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Democratic Leaders Urge Governor to Call Special Elections

1st Senate District and 42nd Assembly District Deserve Representation

MADISON, WI – Today, Democratic Leaders Senator Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse) and Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh) called on Governor Walker to announce special elections in the 1st Senate District and the 42nd Assembly District in a letter delivered to his office. Senator Frank Lasee and Representative Keith Ripp were both appointed to positions in the Walker Administration on December 29th, and officially stepped down from their elected roles on January 1st. If Governor Walker does not call for a special election before November's general election, it would leave the people of these districts without representation for over an entire calendar year.

"After prioritizing the largest taxpayer handout in U.S. history instead of funding our local schools and fixing our roads, Gov. Walker and legislative Republicans need to face the voters," said Senate Democratic Leader Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse). "Gov. Walker is running scared and is playing politics with people's right to be represented in the State Capitol."

"Governor Walker is a career politician who understands the current political climate better than anyone. The President has the lowest approval ratings of the modern era. Democrats are winning in Alabama. And in last night's special elections, Democrats outperformed their 2016 numbers in Wisconsin by over 20 points. It's no surprise that Governor Walker doesn't want to put Republican candidates in front of the voters," said Representative Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh). "The reality is, the Governor does not get to pick and choose an election date to his liking. It's time that he respects our democracy and the citizens of our state by calling these special elections."

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