

American Bridge: Report; Ron Johnson charging taxpayers for plane rides from family home in Florida

Posted on Thursday, May 26, 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.](#)**

A new [report from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) may help to shed some light on why **Ron Johnson is so out-of-touch with Wisconsinites that he keeps opposing policies to help lift up [Wisconsin workers, families, and small businesses](#): Per the Journal Sentinel, it turns out that Johnson has been taking regular trips between Washington, DC and his family home in Florida — and footing taxpayers with the bill.**

Even as he charges taxpayers for his South Florida jaunts, the Senator [who praised Rick Scott's roadmap to reduce spending \(including by phasing out Social Security and Medicare\)](#) is worth millions of dollars — and [he's doubled his net worth](#) since joining the Senate and working to [deliver himself and his biggest billionaire backers](#) hundreds of millions in tax breaks.

Before opting to run for reelection, Johnson last summer complained that he hasn't been "[particularly successful](#)" in Congress. So, a Florida retirement would be a natural and logical next step for him.

But for now, it seems as though Johnson plans to continue his reelection campaign. **Just this week, it was reported that Johnson's top three billionaire mega-donors — Dick and Liz Uihlein, along with Diane Hendricks — have [dumped at least \\$3.5 million into an outside group](#) spending to keep Johnson working for them in Washington.** That news follows a report from April that "[The Uihleins gave Johnson's campaign fund about \\$280,000 in the last quarter.](#)"

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: [Sen. Ron Johnson uses tax dollars to travel between Florida family home and the U.S. Capitol](#)

By Daniel Bice, 5/26/22

Key points:

- “U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson has been using taxpayer dollars to cover the cost of flights between [a Florida family vacation home](#) and Washington, D.C., including nine such trips last year, federal records show.”
- “Democrats say the expenditures by the multimillionaire Republican are a waste of public money because they say the trips have nothing to do with his official job representing Wisconsin at the U.S. Capitol.”
- “Federal records show that Johnson, a Wisconsin Republican, has been reimbursed for 19 flights from Fort Myers, Florida, to Washington between 2013 and May 2021.”
- “Wisconsin’s senior senator went to Fort Myers at least nine times between Jan. 1, 2021, and May 10, 2021. Those flights between Florida and Washington cost taxpayers anywhere from [\\$227](#) to [\\$1,152](#). Travel records show that Johnson [attended a meeting, via teleconference from Florida](#), with MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell and a couple of Republican senators at Trump International Hotel to [discuss allegations of election fraud on Jan. 4, 2021](#). Johnson also [did a televised interview with host Chuck Todd](#) of NBC’s ‘Meet the Press’ from Fort Myers.”
- “It is impossible to determine the exact cost for Johnson’s jaunts from Florida because many of the reimbursements were lumped in with expenses from other trips, including some within Wisconsin.”