

WisDems: Wisconsin Secretary of State calls for removal of fake Trump elector from Elections Commission

Posted on Monday, Dec 11, 2023

>> **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.](#)**

MADISON, Wis. — Today, Wisconsin Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski called on Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu to remove Bob Spindell from the Wisconsin Elections Commission after [Spindell and the fake Trump electors admitted](#) last week their actions contributed to Donald Trump's plot seeking to overturn the 2020 election.

Associated Press: [Wisconsin Secretary of State Calls for Removal of Fake Trump Elector from Elections Commission](#)

Wisconsin's Democratic secretary of state on Monday called for a Republican who served as a fake elector for former President Donald Trump and admitted trying to overturn the 2020 election results to be removed from his position on the Wisconsin Elections Commission.

Bob Spindell was one of 10 Republicans who signed certificates in 2020 falsely stating that Trump had won Wisconsin. President Joe Biden won the battleground state.

Spindell and other nine fake electors conceded in a legal settlement last week that Biden had won the state and agreed to not serve as electors in next year's election or in any in which Trump is running. They also agreed that their actions were "part of an attempt to improperly overturn the 2020 presidential election results."

But they also avoided paying any damages and didn't accept any liability or admit any wrongdoing for their actions.

Spindell, who didn't respond to voicemails or text messages left last week and on Monday seeking comment, is one of three Republicans on the Wisconsin Elections Commission, which also has three Democratic members. The commission is tasked with administering the state's elections, but it is Wisconsin's more than 1,800 local election clerks who actually run elections.

On Monday, Wisconsin Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski became the latest Democrat to call for Spindell to lose his seat on the bipartisan elections commission.

"He is clearly not fit," Godlewski said in an interview. "He doesn't have the moral compass or ability to follow the law and he needs to be removed."

The secretary of state's office doesn't oversee elections in Wisconsin, but it does receive the certificate of votes from the state's electors. The office received the fake one from Republicans in 2020 as well as notice of the settlement last week in which Spindell and the others admitted that they had tried to improperly overturn the election results.

"When I receive notification that a public official misled my office, I can't look the other way," Godlewski said.

In her letter to Republican Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, Godlewski cited Spindell's admission under the legal settlement that he was trying to overturn the election results as reason to remove him from the commission.

"I find it abhorrent that Election Commissioner Robert Spindell Jr. knowingly submitted a fraudulent election document to Wisconsin's Secretary of State as part of a larger coordinated effort to overturn the will of the people," Godlewski wrote to LeMahieu.

Spindell was first appointed to the commission in 2019. LeMahieu reappointed him to a five-year term in 2021. Unless he resigns or is removed from the commission, Spindell will be a member leading up to and after the 2024 presidential election.

LeMahieu, in an interview the day the settlement was released, said he was unaware that it had been entered into and did not know the details. LeMahieu has not returned messages since then, including on Monday, seeking comment.

Democrats have been calling for Spindell's removal from the commission ever since he served as the fake elector in 2020. There was a surge in calls for his removal last

year after he credited Republican tactics in Milwaukee in the 2022 midterm election for depressing turnout from Black and Hispanic voters. Spindell refused to step down then.

Wisconsin Republicans this month introduced a bill that would put the secretary of state's office in charge of elections, but give final authority to the GOP-controlled Legislature. Godlewski said she opposes that bill and does not support putting her office in charge of running elections, and the Democratic governor said he would veto such a change if the bill were to pass.

The current system "has been providing free and fair elections in the state of Wisconsin, and I'm going to continue to support that," Godlewski said.