"All the noisy tempestuous scenes of politics witnessed in this country—all the excitement and strife, even—are GOOD to behold."—W. Whitman.

"Voting in the upcoming election is both a right and a privilege. It is also a solemn responsibility… But we also have another solemn responsibility, and that is to mentor and inspire the next generation of citizens to be lovers of people and ideas, so that when their turn comes to run the country, they are equipped with reflection, imagination and hope."—Prof. Rick Kyte, ca. 11-1-18.

"We will never heal the heart and soul of America with just politics."—Chris Stirewalt.

"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."—Will Rogers.

"Nothing in life is more liberating than to fight for a cause larger than yourself."—John McCain.

"I love being different. And so, you know, I always encourage everyone to embrace all that's different about them. And that really is what you need to use. You need to not hide that. You need to use it and take advantage of it and give all that you have to offer."—Diana Patrick.

"Keep your eyes on the prize and hold on."—Afric.-Amer. hymn cited by Juan Williams in his book on US Civil Rights, "Eyes on the Prize."

"People who call life 'complicated', are too often the same people unfairly making money at other's people's expense."—DvJM.

"We are a democracy, and there is only one way to get a democracy on its feet in the matter of its individual, its social, its municipal, its State, its National conduct, and that is by keeping the public informed about what is going on."—Joseph Pulitzer.

"It used to be that legislators thought deeply about legislation and worked hard to pass effective legislation; these days it's more about public relations and getting their name out there…. But we get the government we deserve."—Paraphrasing Jeff Bergner, author, "Vanishing Congress."

"It was long ago in my life as a simple reporter that I decided that facts must never get in the way of truth."—British journalist James Cameron.

"Say your prayers and get a good night's sleep; tomorrow is a new day."—Rose C. Mark Marcou, DvJM/my mom. (Tho I didn't vote for Barack Obama, I wrote a positive poem about his 1st Inauguration, "New Day", as well as photographing him a couple times.)
The great British journalist James Cameron (photographed in SA99 by Getty Images in army uniform w/Bert Hardy) used to say not only is much of life political, but every breath we breathe is political. Though I studied much history in many colleges, including my major at UW, I shied a bit from studying political histories, tending more to cultural & intellectual histories. When I studied theatre and drama, political issues entered in a bit more. Photographically, I’ve not been a political partisan, but have photographed in nonpartisan ways, political personalities and crowds, some huge and others more modest in size. I like to believe my politically-interested photos are more cultural/intellectual than partisan. As is my son’s photo called “Capital Night Moves”, showing night auto traffic with the US Capitol Building in the distance, which Matt took in Aug. 2006.

In my politically-interested photos, you’ll see former La Crosse Mayor John Medinger and wife Dee in their home; they have been among my best friends 20+ years and John still is part of our monthly lunch group. Also, current Mayor Tim Kabat’s aide Heidi took a photo of TK & me with “Spirit of La Crosse”, a group book I directed-edited, the 2nd edition of which TK’s mentioned in. You’ll also see “America’s Mayor”, Rudy Giuliani, chatting with FOX-News’s John Roberts, when they traveled with Donald Trump to La Crosse in Aug. 2016. There are also many rallies here, covering signs, other paraphernalia and hawkers, crowds, security, stages, technicians, personalities in many roles, speakers. I’ve photographed rallies since 1992, when Clintons-Gores visited, and when Pres. GHW Bush stayed overnight, just before Election Day 1992. I see shop windows too when I walk about, but political details & art win my gaze often. As do such data in more conventional museums and public art.

Perhaps my biggest coups for political photos have been at rallies I’ve spent many hours at, like the Obama and McCain rallies of 2008, in fact the many national rallies in La Crosse that year, and all I’ve covered from 1992 through the present; in many cases, I arrive before sunrise, photograph every thing and every person of interest I’m allowed to, and take photos until the principal speaker has departed hours later. It’s always an honor to photograph Presidents and Presidential candidates, because they and their staffs put a lot of time, money, and effort into their rallies, not to mention how much heart and soul their backers generally bring to those rallies. I can’t vote for every candidate, but I am grateful to those people, just as I am the candidates I eventually vote for. And as Walt Whitman wrote in the 19th century: “All
the noisy tempestuous scenes of politics witnessed in this country—all the excitement and strife, even—are GOOD to behold.”

But it’s also true some of my most-telling political photos are quiet moments in halls, streets, sidewalks. And my photo of my young son looking back at me, as he enters the White House the first time, still moves me. Many things aid fascinating pics. There are no interior captions-credits in SA99, and all pics are printed in BW, because I’d like viewers to see all this activity as part of a single political fabric—representing La Crosse and other locales that determine how people vote. It may help to know, too, there are pics by me from Viterbo University holocaust survivor events (2006-2019, esp. Elie Wiesel, Manya Friedman, Gerda W. Klein, Cipora Katz, Magda Herzberger, Magda Brown, Eva Schloss, Estelle Laughlin, Fr. Patrick Desbois, John Regnier, Sue Hessel, Stephen Feinberg/Judith Cohen-USHMM) organized by Profs. Rick Kyte & Darryle Clott, & a photo from a Mr. Brown of Minnesota, showing a WWII holocaust victim being put into oven for cremation; as well as my photo from Mariah Idrissi’s UW-L presentation, as the first hijabi-wearing internationally famous model (British); plus a NYC photo by me, of a boy and man lighting a candle at St. Paul’s Chapel, Ground Zero, 4-9-11, The Little Chapel That Stood; and Longworth House Office & Hart Senate Office buildings. moments in DC (among my countless photos in DC); & Declaration House in Philly. You’ll also see top journalists, for media too can aid elections; plus my photo of Jim Brush, Empire Screen Printing CEO, talking w/others at Trump rally; & my monthly lunch group, New Pioneers Lunch Club (pic at Breakfast Club by me, a member, shows L-R: Roger Grant, Joe Kotnour, John Medinger, & Kerry Hruska). There’s even my pic of Tom Jefferson (real name) now passed, who used to live nearby to me; he was badly disabled by an accident as a young man; here he sits peacefully in front of his building.—Written by DvJM 3-27-19 and revised by DvJM later.
THAT FROM THESE HONORED DEAD WE TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION—THAT WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN—THAT THIS NATION UNDER GOD SHALL HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM—AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH.