



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

October 5, 2021

To the Taxpayers of Wisconsin,

Recently, in an unprecedented action, Republican leaders in the State Assembly authorized a \$676,000 expenditure of taxpayer funds to pay for a phony, political “investigation” into the 2020 Presidential election. Assembly Republican leaders made this decision without input from rank-and-file members of either party, and members of the Senate were not consulted, either.

We are outraged by this abuse of taxpayer funds for a partisan political effort. As only Assembly leadership was allowed to vote on approval of the election review and expenditure, we felt the need to register our extreme disapproval in writing.

It’s clear from the shifting stances on this matter taken by Speaker Vos - at first rejecting calls for an “audit” before caving following angry tweets from and a plane ride with former President Donald Trump – that this action isn’t a serious investigation, but instead a cynical political ploy and waste of taxpayer dollars meant to appease Trump and cast further doubt on the outcome of the election. Municipal and county clerks of both parties and from all over the state have spoken out and given testimony attesting to the security and accuracy of the 2020 Presidential election; there is no doubt as to the result, and this “investigation” will not change that. Furthermore, there is already another review currently underway by the nonpartisan and highly respected Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB). That audit is using state employees, so the additional costs should be minimal, and the LAB is a fair, trusted agency. Why not let LAB finish its audit before you spend taxpayer money on an unnecessary witch hunt?

This is an unprecedented waste of taxpayer money on a purely partisan, political effort. If Republicans truly think that this “investigation” is needed, they should pay for it. Surely, the Republican Party or some of their donors would help out if they feel this is really a critical undertaking. In the last state budget, Republicans on the Joint Finance Committee rejected Governor Evers’ proposals on increased funding for K-12 education; homelessness prevention and mitigations programs; mental health services; and a number of other important programs. Now, though, they’re saying we have the money to pay for this “investigation” manufactured to support The Big Lie. As we were not given a vote on this matter, we felt that it was important that we register our disapproval and outrage.

Sincerely,

Sen. Robert Wirch
22nd Senate District

Rep. Tod Ohnstad
65th Assembly District



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Sen. Tim Carpenter
3rd Senate District

Sen. Melissa Agard
16th Senate District

Sen. Janet Bewley
25th Senate District

Sen. Kelda Roys
26th Senate District

Sen. Lena Taylor
4th Senate District

Sen. LaTonya Johnson
6th Senate District

Sen. Jeff Smith
31st Senate District

Sen. Janis Ringhand
15th Senate District

Rep. Christine Sinicki
20th Assembly District

Rep. Francesca Hong
76th Assembly District

Rep. Dianne Hesselbein
79th Assembly District

Rep. Lisa Subeck
78th Assembly District

Rep. Gary Hebl
46th Assembly District

Rep. Jill Billings
95th Assembly District

Rep. Supreme Moore Omokunde
17th Assembly District

Rep. Kristina Shelton
90th Assembly District

Rep. Sue Conley
44th Assembly District

Rep. Dora Drake
11th Assembly District



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Rep. Don Vruwink
43rd Assembly District

Rep. Deb Andraca
23rd Assembly District

Rep. Lee Snodgrass
57th Assembly District

Rep. Sondy Pope
80th Assembly District

Rep. Greta Neubauer
66th Assembly District

Rep. Jodi Emerson
91st Assembly District

Rep. Samba Balden
48th Assembly District

