

**REMARKS OF THE HON. MICHAEL J. GABLEMAN BEFORE
THE WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
AND CAMPAIGNS, THE HON. JANELLE BRANDTJEN, CHAIR**

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

Chairman Brandtjen and Members of the Committee,

I am delighted to be back before you. I would like to take some time to update you on the latest news relative to my investigation and then take whatever questions you may have, with the understanding that I have been allotted one hour for today's meeting that my schedule today requires me to adhere to that time limit.

I. Subpoenas Issued & Lawsuits Filed

Not long ago, my office drafted a series of subpoenas demanding certain documents and testimony from government officials who helped administer the November 2020 election. The Speaker of the Assembly signed those subpoenas and they were duly served.

Those subpoenas were issued to the Wisconsin Election Commission, the Mayors of Green Bay, Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine, and Madison—that is, the five cities that together took an aggregate of around \$9 million from the Zuckerberg Foundation in exchange for ceding some of their authority to administer that election. I issued similar subpoenas for the municipal clerks of those five cities.

In response, I received straightforward cooperation from the City of Kenosha and little or no cooperation from Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, and Green Bay. After those subpoenas were served, Josh Kaul, the current attorney general of our state filed a lawsuit against Speaker Vos, Chairman Brandtjen and my office in which he has asked the court to prohibit me from asking any questions of Meghan Wolf, the

administrator of WEC. In response to this lawsuit, Speaker Vos has had to hire attorneys, as has Chairman Brandtjen and me. Like Josh Kaul and his hundreds of lawyers, all of our lawyers are being paid by the taxpayers. Oral argument is set on that matter before the court in Madison on December 23.

On this past Monday, November 29, I filed two Petitions for Writs of Attachment in the Circuit Court for Waukesha County against the mayors of Green Bay and Madison: Eric Genrich and Satya Rhodes-Conway. I did so because of all the clerks and all the mayors, those two simply failed without reason or excuse to appear for their depositions and answer questions about how and to what extent they allowed Mark Zuckerberg's employees to plan and administer their cities' election in November 2020. This is a significant area of inquiry because undisputed news reports tell us that Mr. Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, spent a total of roughly \$500 million to defeat the incumbent President Donald Trump and elect the current President, Joe Biden.

Reasonable minds might wonder whether the millions of dollars each of these mayors received from the Zuckerbergs may have induced them to do something other than treat all candidates fairly and impartially and whether those mayors used the Zuckerberg money to get out the vote for Joe Biden. These questions have been left unasked by a suddenly incurious press. Rather, the state's largest and once-respected but now rapidly failing newspaper has taken up the partisan cause of unlawful electioneering by shielding from accountability potential wrongdoing by government officials.

Eric Genrich and Satya Rhodes-Conway have chosen to ignore the subpoenas issued by the Wisconsin Assembly because they have no intention of answering uncomfortable questions about how they ran their elections and what they did with the millions of dollars of Zuckerberg money they took. The court date for the hearing on my petitions is

December 22, 2021. Rather than be held accountable for his partisan efforts, Mayor Genrich has chosen to hire three law firms who-- it is reported—have donated their services. All three law firms who are donating thousands and thousands of dollars worth of free legal services to Eric Genrich share his partisanship. Whatever costs are borne of this cover up will, again, be paid for by the taxpayers.

Let's talk about cover-ups because that is exactly what the Wisconsin Election Commission, its administrator Meaghan Wolf, and Mayors Genrich and Rhodes-Conway are engaging in. They are trying to run and hide from accountability to the citizens they are supposed to serve. Why go through all this legal evasion, maneuvering, and expense unless they do not want the public to know what they have done.

You know, the last time I was here, the only questions I received from Eric Genrich and Satya Rhodes-Conway's advocates on this committee were in regard to the identities of the personnel who work with me. I must note that in keeping my pledge to reach out to all members of this committee, I called Representative Spreitzer (even after he tweeted that in his opinion I am not worth a phone call) to ask to sit down and meet with him. He refused my offer, which tells me everything I need to know about whose side he's on and it isn't the side of the average citizen. At least he was upfront. In contrast to Representative Subeck who accepted my offer to visit but then simply absented not just herself from her office at the appointed hour, but also her entire staff as well. I waited in the hallway for twenty minutes. Representative Emerson said she'd think about my offer and I am still waiting to hear back.

This is worth mentioning because the commonality of Eric Genrich, Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mark Spreitzer, Lisa Subeck, and Jody Emerson is that in November 2020, they all wanted Donald trump to lose and Joe Biden to win. And they have no interest in exposing themselves or each other's wrongdoing to public accountability.

II. The Attacks on my Office

The attacks on my office that have come mainly from one cowardly, dishonest, partisan reporter for our state's largest and once respected but now rapidly failing newspaper as well as Mark Spreitzer and other partisans is that my office has lacked transparency. Yes, after being given proof that the Wisconsin Election Commission has been committing on a longstanding basis systematic illegalities, Mark Spreitzer's first question to me concerned the identities of the people I work with. The cowardly, dishonest, and partisan reporter's articles appear on the front page of his newspaper every time I meet with someone he doesn't agree with and makes up lies about my lack of understanding of elections and lies about nonexistent meetings with conservative billionaires.

III. My Response

A. Personnel

The following individuals work for my office:

The following people have worked for my office but no longer do so:

B. Subleases

A couple of weeks ago, I reported to the Chief Clerk of the Assembly that I had entered into sublease agreements with the Thomas More Society and the law firm who represents the Wisconsin Voters Alliance.

The purpose of the sublease is to save taxpayer money. Finding temporary office space for an unknown period of time in order to accommodate an unpredictable number of staff is difficult and expensive.

I found the least expensive office space with the maximum flexibility so that if this investigation were forced to shut down prior to the conclusion of the one-year lease, taxpayers would not be stuck with the bill.

C. Money Spent

On August 30, 2021, the Assembly appropriated a budget for this office of \$376,000, a number based on a projected operational lifespan of roughly three or four months. So far, we have spent the following amounts: