

American Bridge: New year, same terrible senator: Ron Johnson kicks off 2022 with another week of coverage highlighting his lies

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Ron Johnson is starting the new year off with a bang — and not in any positive sense of the idiom. Instead, Johnson has picked right up where he ended 2021, introducing a “**mind-bogglingly weird anti-vaccine argument**” that has **doctors and [some priests](#)**, further condemning his efforts to spread COVID-19 misinformation

(For those just tuning in, **Johnson has repeatedly and unapologetically worked to undermine trust in the safe and effective COVID vaccines for the past year**, despite [acknowledging](#) in December 2020 that doing so “will cause people’s deaths.” You can also find a helpful rundown of Johnson’s other “most controversial” 2021 statements, [here](#).)

If only that were Johnson’s one dangerous lie this week. But alas, **on the anniversary of the Jan. 6 Capitol attack, Johnson made sure to downplay the violence of that day and further spread conspiracy theories about the attack** — all while failing to acknowledge that he was one “[of Trump’s ringleaders in the plot leading up to the Capitol attack.](#)”

The upshot for 2022: As Johnson prepares to run for reelection, he’s fully burned through any credibility he ever had with Wisconsin voters and [“become the Republican Party’s foremost amplifier of conspiracy theories and disinformation.”](#)

Taking heat for (still) lying about the 2020 election and the Jan. 6 Capitol attack:

- **USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Editorial Board:** [The Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol illustrated the risk of political violence. Voters in Republican districts can help stop it.](#)
- **Wisconsin State Journal Editorial Board:** [“Johnson was one of Trump’s ringleaders in the plot leading up to the Capitol attack. And to this day, Johnson continues to downplay the seriousness of this historic American nightmare.”](#)
- **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:** [“Wisconsin Democrats are using the anniversary of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection to tell voters they can’t trust Republicans \[like Ron Johnson\] with democracy.”](#)
- **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:** [Tammy Baldwin slams GOP for wanting to ‘whitewash’ Jan. 6; Ron Johnson ticked off that Democrats now have anniversary to ‘pound on’](#)

Facing backlash for lying about vaccines:

- **WISN-TV:** [Priests weigh in on Sen. Ron Johnson’s take on COVID-19 vaccine, God](#)
- **WTMJ-TV:** [PolitiFact Wisconsin: Sen. Johnson incorrectly claims unvaccinated people around the world are put into “internment camps”](#)
- **CNN:** [Analysis: What this Republican Senator doesn’t know about Covid-19 is, well, a lot](#)
- **Washington Post:** [Analysis: Ron Johnson somehow isn’t clear on why post-illness immunity is worse than no-illness immunity](#)

- **MSNBC: The Beat with Ari Melber:** [“Senator Johnson himself, well, he took issue with god’s natural remedies when he recommended mouth wash to treat COVID. So that was his idea of a solution.”](#)
- **Wonkette:** [Ron Johnson Creates God In His Own Total Dumbass Image](#)
- **HuffPost:** [Sen. Ron Johnson Draws Ridicule After Mind-Numbing Take On God And Vaccines](#)
- **MSNBC: Maddow Blog:** [Ron Johnson tries to rope God into his bizarre take on vaccines](#)
- **Washington Post Opinion:** [The GOP isn’t even trying to sound coherent anymore](#)
- **TPM:** [Ron John Wonders Why We’re All Trying To Play God By Getting Vaccinated](#)
- **The Late Show with Stephen Colbert:** [“I get it god created our immune systems, but he also created Ron Johnson so he has been known to shank it”](#)