



## Pittsfield wins Project VOTE trophy for highest voter turnout in Brown County

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The town of Pittsfield won an award Tuesday for the highest turnout among registered voters across Brown County in last week's midterm election.

"I had figured there would be a nice turnout because a lot of people were unhappy with things and wanted to express their feelings, and this is the way to do it," town clerk Jan Bodart said after accepting the award at Green Bay City Hall, 100 N. Jefferson St.

Project VOTE, which stands for Voice Of The Electorate, is a nonpartisan group that works to increase voter turnout in Brown County. Representatives presented the green-and-gold trophy to Bodart.

Pittsfield saw 71.09 percent of registered voters — 1,178 people — vote in the Nov. 2 general election.

Bodart was surprised at the win and said the trophy would be placed in the town hall.

Jim Morrison, Project VOTE co-chairman, said Pittsfield voters should be proud.

"They understood the importance of voting in this critical election, and they took that responsibility seriously," he said.

Republicans saw huge gains nationally and locally with wins in the governor's seat in Wisconsin, one of the state's seats in the U.S. Senate and in the 8th Congressional District.

"I hope we can remove the barriers we have in place that discourage people from running for office," Morrison added, referring to high campaign costs and personal attacks against candidates.

The town of Green Bay was second in turnout with 70.52 percent of registered voters, and the town of Rockland was third with 68.86 percent.

The city of Green Bay ranked 17th out of the 23 participating municipalities with 61.24 percent of registered voters filling out ballots.

Mayor Jim Schmitt was joined by a handful of city and county officials at Tuesday's presentation. Schmitt was proud of the city's voter turnout but said there is room to improve.

"Nothing is more important than voting," he said.

Project VOTE was founded in 2002; the village of Denmark won for this year's spring elections. The challenge is held for spring and fall elections.