

Assessment Paper

The Rematch Between Huebsch and Hancock

No, it's not déjà vu. The race for Wisconsin's 94th Assembly District between Mike Huebsch and Cheryl Hancock is a matchup we have seen before. On Tuesday, the two candidates made their case to voters in a packed house at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

During Tuesday's debate, the two spent time distinguishing themselves from one-other in a classic debate between liberal and conservative. Hancock favors passenger rail between Chicago and the Twin Cities via La Crosse, stating that it would create 9,700 jobs while Huebsch says it is simply too expensive and that we cannot afford it. Huebsch opposes a requirement that Wisconsin utilities generate a quarter of their own power from renewable sources by 2025, which Hancock supports. Huebsch does support lifting a moratorium on new nuclear plants. Huebsch voted last session for a bill to regulate on-farm scale of unpasteurized dairy stating that he would support it again while Hancock was noncommittal. Hancock seeks to create jobs through investments in good public education, health care, recreation, and arts that would create an environment attractive to businesses. Huebsch argued that lower corporate and income taxes are necessary.

Huebsch identified himself as a classic conservative, calling for smaller government but Hancock insisted that Huebsch had plenty of time to get that done and it's time for change. Hancock painted Huebsch as a career politician accusing him of dodging responsibility for problems while blaming others during his 16 years in the Assembly. Huebsch retaliated blaming Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle for many of the state's current economic problems and the Legislature's failures.

This debate was the second debate in a series of three legislative forums. Events of this kind contribute to the education of voters, which allows them to make informed decisions. I learned the fundamental principles and philosophies that separate Republican Mike Huebsch, and Democrat Cheryl Hancock. It's healthy to have political differences and a philosophical debate. Clearly Huebsch and Hancock don't share the same political party or philosophy but it's healthy for democracy.