

**MTI VOTERS
2026 Fall Election Questionnaire**

1. Why are you running for elected office?

I am running for the Wisconsin State Assembly because states, in our federal system, have power to push back against an autocratic federal government. The Trump Administration's wrongful policies are too many to mention here, but I will work as a state legislator to offset these policies through legislation as much as possible. In addition, as New Glarus School Board president, I am no longer interested in simply complaining about the failure of the Republican Legislature to fund public schools. Rather, I want to take direct action as a state legislator to reverse 16 years of chronic and purposeful underfunding of public schools.

2. If elected, what are the three priority policies you will work to advance?

Public School Finance. First, I want to use a substantial portion of the state budget surplus to fund Special Education up to at least a 70% reimbursement rate for public schools, provide a substantial increase in per-pupil funding, remove or substantially revise school revenue limits, eliminate the school property tax credit for nonresident property owners, and repeal statewide private school tuition vouchers. Overall, I want to return more of the cost of funding public schools to the income tax (based on the ability to pay) and off the local property tax. This is intended to end the constant need for school boards to seek operating referendums. This proposed school finance package would be combined with repealing Act 10 and moving forward legislation ensuring the right of public employees to collectively bargain.

Healthcare. Second, I would work to expand Medicaid/Badgercare. I would also work towards creating a public option.

I will note here that I have worked with MTI in the past to ensure Group Health Cooperative (GHC) remained locally-owned, nonprofit, and focused on the cooperative member-owners. I was part of a dissenting group of members who opposed GHC's privatization and I was elected to the GHC Board of Director with MTI's active support. This led to the CEO's resignation and a return to member governance.

Affordable Childcare. Third, I would work to restore the \$120 million funding support that expired on June 30, 2026. I would also explore additional funding support to make childcare more accessible and affordable for Wisconsin parents and guardians.

3. What are your three most important education issues?

First, public school funding as identified above in question #1. Second, I will work to ensure there is additional supportive funding for underperforming public schools. These schools need support rather than punishment. Third, I will support repeal of Act 10 and work to restore the right of public employees to collectively bargain.

4. How does your role relate to public school funding and what changes, if any, would you make to how public schools are funded?

I am the New Glarus School Board President and see firsthand what the Republican Legislature has done to purposefully damage our public schools. In response, I would move forward the public education funding package identified in the answer to question #2 above.

5. Would you oppose any efforts for the state to take over public school districts or school board?

Yes, locally-governed school boards are the most responsive to local public school stakeholders.

6. If applicable, will you support legislation to restore full collective bargaining rights to all municipal workers?

Yes, absolutely, Talking at a personal level, I am a Professor of Practice – Law/Local Governmetn Law Educator with U.W.-Madison Extension. I want like to see my collective bargaining rights restored.

7. Do you accept funds from political action committees?

Yes.

Candidate Name: Bill Oemichen, Democratic Candidate for Assembly District 50, P.O. Box 71, New Glarus, Wisconsin 53574 (phone 608/576-6101)

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