



Get the Facts

Statement	Support
<p>Rebecca Cooke is the best candidate to beat Derrick Van Orden in November. She has lived the challenges facing our communities while Van Orden is trying to control your life with his extreme positions. She has earned the endorsements of unions, local leaders, farmers, small business owners, and national organizations including Defend the Vote, Tomorrow’s Jobs PAC, Blue Dog PAC, New Democratic Coalition Action Fund, and WelcomePAC</p>	<p>“Endorsements,” cookeforwisconsin.com, accessed 7/10/2024</p>
<p>Democratic Primary Voters who watch La Crosse/Eau Claire broadcast, and district wide cable, steaming, digital, and OTT need to see and hear:</p>	<p>--</p>
<p>Rebecca Cooke has lived the challenges facing many in our community growing up on a 6th generation dairy farm</p>	<p>“Cooke Campaign: Blue Dog PAC endorses Rebecca Cooke against Derrick Van Orden in WI-03,” WisPolitics, 12/20/2023</p> <p>Today the Blue Dog PAC announced its first endorsements of the 2024 election. The Blue Dogs are throwing their support behind Adam Frisch in Colorado’s 3rd District and Rebecca Cooke in Wisconsin’s 3rd District.</p> <p>Adam is a local businessman and former city councilman who has worked for two decades to create jobs in his community. Rebecca is a 6th generation Wisconsinite raised on an Eau Claire dairy farm, milking cows and showing cattle from a young age.</p>
<p>and working as a waitress, small business owner and non-profit leader that helped open 50 Western Wisconsin businesses. While politicians in Washington play partisan games, Rebecca doesn't care who gets the credit, as long as things get done.</p>	<p>“Rebecca Cooke believes her ‘working class’ values can flip 3rd Congressional District blue,” Henry Redman, Wisconsin Examiner, 3/20/2024</p> <p>The previous owner of an Eau Claire small business, Cooke is from a dairy farming family. She runs a nonprofit aimed at helping women-owned businesses in a number of Wisconsin counties and even as the campaign heats up, continues to waitress three nights a week.</p> <p>“Meet Rebecca Cooke,” CookeforWisconsin.com, accessed 7/10/2024</p> <p>...</p> <p>Rebecca went to work electing Democrats to public office around the country before coming home to Eau Claire and using her savings to open a small retail business – Red’s Mercantile – that sourced goods from independent makers locally and throughout the country. Looking to help other local entrepreneurs she founded the Red Letter Grant in 2016, a nonprofit that supports</p>

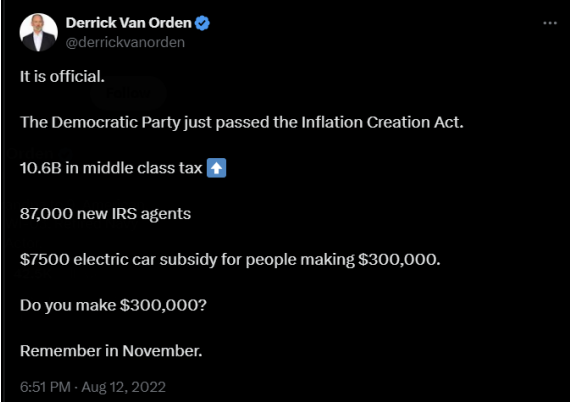
	<p>and empowers female entrepreneurs by providing start-up capital, technical assistance and authentic networking opportunities throughout a ten county region of western Wisconsin. Within five years, the organization has helped launch 23 women-owned businesses.</p>
<p>Van Orden is not fit to hold office. He bragged about sexually harassing young women subordinates in the military,</p>	<p><u>"GOP candidate once bragged about showing a man's 'ball sack' to unsuspecting women," Amanda Terkel, HuffPost, 8/11/2021</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>But while Republicans have said they want 2024 to be <u>a year with GOP women leading the way</u> back to a majority in the House, Van Orden has a history of controversial remarks about women.</p> <p>In 2015, Van Orden published "Book of Man: A Navy SEAL's Guide to the Lost Art of Manhood," about the lessons he learned from being a Navy SEAL. In the book, as the La Crosse Tribune <u>reported</u> in 2020, Van Orden describes an incident where he surprised two unsuspecting women by showing them a lieutenant's swollen genitals (his "ball sack huge as a cantaloupe").</p> <p>Van Orden and the male lieutenant were receiving treatment at a medical facility for poison oak, which he said had strange effects on the body — including enlarging genitalia.</p> <p>He said the lieutenant was sitting behind a little curtain, "spread eagle, ball sack huge as a cantaloupe," when he spotted two "young girls in their early twenties" whom he describes as "cute." He approached them and said, "Could I ask you something?"</p> <p>Van Orden writes: <i>After walking them over to the outside of the lieutenant's location, I whipped the curtain back. "Have you ever seen anything like this?" I asked. They gasped in horror as they saw the LT in all of his glory. I'm sure they never wanted to have anything do with a man ever again.</i></p> <p>In 2020, Van Orden told the La Crosse Tribune that in the passage in the book, he "was instructing two junior Medical Corps officers in recognition and treatment" — even though he never identifies the two "cute girls" as medical officers.</p> <p>"I discussed treatment modalities used to approach the problem set and the pharmacological interventions utilized to ensure that the SEAL officer could maintain a patent airway," he said in a statement.</p>
<p>harassed a library employee over a book display he didn't like,</p>	<p><u>"Library staff felt 'threatened' after GOP candidate complained about Pride Month display," Olivia Herken, La Crosse Tribune, 8/22/2021</u></p> <p>Staff at the Prairie du Chien Memorial Library said they felt threatened and intimidated after Republican congressional candidate Derrick Van Orden complained about displays celebrating Pride Month.</p> <p>Van Orden, who recently moved to Prairie du Chien, visited the library June 17 and began to "aggressively" question the pride display in the library's children's section, a staff member said in an interview last Tuesday, adding that Van Orden eventually</p>

	<p>obtained a library card and checked out all but one book from the display.</p> <p>"It was chaos," said Kerrigan Trautsch, 18, of Eastman, who works as a page at the library. She spoke to the Tribune on behalf of her colleagues. She is a member of the LGBTQ community and was 17 at the time of the incident.</p> <p>...</p> <p>On June 17, Kerrigan was in a back room with a coworker when she began to hear "words being exchanged" out front between a man and another colleague.</p> <p>"I started to realize that his voice was starting to raise. So I walked out there to one of my coworkers and I started to realize that this is not a good situation," she said.</p> <p>At the time, Kerrigan did not know that the man was Van Orden or that he was a congressional candidate.</p> <p>She described Van Orden as angry, and said he used words such as "disgusting," adding that the books offended him and that taxpayers should not have to see the selection of books. He said the information in the books — many of them fictional picture books for children — was "incorrect," Kerrigan recalled.</p> <p>He was specifically upset with the 2018 book "A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo," which is a parody of a book written by former Vice President Mike Pence's wife and daughter about his real-life pet rabbit. The fictional bestseller is a picture book that aims to combat Pence's anti-LGBTQ views by detailing the same-sex romance between Marlon Bundo and another rabbit.</p> <p>The Tribune obtained the statement of concern that Van Orden filed with the library, where he said the book was "historically inaccurate" and called for it to be removed from the shelf.</p>
<p>and even screamed profanities at teenage staffers for taking photos in the Capitol.</p>	<p>"Rep. Van Orden gets bipartisan scolding after he cursed at teen Senate pages," Juliana Kim, NPR, 7/29/2023</p> <p>Rep. Derrick Van Orden, a freshman Republican from Wisconsin, said he was enraged after witnessing a group of high school-age Senate pages "defiling" the Capitol and treating the building like a "frat house common room."</p> <p>What were the teenagers exactly doing? Briefly lying on the floor to snap photos of the historic Rotunda dome.</p> <p>On Wednesday night, Senate pages, who help assist day-to-day operations at the Capitol, were touring the Capitol as part of their last week of service, Punchbowl News first reported. To capture a photo of the ceiling, some pages positioned themselves and their camera on the floor.</p> <p>That's when Van Orden walked in.</p> <p>According to a transcript written by one of the pages and obtained by The Hill, Van Orden said, "Wake the f--- up you little s----" and "Get the f--- out of here. You are defiling the space." He reportedly also called the teenagers "jackasses" and "lazy s----."</p>

	<p>Since the incident, the congressman has refused to apologize for his outburst — insisting that he was protecting the integrity of the Capitol Rotunda.</p>
<p>He has said society would function better if women didn't work</p>	<p><u>"GOP candidate once bragged about showing a man's 'ball sack' to unsuspecting women," Amanda Terkel, HuffPost, 8/11/2021</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>Van Orden has also criticized the 2016 decision to allow women to become Navy SEALs, saying it was a <u>"political decision"</u> but not a good "business decision" in a recent interview.</p> <p>"The ability to get enough women through training isn't really — <u>it's not worth the end</u>," he said on June 3 on "The Vicki McKenna Show." "Once you have a person in the military, your career is planned for 30 years. And so, women take different breaks. If they want to have children, that's fantastic. We encourage that. That's a two-year break."</p> <p>"When the woman is on her two-year break, someone has to fill that void," he went on. "And that would be a man who has to work up, deploy and leave his family for that two-year period of time. And that's quite frankly — it's not a good business decision."</p> <p>Van Orden has been outspoken about the role of traditional family structures, expressing admiration for "aboriginal cultures" because women would stay home and focus on child-rearing for the first six years of a child's life. In a September 2020 interview, he drew a connection between the murder rate in "advanced cultures" and women having jobs.</p> <p>"If you look at the murder rate, the theft rate, all these things that we track as metrics in our society, in our advanced cultures — we are more inclined to violence being in our advanced cultures than we look at these aboriginal cultures," he said. "And I think it's because when you do have the ability to have <u>a mom that's at home</u>, that's taking care of — and we've got to remember, only females are capable of growing a child and giving birth."</p> <p>"When you grow that bond with a child to the mother and allow the father to do more external things, providing for that mother so that she doesn't have to go to work outside of the village or outside of the home, it allowed that bond to grow between the mother and the child, which really humanizes the child more," he added. "And then the child can look towards the father that's doing a more traditional provision of sustenance."</p>
<p>and has said it's not worth getting women through military training.</p>	<p><u>"GOP candidate once bragged about showing a man's 'ball sack' to unsuspecting women," Amanda Terkel, HuffPost, 8/11/2021</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>Van Orden has also criticized the 2016 decision to allow women to become Navy SEALs, saying it was a <u>"political decision"</u> but not a good "business decision" in a recent interview.</p> <p>"The ability to get enough women through training isn't really — <u>it's not worth the end</u>," he said on June 3 on "The Vicki McKenna Show." "Once you have a person in the military, your</p>

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<p>Rebecca Cooke believes women should make their own healthcare decisions, not politicians.</p>	<p>"Priorities," CookeforWisconsin.com, accessed 7/10/2024</p> <p>As a college student, I relied on organizations like Planned Parenthood as my healthcare option for annual exams. I am a firm believer that every person should have the right to make the best decision for themselves about if, when, and how to start or grow a family, free from political or governmental interference. In Congress, I will always protect reproductive healthcare and the personal freedoms of all Wisconsinites.</p>
<p>She will fight to restore Roe v Wade and stop politicians like Derrick Van Orden who support of banning abortion even in the case of rape or incest.</p>	<p>"GOP U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden calls on Wisconsin lawmakers to pass exceptions to abortion ban, consider 15-week law," Molly Beck, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 4/14/2023</p> <p>In May 2020, as he was campaigning against then-Democratic U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, Van Orden said he opposed any access to abortions, including for victims of rape and incest.</p> <p>"You can't heal that evil (of rape) by adding more on it and killing someone — a human being that can only be described as the most innocent amongst us — is just compounding the evil of the rape of the incest," Van Orden said in a separate interview on WSAU in 2020.</p>
<p>His position even risks women's access to IVF and birth control.</p>	<p>"Alabama's IVF ruling is spotlighting the anti-abortion movement's long game," John Hanna, Geoff Mulvihill, AP, 2/24/2024</p> <p>The Alabama court decision spotlighted the anti-abortion movement's long-standing goal of giving embryos and fetuses legal and constitutional protections on par with those of the women carrying them. But abortion rights advocates see proposals granting even limited protections to embryos and fetuses as potentially having broader implications.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Ziegler, who's working on a book about the push for fetal rights, said such broad measures are likely to be unpopular with voters who want to protect abortion access or in vitro fertilization for women who have trouble conceiving.</p> <p>"IVF Is Still Under Threat From a Slew of Proposed US State Laws," Kristen V. Brown, Kelsey Bulter, Madlin Mekelburg, Bloomberg, 3/19/2024</p> <p>Indeed, there's a movement happening across US states to bestow the idea of "personhood" on embryos or fetuses. The goal is to ban abortion, but these laws could also threaten IVF. This year alone, state lawmakers have introduced 26 bills that ban abortion by establishing fetal personhood, according to the Guttmacher Institute's state policy tracker. That's five times the amount in all of 2023 and the most ever in a single year since the institute started tracking it. These types of laws can provide the</p>

	<p>backbone for abortion bans and have other consequences like potentially stopping IVF or criminalizing miscarriage.</p> <p>...</p> <p>"Is it possible to have effective IVF and personhood exist?" said Mary Ziegler, a law professor at University of California at Davis who specializes in reproductive rights. "Probably not."</p> <p>Alabama showed just how the enforcement of personhood laws could jeopardize IVF. After the state Supreme Court ruled frozen embryos are people in a wrongful death case involving an IVF clinic, fertility clinics around the state halted treatments. Seeing the backlash, the state legislature rushed to pass a separate law to protect IVF providers. But the state didn't change the personhood language in its constitution, leaving clinics still vulnerable to future legal action.</p> <p><u>"What would overturning Roe mean for birth control? Sarah McCammon, NPR, 5/11/2022</u></p> <p>Overturing Roe v. Wade could have implications for more than access to abortion; medical and legal experts say it could open the door to restrictions on other types of reproductive health care.</p> <p>"To say that we are incredibly concerned would, I think, actually be putting it mildly," said Dr. Kavita Arora, chair of the ethics committee at the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists.</p> <p>Arora said the decision could have far-reaching implications for other types of care including birth control, emergency contraception known as Plan B, trans-affirming healthcare, and fertility treatments such as in vitro fertilization, which can produce leftover embryos.</p>
<p>Van Orden said that rape and incest victims were quote compounding the evil if they got an abortion</p>	<p><u>"GOP U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden calls on Wisconsin lawmakers to pass exceptions to abortion ban, consider 15-week law," Molly Beck, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 4/14/2023</u></p> <p>In May 2020, as he was campaigning against then-Democratic U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, Van Orden said he opposed any access to abortions, including for victims of rape and incest.</p> <p>"You can't heal that evil (of rape) by adding more on it and killing someone — a human being that can only be described as the most innocent amongst us — is just compounding the evil of the rape of the incest," Van Orden said in a separate interview on WSAU in 2020.</p>
<p>and compared abortion to genocide.</p>	<p><u>"GOP congressional candidates oppose virus mandates, impeachment," Eric Lindquist, Leader Telegram, 8/7/2020</u></p> <p>Van Orden also said he opposes ending qualified immunity for officers as well as calls to defund the police. Instead, he pledged to work as hard as he can, if elected, to defund Planned Parenthood and stressed his belief that life begins at conception and that the number of abortions in the U.S. amounts to "genocide."</p>
<p>Rebecca Cooke has seen our health care system fail firsthand. Growing up she did not always have health care</p>	<p>--</p>

<p>coverage and her aging parents struggle to afford dental care and life-saving cancer drugs. To help Wisconsinites she will fight to expand the \$35 insulin cap and limit the cost of high demand medication for everyone.</p>	
<p>While under Van Orden’s watch our local hospitals have closed</p>	<p><u>“Hospital closure in Eau Claire has crushed staff’s ‘hopes and dreams’” Olivia Herken, Wisconsin Independent, 4/25/2024</u></p> <p>Sacred Heart officially closed its doors on March 22, along with St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chippewa Falls, nearly a month earlier than first stated. Nineteen clinics owned by Prevea Health are also closing, all for financial reasons, leaving the Chippewa Valley community and the health system’s employees reeling.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Many of Sheldon’s former colleagues are also leaving the area to find work, she said, moving to Rochester, Minneapolis or Madison, or taking traveling nursing positions. Others have taken jobs they don’t necessarily like just to stay in the Eau Claire area. Sheldon’s chiropractor told her she was their ninth client that was moving out of the area because of the hospital closing.</p>
<p>and he still wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act.</p>	<p><u>“Issues,” VanOrdenforCongress.com, accessed 7/10/2024</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>Improving Healthcare and Reducing Costs</p> <p>Derrick will work to make sure individuals with preexisting conditions are protected when Obamacare is fully repealed and a new system is implemented allowing for true competition in healthcare, driving costs down.</p>
<p>What’s more, Van Orden opposed the bill that capped the cost of insulin at 35 dollars for seniors and allowed Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug costs.</p>	<p><u>Tweet, Derrick Van Orden, 8/12/2022</u></p>  <p><u>“How has Wisconsin changed since the Inflation Reduction Act?” Corrinne Hess, Wisconsin Public Radio, 8/17/2023</u></p> <p>...</p> <p>But the bill isn’t universally supported. Every Republican in Wisconsin’s Congressional delegation voted against the Inflation Reduction Act. And while Derrick Van Orden wasn’t a member of Congress at the time, he <u>tweeted his opposition to the bill</u>.</p> <p><u>“Inflation Reduction Act and Medicare,” Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 9/12/2023</u></p> <p>The Inflation Reduction Act provides meaningful financial relief for millions of people with Medicare by improving access to</p>

	<p>affordable treatments and strengthening the Medicare Program both now and in the long-run.</p> <p>The new drug law makes improvements to Medicare that will expand benefits, lower drug costs, keep prescription drug premiums stable, and improve the strength of the Medicare program.</p> <p>Part D Improvements</p> <p>People with Medicare will benefit from lower prescription drug costs and a redesigned prescription drug program. Benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insulin available at \$35/month per covered prescription • Access to recommended adult vaccines without cost-sharing • A yearly cap (\$2,000 in 2025) on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs in Medicare • Expansion of the low-income subsidy program (LIS or “Extra Help”) under Medicare Part D to 150% of the federal poverty level starting in 2024 <p>Medicare Drug Price Negotiation</p> <p>Medicare will be able to negotiate directly with drug manufacturers to lower the price of some of the costliest single-source brand-name Medicare Part B and Part D drugs. This means that people with Medicare will have increased access to innovative, life-saving treatments, and the costs will be lower for both them and Medicare.</p>
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<p>Rebecca Cooke believes women should make their own healthcare decisions, not politicians.</p>	<p>“Priorities,” CookeforWisconsin.com, accessed 7/10/2024</p> <p>As a college student, I relied on organizations like Planned Parenthood as my healthcare option for annual exams. I am a firm believer that every person should have the right to make the best decision for themselves about if, when, and how to start or grow a family, free from political or governmental interference. In Congress, I will always protect reproductive healthcare and the personal freedoms of all Wisconsinites.</p>
<p>She will fight to restore Roe v Wade and stop politicians like Derrick Van Orden who supported banning abortion and opposed exceptions for rape or incest.</p>	<p>“GOP U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden calls on Wisconsin lawmakers to pass exceptions to abortion ban, consider 15-week law,” Molly Beck, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 4/14/2023</p> <p>In May 2020, as he was campaigning against then-Democratic U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, Van Orden said he opposed any access to abortions, including for victims of rape and incest.</p> <p>"You can't heal that evil (of rape) by adding more on it and killing someone — a human being that can only be described as the most innocent amongst us — is just compounding the evil of the rape of the incest," Van Orden said in a separate interview on WSAU in 2020.</p>
<p>His position even risks women's access to IVF and birth control.</p>	<p>“Alabama’s IVF ruling is spotlighting the anti-abortion movement’s long game,” John Hanna, Geoff Mulvihill, AP, 2/24/2024</p> <p>The Alabama court decision spotlighted the anti-abortion movement’s long-standing goal of giving embryos and fetuses legal and constitutional protections on par with those of the women carrying them. But abortion rights advocates see</p>

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<p>and compared abortion to genocide.</p>	<p>"GOP congressional candidates oppose virus mandates, impeachment," Eric Lindquist, Leader Telegram, 8/7/2020</p> <p>Van Orden also said he opposes ending qualified immunity for officers as well as calls to defund the police. Instead, he pledged to work as hard as he can, if elected, to defund Planned Parenthood and stressed his belief that life begins at conception and that the number of abortions in the U.S. amounts to "genocide."</p>
<p>Rebecca Cooke knows our democracy is under attack. That is why she will protect the right to vote, ban gerrymandering so politicians can't choose their voters, and reduce the influence of money in our elections and stop corporations and billionaires from buying elections</p>	<p>--</p>
<p>But Derrick Van Orden is more focused on controlling your life and working families' lives in Wisconsin are harder because of it. He wants to control where you can get healthcare,</p>	<p>"Issues," VanOrdenforCongress.com, accessed 7/10/2024</p> <p>...</p> <p>Improving Healthcare and Reducing Costs</p> <p>Derrick will work to make sure individuals with preexisting conditions are protected when Obamacare is fully repealed and a new system is implemented allowing for true competition in healthcare, driving costs down.</p>
<p>wants to tell women what they can do with their bodies,</p>	<p>"GOP U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden calls on Wisconsin lawmakers to pass exceptions to abortion ban, consider 15-week law," Molly Beck, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 4/14/2023</p> <p>In May 2020, as he was campaigning against then-Democratic U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, Van Orden said he opposed any access to abortions, including for victims of rape and incest.</p> <p>"You can't heal that evil (of rape) by adding more on it and killing someone — a human being that can only be described as the most innocent amongst us — is just compounding the evil of the rape of the incest," Van Orden said in a separate interview on WSAU in 2020.</p>
<p>and dictate where farmers get their tractors and farm equipment repaired,</p>	<p>"H.R. 906 – Right to Equitable and Professional Auto Industry Repair Act," 118th Congress (2023-2024), Introduced 2/9/2023</p> <p>Van Orden is listed as a cosponsor of this bill</p>
<p>all while getting paid hundreds of thousands of your tax dollars.</p>	<p>"How much money do US lawmakers make?" Jeff Wagner, CBS News, 10/31/2023</p> <p>...</p> <p>The House Speaker fight on Capitol Hill left work undone for weeks. And now the threat of a government shutdown looms</p>

once again. If that happens, Congressional members will still collect paychecks, as other government workers go without.

So how much money do US lawmakers make? And how is that determined? Good Question.

Whether you're a member of the U.S. House of Representatives or U.S. Senate, the current salary is \$174,000 per year. It goes up for certain jobs such as majority and minority leaders, president pro tempore in the senate, and speaker of the house.