

DGA: “Scramble,” “hurdles,” “grenade” — Donald Trump’s encouragement of Sean Duffy run delivers massive blow to Rebecca Kleefisch

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Donald Trump stirred up the Wisconsin GOP primary for governor this week by [encouraging a run](#) from [Sean Duffy](#), snubbing Rebecca Kleefisch. The aftermath of Trump’s statement has been disastrous for Kleefisch, who earlier [said](#), “I hope that Donald Trump gets involved in this race.” Kleefisch and her campaign have yet to comment on Trump’s statement.

Here’s just a sample of what local media in Wisconsin are saying:

- **[Wisconsin Right Now](#)**: “President Donald Trump dropped a grenade into the middle of the Wisconsin governor’s race.”
- **[Wisconsin Examiner](#)**: “It seems Rebecca Kleefisch cannot get a break with her fellow Republicans ... Trump’s praise and his message urging Duffy to run in a primary against Kleefisch to challenge Democratic Gov. Tony Evers, comes despite the fact that Kleefisch’s far-right stances already mimic Trump.”
- **[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)**: “Former President Donald Trump’s plea to former congressman Sean Duffy to mount a run for governor has scrambled the race and raised the possibility of an intense Republican primary.”

- **[WISN 12](#)**: “Whether Duffy runs, the statement may offer a blow to other Republican campaigns, most notably former Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch.”
- **[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)**: “Trump’s statement could signal hurdles for Kleefisch as she works to unify the Republican grassroots with whom Trump remains popular.”

“A Donald Trump-endorsed bid from Sean Duffy would spin the Wisconsin GOP primary into chaos,” said DGA Senior Communications Advisor Christina Amestoy. **“If Duffy jumps in, he and Kleefisch will be forced into a brutal battle for the far-right base. The chaotic race to the right will expose Kleefisch’s out-of-touch policies and prove that she’s radically wrong for Wisconsin.”**