

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ROBIN VOS RECALL

Whether the attempt to recall State Assembly Speaker Robin Vos was stupid or not, and that's an important question, it is not my main focus. A more compelling point is the irony of a group accusing Vos of not taking election integrity seriously, then itself either deliberately or ineptly committing election fraud.

The recall petitions included obvious fake names, including Vos' own name, yet the recall organizers either were too careless to actually verify their own submitted signatures or they were committing deliberate fraud themselves. This stuff works both ways. If you care about election integrity you better demonstrate election integrity yourself.

Part of the problem is the confusion over whether a Vos recall should be in the district he was elected from in 2022 or the newly drawn districts that will be in effect in 2024. The State Supreme Court isn't providing any clarity on this and the organizers apparently circulated petitions in both Vos' current and new districts. But the other problems on the petitions are indefensible. A petition circulator has an obligation to guarantee a signature is legitimate. If the circulator doesn't do that, he or she is treating election integrity as frivolously as the Wisconsin Election Commission and the others the organizers claim Vos won't crack down on.

Vos is a very frustrating GOP leader. He is occasionally tactically brilliant and is powerfully effective when he chooses to fight. But he has also Madison-ized himself and is way too tight with the institutionalized power structure that has virtually wrecked the state Republican Party and is more interested in collecting lobbying fees than winning elections. Vos has never gotten over his almost irrational loathing of Donald Trump and has only pretended to be concerned about the legitimate crisis of election manipulation and ballot integrity. He's been an utter wimp in his failure to oust Election Commission boss Meagan Wolfe and was responsible for the appointment of a former commission member who was one of Wolfe's chief enablers.

So there are reasons to be frosted at Robin. But holding a recall election mere weeks before Vos is on the ballot in his regular reelection is indeed stupid. Further, It is clear that some in the anti-Vos crowd are more interested in defeating Republicans like Vos than taking back our state from the radical Democrats. Just as Robin often seems too obsessed with members of his own party (MAGA types), his critics are too obsessed with him

The real priority needs to be electing President Trump, keeping control of the legislature and permanently retiring the laziest member of the United States Senate, Do-Nothing Tammy, than continuing these inane and unproductive civil wars. But if the civil wars are to be fought, those who claim to care about election integrity need to practice it themselves.

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