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Wisconsin takes legal action against Elon Musk over election cash offering



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Elon Musk at the White House on March 24. Photo: Brendan Smialowski / AFP via Getty Images

offer in a since-deleted post to pay voters for casting ballots in the [state's Supreme Court race](#).

The big picture: Musk has spent millions on the contest for a single seat, in what has become a nationalized proxy fight between political parties and billionaire benefactors — and a [referendum on President Trump](#).

Driving the news: Kaul said in [a statement](#) Friday that the state's Department of Justice is "aware of the offer recently posted by Elon Musk to award a million dollars to two people at an event in Wisconsin this weekend."

- He said, "Based on our understanding of applicable Wisconsin law, we intend to take legal action today to seek a court order to stop this from happening."
- The state's Department of Justice "is committed to ensuring that elections in Wisconsin are safe, secure, free, and fair," the attorney general added.

Zoom in: Musk on Thursday originally posted to X saying he'd hold a rally in Wisconsin on Sunday and "personally hand over" \$2 million to two people who already voted in the Supreme Court election, according to local outlet [WKOW](#).

- He also said the event would be limited to people who already cast their ballots.

What he's saying: Musk deleted the statement Friday and said in a [new post](#) that entrance to his talk will be limited to those who have signed a petition expressing their opposition to "activist judges," a cause Trump has pressed as judges block or delay several parts of his agenda.

- His political action committee earlier this month also [offered Wisconsin voters](#) \$100 to sign the petition.

Zoom out: The April 1 [election](#) in Wisconsin will determine the tilt of an ideologically divided bench in a swing state where state-level decisions can carry national implications for abortion rights, legislative redistricting and election laws, Axios' Alex Isenstadt reports.

- Two Musk-backed groups — America PAC and Building America's Future — have combined to spend nearly \$20 million to support Brad Schimel, the Republican candidate for the Wisconsin court seat.
- The Democratic candidate, Susan Crawford, has drawn millions in donations from progressive donors, including George Soros and Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

Go deeper: [Musk's PAC offers \\$100 to Wisconsin voters in pitch against "activist judges"](#)



Go deeper

voters in pitch against "activist judges"



White House senior adviser Elon Musk, shown last week on the South Lawn. Photo: Samuel Corum/Getty Images

[Elon Musk](#)'s political action committee is offering Wisconsin voters \$100 to sign a petition expressing their opposition to "activist judges," a cause that [President Trump](#) is pressing as judges block or delay several parts of his agenda.

Why it matters: The move reflects how Musk is throwing his considerable wealth behind Trump's priorities — including an upcoming [election in Wisconsin](#) for a crucial seat on the state's Supreme Court.

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Exclusive: Elon Musk group's playbook in Wisconsin's court race



Illustration: Lindsey Bailey/Axios

Elon Musk has spent millions on the race for a single seat on Wisconsin's Supreme Court. Now the billionaire's political group is offering the GOP candidate free advice: Get Trumpier.

Why it matters: [The Wisconsin contest](#) — a nationalized proxy fight between the political parties and billionaire benefactors — is a [referendum on President Trump](#).

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Erin Doherty
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Illustration: Lindsey Bailey/Axios

The battle over a single [state Supreme Court seat in Wisconsin](#) is on track to be among the most expensive judicial races in history, fueled by donations from big fundraising names such as Elon Musk and George Soros.

Why it matters: Democrats and Republicans alike see the Wisconsin race as having outsized importance in politics, stretching far beyond the Dairy State.

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