

In Episode 57DFS 1 Wisconsin and Minnesota They chose the billionaire Tim Walz returns to Minnesota as part of redemption tour 2 Wisconsin Rallying Anti Musk Donors Liberal Judge Susan Crawford Raises \$24 Million in Key Court Contest With Elon Musk backing her conservative opponent a Wisconsin judge seeking a seat on the Wisconsin top court has amassed what is believed to be a record war chest for a judicial campaign 3 March 24 New York Times Headlines One through Ten March 24 2025 The Guardian Headlines One Through Seven Main Content

1 Wisconsin and Minnesota They chose the billionaire Tim Walz returns to Minnesota as part of redemption tour The former Democratic VP nominee tours around the US RAWSEP Key Excerpt At a prior rally in Wisconsin Walz mocked Tesla saying he Walz watches the falling stock to get a little boost each day leading to condemnation on the right Walz took aim at Musk This guy bugs me in a way that is probably unhealthy he said They are all hurt about the Tesla thing but they do not care about the disrespect they have shown to employees at the Minneapolis VA who care for our veterans and they fire them They do not care Walz said Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization The Guardian March 24 2025 Tim Walz is trying to regroup to help Democrats fight the Trump administration but he is still trying to figure out why he and his party lost in November He has not ruled out a 2028 run for president though neither have most 2028 hopefuls I thought it was a flex that I was the poorest person and the only public school teacher to ever run for vice president of the United States Walz told a crowd of roughly 1500 people that filled an auditorium and spilled into an overflow room on a Saturday morning They chose the billionaire We have to do better Much bigger crowds have turned up to see Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez on a stop oligarchy tour People have also filled town halls around the country to tell their elected officials how they are affected by government cuts and policy changes But where the energy goes remains to be seen It is clear Walz still captures the attention of a rightwing outrage machine He chided Fox News and other pundits during an appearance on the Gavin Newsom podcast Walz held the rally in a region of Minnesota where the congressman Brad Finstad is one of many Republicans who have not held in person town halls Republicans who have hosted events in recent weeks have experienced heated pushback During the rally Walz said Finstad should take notice If you are a sitting member of Congress in the biggest city in your district and you see 1300 people on a nice Saturday coming out here it catches your attention trust me he said Thinking about the path forward for Democrats Walz likes the idea of a shadow cabinet borrowing a UK tradition where opposition parties have their own versions of cabinet members to speak out against the ones in power He sees the Trump administration as an existential threat that will chip away at social security but wonders how Democrats are not able to message these popular middle class issues against oligarchs

2 Wisconsin Rallying Anti Musk Donors Liberal Judge Susan Crawford Raises \$24 Million in Key Court Contest With Elon Musk backing her conservative opponent a Wisconsin judge seeking a seat on the Wisconsin top court has amassed what is believed to be a record war chest for a judicial campaign RAWSEP Top Key Excerpt In a statement Judge Crawford accused Musk of trying to buy influence over the Wisconsin judiciary by getting Brad Schimel elected to the Supreme Court RAWSEP View Musk expects his appeal of a Wisconsin lower court ruling that Musk could not sell Teslas in Wisconsin will reach the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Musk apparently wants Schimel to rule in favor of Musk and



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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Crawford best amid chaos

OUR VIEW: Dane County judge has shown more independence, won't kowtow to Trump

Both candidates for Wisconsin Supreme Court have opted exclusively from the Wisconsin State Journal in the past. Our editorial board endorsed Susan Crawford for Dane County judge in 2016, calling the former assistant attorney general who worked on hundreds of criminal cases, prison policy and environmental protection "sharp and confident" with the "calm and patient demeanor of a judge."

We endorsed Brad Schimel for attorney general in 2014 and 2018, crediting him for a "solid job" broad experience and defending Wisconsin's open records law.

So deciding our endorsement for state Supreme Court in the April 1 election wasn't easy. Both judges in this race — Crawford on the bench in Dane County, Schimel in Winnebago — have strong records. During meetings with our editorial board, they both exhibited the professionalism and knowledge necessary for Wisconsin's highest court.

Neither judge has ridden calamity with criminals nor ignored rape victims, as so many TV attack ads erroneously claim. Crawford and Schimel are good people caught in an ugly and expensive race for high court that has surpassed \$40 million.

Wisconsin must adopt a better way of selecting judges than muckraking election campaigns funded by billionaires and special interests. Appointing top judges based on merit would help restore trust in objective justice. Limiting justices to longer, single terms, perhaps with retention elections, is another potential improvement.

Yet voters have to make a decision April 1, with ideological control of the high court likely at stake. Under normal circumstances, both candidates would make fine state Supreme Court justices. But these are unusual times. Republican President Donald Trump has attacked the judiciary in unprecedented ways when it doesn't always rule his way. Trump last week demanded Congress impeach a "biased" and "crooked" judge for merely suspending one of his many executive orders. His fiery rhetoric is ahead and dangerous.

If a judge needs a few days and more information to ensure people are treated fairly in our nation of laws, that is a judge's prerogative and responsibility. Trump's latest threat against our courts even prompted Chief Justice John Roberts to issue a rare public statement defending the judge.

"For more than two centuries," Roberts wrote, "it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response for disagreement concerning a judicial decision. The normal appellate review process exists for that purpose."

To his credit, Schimel isn't joining those in bawling judges for doing their jobs. Moments ago, Schimel told us he's never met

Musk and doesn't control a lot of the ads against his opponent. Still, Schimel also has campaigned with Trump's son. Schimel sounded awfully MAGA at the rally, which is inappropriate for a judge. Unlike Schimel, Crawford can quickly cite cases where she ruled against her partisan supporters. She also credited conservative Justice Antonin Scalia for her dissent in a criminal disorder-driving case, saying she would have upheld the authority of police who arrested the man.

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allow Musk to sell Teslas in Wisconsin. Although Judges are expected to be non-partisan the Republican partisan Musk influence and the Republican partisan Trump influence on Schimel are apparent. America PAC a super PAC funded by Musk has spent more than \$6 point 6 million to back Judge Schimel. Another super PAC affiliated with Musk has spent nearly as much on television ads in the race. Judge Schimel participated in a livestreamed chat with Musk on the Musk owned social media X on Saturday. Judge Schimel told a crowd in Western Wisconsin on Saturday that he had spoken with Trump and that he is going to weigh in and help on this race according to a report from The Leader Telegram of Eau Claire. On Saturday Musk said that Judge Schimel was trailing in the race. And Democrats are winning which is not good. **RAWSEP Top Excerpt on the Trump factor in the Schimel machine**. Judge Crawford faces Brad Schimel a conservative judge who received the Trump endorsement on Friday night and who is being aided by millions of dollars of spending from super PACs affiliated with Elon Musk the billionaire leading the Trump effort to cut costs across the federal government. Judge Schimel and the Republican Party of Wisconsin have also yet to reveal their fund raising numbers from the latest reporting period. **Excerpts edited by RAWSEP for brevity and clarity and relationship to Residents Against Wood Smoke Emission Particulates a 501c3 nonprofit organization**. The New York Times March 24 2025. Judge Susan Crawford the liberal candidate for the Wisconsin Supreme Court has raised \$24 million for the April 1 election a record for an American judicial candidate her campaign said on Monday. Her war chest including \$17 million raised in the period from Feb 4 to March 17 2025 alone approaches that ordinarily expected of a candidate for governor. Most of the money in the race will be spent by super PACs or funneled through the Wisconsin political parties. State law permits the parties to raise unlimited sums which they can then transfer to endorsed candidates in unlimited amounts. Candidates for the court however face limits of \$20000 per individual donor the Judge Crawford campaign said it had received contributions from 113000 donors since she entered the race over the summer. She also expressed gratitude for what she called a historic outpouring of grass roots support across Wisconsin. The Supreme Court race has already drawn \$80 million in total spending as of Friday. With just over a week to go it is by far the most expensive judicial race in American history topping the \$55 million spent on the last Supreme Court election in Wisconsin in 2023. Liberals now hold a 4 to 3 majority on the court which is likely to rule on issues such as abortion rights and the Wisconsin congressional redistricting. The winner will earn a 10 year term on the court. Judge Crawford has now raised more herself than any nonfederal candidate in the history of Wisconsin except for current Democratic Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers. The Democratic Party of Wisconsin which has endorsed Judge Crawford has not yet released its fund raising totals for the latest reporting period. It is required to do so later in the day on Monday.

3 March 24 New York Times Headlines. One through Ten. 1A United States Chaos and Confusion at the National Institutes of Health NIH the Crown Jewel of American Science. The New York Times. 1B United States Law in the Case of Mahmoud Khalil Was Once Struck Down by the Trump Sister. The New York Times. 1C United States Office Market Poised to Rebound as Work From Home Policies End. The New York Times. 1D United States Opinion Bernie Sanders AOC and the Surging Politics of Anger. The New York Times. 1E United States Opinion The Claim Trump Is Making That Could Break the American System. The New York Times. 1F United States Opinion The Oil Oligarch Shaping The Trump Energy Strategy. The New York Times. 1G United States Opinion The Trump Train Is Going Full Speed Ahead. The New York Times. 1H United States Opinion The Voice of America Falls Silent. The New York Times. 1i United States Opinion Why I Got the Measles Vaccine at Age 63. The New York Times. 1K United States Trump Big Law



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SUSAN CRAWFORD

cial interests. Appointing top judges based on merit would help restore trust in objective justice. Limiting justices to long, single terms, perhaps with retirement elections, is another potential improvement.

Yet voters have to make a decision April 1, with ideological control of the high court likely at stake. Under normal circumstances, both candidates would make fine state Supreme Court justices. But these are unusual times. Republican President Donald Trump has attacked the judiciary in unprecedented ways when it doesn't always rule his way. Trump last week demanded Congress impeach a "juristic" and "corrupt" judge for merely suspending one of his many executive orders. His fiery rhetoric is aimed and dangerous.

If a judge needs a few days and more information to ensure people are treated fairly in our nation of laws, that is a judge's prerogative and responsibility. Trump's latest threat against our courts is even more troubling. Chief Justice John Roberts to issue a new public statement denouncing the judge.

"For more than two centuries," Roberts wrote, "it has been established that impeachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision. The normal appellate review process exists for that purpose."

Roberts is right, and his advice merits our own editorial board's admission to U.S. Rep. Derrick Van Orden, R-Proctor's Chair, last month. Van Orden paraded the wisdom of billionaire White House adviser and major Schimel donor Elian Musk in demanding impeachment for a different judge who temporarily blocked Musk from accessing millions of Americans' Social Security and bank account numbers.

Trump, Musk and Van Orden's disdain for the rule of law and an independent judiciary is shameful.

In his credit, Schimel isn't joining them in bawling judges for doing their jobs. Moreover, Schimel told us he's never met Musk and doesn't control a lot of the ads against his opponent. Still, Schimel's response to Trump's demand for impeachment is disappointing. When asked Thursday if he was comfortable with Trump's attack on the judge, Schimel said: "That's the president's prerogative to make statements like that."

Technically, sure, the president has the same free-speech rights as anyone else. But Trump's blatant intimidation of the judiciary is wrong, and Schimel shouldn't say so.

"It just strikes me as how politics are right now," Schimel said. Unfortunately, that's true — because Trump has lowered the bar on civil discourse and democratic norms.

At least Schimel didn't fault Roberts for his response. But we worry how Schimel might rule as a potential deciding vote if, for example, Trump denied — again and repeatedly — despite all evidence — the legitimate results of another fair election in Wisconsin.

Elika Schimel, Crawford has partisan ties. She's worked for a Democratic governor and liberal causes before becoming a judge. But Crawford won't ease to Trump's dangerous pressure campaign against the judiciary. We hope Schimel wouldn't either. But we're not sure, given how many Republicans have fallen in line when Trump has violated even clear Republican principles.

At a recent campaign rally, Schimel told supporters that

Trump needed a "support network," implying he'd be part of that. Schimel also has campaigned with Trump's son. Schimel sounded awfully MAGA at the rally, which is inappropriate for a judge.

Unlike Schimel, Crawford can quickly file cases when she ruled against her partisan supporters. She also credited conservative Justice Annette Ziegler for her dissent in a criminal drunken-driving case, saying she would have upheld the authority of police who arrested the man.

We're disappointed Crawford won't agree to step down from high-profile cases involving special interests spending millions of dollars to benefit her high-court election. But Schimel's position is the same. He won't commit to recuse from a case the court is likely to hear about Tesla — even though the electric-car company's owner, Musk, has spent \$7 million from a super PAC to bolster Schimel's chances.

It's not Crawford's nor Schimel's fault that big-money campaigns are turning our best judges into the worst of politicians. But Crawford is better positioned to uphold Wisconsin's laws and elections, regardless of political pressure becomes.

We're endorsing Crawford as a needed check for Wisconsin on the worst instincts of a president who, by the day, seeks to surpass his legitimate powers.

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