



City of Cambridge

13.

IN CITY COUNCIL

November 16, 1998

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
COUNCILLOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
MAYOR DUEHAY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that Tammy Baldwin has been elected to the United States House of Representatives from the state of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Baldwin is Wisconsin's first woman in Congress; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Baldwin is America's first open lesbian to win a congressional election; and

WHEREAS: Ms. Baldwin, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, who served as a state legislator for six years, sees health care reform as a central issue; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record congratulating Tammy Baldwin on her election to the United States House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Tammy Baldwin on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council November 16, 1998.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

KT

13

Whereas: It has come to the attention of this City Council that Tammy Baldwin has been elected ~~and~~ to the United States House of Representatives from the state of Wisconsin; and

Whereas: Mrs. Baldwin is Wisconsin's first woman in Congress; and

Whereas: Mrs. Baldwin is America's first open lesbian to win a congressional election; and

Whereas: Mrs. Baldwin, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, who served as a state legislator for six years, sees health care reform to ~~improvement~~ as a central issue; and therefore be it

Resolved: That the C-C go on record congratulating Tammy Baldwin on her election to the United States House of Representatives; and be it further

Resolved: SEB

Marg: please prep resolution

Subj: News #2 for 11/6/98
Date: 98-11-06 16:17:43 EST
From: MassGLDems
To: MassGLDems
BCC: KTCouncil

<http://www.jsonline.com/election98/news/1106baldwin.asp>

Baldwin says she's 'thrilled and proud'
State's first woman in Congress is eager to tackle issues, break stereotypes

By Katherine M. Skiba
of the Journal Sentinel staff

November 06, 1998

Madison -- Tammy Baldwin's campaign headquarters were as rumpled as any other on the morning after. But victory -- along with the fragrance of a dozen red, long-stemmed roses -- was in the air.

Baldwin awoke the day after the election, after five hours of sleep, her place in the history of Wisconsin, and the nation, intact.

The 36-year-old Madison native will be the first woman the state has sent to Congress, not to mention America's first open lesbian to win a congressional election.

"Excited is an understatement. I am thrilled and proud," declared Baldwin, a state legislator for six years.

Phones jangled. Well-wishers streamed in. Another bouquet turned up. And her campaign manager voiced plans to unwind with daiquiris on Hawaii's black sand beaches.

It was back to work for Baldwin, who, in a unadorned navy suit and pearl earrings, strode to the state Capitol, Tuesday's "surreal" victory beginning to sink in.

Baldwin told reporters there Wednesday that in Congress she would try to bring health care reform "back into focus . . . center stage and front burner again."

Citing new Census Bureau estimates that 43.4 million Americans lack health insurance, Baldwin said she "can't imagine more public officials aren't talking about that."

She mentioned proposals to provide health coverage for uninsured children and to allow older people to buy into Medicare earlier -- but said more needed to be done.

On the issue of President Clinton's possible impeachment, Baldwin said she would have supported a time-limited House Judiciary Committee probe into the intern sex scandal, not a "fishing expedition."

On the issue of cutting taxes, she dismissed an "election-year tax break" before the Social Security Trust Fund was restored.

Then Baldwin confronted another issue: Baldwin.

How does it feel to be Wisconsin's first woman bound for Congress?

"I am very, very excited," she said, telling of a 9-year-old girl on a school trip to the state Capitol in the waning days of the Assembly session. The girl asked Baldwin to point out her seat -- and then tried it out.

"From this day forward, there is no young girl or young woman who will look at the faces of the congressional delegation and not think, 'That's what I could be when I grow up.' "

How does it feel to be America's first acknowledged gay woman in Congress?

Baldwin called it "symbolically powerful" but said it was more important to address issues -- she named health care, Social Security and education -- and in the process "shatter myths and stereotypes that a wide range of people have."

What myths? a reporter asked.

"I don't know. What do you think a gay and lesbian person is?" Baldwin said, causing people to laugh as she turned the tables.

Baldwin, in fact, is frank about her sexual orientation. She discussed her upbringing, career and live-in significant other back at campaign headquarters.

For 3 1/2 years, Baldwin has had as her partner Lauren Azar, 37, an environmental lawyer with Michael Best & Friedrich. Azar had no formal position in Baldwin's hard-fought campaign, for, as the congresswoman-elect put it, "Her strongest role was being a grounding force in my life when the chaos of campaign life abounded."

Baldwin was born in Madison on Feb. 11, 1962. Her mother, Pam Bin-Rella, who lives in Minneapolis, was a University of Wisconsin student when Baldwin was born. When Baldwin was 2 months old, Bin-Rella moved back into her parents' home in Shorewood Hills, an exclusive suburb along Lake Mendota.

Bin-Rella, then an anti-war and civil rights activist, now working for an employee assistance program, finished a social work degree while sharing child-rearing chores with her parents.

Baldwin's maternal grandfather, now deceased, was David Green, a New York City native and PhD biochemist who headed UW's Institute for Enzyme Research. Her grandmother, now 92, met Green in her native England while he studied at Cambridge University. The grandmother later was the UW theater department's head costume designer.

Baldwin called her grandmother "a tremendous influence, incredibly creative" -- though asked that her name not be mentioned in deference to her age.

Baldwin never knew her father. He died in 1986 from a heart attack while hiking in Colorado.

Most of her grammar school years were spent at Shorewood Hills Elementary School. Briefly she attended Mendota Elementary in Madison. Baldwin gained

a stepfather when her mother married, though the couple later divorced.

Baldwin was bitten by the political bug at Van Hise Middle School, now Velma Hamilton Middle School, where she was student council vice president.

She went to Madison West High School, graduating at the top of her class of 510, no small feat in a place crowded with professors' kids. She was yearbook editor and a member of the homecoming court.

Harvard was her first choice for college. She wound up on its waiting list but never got the call. Her second choice was Smith College in Northampton, Mass., one of the so-called "Five Sisters" colleges. Her majors there: math and political science.

As a junior, she first realized she was in love with another woman. With a supportive circle of friends and relatives, "coming out" was not difficult, she said.

She graduated in 1984, returned to Madison and interned for then-Gov. Tony Earl. She researched gender pay equity for him, comparing the state salaries of Capitol lawn keepers with hospital nurses.

She found mentors, too, one being Hannah Rosenthal, then head of the Wisconsin Women's Council and now a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services official. Rosenthal's husband, Rick Phelps, fell to Baldwin in a tough September primary.

Baldwin was interested in public policy, unsure whether she would seek office, work for an officeholder or sign up with an agency such as the Department of Justice. She ran a campaign for an aldermanic candidate, who was defeated.

Her next step? The University of Wisconsin Law School, where she was an average student. Small wonder. Baldwin juggled law studies with lawmaking, having been elected in April 1986 -- at age 24 -- to the Dane County Board. Simultaneously she took an interim appointment on the Madison Common Council.

She served four terms on the board, then moved to the state Assembly for three terms. Among her proudest moments, she authored a new law requiring statewide candidates to file campaign-finance reports electronically, so the public has computer access.

Her biggest Assembly disappointment? The enactment of a 24-hour waiting period for abortions in Wisconsin. She is an abortion-rights stalwart.

Baldwin, in answer to a question, said she supported same-sex marriages. Families are the building blocks of society, and strong families make strong communities, she said.

She plans to keep her home on Madison's east side and commute to D.C., beginning with a congressional orientation this month.

She credits nearly 3,000 volunteers with her 53%-47% win against Republican Josephine Musser, 47, the former state insurance commissioner. Baldwin's supporters included the young, as well as gays and lesbians. She said she would be a congresswoman for all constituents, while noting that as a lesbian she also would be a voice for people who have felt "ostracized by their democracy."

EMILY's List, which funds Democratic women candidates who favor abortion rights, played key roles too, helping train Baldwin (who has never lost an election) and her top staffers. In addition, EMILY's national membership kicked in perhaps a quarter-million dollars to the race, said Paul Devin, her campaign manager. In all, her spending in the primary and general elections will total about \$1.4 million.

Devin, 34, called Baldwin bright, articulate, focused and strong-willed. Any faults? "Yeah," he quipped, eyeing her impeccable ash-blond mane. "Her hair never moves."

With that, the congresswoman-to-be prepared for a TV interview and did what none of the state's congressmen are wont to do.

She freshened her lipstick.

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LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Kevin Ivers
November 5, 1998 (202) 347-5306 X12

GOP GETS 32% OF GAY VOTE IN HOUSE RACES

Gay Voting Block Nearly Identical to Size, Party Choices of Hispanics;
Exceeds Asian, Jewish Vote in Size, Three Times More Republican than
Blacks

(WASHINGTON) Gay voters turned out in the 1998 elections, making up at least 4% of the total vote and giving a third of their votes to Republican

House candidates, according to a national Voter News Service exit poll reported by MSNBC (http://decision98.msnbc.com/exit/exitpoll_N.htm).

This was nearly identical to Hispanic voters, who made up 5% of the total

vote and gave 35% of their votes to the GOP. The exit poll relied on respondents who willingly identified as gay to a pollster, so the total gay vote is likely to be greater than 4%.

As a voting block, gays outnumbered Jewish and Asian voters and cast more

votes for GOP House candidates than any other minority group polled except

Hispanics. According to national voter turnout figures from VNS and analyst Curtis Gans, estimating that between 36% and 37% of eligible voters

went to the polls, approximately 1 million gays voted for Republican House

candidates in 1998, compared to 1.2 million Hispanics, 800,000 African Americans, 460,000 Jewish Americans, and 300,000 Asian Americans. In a cross-tabulating comparison, 1.8 million Americans who said they were most motivated by the Clinton sex scandal voted Republican.



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Consent Order #13

1262R

Councillor Triantafillou re: congratulations
to Tammy Baldwin on being elected to
the United States House of Representatives
from the state of Wisconsin.

In City Council November 16, 1998

ORDER ADOPTED