

# Follow our coverage of the 2017 state GOP convention

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*This post is part of our coverage of the 2017 state GOP convention in Wisconsin Dells. See more coverage [here](#).*

Republican activists gathered this weekend at the Chula Vista resort in Wisconsin Dells for the 2017 state GOP convention.

Gov. Scott Walker [kicked things off yesterday](#) with a fish fry that featured dueling pianos. This morning, he [continued to tee up his 2018 re-election bid](#), telling GOP activists Wisconsin is a top 10 state for business, education and employment, but he's "ready to do more."

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson also [spoke with reporters](#) during the convention, saying James Comey was in a "pretty tough spot" leading the agency, but declined to weigh in on whether the president taped his conversations with the former FBI director.

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Possible GOP Senate candidate Kevin Nicholson spoke to reporters Saturday and [defended his bona fides as a conservative](#) as he was pressed on details Saturday about his 2008 vote in the Dem presidential primary.

He and two other possible Senate candidates — state Sen. Leah Vukmir and state Rep. Dale Kooyenga — [declined to fully weigh in](#) on President Trump's decision to fire Comey. Vukmir and Kooyenga also discussed their timeline for making a decision to jump in the race in interviews with WisPolitics.com.

Speakers today included:

\*House Speaker Paul Ryan, who [implored GOP activists to ignore the “blowback”](#) they’re seeing on TV about the Affordable Care Act, saying Republicans understand the opportunity they have with full control of Washington, D.C.

\*U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Oshkosh, who [warned GOP activists of the “primal scream” from the left](#), saying those on the other end of the political spectrum are “relentless in taking away our freedom.

\*U.S. Rep. Sean Duffy, R-Wausau, [who said](#) President Trump is “helping us make history and make America great again.”

\*U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman, R-Glenbeulah, who wasn’t able to make it to the state GOP convention this year but [said in a video](#) that Republicans must “stand with our president” on immigration policy and build a wall. Grothman was in the hospital after going through a medical procedure.

\*U.S. Rep. Mike Gallagher, who wasn’t able to make it due to a best friend’s wedding but [thanked GOP activists for their work](#) and the opportunity they’ve given Republicans.

\*Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, who [decried a “plague of political correctness on college campuses”](#) as he called for new free speech protections at UW System schools.

\*Senate President Roger Roth, who [praised Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald](#) for his early support of President Trump.

\*State Treasurer Matt Adamczyk, who [said the elimination of the treasurer’s office](#) will be a “symbolic win for limited local government.”

\*AG Brad Schimel, who [slammed possible Dem opponent Josh Kaul](#) as the “handpicked lawyer” of George Soros who was one of Hillary Clinton’s attorneys in the “wasteful” recount of Wisconsin’s presidential vote last fall.

\*and Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch, who [said Republicans need to “bring it” in 2018](#) in order to see victory.