under President Barack Obama "the only relief most of them felt."

He drew loud applause when he talked of infrastructure jobs that could be created by electricians and other skilled trade workers. He said the U.S. should take advantage of low interest rates to invest in roads, bridges, airports and more.

"It's time to realize that there are still 20 or 25 million children who go to school every day in America and get a homework assignment that requires them to get on the Internet and they can't do it," said Clinton, adding, "That's infrastructure, too."

Shortly into his speech, Clinton was interrupted by at least one heckler. As Clinton started to say, "Nobody can dispute the fact ..." a man shouted, "that you're a rapist! Bill Clinton's a rapist!"

The crowd booed as the heckler was escorted out. Charles H. Laskonis, who works for IBEW in Illinois and is a Democratic party chairman in that state, was standing by the door as the heckler was greeted by police.

"He kept screaming a lot of stuff about Bill Clinton being a rapist," Laskonis said. "I said, 'You're defending what Trump's doing?' and he responded, 'You people should all be ashamed of yourselves.'"

Clinton seemed unperturbed by the interruption.

"Give him a hand, tell him that we wish him well," he said, calmly continuing with his speech, "One campaign wants you to forget that this is about you and your lives and your future. Hillary's running

because she wants you and your life and your future and that of your kids and your grandkids to be better.”

Although Clinton never mentioned Trump by name, he twice disparaged the GOP nominee’s campaign motto.

“When people say ‘Make America great again,’ they’re telling you two things: ‘I’ll give you what you had 50 years ago, and I’ll move you back up the totem pole, while moving somebody else back down,’” he said. “But 50 years ago wasn’t so great for a lot of Americans. ... Hillary’s strategy is to tear the totem pole down so we can all move forward together.”

Milwaukee County Exec Chris Abele was in attendance, but did not address the crowd or reporters. Clinton began his speech by calling for former Sen. Russ Feingold to be elected, and thanked U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin and former Sen. Herb Kohl for their support.

Ahead of Clinton's speech, state GOP Executive Director Mike Duffey said Republicans hoped the former president would continue to call ObamaCare a "crazy system."

"Voters across Wisconsin understand that Washington D.C. is broken, hard-working families understand that the system doesn't work for them and needs to change, and we can't trust politicians like Hillary Clinton, who rigged that system, to fix it," Duffey said.

-- *By Kay Nolan*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2016

10:56 PM

[Pence stands firm with Trump in Waukesha speech](#)

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, in his first solo speech as Donald Trump’s vice presidential running mate, pushed repealing the 1954 Johnson Amendment.

That amendment prevents tax-exempt organizations, primarily religious, from supporting or opposing political candidates.

"I want to commend Reince Priebus because repealing the Johnson amendment is in the Republican party platform," Pence said. "Donald Trump says we need to change this law. Donald Trump will restore freedom of speech to people of faith across this country."



Pence, during the speech in Waukesha, linked Democrats to world unrest, saying, "History teaches us that weakness arouses evil." Referencing the killing of a Catholic priest by ISIS and the recent attempted coup in Turkey, Pence said, "I believe that Hillary Clinton's and Barack Obama's foreign policy of leading from behind, moving red lines, feigning resets with Russia and the rise, rule and reign of ISIS is a testament to this truth of history."

Pence spoke to a lukewarm crowd at the Waukesha County Expo Center on Wednesday night, drawing only smatterings of applause. He got the most applause and cheers when he expressed support for law enforcement and the military, but even then, many members of the crowd kept their hands in their pockets or their arms crossed instead of clapping or waving signs.

Local GOP officials put the crowd at around 800.

But various accounts from media and conservative commentators estimated much lower numbers of attendees.

Pence tried hard to appeal to Wisconsinites, telling them Gov. Scott Walker "is the best governor in the U.S." and saying he's proud to be "a Scott Walker Republican."

He gave a shout-out to U.S. Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, state Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, all of whom took the stage earlier to promote the Trump-Pence ticket.

"This is a great," Pence said, "great state Legislature that has put Wisconsin on the map with the great leadership of Scott Walker and I appreciate the folks that are here."

Pence painted Trump as a strong leader, adding, "What's been most missing in Washington, D.C., is leadership."

He repeated many of the same phrases from his July 20 speech at the Republican National Convention, such as "Donald Trump gets it" and "He's the genuine article."

Pence said he respects Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen. Tim Kaine, of Virginia, but said the "contrast is pretty dramatic."

Pence said Kaine imposed tax increases in Virginia, whereas Pence said he enacted tax relief in Indiana.

"Kaine took a run at getting funding for roads and bridges but never quite got that done," he said. "But as governor of the state of Indiana, we have invested more than \$2.5 billion in roads and bridges."

Pence did not speak to reporters afterward; nor did Gov. Scott Walker, who introduced Pence as one of the "most honorable" people he knows in politics and said he'd long "admired him from afar."

Walker mostly recounted his own successes when he took the stage, reminding attendees that "Conservative reforms work."

Walker called Pence a "Reagan conservative" but bragged that "as brave as (Pence) is," New York Sen. Charles Schumer once tweeted that Pence was a "Scott Walker Republican."

"Mike Pence is one of us," Walker said. "He is a proud, full-spectrum conservative."

But like earlier speakers in the night -- including Sensenbrenner, Fitzgerald and Vos -- Walker instead emphasized the need to stop Hillary Clinton from becoming president.

"My conscience says I'm not going to let Hillary Clinton dominate the Supreme Court for the next 20 or 30 years," said Walker, adding when people ask him how he can trust Trump to choose future justices from a conservative list, he responds, "Look at his first pick (for vice president).

Earlier speakers also said little about Pence, focusing their remarks on Democrats and Clinton.

"Americans have had enough," said RNC Chair Reince Priebus.

"We know that Donald Trump and Mike Pence will get ISIS under control, Priebus said, adding "Kill them before they kill us."

Priebus tried to stir some of the same fervor that Walker had enjoyed at the same Expo Center site when he announced his presidential run last summer to thousands of boisterous supporters who filled the hall to overflowing,

"In Wisconsin, you have done it time and time again," said Priebus. But when introducing Walker, Priebus faltered. He started to say, "We don't have a better governor" then hesitated, remembering the night's key speaker, and added, "Although we've got two great governors -- I have to careful about this introduction."

-- *By Kay Nolan*

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016

11:44 PM

[Cruz praises Walker, slams Trump at Milwaukee GOP fish fry](#)

Sen. Ted Cruz tonight showered Gov. Scott Walker with praise during a GOP event in Milwaukee, calling him a "rock star" who has inspired "millions of Americans."

The Texas senator gave a 20-minute speech during the fish fry banquet at Serb Hall. But he wasn't alone. The event included Walker, former Gov. Tommy Thompson, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who was standing in for Donald Trump.

Cruz, in praising Walker, cited the gov's fight with "union bosses" over Act 10.

"The courage and principle that Scott Walker and the people of Wisconsin demonstrated over and over and over again is exactly the courage and principle we need in Washington, D.C., to turn this country around," Cruz said. "Scott, thank you for your friendship."



Walker, who introduced Cruz, spent the first half of his 10-minute speech talking about his achievements as governor. He then compared himself to Cruz, telling the crowd the senator's father talks like and "does some of the same things" as Walker's father.

"We're both preachers' kids," Walker said. "We understand how our kids feel being the kids of a governor and a senator."

Walker then borrowed a line from his short-lived presidential campaign, saying, “Ted Cruz is not afraid to take on the status quo.”

Cruz was clearly the audience favorite at the event, which drew nearly 800 Republican supporters. Many guests wore Cruz or Kasich buttons, but a few carried Trump signs.

The crowd included numerous Wisconsin GOP elected officials. Guests stood up and cheered when Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke entered, wearing his trademark cowboy hat.

And one-time U.S. Senate hopeful Eric Hovde offered a toast.

“We may very well have a contested convention for the first time since 1948,” he said, after wishing Cruz and Kasich the “endurance” to remain in the race.

Kasich, who is Croatian, opened his 23-minute speech by joking about taking the stage in the city’s Serbian neighborhood.

“People wonder how could you bring Congress together and how could you get things done,” Kasich said. “But I just had the man that runs the Serbian Hall come to me and say, ‘My wife and I voted for you.’”

Kasich said he received a similar vote of confidence from a Serbian supporter when running for office in 1977.

“I did it twice,” he said. “I brought together the Serbians and the Croats. If you can do that, you can bring anybody together, believe me.”

Kasich, who drew moderate applause and some shouts of approval, stressed he has a compassionate approach to conservatism. He said he “got a call” from God to run for governor, and his tenure has focused on “leaving no one behind,” including the mentally ill, developmentally disabled and ex-offenders.

“I actually knew and worked with Ronald Reagan,” Kasich said. “What he taught me is you have to have strength when it comes to our national security, and you have to give people the incentive to work and the opportunity to rise.”

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin drew some snickers and eye-rolls throughout her 19-minute speech in support of Donald Trump. But she did get some applause when she mentioned Hillary Clinton and Benghazi.

After bemoaning “uncontrolled immigration” and the “wrong-headed visa market that has flooded the market with foreign workers,” Palin said Trump has forced other candidates to face immigration issues.

She accused other candidates of “actually asking for more immigrants -- even illegal immigrants -- welcoming them in, even inducing and seducing them with gift baskets ... of teddy bears and soccer balls.”

“Actions scream so much louder than a politician’s words,” she said.

On trade, Palin said, "Trump is the only one hot on this because he is the only one who understands the art of asking for the deal."

Palin made reference to Wisconsin-based Harley-Davidson, saying Reagan "saved the hog" by imposing a 45 percent tariff on Japanese motorcycles.



She said Trump's positions aren't radically anti-Republican, but she added, "Politicians have betrayed us over and over and over again – you deserve better."

Cruz basked in loud and continuous applause when he spoke. He blasted Trump for being "willing to compromise religious liberty" and President Barack Obama for "being unable to tell the difference between our friends and our enemies."

"For jihadists, January 2017 will bring a day of reckoning," Cruz said.

He drew his biggest applause when he vowed to "repeal every word of Obamacare," but the audience hesitated when he promised that young graduates "would get two, three, four, five job offers."

And the senator continued taking swipes at Trump, saying the businessman as president "would be a train wreck, and that's actually not fair to train wrecks."

-- *By Kay Nolan*

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016

10:02 PM

[Trump knocks Cruz, predicts win in Wisconsin primary](#)

WEST ALLIS -- Donald Trump lashed hard and often at competitor Ted Cruz during a Sunday night rally as he predicted a win in Wisconsin's primary on Tuesday.

"Wisconsin is really important," he said, during an hourlong speech in the gym of Nathan Hale High School. "If we can win Wisconsin on Tuesday, we're going to blow them out the rest of the way. If we can win Wisconsin, you're going to be so proud of this country."

Trump downplayed Cruz's event Sunday evening in Eau Claire with Gov. Scott Walker, U.S. Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Carly Fiorina. He also suggested the Texas senator was illegally running TV ads against him through a PAC, saying Cruz's "negative ads against me" are produced by "crooked people, they're dishonest people."

Trump also complained about Gov. John Kasich for staying in the race, saying he has only won one primary, in Kasich's home state of Ohio.

"Go to the convention and announce you want to be president," Trump said. "But you shouldn't be littering up the process, because that's what he's doing. It's really a disgrace. If he's doing it, then Marco

and all of these other guys should be just staying in. It's really not fair. He's one and 29 or 30 or something."

The speech was interrupted by protesters, including one who stood and shouted, "Trump, the people of West Allis reject you! They reject you!"

"Get him out," Trump said. Supporters shook their fists at the man as he was escorted out. A bit later, when another protester shouted, Trump said, "Isn't this fun?"



Trump drew applause when he talked about trade – an issue identified by many of the supporters waiting in line to see the businessman's speech.

"I'm going to bring your jobs back," he told the crowd.

Trump singled out Carrier, a maker of air-conditioning equipment, as an example of a corporation he'd be tough with in retaliation for moving jobs to Mexico. He said the president "is not supposed to be calling an air-conditioning company. But I do it so well and it's so easy." Trump

suggested he would sarcastically congratulate the head of Carrier on the move to Mexico before saying he buys a lot of their air conditioners, "I'm not buying any more." He would then tack on a tax of 35 percent on "every single air-conditioning unit that you make that comes into the United States."

"I'm going to say the same thing to Ford, and I'm going to say the same thing to other companies," he shouted, to loud applause.

In contrast, Trump predicted that if Cruz becomes president, he will be influenced by "Cruz lobbyists," who will say, "You can't do that, we raised a lot of money for you.

We want Carrier to be left alone." And that's the end of it," said Trump.

"With me, I didn't take any of their money, I don't want their money; I turned down tens of millions of dollars," adding, "I feel stupid doing it. My whole life is 'Take, take, take. Greedy, greedy, I want more, greedy! Now, I want more for the United States. I'm going to be taking for us."

-- By Kay Nolan

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016

9:12 PM

[Cruz says party uniting behind his campaign](#)

MILWAUKEE -- Ted Cruz tonight called his projected GOP primary victory in Wisconsin evidence the Republican Party is uniting behind his campaign.

Speaking at Serb Hall in Milwaukee, Cruz called it a bad day for both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, who was projected to lose Wisconsin to Bernie Sanders.

The Texas senator predicted he would win the Republican nomination either before or at the GOP convention in July, and he predicted victory over Clinton in fall. Cruz said his victory in Wisconsin shows his growing momentum in light of his recently capturing delegates in Utah, Colorado and North Dakota.



"Tonight, Wisconsin has lit a candle guiding the way forward," Cruz said to cheers from the crowd. "Tonight, we once again have hope for the future."

Cruz used the opportunity to take shots at Trump, saying the media three weeks ago said "Wisconsin was the perfect state for Donald Trump." That drew boos from the crowd.

But Cruz told the audience, which included Gov. Scott Walker and other GOP state legislators, the tide has turned in the GOP race for the nomination.

"Tonight is a turning point," Cruz said. "It is a rallying cry."

Ahead of Cruz taking the stage, Gov. Scott Walker called tonight's Wisconsin primary a "tremendous victory" for Cruz and a "turning point" in the election.

"We understand what it means to have principled, conservative leadership because we've done it in Wisconsin," said Walker, who endorsed Cruz.

"This victory is bigger than just Wisconsin," Walker said. "This is the night when we can look back and say that was the time that turned the tide of this election to bring Ted Cruz home to be the nominee of this party."

Cruz ended his 21-minute speech with a shout-out to Walker.

"And governor, I look forward to coming back to the state of Wisconsin this fall. And in November, for the first time since 1984, painting the Badger State bright Republican red," Cruz said.

"Hillary, here we come!"

-- ***Kay Nolan***

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

11:02 PM

[Cruz says entire country looking to Wisconsin](#)

PEWAUKEE -- Making his first public appearance in the state ahead of the April 5 presidential primary, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz said the "entire country is looking to Wisconsin" and he is neck-and-neck with Donald Trump here.



"Wisconsin has a megaphone and a platform for the country," told Charlie Sykes as part of the conservative talk show host's Insight 2016 event.

Cruz mentioned Trump repeatedly and got in several digs at the businessman.

"I think the American people are not interested in politicians bickering like children. For example, I have zero interest whatsoever in any parts of Donald Trump's anatomy," Cruz said, prompting laughter from the audience.

-- By Kay Nolan

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2016

2:47 PM

[Kasich tells Wauwatosa crowd he won't drop out before Wisconsin primary](#)

Ohio Gov. John Kasich told reporters today there's "zero chance" he will drop out of the presidential race before Wisconsin's primary election April 5.



"We've always been the little engine that can," said Kasich, standing next to former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, who gave Kasich a resounding endorsement. "We're going to keep moving."

Another former GOP Wisconsin governor, Scott McCallum, was also on hand to support Kasich. But when asked if he would seek Gov. Scott Walker's endorsement, Kasich said, "I have a message in to him, but I have no clue what he's going to do. I would love to have his support, but I can't tell you what his thinking is. Look, this is a guy who was in the arena; it's tough when you're in the arena and you leave the arena to try to figure out

what you're going to do."

Kasich spoke to reporters this morning following a town hall event with about 500 people at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Wauwatosa.

Kasich told the crowd he sees a path to the nomination through a contested convention. He also vowed he will be "nobody's vice president."

"We have a ways to go," he said. "Let me tell you what I expect to happen: Nobody is going to have enough delegates, and we're going to have a convention."

Kasich said he's the best candidate to handle foreign policy crises.

"I served 18 years on the Armed Forces Committee," he said. "When Brussels happened yesterday, I knew how to talk about it in a way that a leader should talk about it."

In a snub of rivals Sen. Ted Cruz and Donald Trump, Kasich continued, "It's not about patrolling neighborhoods. It's not about shutting our borders down. It is about having intelligence worldwide. It is about bringing a coalition together of our Muslim and Arab friends who find the actions of these extremists as abhorrent as we do."

A woman in the audience told Kasich, "My best friend's a Muslim. When people talk about patrolling them, it's personal."

Kasich replied, "Your friends in the Muslim community, they're going to have to work with us to destroy ISIS. They're going to have to call us if they're hearing in their community from people who have been radicalized. If what we tell them is drop dead, how in the heck are we supposed to get them to work with us?"

Thompson, whom Kasich called an "icon" for restructuring Wisconsin's welfare system, made a strong call for people to vote for the Ohio gov.

"We are Republicans, and we've got to select somebody who can beat Hillary Clinton," Thompson said.

Dismissing Kasich's last-place ranking in delegates, Thompson said, "They said Wisconsin couldn't beat Xavier. They said it couldn't be done. Less than a second to go, they throw a ball. Bronson Koenig goes up ... he fires away. What happens? We win. ... That's why we're here today because we've got a winner -- like Bronson Koenig, like the Wisconsin Badgers."

Kasich sidestepped a question from the audience about whether he'd support Donald Trump should Trump become the nominee. But he said he refuses to stoop to Trump's bombastic debate style.

"You can't have a battle like that," he said. "Wrestling in the mud is a mistake."

About a dozen representatives of AARP attended Kasich's town hall as part of a nationwide effort by the group to draw attention to concerns about Social Security.

Lisa Lampkins, of AARP Wisconsin, said she wants all of the presidential candidates "to spell out their plans to make sure Social Security is financially stable in the future."

"So far, of the remaining five candidates, four have at least talked about some specifics," she said, adding Donald Trump has said only that he'll take care of things.

AARP has not yet endorsed any of the candidates' positions, but at a minimum, the organization wants to keep Social Security benefits based on an individual's work record, adjusted for inflation and designed so a recipients cannot outlive their benefits, Lampkins said.

Privatizing Social Security, as U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan has suggested, is unacceptable, she said, noting that in an economic downturn, privatized retirement accounts could plummet.

Kasich has said he would incorporate "means testing" and possibly reduce benefits for higher-income seniors, but Lampkins said AARP wants to know how that would work.

"Would that make Social Security turn into a type of welfare program?" she asked.

-- By Kay Nolan

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016

10:11 PM

[Sanders challenges supporters to turn out April 5 to prove Walker's efforts to suppress vote failed](#)

MILWAUKEE -- U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders challenged supporters Tuesday to show Scott Walker the gov's plans to suppress the vote with measures such as voter ID have failed by turning out in droves for Wisconsin's presidential primary April 5.

Sanders drew wild applause as he slammed Walker on several issues, particularly voter ID, though he said the gov is not alone in his efforts across the country to make it harder to vote.

"I say to Gov. Walker and the other cowardly Republican governors, if you are afraid of a free and fair election, get out of politics, get another job," Sanders shouted to cheers and applause.

Sanders promised to be "exactly the opposite of Scott Walker," particularly on unions. Sanders said Walker wants to "destroy" the movement, while he promised to expand it, adding he believes in unions' right to negotiate good contracts.

Sanders also said while Walker has given tax breaks to corporations and cut education, he would expand education and require "corporate America start paying their share of taxes."

"Gov. Walker has received significant funds from the Koch brothers. And I want to see Citizens United overturned," he continued. "Gov. Walker has slashed funds for Planned Parenthood; I'm going to expand it.

"I'm sure there are areas we agree on, I just haven't seen them yet," Sanders said to laughter.



Sanders, who predicted he would win Wisconsin next week if there is significant turnout, also sought to highlight his differences with Dem rival Hillary Clinton.

Sanders decried the loss of manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin in recent decades, mentioning General Motors, Johnson Controls and Briggs and Stratton as example of companies that moved jobs to Mexico and other countries.

Sanders said Clinton supported virtually every one of what he called "disastrous trade agreements" that encouraged these corporate actions.

The Vermont senator waited until the end of his hourlong speech to mention Donald Trump, calling him out for his treatment of women, Mexicans and Muslims and likening Trump to "demagogues who always function by trying to divide us up and to scapegoat minorities."

Sanders refrained from name-calling the Republican front-runner; instead he made a word play on Trump's name.

"Coming together always trumps divisiveness," Sanders said. "Togetherness and supporting each other in our times of need always trumps selfishness. At the end of the day, love always trumps hatred."

-- *By Kay Nolan*

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2016

12:13 PM

[Clinton tells Milwaukee event it's important to rebuild trust with police, though 'bad apples' needed to be weeded off force](#)

MILWAUKEE -- Hillary Clinton told about 200 people packed into a Baptist Church in the city's Metcalfe Park neighborhood that "It's important to rebuild bonds of trust" between police and citizens.

"We've got to do a better job, both in working with our police and yes, retraining, and frankly, weeding out the bad apples," Clinton told the mostly African-American audience as she sat flanked by mothers who lost children to violence.



At the same time, Clinton stressed that, "Police need our support" and said most officers are trying to do the right thing, but are faced with difficult situations.

Clinton said if elected, she will look for ways to divert people from a life of crime and also promote more second-chance programs for people getting out of jail.

Clinton got in a dig at Bernie Sanders without naming him by saying her opponent voted for the "Charleston loophole" that allows someone to obtain a gun after three days, even if the background check is not completed.

Annette Nance-Holt, mother of 16-year-old Blair Holt, an honor student who died when gunfire erupted on a bus in Chicago, thanked Clinton "for reaching out to us" and added that "that other candidate has not reached out to us."

"I'm not going to give (my vote) to you just because you say you'll do free college. If my child is dead, he ain't going to college," Nance-Holt said to applause.

Joining Clinton at the front of the church were: U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, D-Milwaukee; Pastor Don Darius Butler; Nance-Holt; and Geneva Reed-Veal, mother of Sandra Bland, who died in a Texas jail after being arrested following a traffic stop.

Butler noted that the church is in the heart of what has been called Milwaukee's most dangerous neighborhood. He noted that recent homicides have occurred along the street and in an alley near the church.

"It is something that is all too real for many of us and we are happy that the matter has now risen to a level of national prominence in this campaign season," Butler said.

Clinton said the church is in "a ZIP code that has seen too many lost lives. She drew cheers and shouts of "That's right" and "Amen" when she said, "Every child deserves to have a healthy, happy life, regardless of the ZIP code where he or she is."

-- *By Kay Nolan*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015

4:01 PM

[Rubio vows to rebuild military, fire VA employees who aren't doing jobs](#)

PEWAUKEE -- GOP presidential hopeful Marco Rubio today vowed to rebuild the military and fire employees of the Veterans Administration "who just aren't doing their jobs."

The 44-year-old senator from Florida also called for ripping up the nuclear deal the Obama administration negotiated with Iran.



"As our world grows more dangerous, Barack Obama has weakened our military," Rubio said during a rally at the Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee.

Rubio sought to cast himself as decisive on foreign affairs, saying the U.S. needs a foreign policy of "moral

clarity." But he said Obama has left "our allies feeling betrayed and our adversaries feeling emboldened."

To underscore that, Rubio cited the Middle East, where he said there is only one "pro-American free enterprise democracy -- the state of Israel."

"We have a president who treats the prime minister of Israel with less respect than what he gives the ayatollah of Iran," Rubio said. "That's why on my first day in office, I will cancel this reckless deal with Iran."

Rubio said Iran is going to receive \$150 billion after sanctions are lifted under the nuclear deal, and he predicted the country "will use it to sponsor terrorists that kill Jews and kill Americans" and eventually will buy or build a nuclear warhead.

Rubio did not take questions from the media, but he spent 20 minutes posing for photos and shaking hands with supporters, about 300 of whom packed the hotel's grand ballroom.

-- *By Kay Nolan*

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015

5:50 PM

[Walker promises to be a 'fighter' as he formally kicks off presidential campaign](#)

WAUKESHA -- Gov. Scott Walker formally kicked off his long-anticipated campaign for the presidency today, promising to take nationwide his battles in Wisconsin fighting unions and other "big-government special interests."

Walker also pledged to take the fight to those who threaten America's safety around the globe and to stand up for the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, religious freedoms, and for the "healthy or sick, born or unborn."

"Americans deserve a president who will fight and win for them," Walker declared during a rally at the Waukesha County Expo Center.

The line echoed a theme Walker, 47, has used recently to differentiate himself from other GOP contenders in an increasingly crowded field. Though Walker is now the 15th Republican to formally declare a run for the party's presidential nomination, he has said some in the field have been good fighters but haven't won big battles, while others have won elections but haven't consistently taken on the big issues.

He addressed backers in the same building where he celebrated his June 2012 successful defeat of a recall attempt, an event that propelled him to national political prominence.

The governor reminded the crowd of his efforts to strip public employees in Wisconsin of most of their collective bargaining powers, a move that sparked the attempt to recall him.



And he sought to provide a sharp contrast to President Obama.

He pledged to repeal the Affordable Care Act and “out-of-control regulations that are like a wet blanket on the economy.” Walker also promised an “all-of-the-above” energy policy that includes approving the Keystone pipeline. He said he would push “power and money out of Washington and send it to our states and our schools” while lowering taxes.

To underscore his message on taxes, Walker recounted his shopping habits at Kohl’s -- a favorite line on the campaign trail -- but with a twist. As he often does, the governor said the company can thrive while offering customers deep discounts on its merchandise because of the volume it sells. Walker argued the government should take the same approach by broadening the base and increasing the number of people participating in the economy.

Walker said that kind of plan, based on an idea called the Laffer Curve, worked under President Reagan.

“Today, I call it the ‘Kohl’s Curve’ because I believe that you can spend your money far better than the government, and when we do, the economy will get a whole lot better,” he said.

Walker also emphasized national security. He recounted as a child tying ribbons around the tree in front of his house during the 444 days 52 Americans were held hostage in Iran. That group included Kevin Hermening, who grew up in Oak Creek and was in attendance.

“Kevin knows that Iran is not a place to do business with,” Walker said, promising to terminate a deal the Obama administration has been working on with Iranian leaders.

Instead, Walker pledged to use “crippling economic sanctions” and to persuade American allies to do the same. He also promised tough actions on Russia and China and to “start treating Israel like an ally.”

“The world must know that there is no greater friend and no worse enemy than the United States of America,” Walker said, prompting chants of “U.S.A!”

See Walker's [prepared remarks](#).

Walker's announcement: Setting the scene



Scott Walker's backers have been filing into the Waukesha County Expo Center ahead of this afternoon's announcement. Large screens are projecting old family photos of Walker and his family, as well as shots of him at campaign events.

It is the same site where Walker celebrated successfully beating back a recall attempt on June 5, 2012.

Wooden paneling has been mounted on large sections of the expo center's wall. Huge silver letters spelling out Walker's name -- with an American flag where the "e" should be -- fill the stage backdrop. Dozens of reporters from around the state and the country are setting up tripods, recorders, cameras and laptops in anticipation of the event. Bunting drapes the circular balconies surrounding the main floor, where a podium, perched at the end of a long blue-carpeted runway leading from the stage, awaits the governor.

Members of the audience on the fringes of the crowd appeared excited for Walker to take the stage, if weary of talking to members of the media at a rally for the governor's presidential announcement today. The throngs filed past dozens of news outlets, national and local, on the way to an already packed main floor.

Mark Eskritt of Hubertus said he intends to vote for Walker in the GOP primary, and expressed optimism at the governor's chances of winning the Republican nomination. He said he does not agree with Walker on everything, but can see his point of view on many issues.

"He's a very good politician," Eskritt said. "He's got his eye on the issues, and I think people are going to but into what he's saying."

-- By Kay Nolan and Samantha Nash

2:22 PM

[Dems rip Walker ahead of presidential announcement](#)

PEWAUKEE -- Dem officials today warned Scott Walker's record in Wisconsin of a lagging economy and a decimated educational system bodes poorly for what his presidency would look like.

Democratic National Committee Vice-Chair RT Rybak, state Chair Martha Lanning and state Rep. Mandela Barnes of Milwaukee blasted Walker hours ahead of his official presidential announcement.

"We want Americans to know just how disastrous he would be as a president," Lanning said. "Wisconsin has seen the largest shrinkage of middle class income in the nation, yet here he is today, announcing his candidacy for president of the United States."

Barnes warned Walker's plan for workers was to "work harder and make less money," citing his support of a measure to allow workers to put in a seven-day week and the repeal of prevailing wage laws for local projects.

"I have first-hand experience in the Legislature with Gov. Scott Walker and let me tell you that Gov. Scott Walker does not care about working people. He does not care about our state's future," Barnes said. "Scott Walker cares simply about Scott Walker."

-- *By Kay Nolan*