

WisDems: Tim Michels on his radical agenda: 'If you do that you are going to be incredibly unpopular. I say I don't care'

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Michels embraces divisive and radical agenda, acknowledges he doesn't agree with most Wisconsinites on key issues

MADISON, Wis. — At a [campaign event this week](#), Tim Michels underscored how divisive and radical he would be as governor and also acknowledged how deeply unpopular his agenda would be with Wisconsinites. He [said](#):

"So we all know we have a Republican legislature, we have a Republican assembly, Republican State Senate, and when we get a conservative governor we can make generational change here in Wisconsin. I am willing to be the lightning rod that is needed. That's what leaders do. There are gonna be a lot of people that are gonna say Tim, if you do that you are going to be incredibly unpopular. I say I don't care."

Some of the issues Michels would push through the legislature as governor, despite the majority of Wisconsinites opposing them, include:

- Michels wants to criminalize abortion even in cases of rape or incest: Michels said the 1849 ban on abortion that doesn't include exceptions for rape or incest is "[an exact mirror](#)" of his position. The [latest Marquette poll](#) showed that not only do 65% of Wisconsinites believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases, but also 79% of Republicans agree that abortion should be legal in cases of rape or incest.

- He has pledged to lift restrictions on firearms and said he would not support [red flag](#) laws backed by [81% of Wisconsin voters](#): When discussing red flag laws at a debate, which are often used as a response tool for victims of domestic violence, Michels [said](#) that abusers shouldn't have their weapons confiscated because an "angry ex, ex spouse makes a complaint. Oh, he made a threat to me and then the police have to go confiscate his guns."
- Michels doesn't think gay people should be in public: Michels does not think that same-sex marriage should be brought "out of your house" [[45:05](#)] and supported a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriage. During this year's campaign, Michels [reiterated](#) his belief that "marriage should be between a man and a woman." Support for marriage equality has steadily increased in recent years, and according to an April 2022 Marquette Law School [poll](#), 72% of Wisconsinites support same-sex marriage. By partisan group, 82% of Independents and 58% of Republicans now support same-sex marriage.

"Tim Michels' agenda is not only radical and extreme, it is deeply unpopular with Wisconsinites," said **Democratic Party of Wisconsin Rapid Response Director Hannah Menchhoff**. "Michels will carry out these policies that harm our state and take Wisconsin backwards regardless of what the people of our state want. Tim Michels is wrong for Wisconsin."