

Wisconsin State Assembly Primary Candidates, 22nd District
Primary election date: Tuesday, Sept. 9

AFE spoke with the candidates running for the seat being vacated by Rep. Sheldon Wasserman about their reasons for seeking election to the state assembly. Read their responses below.

Name: Sandra Pasch (Democrat)

Campaign Web Site: www.sandrapasch.com

Residence: Whitefish Bay

Education: UW- Madison BS, Nursing; Medical College of Wisconsin, MA Bioethics;
University of Rochester MS, Mental Health-Psychiatric Nursing

Professional Background: Assistant Professor of Psychiatric Nursing at Columbia College of Nursing for past 15 years.

Family: Married to Allan; 3 young adult children.

Past experience which qualifies you for office: 20-year resident of the district. Involved in the community at all levels, including PTA, village initiatives, Advocates for Education of Whitefish Bay. Started two effective mental health community programs (Crisis Intervention Team and Crisis Intervention Partners), with small amount of money and large numbers of volunteers.

Main issues facing the district and what you would do about them if elected: *Three main issues are health care, public education and environmental issues.* The health-care crisis is making larger businesses less competitive, and small business simply can't afford the health-care costs for employees. Newly graduated young adults can not find or pay for coverage. No one can afford the care they need. We need reform on multiple levels and we need to bring down the cost of health care.

Most people moved to the district for the schools. They see the erosion of programs due to state budget cuts. We need to level the playing field by bringing up the weaker districts, not by eroding the stronger ones. We need to re-look at the funding formula. We know what is needed to provide a good education, and we need to find a way to pay for it.

In broader terms, overall health and environmental issues are huge. We need to improve air quality, preserve the lake, improve our storm sewers and preserve the resources we have.

Name: Yash P. Wadhwa (Republican)

Campaign Web Site: <http://yashforassembly.com/>

Residence: Glendale

Education: BS University of Delhi, India Civil Engineering; MS University of Pittsburgh civil/environmental engineering.

Professional Background: Director of Operations, Milwaukee office of Strand Associates, Inc., a consulting engineering firm. Prior to that, I was the President/CEO and owner of Larsen Engineers, S.C. for 21 years.

Family: Married to wife Usha for 36 years; two adult sons.

Past experience which qualifies you for office: I have 37 years of experience in the consulting engineering field, including 21 years of owning a small business. Over the years, I have been extensively involved in a leadership role in various professional, civic and community organizations. I currently serve on the board of directors of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, Milwaukee Public Museum, MPTV Friends, Hindu Temple of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Coalition of Asian Indian Organizations, and the Milwaukee North Shore Rotary Club. I have also received numerous awards and honors from the business community.

Main issues facing the district and what you would do about them if elected: Our state is in the midst of a fiscal crisis and I believe Wisconsin must get its fiscal house in order. We must grow our economy, welcome new businesses, and create new jobs. We need to adopt creative and balanced approaches to make state government effective and accountable to our taxpayers. My background as a professional engineer, businessman, and community leader gives me the necessary tools and skills to study and solve the problems facing Wisconsin.

If elected, the following three goals would be high priorities: *Tax relief for homeowners and small businesses.* I believe in the need to set common-sense limits on government spending, balance the state budget, and establish reasonable property taxes.

Grow the economy. I believe we need to create more jobs, improve education, and improve workforce development and training.

Keep neighborhoods safe. I want to improve the safety of our children, support local police in fighting crime, and establish stricter penalties for repeat offenders.