

American Bridge 21st Century: Reports: GOP Senate candidates “drawing on” white nationalists’ “great replacement” conspiracy theory

Posted on Tuesday, May 17, 2022

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

As highlighted in new reports from the [Associated Press](#) and [New York Times](#), and following [Vice](#) reporting from last week, a “[half-dozen mainstream Republican Senate candidates](#)” are “[drawing on the ‘great replacement conspiracy theory once confined to the far-right fringes of U.S. politics to court voters this campaign season.’](#)”

In a transparent effort to stoke fear and cater to the extremists within their party, the GOP has heavily borrowed from white nationalist rhetoric, which has inspired mass-shootings across the country — most recently in Buffalo, New York.

So far, on the campaign trail, Republican U.S. Senate candidates have rushed to adopt the racist talking points that have “migrated from the far-right fringes of American discourse toward the center of Republican politics.” **In states like Arizona, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin both incumbents and candidates have willingly spread this disturbing, divisive, and willfully dangerous rhetoric.**

- In Arizona, **Blake Masters** has repeatedly used replacement theory rhetoric, warning voters of a made-up immigrant invasion that he threatens will “[change the demographics of our country.](#)” On Saturday, Masters

even [doubled down](#) on his white nationalist creed mere hours after the Buffalo shooting.

- In Missouri, **Attorney General Eric Schmitt** has looked to scare the right-wing radicals in his party by claiming Democrats are “[fundamentally trying to change this country through illegal immigration](#).” Meanwhile, **disgraced former governor Eric Greitens** has said that “[immigrants are flooding into all of the 50 states, and that includes Missouri \[...\] wiping out the distinction between citizens and non-citizens](#).”
- In Ohio, **JD Vance** is “[reclaiming the racist label](#)” by ginning up anger amongst white nationalists and feeding their fear that an [immigrant “invasion” will “transform the electorate.](#)”
- And in Wisconsin, **Senator Ron Johnson** has claimed Democrats want to “[remake the demographics of America](#).”

Read the full reports from the [Associated Press](#), [New York Times](#), and [Vice](#).