

## **Cowardly Racine County Fair Board Holds Secret Vote To Cancel Fair**

**By Mark Belling, WISN-AM**

The 39 member board that runs the Racine County Fair voted last night to cancel the Fair but did so in a secret ballot so members of the public can't find out who was on what side. This is an act of utter cowardice.

The vote was close with 20 members voting to kill the 2020 Fair and 16 voting to put it on. The vote was held by a secret paper ballot. Board member Scott Gunderson, a former member of the state assembly, said that was the way some members wanted to do it. Gunderson did say he was one of the 16 who voted to put on the Fair.

The Fair is put on by the Racine Agricultural Society and is not part of Racine County government. Gunderson said one of the 39 positions on the Board is vacant and two members didn't show up. The entire Board is volunteer and the Fair has no paid staff.

A number of other counties have killed their Fairs, including Washington County which still has a paid executive director, Kellie Boone, pocketing a salary despite the fact that she has no Fair to run. Kenosha and Waukesha counties have also killed their Fairs. At the moment, the Ozaukee County Fair is still on. The Walworth County Fair, the largest in the state of Wisconsin, is also still on. Hooray for Walworth County (so far).

Racine officials did nothing to stop mass protests, some of which devolved into near riots, earlier this month. But the Fair Board in the same county won't let families have fun at the massive Union Grove fairgrounds.

**Mark Belling**

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