



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RACINE COUNTY DEMOCRATS FILE FORMAL DOJ COMPLAINT OVER
MADRIGAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY**

***Party Calls for Independent Investigation into Possible Campaigning on
Taxpayer-Funded Time***

RACINE COUNTY, WI — Kelly Gallaher, Chair of the Democratic Party of Racine County, has filed a formal complaint with the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) requesting an independent investigation into possible political campaigning on public time by Racine County Sheriff's Captain and Republican candidate Cary Madrigal.

The complaint follows a review of Madrigal's campaign Facebook page documenting 36 posts published during regular weekday business hours between February 23 and October 4, 2026—19.25% of the campaign's 187 posts reviewed.

The posts included political endorsements, campaign videos, direct appeals for votes, and promotions for campaign events and fundraisers.

Racine County Ordinance § 17-81 prohibits deputy sheriffs from engaging in political campaign activities while on duty. Violations may result in disciplinary action, while certain forms of misconduct involving public office could carry criminal penalties under Wisconsin law.

Although Madrigal has publicly stated that multiple administrators manage her campaign Facebook page and that she was not responsible for posting while on duty, the Democratic Party is seeking independent verification.

"Captain Madrigal's explanation may be entirely accurate, but the public deserves more than assurances," said Gallaher. "An examination of work schedules, leave records, and campaign activity can establish whether any rules were violated. That's why we've requested an independent investigation."

The complaint was directed to the DOJ because of potential conflicts of interest involving local law enforcement officials.

Sheriff Christopher Schmaling has endorsed Madrigal's candidacy, while Racine County District Attorney Tricia Hanson has been identified as a co-manager of her campaign.

Schmaling recently declined to investigate allegations of campaigning on public time involving Democratic state Senate candidate Trevor Jung, citing his political support for Jung's Republican opponent.

"If Sheriff Schmaling recognizes a conflict of interest when allegations involve a candidate he opposes, the same standard should apply when allegations involve the candidate he supports," Gallaher said. "The public should have confidence that political connections do not determine who gets investigated or who gets a pass."

The complaint asks the DOJ to examine whether any campaign activity occurred while Madrigal was on duty, whether public resources were used, and whether applicable county rules or Wisconsin laws were violated.

"This is about accountability, not political affiliation," Gallaher added. "The rules governing political activity on taxpayer-funded time must apply equally to everyone, especially those entrusted with enforcing the law."

The Democratic Party of Racine County has provided DOJ with supporting documentation identifying the 36 posts, including dates, times, screenshots, and links.

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