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**THE ROLE OF
WISCONSIN'S MAGA REPUBLICANS
IN THE CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY
TO OVERTURN THE 2020
ELECTION**

JUNE 2022

The Role of Wisconsin's MAGA Republicans in the Criminal Conspiracy to Overturn the 2020 Election

How Wisconsin Republican Officials, Candidates Alike Present an Ongoing Threat to the Freedom To Vote

The Wisconsin GOP has always been a key part of the MAGA conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election. Among the first Senators to allege mass “voter fraud,” Trump-endorsed Senator Ron Johnson attended a MAGA ‘loyalist’ conference less than 48 hours before he planned to give Mike Pence dozens of fraudulent GOP elector certificates during the certification ceremony interrupted by the attack on our Capitol on January 6th. Over the past two years, the right-wing Legislature has run rampant introducing legislation to completely remake Wisconsin’s election system through 36 bills attempting to decertify, centralize, politicize, and criminalize the electoral process. At the urging of Sen. Johnson, the GOP Assembly allocated over \$660,000 for an unprofessional, partisan ‘audit’ that resulted in Trump-friendly Assembly Speaker Vos and special ‘investigator’ Michael Gableman being held in contempt of court. Worse still, dozens of MAGA Republicans are on the ballot in 2022, campaigning on schemes to sabotage future elections.

In the words of Republican State Senator Kathy Bernier, “conspiracy theories have taken over the party.” Despite conservative think tanks finding “no evidence of widespread voter fraud,” leading GOP candidates have been spreading lies about so-called “ballot harvesting” by bipartisan poll workers and nursing home volunteers. Gubernatorial frontrunners Tim Michels and Rebecca Kleefisch have refused to rule out overturning future election results if elected, alongside far-right Secretary of State contender Jay Schroeder. MAGA candidate Timothy Ramthun sponsored legislation to overturn the 2020 election results earlier this year and continues to incite calls for decertification. Up and down the ballot, MAGA candidates are planning radical changes to Wisconsin’s electoral systems and threatening to take away basic access to voting by banning basic election infrastructure, from absentee ballots to voting machines. They won’t hesitate to abolish the bipartisan Wisconsin Elections Commission and centralize power over Wisconsin elections for decades to come.

Updated 7/8/22

By Joe Miller & Rebecca Parks

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MAGA Republicans On The Ballot In Wisconsin Want To Sabotage Citizens' Ability to Elect Their Leaders

Senator Ron Johnson Wants GOP Wisconsin Legislature To 'Unilaterally' Take Over Elections. Senator Ron Johnson has [called on](#) Wisconsin legislators to “unilaterally take over federal elections.” He has been [pushing state lawmakers](#) “to take a more active role in federal elections for nearly a year,” and accused the Wisconsin Elections Commissions of “systematically” violating the law. Just one day after the attack on the Capitol on January 6th, Johnson [claimed](#) that the movement was a “wake-up call to state legislatures” to investigate election irregularities and “reassert their authority over federal elections and establish controls. [...]” [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [11/10/21](#), [1/7/21](#); NPR, [11/30/21](#)]

- **Senator Ron Johnson Spoke Alongside Trump At A MAGA Christian Nationalist Policy Conference.** In June 2022, Senator Johnson [spoke at a policy conference](#) with Donald Trump as the keynote speaker, hosted in Nashville by the Faith & Freedom Coalition. During his speech, Trump said he would look, “very, very seriously for [pardons](#)” for defendants in cases connected to his criminal conspiracy to overturn the 2020 election, if he is re-elected President in 2024. Trump [reportedly](#) “repeatedly mentioned” the ongoing investigations by the Jan. 6th Committee and Department of Justice, “attacking the probes’ legitimacy and defending those accused of having been involved in the riot.” MAGA Republicans dominated the conservative Christian conference, with speeches from numerous fellow members of the GOP who attempted to overturn the election on Jan. 6, 2021, including Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX), Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), Rep. Jim Jordan (OH-4), Rep. Louie Gohmert (TX-1), Rep. Barry Loudermilk (GA-11), and former White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany. [Faith & Freedom Coalition, Accessed [7/7/22](#); The Hill, [6/18/22](#), [6/18/22](#)]

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GOP Gubernatorial Candidate Tim Michels Wants To ‘Eliminate’ Wisconsin Elections Commission As Governor, Citing ‘Illegal Ballot’ Election Conspiracy Theory. In a May 2022 [press release](#), Michels said the next chair of the Wisconsin Election Commission, “should be its last,” and vowed to disband the body if elected Governor. He charged that the bipartisan commission, “is not salvageable” and was a “huge mistake” made by the Wisconsin GOP in 2016—though he was [considered a party “mega-donor”](#) at the time. Alongside [eliminating](#) the WEC, Michels proposed ‘reforms’ [include](#) banning ballot drop boxes, purging voter rolls by forcing what he calls “indefinitely confined voters” to re-register every election, and centralizing state power over local elections officials through a “voter uniformity amendment” to the Wisconsin Constitution. His plans to manipulate elections are based on [allegations](#) of “a lot of bad stuff that happened” during the 2020 election, including an unknown number of ‘illegal’ ballots. The Trump-[endorsed](#) candidate has implied that circumstances favored Democrats, [claiming](#) that Trump “probably would be president right now” if Michels’ election proposals were in place. Michels was close to the Trump administration, and has claimed that the ‘rogue’ WEC has supposedly made bipartisan decisions, “contrary to Wisconsin law and past practice.” [Michels for Governor, Accessed [5/25/22](#); National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation, [11/14/15](#); Tim Michels Facebook, [5/12/22](#); WTAQ News Talk, [5/9/22](#); NBC News, [6/2/22](#); Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [5/9/22](#)]

Rebecca Kleefisch Still Believes The 2020 Election Was ‘Rigged,’ Wants To “Abolish” The Wisconsin Elections Commission As Governor. In her campaign ads, Rebecca Kleefisch [declares](#), “what I can tell you about Wisconsin is that I feel like it was rigged.” Kleefisch has [called](#) the 2020 election ‘abnormal,’ alleging that “last minute changes” were made to benefit “one particular political party.” Not only has Kleefisch [refused to say](#) whether or not she would allow the state legislature to [overturn election results](#) if elected governor, but she has [continued to claim](#) that there were unspecified “abnormalities” in the election results. In March 2022, Rebecca Kleefisch [signaled](#) her intention to “abolish” the bipartisan Wisconsin Elections Commission, [proposing a replacement](#) office that would centralize state executive power over Wisconsin elections. Citing the WEC’s bipartisan decision to use drop boxes and absentee ballots in nursing homes, Kleefisch declared “what I can tell you about Wisconsin is that I feel like it was rigged.” She [endorsed](#) far-right false elector Bob Spindell for Chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission and has [demanded](#) another taxpayer-funded “investigation” of the election. [Rebecca Kleefisch Twitter, [2/14/22](#), [3/20/22](#), [2/14/22](#), [10/22/21](#), [5/25/22](#); Rebecca For Governor, Accessed [5/25/22](#); Democratic Governors Association, [10/21/21](#); Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [2/24/22](#); WTAQ News Talk, [4/26/22](#)]

Jay Schroeder Refuses To Seal Future Election Results, Wants To Ban Voting Machines If Elected Secretary of State. Schroeder is [endorsed](#) by MAGA Republican Jim Marchant, a candidate for Nevada Secretary of State who has shared [outlandish election conspiracies](#) and proposed draconian election ‘reforms’. Schroeder has echoed Marchant’s proposals, and supports banning voting machines, automatic voter registration, and all-paper ballot elections. He has also [joined](#) Marchant’s far-right ‘America First’ coalition, which has ties

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to [prominent QAnon influencers](#). Though the Wisconsin Secretary of State bears no responsibility for election administration in the state, Schroeder said he [would not have certified](#) the 2020 election in Wisconsin, and suggested he would have the power to “overrule the will of the electorate and award the election to someone who didn’t actually win,” by refusing to authorize use of the state Seal as Secretary of State. [WisPolitics News, [6/20/22](#); Reuters, [9/22/21](#); America First Secretary of State Coalition, Accessed [6/30/22](#); Daily Beast, [6/1/22](#); WIZM News, [6/20/22](#)]

State Representative & GOP Candidate For Governor Timothy Ramthun Believes Election Conspiracies. In late November 2020, Rep. Ramthun shared a post supporting a conspiracy theory about compromised Dominion voting machines in the 2020 election. Though the post was flagged as containing false information, his caption [reads](#) “You just can't make this stuff up...” Rep. Ramthun later [called](#) for Mayor Eric Genrich (D-Green Bay) to resign in March 2021, alleging that “Green Bay's electoral process was compromised (and coordinated) by outside actors.” In August 2021, Ramthun [posted](#) a photograph of a constituent in his assembly district standing next to a truck sporting a blue ‘TRUMP WON’ flag. He captioned the photo: “For all those within the 59th Assembly District, this picture says it all. [...] As your Representative, it is my dutiful obligation to serve all, which is why I am fighting hard for election integrity. I will not waiver [sic].” [Timothy Ramthun Personal Facebook, [11/26/20](#), [8/16/21](#); State Representative Timothy Ramthun Facebook, [3/12/21](#)]

April 2022: A Judge Touting Her Connections To Election Conspiracy Theorists Won Her Election In Waukesha County. On Apr. 6, conservative Waukesha County Judge Maria Lazar [won a seat](#) on the state’s Court of Appeals, defeating Judge Lori Kornblum, who was [appointed](#) by Tony Evers in 2021, by a [double-digit margin](#): Lazar received 59% of the vote, while Kornblum lost with 40%. Lazar [reportedly](#) touted the endorsement of former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman, the leader of the state’s ongoing 2020 election ‘audit,’ as well as one of Trump’s 2020 election attorneys and Wisconsin Elections Commissioner Bob Spindell, who was one of Trump’s fake electors. Elsewhere in the state, Melinda Eck, a conservative activist who organized a local “Stop the Steal” rally on Jan. 6, won an open city council seat in Green Bay while fake elector Kelly Ruh lost her city council seat in DePere. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [4/6/22](#), [11/30/21](#); Waukesha County Board of Canvassers, [4/12/22](#); VICE News, [4/6/22](#)]

May 2022: At Wisconsin GOP Convention, Election Conspiracy Theories “Have Taken Over The Party.” State Senator Kathy Bernier (R-Chippewa Falls) said, “conspiracy theories have taken over the party” after Gubernatorial candidate Timothy Ramthun took the stage at the Wisconsin Republican Convention. The convention [reportedly](#) saw local politicians breaking “into open warfare over how far to push Trump’s election lies.” [Vice News, [1/27/22](#)]

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Wisconsin Republicans' Endless Campaign To 'Audit' And 'Decertify' The 2020 Election

June 2021: Republicans Legislators Gave Partisan Attorney Michael Gableman More Than Half A Million Dollars To 'Investigate' The 2020 Election. On Jun. 26, Speaker Vos [announced](#) that he had appointed Michael Gableman, a conservative attorney and former state Supreme Court justice who supported stolen election' conspiracy theories, to lead a partisan investigation into Wisconsin's election results. Vos initially gave Gableman a [\\$676,000 taxpayer-funded budget](#) to conduct an investigation of the 2020 election. Gableman then hired a team of partisans for his "audit," including Andrew Kloster, a former Trump administration staffer, and Ron Heuer, the head of the Wisconsin Voter Alliance, which attempted to sue Mike Pence to prevent him from certifying the 2020 election result, a complaint that a federal judge dismissed as a "risible" effort to undermine the election. Gableman's investigation targeted voter rolls by [using](#) VoteRef, a product made by a former Trump campaign official, that uses methodology that is "flawed [and] may be illegal." [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [6/26/21](#); Vanity Fair, [4/6/22](#); ProPublica, [3/7/22](#)]

- **Michael Gableman Was An Early Adopter Of Election Conspiracy Theories.** Hours after networks declared that Joe Biden won the election, Michael Gableman appeared at a Milwaukee [rally](#) to support Donald Trump's baseless claims of election fraud or voter irregularities. "I don't think anyone would be here if we all had confidence that this was an honest election," Gableman said at the time. [TMJ4 Milwaukee, [11/8/20](#)]
- **August 2021: Michael Gableman Attended An Election Conspiracy Convention Hosted By Mike Lindell.** Gableman attended MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell's [conspiracy convention](#) on "election security" in South Dakota in August 2021. He has reportedly stayed in contact with Lindell via email since the convention. [Vanity Fair, [4/6/22](#)]

August 2021: Senator Ron Johnson Called For Audit Of 2020 Wisconsin Election Results, Despite Admitting "Nothing Obviously Skewed." In an August 2021 [interview](#), Johnson announced his support for an audit of the 2020 election in Wisconsin, evaluating paper ballots, machine logs, and machine totals—as well as "the Wisconsin Elections Commission, the balloting in the park, the curing of the ballots, what Zuckerberg did, central counting in Milwaukee." He cited recent conversations with former Trump attorney Sidney Powell, who is facing a [defamation lawsuit](#) by Dominion for disseminating false information about voting machines at various conservative news outlets. One month later, Johnson reiterated his support for the Wisconsin investigation and audit in a recorded [interview](#), but admitted "there's nothing obviously skewed about the results" and observed that other Republican candidates received more votes than Trump. He has [called on](#) Wisconsin legislators to "unilaterally take over federal elections" and "reclaim this authority over our election system." [Kenosha News, [9/1/21](#); Newsweek, [8/30/21](#); *US Dominion Inc. v. Powell*, [1/8/21](#)]

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September 2021: GOP Assembly Allocated ‘Unlimited’ Funding to Direct Election Audit. The agenda-setting committee of the Wisconsin legislature approved a measure funding an election audit directed by Vos in September 2021. It is [reported](#) that the ballot “did not specify any funding— or cost limits—on the election investigation, [...] leaving to Vos’ discretion how much he wants taxpayers to spend.” [Wisconsin Examiner, [9/1/21](#)]

October 2021: Special Counsel Gableman Admitted He Lacked “Any Understanding” Of How Elections Work. Michael Gableman [publicly concluded](#) that the election had been stolen “before he began his role as a special counsel,” and his office was found in contempt of court for failing to disclose records after admitting it had been deleting files. Even as he was [subpoenaing](#) mayors and election officials, special counsel Michael Gableman, the attorney tasked with leading a taxpayer-financed partisan review of the 2020 election, [admitted](#) that he didn’t understand how elections are supposed to be run. “Most people, myself included, do not have a comprehensive understanding or even any understanding of how elections work,” Gableman said. [States United Democracy Center et al., [5/1/22](#); Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [10/6/21](#); Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [10/6/21](#)]

Speaker Robin Vos Found In Contempt For Failing To Turn Over Election Investigation Records To Circuit Judge. In October 2021, a Dane County circuit judge ordered Vos to release “records related to the Republican-led investigation into Wisconsin’s 2020 election” after authorizing wide-ranging subpoenas [requesting](#) unspecified ‘reports’ from municipal officials in Wisconsin’s five largest cities. In March 2022, he was [held in contempt](#) for failing to turn over the documents. [Kenosha News, [10/9/22](#); Associated Press, [1/3/22](#); ABC News, [4/11/22](#)]

December 2021: The Right-Wing Wisconsin Institute For Law And Liberty Found No Evidence Of Voter Fraud Or Irregularities That Would Mar Biden’s Victory In Wisconsin. In a [report](#) released in December 2021, conservative think tank the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty found “no evidence of widespread voter fraud,” and concluded that, “In all likelihood, more eligible voters cast ballots for Joe Biden than Donald Trump.” [Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, [12/21](#)]

Speaker Robin Vos Refused To Rule Out Election Conspiracy Theories, Extending Gableman’s ‘Investigation.’ In a December 2021 press conference [announcing](#) the extension of Gableman’s audit/investigation, Vos “refused to call claims that Biden stole the election from Trump conspiracy theories,” blaming delays on “Democrat efforts” to drag out the investigation. His statement came several weeks after [suggesting](#) that members of the Wisconsin Elections Commission should “probably” face felony charges. [Associated Press, [12/14/21](#); WKOW News Madison, [11/12/21](#)]

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January 2022: State Representative Timothy Ramthun Introduced Legislation To Overturn Wisconsin's Election Results. On Jan. 25, state Rep. Timothy Ramthun introduced a resolution, AJR 120, to [overturn the election results](#) in the Wisconsin State Assembly. AJR 120 would have characterized “the actions taken by the Elections Commission to certify the 2020 presidential election,” as “contrary to law and fraudulent.” Alleging that “illegality took place,” Ramthun would have ‘reclaimed’ Wisconsin's ten electoral college votes—an unexplained process with no legal precedent or Constitutional backing. After Ramthun introduced AJR 120, Assembly Majority Leader and Committee Chair Jim Steineke [tweeted](#), “Not only is it illegal, it’s just plain unconstitutional. As chair of the Rules Committee, there is ZERO chance I will advance this illegal resolution. #EndofStory.” AJR 120 died in committee after Ramthun [attempted to force a vote](#) on the resolution. [[AJR 120, 3/15/22](#); Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [1/26/22](#); Wisconsin Public Radio, [2/10/22](#)]

February 2022: State Rep. Timothy Ramthun Headlined A Rally Seeking To Overturn The 2020 Election. On Feb. 15, state Rep. Timothy Ramthun [headlined](#) an ‘Election Integrity’ protest at the state capitol in Madison organized “to pressure state lawmakers to overturn the 2020 election results in Wisconsin.” Fischer was photographed at the rally and [tagged](#) in photos captioned: “looks like the people know the Democrats dirty little secret....they cheated.” [Channel 3000, [2/15/22](#); Adam J. Fisher Facebook, [2/15/22](#)]

March 2022: Special Counsel Gableman Recommended “Decertifying” The 2020 Election – Something That Is Legally Impossible. Michael Gableman, the special counsel hired by Wisconsin Republicans to investigate the 2020 presidential election told lawmakers that they “ought to take a very hard look” at [decertifying the election](#), a nonsensical and legally impossible idea. Gableman also called on lawmakers to “eliminate and dismantle” the Wisconsin Elections Commission and fire the commission’s administrator. Although these recommendations were supposed to be Gableman’s “final report,” he vowed that his “investigation” will continue. “This will not end today,” Gableman said. “This is an important topic, and there’s a lot of work to do. And I will be back.” [Wisconsin Public Radio, [3/1/22](#)]

- **Donald Trump Praised Gableman’s Report And Called For The Nonsensical “Decertification Of Electors.”** In a March 8, 2022 [press release](#) former President Trump wrote, “Incredible findings just announced on Election Fraud in the great State of Wisconsin. I feel confident that Robin will exercise his moral duty to follow up on Justice Gableman’s findings. In addition to announcing that they will stay in session and take action to get rid of ERIC and the WEC, which have done some very bad things and made review very difficult (as also noted by the Legislative Audit Bureau), based on the Gableman report, I would imagine that there can only be a Decertification of Electors.” [Wisconsin Politics, [3/8/22](#)]

Speaker Robin Vos Pressured By Former Trump Lawyer To ‘Nullify’ The 2020 Election. On Mar. 11, Vos [reportedly](#) spent hours in a closed-door meeting with former Trump

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lawyer John Eastman, facing pressure to “nullify the 2020 election and reclaim the electors awarded to Biden” by certifying the election. During an event at the state Capitol later that day, Eastman [claimed](#), “[t]he Wisconsin Legislature, therefore, in my view, not just up until Jan. 6 [2021], or inauguration, but today as well, has the ability to look at the assessment and say, you know, our election was illegally certified.” [ABC News, [4/11/22](#); States United Democracy Center, [4/14/22](#)]

State Rep. Timothy Ramthun Called for Decertification of Wisconsin’s Election Results During Gubernatorial Campaign Launch Event. In March 2022, state Rep. Timothy Ramthun [announced](#) his campaign for governor in a three-hour presentation that [outlined plans](#) to “decertify” the 2020 election results in Wisconsin and retaliate against Assembly leadership for accusing Ramthun of “sending communications full of lies” and [removing](#) his legislative staffer. [WKOW Madison, [2/12/22](#), [1/20/22](#); Washington Post, [3/15/22](#)]

May 2022: State Rep. Timothy Ramthun Called For Decertification Again at State GOP Convention. At the Wisconsin GOP Convention on May 21, state Rep. Timothy Ramthun [reportedly](#) received “a loud cheer from delegates” after calling for the decertification of the 2020 election and committing to “audit his own election and primary victories, should he win the governor's race.” During an interview, he [argued](#) that Republicans “have to stop saying it's unconstitutional to reclaim the electors, because constitutional experts are saying it is.” [Wisconsin Public Radio, [5/21/22](#); Washington Post, [3/15/22](#)]

June 2022: Michael Gableman and Speaker Robin Vos Face New Lawsuits Due To ‘Audit’ Misconduct. In June 2022, a [new lawsuit](#) against Michael Gableman was [filed against](#) his Office of Special Counsel for deleting public records. He is already the subject of multiple pending lawsuits connected to his “investigation,” including an [open records lawsuit](#) before Dane County Circuit Court, [Gableman’s subpoena case](#), threatening [jail time](#) against several Democratic local elections officials, a case [challenging Gableman’s subpoena power](#) filed in Dane County Circuit Court against the Wisconsin Assembly, Vos and Gableman (among others), and two [appeals](#) on [a contempt ruling](#) which [fined him](#) \$2,000 daily until he agreed to produce requested documents and public records. Assembly Speaker Vos is also facing an [open records lawsuit](#) filed against him before the Dane County Circuit Court and [another open records lawsuit](#) filed against Assembly Chief Clerk Ted Blazel, the Wisconsin Assembly, and Vos. Earlier this year, the Dane County Circuit Court [found Vos in contempt](#) of court, but “gave the speaker a chance to ‘purge’ that contempt” by complying with past court orders, and [lifted the contempt order](#) against Vos in June. [Wisconsin State Journal, [6/29/22](#); Dane County Circuit Court, [6/28/22](#), [12/20/21](#), [12/2/21](#), [10/21/21](#), [10/18/21](#), [10/8/21](#); Wisconsin Public Radio, [2/19/22](#), [3/31/22](#), [6/23/22](#); *American Oversight v. Assembly Office of Special Counsel*, [4/18/22](#), [6/17/22](#); WisPolitics News, [6/16/22](#)]

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Republicans At Every Level Of Office In Wisconsin Are Attempting To Sabotage Election Integrity

Wisconsin Republicans Have Introduced 36 Bills That Would Allow State Legislatures To Politicize, Criminalize, Or Interfere With Elections. Wisconsin legislators have [introduced](#) 36 bills—the most of any state legislature—“usurping control over election results, imposing partisan ‘audits’, seizing power over election responsibilities, creating unworkable burdens in election administration, and imposing disproportionate penalties.” The two bills that passed (later [vetoed](#)) would have ended ballot curing, requiring all mail-in ballots with *any* missing fields to be rejected. Two other bills would have created a statute subjecting the state’s most racially-diverse counties, Milwaukee and Dane, to a disproportionate set of performance audits. Two others would have allowed the legislature to revoke “any election rule or regulation” they disagree with, and mandate “new legislative involvement in how state election officials respond to federal election directives and guidance.” Still another would’ve required the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) to “give daily access to the voter registration database” to additional executive departments without oversight. [States United Democracy Center et al., [5/1/22](#); Associated Press, [8/10/21](#)]

Republicans Are Trying To Dismantle The Wisconsin Elections Commission And Replace It With Partisans. Since 2020, Republicans have been to [take control](#) of Wisconsin’s elections apparatus. Though a Republican trifecta designed and established the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) in 2016 with an equal number of partisans, GOP legislators have recently attempted to [directly take control of the state’s elections](#) and attack the legitimacy of the WEC. Rep. Janel Brandtjen, chair of the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, [called the WEC](#) a “rogue agency,” and joined Republican leaders in [calling for](#) the WEC’s nonpartisan administrator to resign. MAGA Republican legislators have reportedly “called for the commissioners to be criminally charged for guidance they issued during the 2020 election cycle. Undeterred by vetoes by Governor Tony Evers, Republicans in Wisconsin are now pushing to give the Legislature’s Joint Finance Committee the [authority to cut staff and withhold funding](#) from the WEC if the committee determines it ‘failed to comply with any election law.’” [The Capital Times, [2/9/22](#); Associated Press, [5/7/22](#); Wisconsin Examiner, [1/14/21](#); Spectrum News 1, [11/2/21](#); Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [2/2/22](#)]

Republican Officials Have Threatened To Jail Election Workers. Assembly Republicans [have attempted to jail](#) the chairwoman of the state Elections Commission, Racine’s mayor, and other elected Republican officials as part of their endless review of the 2020 presidential election. In Racine county, the Republican sheriff is [seeking criminal charges](#) against five state election officials due a bipartisan WEC election guidance update amidst the deadly coronavirus pandemic. The district attorney [declined to prosecute](#), citing a lack of jurisdiction. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [2/18/22](#), [11/3/21](#); Associated Press, [11/3/21](#); CBS News, [2/11/22](#)]

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November 2021: Former GOP Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch Sued The Wisconsin Elections Commission Over Ballot Drop Boxes. In November 2021, Kleefisch released a [statement](#) announcing a lawsuit against the Wisconsin Elections Commission “because they broke state law and our trust.” She later [called](#) the action “a huge step in the right direction for secure elections in Wisconsin” and [declared](#) her opposition to “any legislation that legalizes ballot drop boxes” as part of her rationale for civil action. [Rebecca Kleefisch Twitter, [1/24/22](#), [1/14/22](#), [11/16/21](#)]

March 2022: Ron Johnson Supported A Case Banning Ballot Drop Boxes In Wisconsin. In March 2022, Johnson [filed an amicus brief](#) in *Teigen v. Wisconsin Elections Commission*, opposing the use of drop boxes in Wisconsin elections, concluding that they “are not authorized by any statute or rule,” though they were [unanimously authorized](#) by the bipartisan WEC in 2020. [Ron Johnson for Wisconsin, [3/18/22](#); Wisconsin Elections Commission Open Session Minutes, [7/30/20](#)]

June 2022: Robin Vos Appointed An Election Conspiracy Sympathizer As Wisconsin Elections Commission Chair. To replace outgoing Commissioner Dean Knudson, Speaker Vos [appointed](#) Republican attorney and former Com. Don Millis to the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC)—who was then [elected chair](#) by a vote of 5-1 on Jun. 10. Vos [announced](#) that Millis backed using paper ballots, opposed using touch-screen voting and supported the state's requirement for voters to show photo identification. Millis [previously served](#) on the WEC for less than a year, shortly after it was established by the GOP-controlled legislature in 2016. He has said that complaints about the 2020 election “should be investigated,” alleging that the election, “involves all sorts of things,” though he admitted that, “all I know about the 2020 election, really, is what I’ve read in the news, newspapers, and online.” Millis said he was “certainly interested in pursuing anything, any complaint, where there's an allegation of fraud or a violation of the law,” and he claims to be awaiting Gableman’s final report on Vos’ lawsuit-plagued ‘investigation’ into the 2020 election before he comments on the results of the election [Iron Mountain Daily News, [6/13/22](#); WisPolitics News, [6/10/22](#); Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [6/8/22](#); Wisconsin Public Radio, [6/20/22](#)]

Wisconsin Republicans Attempted To Overturn The 2020 Election

December 2020: Senator Ron Johnson Spread ‘Voter Fraud’ Conspiracies In Congress After The 2020 Election. During a hearing of the Senate Homeland Security Committee in December 2020, Chairman Johnson used his opening [statements](#) to insist that MAGA pro-Trump forces raised “legitimate concerns” about “violations of election laws,” “fraudulent votes and ballot stuffing,” and “corruption of voting machines and software that might be programmed to add or switch votes.” [U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security, [12/16/20](#)]

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January 2021: Days Before January 6, Sen. Ron Johnson Attended A Meeting With MyPillow CEO And Trump-Allied Election Conspiracist Mike Lindell. Less than 48 hours before the Electoral College certification, Johnson [reportedly](#) virtually-attended a meeting convened for 'loyalists' of former President Trump at the Trump International Hotel on January 4th, 2021 to discuss delaying certification. Johnson was one of three Republican Senators to attend the meeting convened by MyPillow chief executive Mike Lindell seeking to gather information and rally support to delay certification of President Joe Biden's election victory. Presenters alleged that "the 2020 vote had been influenced by foreign powers and that proper investigation required gaining access to voting machines around the country" at the meeting. Johnson was one of 10 Senators who [planned](#) to object to the certification of electoral votes from Arizona on January 6, but he [backed down](#) after the violent attack on the Capitol that day. He attended the conference just two weeks after [denying](#) having any plans to object to the certification of the 2020 election results. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [2/3/22](#); [1/4/21](#); Office of Ted Cruz, [1/2/21](#); WKOW, [1/6/21](#)]

Ron Johnson Was Involved In Trump's False Elector Scheme On January 6th.

Shortly before Congress met to certify Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential election, Johnson's top aide Sean Riley [texted a staffer](#) for Mike Pence, "Johnson needs to hand something to VPOTUS please advise." After Pence's staffer asked what it was, Riley replied, "Alternate slate of electors for MI and WI because archivist didn't receive them." Pence presided over the Electoral College certification. After [initially denying](#) his involvement and [blaming Rep. Mike Kelly](#) for transmitting the false electors to his office, Johnson later [admitted](#) he "played a two-minute role" in Trump's criminal conspiracy to overturn the election and [confirmed](#) that Trump's lawyer in Wisconsin asked him to deliver "a document regarding Wisconsin electors" to Pence prior to the ceremony. He claimed he was unaware what the documents were, and "never opened" the envelope containing the falsified certificates. [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [6/21/22](#), [6/24/22](#), [6/23/22](#); Politico, [6/28/22](#); Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, [6/24/22](#)]

Two GOP Members Of The Wisconsin House Delegation Voted To Overturn The Election.

Rep. Scott Fitzgerald and Rep. Tom Tiffany were the two Republican members of the Wisconsin House delegation who [voted](#) to object to the certification of Joe Biden's electoral college victory after the events of January 6. In December 2020, while Fitzgerald was still Majority Leader of the Wisconsin Senate, his office provided [meeting space](#) in the state Capitol for Wisconsin's slate of fake electors seeking to overturn the election, while Tiffany started [spreading](#) false claims about election fraud and "irregularities" before the votes were even counted. Three days after January 6, Tiffany appeared at a closed-door [rally](#) in Wausau where he said he didn't believe Trump had any role in inciting the insurrection and stood by as a right-wing radio host called for "war." [Wisconsin State Journal, [1/8/21](#); Wisconsin State Senate Records, [1/24/22](#); Wisconsin Examiner, [3/5/21](#); [1/14/21](#)]

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10 Illegitimate Electors Were Submitted To The Senate In 2020 At The Trump Campaign's Behest

December 2020: 10 Illegitimate Electors In Wisconsin Submitted Documents To The Senate Falsely Stating That They Were The Rightful Electors From The State.

Trump campaign officials, led by Rudy Giuliani, [oversaw efforts](#) to put forward illegitimate electors from seven states that Trump lost, including Wisconsin. The documents from Wisconsin explicitly stated, falsely, that the GOP electors were the rightful electors. The 10 [false electors](#) gathered in the state Capitol on December 14, 2020, the last day for Wisconsin to send its electoral votes to the Senate. The 10 Republicans cast their votes for Trump and sent them to the Senate as Wisconsin's 10 electoral votes. The state's legitimate electors were meeting in the building at the same time to cast the state's 10 electoral votes for Biden. [CNN, [1/20/22](#); Associated Press, [3/15/22](#)]

May 2022: Wisconsin Democrats Sue G.O.P. Fake Electors Over 2020 Scheme.

In the first [lawsuit directed at false electors](#), two Democratic Electoral College delegates from Wisconsin are seeking damages from "10 fake ones who tried to help Donald Trump overturn his defeat in the state." One defendant, Robert "Bob" F. Spindell, Jr., currently serves on the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC). The lawsuit seeks to "prohibit the 10 Republicans from serving as presidential electors in the future, fine each of them \$2,000 and order each to pay up to \$200,000 in damages to the Democratic electors." The WEC is also [facing litigation](#) for [unanimously dismissing](#) a complaint that the fake electors acted illegally, after Spindell [refused to recuse himself](#) and voted for the complaint's dismissal. [New York Times, [5/17/22](#); Dane County Circuit Court, [5/17/22](#); Associated Press, [3/15/22](#); Law Forward, [3/15/22](#)]

False Elector Bob Spindell Ran For Chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Bob Spindell (R-Milwaukee), one of Wisconsin's 10 false electors who [signed documents claiming](#) that Donald Trump won Wisconsin instead of Joe Biden in 2020, [announced](#) a run for Chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) in May 2022. He faces a [lawsuit](#) for participating in the December 2020 effort "to send papers to the federal government claiming they were casting the state's electoral votes for Trump." Initially, only Comm. Spindell and Dean Knudson were [eligible for the position](#), as the WEC was required to elect a Republican Chair to serve through 2022 into early 2024. He [campaigned](#) on a message that the 2020 election was "rigged in how it was administered," and he promised to "restore confidence" in the "besieged organization" by investigating "whether there was fraud or not" in the 2020 election. Spindell [ultimately lost](#) to Commissioner Don Millis, by a vote of 1-5. [WisPolitics News, [5/24/22](#), [6/10/22](#); Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [5/26/22](#), [5/24/22](#); New York Times, [5/17/22](#)]

- **Sen. Ron Johnson Pressured Other Chair-Eligible Republican Commissioner To Resign.** Moments before the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) was [poised to elect](#) a new chair on May 26, Commissioner Dean Knudson announced his resignation from the WEC. Knudson's resignation came after Sen. Ron

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Johnson “[raised concerns](#)” about losing confidence in Knudson’s ability to continue “representing [grassroots Republican] interests on the Wisconsin Elections Commission.” Though Johnson’s team denied putting any pressure on the former Chair, Knudson cited [pressure from within his party](#) as a reason for his resignation. Following Knudson’s resignation, the Commission [refused to back](#) fraudulent elector Bob Spindell, empowering Speaker Robin Vos to hand-pick the next WEC chair. [Wisconsin Public Radio, [5/26/22](#); Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, [5/27/22](#); The Fulcrum, [6/8/22](#); Wisconsin Elections Commission Special Teleconference Meeting Minutes, [5/25/22](#)]

Wisconsin’s Fake Electors Included A Member Of The Wisconsin Elections Commission And A DePere Alderman: The [10 Republicans](#) who signed on as false electors in December 2020 [were](#):

- **Andrew Hitt, Former Party Chair:** Hitt is the former Chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin (2019-2020), and has been issued a [subpoena](#) by the January 6th Committee. He is a [consultant and senior partner](#) with Michael Best Strategies, a conservative consulting and lobbying firm. Hitt has [donated](#) thousands to Rebecca Kleefisch’s gubernatorial campaign. He [previously](#) worked on an advisory committee for former Gov. Scott Walker and a local chapter of the Federalist Society. [Select Committee to Investigate January 6th, [1/28/22](#); A Better Wisconsin, [1/25/22](#); Andrew Hitt Twitter, Accessed [5/24/22](#); Michael Best Strategies, Accessed [5/24/22](#)]
- **Kelly Ruh, WI-8 Chair:** Kelly Ruh is the current Chairwoman of the Eighth Congressional District Republican Party of Wisconsin who has been issued a [subpoena](#) by the January 6th Committee. She is a [founding](#) advisory board member for the 1848 Project, a political organization established and overseen by gubernatorial candidate Rebecca Kleefisch. Ruh is a corporate controller for Bay Industries in Green Bay. In April 2022, she was defeated by a Democrat in her [re-election](#) effort to the De Pere municipal council. Ruh also served as a delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention from WI-8, where she supported Ted Cruz. [Select Committee to Investigate January 6th, [1/28/22](#); A Better Wisconsin, [1/25/22](#); Wisconsin State Journal, [4/27/16](#); Insider, [4/6/22](#); Wisconsin GOP, Accessed [5/24/22](#)]
- **Robert F. Spindell Jr., WI-4 Chair and State Elections Commissioner:** Spindell is the current Chairman of the Fourth Congressional District Republican Party of Wisconsin. He has served as a Commissioner on the Wisconsin Elections Commission since 2019 and is one of two Republican commissioners eligible to serve as Chair from 2022 to 2023. Spindell [appeared](#) at a “stop the steal” rally at the Wisconsin State Capitol shortly after the 2020 election, where he “advanced allegations about election fraud in Wisconsin.” [Wisconsin GOP, Accessed [5/24/22](#); Urban Milwaukee, [12/8/20](#)]

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- **Carol Brunner, Former WI-1 Vice Chair:** Brunner [served](#) as Chairwoman of the Wisconsin 1st Congressional District Republican Party (2016-2019), and as Vice Chairwoman prior to—and directly following—this role (2013–2016, 2019–2021). She is currently the President of the Republican Women of Milwaukee County and previously [held](#) executive roles at the Wisconsin Federation of Republican Women, Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Wisconsin, and the Republican Party of Milwaukee County. [Urban Milwaukee, [2/16/21](#); Wisconsin 1st District GOP (Archived), [5/11/21](#)]
- **Edward Scott Grabins:** A technology professional at TDS Telecommunications, Grabins is the [current](#) Chairman of the Dane County Republican Party. He also [served](#) as a delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention from WI-2, where Grabins supported Ted Cruz. [Wisconsin State Journal, [4/27/16](#); Wisconsin GOP, Accessed [5/24/22](#)]
- **Bill Feehan, WI-3 Chair:** Feehan is the current Chairman of the Third Congressional District Republican Party of Wisconsin. He has been [named](#) to the Kleefisch gubernatorial campaign grassroots leadership board. In October 2020, Feehan was [banned](#) from posting on Facebook for “repeatedly sharing false information.” He is a La Crosse-based business manager and unsuccessfully ran for the Wisconsin State Senate in 2012. [A Better Wisconsin, [1/25/22](#); Urban Milwaukee, [12/8/20](#); Wisconsin GOP, Accessed [5/24/22](#)]
- **Kathy Kiernan, WI-5 Chair:** Kiernan is the [current](#) Chairwoman of the Fifth Congressional District Republican Party of Wisconsin. In 2016, Kiernan also [served](#) as a delegate to the Republican National Convention from WI-5, where she supported Ted Cruz. [Wisconsin State Journal, [4/27/16](#); Wisconsin GOP, Accessed [5/24/22](#)]
- **Darryl Carlson, WI-6 Chair:** Carlson is the [current](#) Chairman of the Sixth Congressional District Republican Party of Wisconsin, as well as executive director of the conservative organization No Better Friend Corp. An [alderman](#) for the city of Sheboygan until 2016, Carlson also unsuccessfully ran for the Wisconsin State Assembly in 2014. [Urban Milwaukee, [12/8/20](#); City of Sheboygan (Archived), Accessed [5/25/15](#)]
- **Pam Travis, WI-7 Vice Chair:** Travis is the [current](#) Vice Chair of the Seventh Congressional District Republican Party of Wisconsin, as well as the Treasurer of the Wisconsin Federation of Republican Women. [Urban Milwaukee, [2/16/21](#); Wisconsin GOP (Archived), [11/26/20](#)]
- **Mary Buestrin, Executive Committee Member:** Buestrin is the national committeewoman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. She is an [advisory board member](#) for Rebecca Kleefisch’s 1848 Project. Buestrin [served](#) as a legal elector in 2016,

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casting an electoral vote for Donald Trump. She is currently the President of the Republican Women of Milwaukee County and has been [active](#) in Wisconsin Republican campaigns for several decades running, having attended eight Republican National Conventions as a Wisconsin delegate. [A Better Wisconsin, 1/25/22; Wisconsin GOP (Archived), 11/26/20; Urban Milwaukee, 2/16/21]