

WisDems: Out to lunch: Michels cements insider status with megadonor Diane Hendricks

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MADISON, Wis. – According to WisPolitics.com, Diane Hendricks, billionaire and a megadonor entrenched in GOP politics, has invited Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim Michels to a luncheon she is hosting. Michels has [said](#) he will not accept PAC money or large donations, but it certainly seems he will accept favors from billionaires.

While Michels has run ads casting himself as a political outsider, he is in fact the ultimate insider – prior to announcing his run for governor, he made the pilgrimage to meet [with Donald Trump in Mar-a-Lago](#) and [held a fundraiser at one of his houses for Senator Ron Johnson](#) featuring many GOP heavyweights.

Michels is not an everyday Wisconsinite. He was on the board of the state's largest business lobby, and he doesn't even appear to live in Wisconsin full-time — he owns multimillion-dollar homes in Connecticut and New York, where he lived part time [for at least 8 years](#).

Diane Hendricks is also no stranger to GOP politics, previously donating almost [\\$2 million](#) to Trump's 2016 campaign and at least [\\$13.1 million](#) to GOP politicians and conservative groups during the 2020 cycle. After [joining](#) Tommy Thompson on his trip to Mar-a-lago, she's now apparently settled on using her connections and vast resources to support Tim Michels.

“Tim Michels is not a political outsider — he asked Donald Trump for permission to run before he asked Wisconsinites what they cared about, he's held fundraisers for GOP bigwigs and was on the board of a lobbying group. Now he's holding an event

with one of the biggest GOP donors around,” said **Democratic Party of Wisconsin Rapid Response Director Hannah Menchhoff**. “Michels’ catering to Diane Hendricks and holding a listening session with wealthy donors, instead of everyday Wisconsinites, shows just how out of touch he is. ”