

# WisDems: Illinois billionaire Dick Uihlein drops \$200K more for Nicholson

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*As Paul Ryan endorses Leah Vukmir, Uihlein goes even bigger for his “[spawn\[ed\]](#)” and “[nurtur\[ed\]](#)” candidate*

MADISON — Restoration PAC — [bankrolled by nearly \\$5 million from Illinois billionaire Dick Uihlein and his groups this cycle](#) — is launching a new \$200,000 digital buy to promote Kevin Nicholson over his Paul Ryan and Republican Party of Wisconsin-endorsed opponent Leah Vukmir, [according to Politico’s Morning Score](#).

The New York Times [has described](#) Uihlein’s prolific support for Nicholson’s candidacy — which includes more than \$20 million that Uihlein has dumped into 11 groups backing Nicholson since 2017 — as a test “of whether big money...can spawn, nurture and deliver a winning candidate.”

And of late, Wisconsin’s GOP U.S. Senate primary has devolved into a proxy war between the Illinois billionaire and the Republican Party of Wisconsin — [a “test” of the state party’s influence](#) versus millions in spending from an out-of-state billionaire and the arsenal of outside groups that he bankrolls.

“While Wisconsin Republicans beg for party unity and try to push their endorsed candidate Leah Vukmir toward a primary victory with big endorsements from Paul Ryan and others, it’s clear that out-of-state billionaire Dick Uihlein has another outcome in mind,” **said Brad Bainum, DPW spokesperson for the 2018 Senate race.** “Uihlein remains as committed as ever to stoking intra-GOP divisions

and buying a U.S. Senate seat for Kevin Nicholson, his spawned candidate of choice.”