



MARK
BELLING

State GOP leaders tell their own voters to buzz off Vos, party officials infuriate rank and file

At a time when it has never been more important for Wisconsin Republicans to unite, the party seems to be cracking up. The problem is that the Madison-based leadership of the party believes the way to unite is for them to tell the party's voters what they are supposed to do and think.

This is backward. The members of the Legislature are elected by the people. The party leadership is there to serve the wishes of the party's voters. The Democrats are essentially abandoning democracy. The Republicans have an opportunity to embrace but only if they realize that democracy empowers voters, not elected officials and certainly not campaign consultants, legislative staffers and Capitol hangers-on.

Polls of state Republican voters show election integrity is their No. 1 issue. But Madison-based legislators and party leaders are making it clear they couldn't care less about it. These are the people who continue to empower two GOP sellouts on the state Elections Commission, who stood by and did nothing in 2020 as illegal mass voting events like Madison's "Democracy in The Park" occurred and yawned when the liberals who control the Elections Commission threw the Green Party presidential candidate off the ballot so as to not siphon votes away from Joe Biden. These Madison bosses sold out GOP constituents with their apathy two years ago.

It is clear they are selling these same voters out again.

I cannot stress how high the disgust is with Assembly Speaker Robin Vos among GOP voters and activists. Yet Vos' Madison pals aren't listening. The state Assembly leadership has gone tone deaf. They are circling the wagons to protect Vos rather than do what the people who elected them want them to do.

Last month, Vos and Assembly leaders punished Fond du Lac area assemblyman Timothy Ramthun by taking away his legislative staffer. They are angry that Ramthun won't stop raising a stink about the 2020 election. But the GOP Assembly bosses crossed the line when they lied about Ramthun. Vos and his cronies alleged Ramthun claimed Vos cut a deal with "Hillary Clinton's lawyer" to allow ballot drop boxes to be placed around the state. But the claim appears to be a lie. The best Vos can come up with to back it up is a Power-Point presentation from somebody else that Ramthun passed along to colleagues.

These people have circled the wagons around Madison and are tuning out any GOP voice that isn't from their inner circle.

Last week, the Sheboygan County Republican Party passed a vote of no confidence in Vos and essentially demanded his ouster as speaker. Re-read that sentence. Active members of the party in a decent-sized county are so furious with their party's leader in the Legislature that they are publicly condemning him.

Yet, so far, other than Ramthun, not a single Assembly member has criticized Vos. They have lost the plot. GOP lawmakers in Madison now believe they are in a battle of "us against them." The "us" is themselves and Vos and the "them" is the party's voters.

I feel the need to scream this because it's apparent GOP Assembly members aren't listening: **GOP VOTERS ARE SICK OF MADISON REPUBLICANS WHO WILL NOT PUSH FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS.** Do you hear us now?

If there is one thing virtually every GOP voter agrees on, it is that the ballot drop boxes must be banned. Simply letting anybody throw a ballot in an unattended "box" sitting in a hallway is an open invitation for vote fraud. These insidious boxes were all over in 2020 and GOP voters are enraged about it.

Yet, only a few weeks ago a GOP state senator was drafting a bill to allow drop boxes and Vos initially didn't object. He has since told me he doesn't support their use. But why is this idea STILL floating around in GOP Madison circles? The blunt answer is that the leadership of the state Republican Party is simply ignoring and blowing off the concerns of GOP voters.

The biggest apologist for our sloppy election system is actually a GOP member of the state Elections Commission. He's Vos' designee on the Commission, former assemblyman Dean Knudson. Knudson last month defiantly claimed Wisconsin runs clean elections and defended the work of the biased liberals who run the Commission staff. Knudson is the fox guarding the henhouse. It is a disgrace that GOP leaders are tolerating an appointee who is so dismissive of the highest priority of actual GOP voters.

A few weeks ago I asked a top Wisconsin Republican if he was going to demand Knudson's resignation. The GOP official responded by bombarding me with vulgarities. It was a telling moment. These people have circled the wagons around Madison and are tuning out any GOP voice that isn't from their inner circle.

Tony Evers is primed to be beaten. The Republicans have at least two, and maybe three, strong candidates vying for the right to oppose him. The party needs to unite. But that unification will not occur until Robin Vos, the state GOP leadership and the GOP members of the state Legislature stop blowing off hundreds of thousands of GOP voters and their sincere concerns.

(Mark Belling is the host of a daily WISN radio talk show.)

Moorer, Kozlowski, and Mark Borowski will improve School Board

To the editor:

I am a grandparent in the Waukesha School District who is concerned about our children's education. I believe that the way we treat our most vulnerable, our children, defines who we are as a society as a whole. Are we making them a priority or is it certain politics we're promoting?

When I first started attending School Board meetings, I was shocked because some school board members and teachers were discussing how a 39.2% proficiency rating was somehow success. White students were at 47.2%, Black students at 16%, Hispanic students at 22.9%, and IEPs 11.2% (11/2021). I'm not sure how anyone could see this as success. If their excuse was the lockdowns and students trying to learn virtually, well, that also proves my point. The School Board members who voted for these mitigation measures for students should be fired (Roddy, Baumgart, Deets) because we now know that these measures created far more problems for kids than any danger they had of severe illness with COVID and of course, transmitting it.

I am fully backing Marquell Moorero, Karrie Kozlowski, and Mark Borowski for School Board because they take seriously Waukesha students' academic success. As parents and grandparents, isn't this the reason we send children to school, so that they can master subjects like math, English, science and social studies and therefore be prepared for their next step in life?

Marquell will be able to speak with experience into the lives of students of color. He has been through a lot growing up in Milwaukee in less-than-ideal circumstances and has a heart and the ability to identify with students. Karrie and Mark both spend a lot of time with data and information in their careers and will bring a great deal of wisdom, common sense and new ideas to help students' academic proficiency improve. They all value parents as the responsible people in the lives of students, rather than buckling to special interest groups, political groups, and teachers unions.

The School District of Waukesha will be all the better for electing these three candidates for School Board: Marquell Moorero, Karrie Kozlowski, and Mark Borowski.

Kathy Keller
 Waukesha

Borowski, Kozlowski, Moorero will move Waukesha schools forward

To the editor:

Schools aren't what they used to be. Boy, have times changed. Was anyone really ready for an airborne virus to expose the educational virus that we've had our eyes opened to over the last 24 months? Let's start by saying that Waukesha has a great overall teaching staff that hasn't been supported by many parents over the years because we've lost the teacher "is" the supervisor role that I remember when I was young, and parents don't like to hold their little bundles of joy very accountable anymore. What has been exposed over the last 24 months is how the curriculum has been changing

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that the teachers are expected to perform and that starts at the school board level. I would like to thank anyone that has served on the board for your service but that doesn't mean that those services are not needed anymore. We want our schools back that teach reading, writing, arithmetic, science, economics, and the trades. No longer do we need the schools to divide and separate kids based on race, evolving ideologies or indoctrination.

Here's the sad facts about academic proficiencies in our district by race:

Approximately 8,000 are white and only about 4,000 are academically proficient.

Approximately 2,880 are Hispanic and only about 720 are academically proficient.

Approximately 723 are black and only about 108 are academically proficient.

You read that correctly. These are the figures that incumbents Roddy, Baumgart, and Deets are responsible for overseeing. So, if nothing changes, nothing changes. There are three great openly conservative candidates running this year and they need your support February 15. Mark Borowski, Karrie Kozlowski, and Marquell Moorero will do what the others did not. Schools will stay open, masks will stay off, and education over indoctrination will be returned so our great teachers can do what they always wanted to do, just teach.

Mike Walsh
 Waukesha

Time for new faces on Waukesha School Board

To the editor:

Vote for Karrie Kozlowski, Marquell Moorero, and Mark Borowski for Waukesha School Board.

The three incumbents in the Waukesha School Board race are certainly nice people but have proven themselves to be ineffective leaders. Over the past two years, they have consistently made decisions out of fear instead of examining facts and data. True leadership doesn't defer to unelected so-called "experts" that have consistently been proven wrong. In the summer and fall of 2020, the three incumbents voted against five-day in-person learning for secondary students despite the majority of families indicating this preference in feedback through multiple surveys, not to mention the data demonstrating that COVID-19 is no greater threat to children than the seasonal flu.

In May 2021, these incumbents also voted to continue the forced masking of teachers and students and other dehumanizing and ineffective mitigation measures. The negative impacts of these poor decisions will surely take years to recover from. Strong leadership is essential to refocus on student achievement and reclaim academic excellence in Waukesha. Please learn more about these impressive newcomers: Karrie Kozlowski, a CPA and district parent (www.karrieforboard.com), Marquell Moorero, an elementary school teacher (www.askformoorero.com) and Mark Borowski, a banking manager, district parent and US Veteran (www.borowskiontheboard.com).

Their collective experience will be a huge asset to our district as we move forward. Please vote for new leadership on Feb. 15.

Jill Burie
 Waukesha

Kozlowski, Borowski and Moorero will represent us on Waukesha School Board

To the editor:

The incumbents up for re-election to the School Board allowed critical race theory (CRT) into our classrooms. They pretend it's not there even when provided concrete evidence of its existence. A teacher handed my child a book that vilified Republicans, said they are the party of white people, the dominant caste, their only objective is maintaining power, and compared white people to Nazis. An English 10 vocabulary included the word "privilege" with examples of "white, straight, Christian, and cis-gender privilege."

A picture book placed in our elementary schools stated that the color of your skin affects ALL of your experiences, saying "white supremacy has been lying to kids for centuries," "whiteness is a bad deal," and showing that if you are white, you are making a contract with the devil that gets you stolen land, stolen riches, and the right to mess endlessly with people of color for profit.

Roddy was on the team that spent over \$20,000 of taxpayer money to hire Sharroky Hollie to train teachers in culturally responsive teaching (CRT by another name). Hollie directed teachers to use "communalism" in the classroom (equal OUTCOME for all). He excused "cheating" as just "looking out for your home boy." He taught educators to value outcome over experience/process, and a form of discipline where it's acceptable to let children pick on each other; talk back and talk over teachers, explaining that these behaviors should be validated or affirmed as students "being their cultural selves."

Roddy, Deets and Baumgart continually ignore parent concerns about CRT. It's time for them and this divisive curriculum to go.

We need to ensure all nine people on the board represent us, the families of Waukesha. Please vote for Karrie Kozlowski, Mark Borowski and Marquell Moorero to ensure you have a voice at that table.

Rebecca Flaherty
 Village of Waukesha



Election letters deadline

The deadline for receiving Letters to the Editor and Sound Offs related to the Feb. 15 primary election is **midnight TONIGHT.** Please keep letters to 300 words.

Email: letters@conley.net

LETTERS POLICY: Letters should be signed and include phone number and address so that we may verify authenticity. Neither phone number nor address will be printed when letters appear. We reserve the right to edit letters. Please keep letters to no more than 300 words. Generally, letter writers are limited to one letter every 30 days. Letters might appear in multiple Conley Media publications.

• Email: letters@conley.net

SOUND OFF

Trains

Five seconds from destiny. That's what happened in downtown Pewaukee Monday evening. While out watching trains in downtown Pewaukee, I observed a couple walking their dog. As the eastbound Amtrak passenger train approached the Oakton crossing, the couple started running toward it to get across the tracks ahead of said train. Our new crossing/pedestrian gates were down, lights flashing, bells ringing, but that did not stop them. They ran right across the tracks with five seconds to spare before they would have gotten hit and become a statistic. Reports tell us that maybe five people per day in the U.S. are killed by trains. All it would have taken is for one of them to slip or fall or their dog get scared and run in front of the train. The result of this could have been deadly. The train took 16 seconds to pass as they then casually sauntered down the street. I wonder what was so important that they couldn't have waited.

What goes unreported is the mental trauma to the engineer who can do nothing to prevent an accident. All he has is a horn button and brake lever and "by the grace of God we go." People need to pay attention at crossings and stop when the gates or lights are activated as well as stay off the tracks wherever they are.

— Andy Mueller, Pewaukee

Ukraine

While I don't like to get involved with overseas military matters when there are plenty of countries local to the issue, Ukraine poses a problem.

The strategy allegedly is more to see the world's response to Russia and Ukraine. Little to no response will embolden China to take Taiwan. A free Taiwan is definitely in the USA's economic and security interests. While there has been talk of "The Big Five" backing Taiwan, without some presence there, I'm not seeing it being effective. Ukraine is the big test of NATO and the UN. While Ukraine isn't a NATO participant, it is the time that all of NATO members and non-member countries alike, stand up, militarily, against Russia and China. That's usually enough to make a bully stand down. We can't accomplish that alone.

— Steven Bukosky, Waukesha

Election

How ironic it is that after 15 months of squawking about how Democrats stole the election, the only solid evidence of illegal attempts to thwart the will of the people has now snared Republican Party officials in Wisconsin and several other states. I'm still waiting to hear the chants, "Lock them up!"

— Brent Nicastro, Madison

Critical race theory

(Re: "Evers vetoes bill banning critical race theory," Saturday:) Not surprising Governor Evers is a Democrat. The Biden administration is ruling the nation as a one-party state dictatorship. Difficult to maintain the totalitarian state without controlling public education.

— Miles Dake, Waukesha

Voting

To all the people that are poised to vote, I have compiled a partial list of issues that Democrats and liberals have been wrong about. The population bomb: We were all supposed to starve to death at least 50 years ago. Global warming and the coming ice age: That was in the late 1970s. Defunding law enforcement: Yeah, that's working out well. Look at the urban decay in the cities. Bail reform: Nearly every high-profile crime is committed by a criminal released from custody with little or no bail. The tragedy in Waukesha comes to mind. Russian collusion — remember that one? Three years and untold millions wasted on a cruel hoax. Americans need an ID for nearly everything but Democrats would have you believe that an ID is not needed to vote. In the words of Joe Biden, "c'mon, man." The southern border: 2 million and counting. School choice: Democrats fight it tooth and nail. What are they afraid of? Inflation and the supply chain: It was all supposed to be transient, remember? Global warming: They changed it to climate change, also known as weather. So we have leftists and Democrats afraid of free speech and competition. Please do your homework before voting.

— Jerry Luedtke, Vernon

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Responders are required to sign their names. Please provide a phone number for verification and the community where you live. Your phone number will not be published. Phone: 262-513-2641 Email: soundoff@conley.net

TODAY'S INSPIRATION

"If you're gonna sing, sing loud."

— Travis Tritt