

EXCLUSIVE: Kevin Nicholson Drops Out Of GOP Race For Governor  
By Mark Belling, WISN-AM

Kevin Nicholson is dropping out of the race for the Republican nomination for Governor, leaving essentially a two candidate showdown between Rebecca Kleefisch and Tim Michels.

Nicholson was running a fairly distant third in polls behind Kleefisch and Michels and his campaign strategy of running as the outsider against former Lieutenant Governor Kleefisch has been upended ever since Michels' late decision to enter the race.

Nicholson has not been able to counter the massive spending by Michels who is using his personal wealth to bombard the state with radio and TV ads. Nicholson's only alternative was to go negative in the waning days of the campaign and he says he didn't want to do that. Such a move would have likely alienated many voters and killed any future plans Nicholson may have to run for office.

Nicholson will not be endorsing either of his rivals until after one of them wins next month's primary election. My guess, and it's only a guess, is that his departure from the race won't change the dynamic much as his supporters may simply split between Michels and Kleefisch. A recent Marquette Law School poll gave Nicholson about ten percent of the GOP vote with Nicholson and Kleefisch in the mid-20s and a sizable number still undecided.

Rep. Timothy Ramthun is still in the race but is woefully underfunded and barely showing up in the polls.

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