

COALITION OF WISCONSIN PATRIOT GROUPS

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WISCONSIN'S TEA PARTY MOVEMENT SETS RECORD STRAIGHT: NO ENDORSEMENT

The Coalition of Wisconsin Patriot Groups encompasses approximately 70 local, conservative grassroots organizations across the state. Collectively, these groups form the core of Wisconsin's "Tea Party" movement. Certain misleading claims have appeared in the media concerning the movement's position on a recently announced candidate. It is therefore necessary to correct the record.

In reporting over the last week or so on a candidate for federal office who announced his campaign just prior to the state GOP convention, several news sources—from the local to the national level—have used descriptive phrases that included: "Tea Party candidate"; "Wisconsin's Tea Party hope"; and "Tea Party favorite." Such proclamations give the impression of a publicly-acknowledged, consensus opinion within the movement. However, they were made without consulting any of the numerous existing groups in the state that comprise the movement. The resulting news stories were, therefore, not only inaccurate but also troubling.

In fact, the coalition of Tea Party/Patriot groups in Wisconsin has not endorsed any candidate in any race. Nor does it align with any political party. We do, however, thoroughly vet candidates of various political parties as an educational service to our own members and the public at large. Reports that do suggest the movement's endorsement of any particular candidate are simply false.

The leaders of Wisconsin's Patriot/Tea Party movement welcome the opportunity to communicate directly with the media in future regarding our respective stances on this and other matters.

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