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Stevens Point Journal

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026 | STEVENSPONTJOURNAL.COM

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RACE FOR GOVERNOR



Wisconsin candidates for governor, top from left: Democrats Mandela Barnes, Francesca Hong, David Crowley and Republican Tom Tiffany. Bottom from left: Democrats Missy Hughes, Joel Brennan, Kelda Roys and Sara Rodriguez
PROVIDED BY CAMPAIGNS; MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENETINEL

Candidates share views on utility rates, energy policy

Jessie Opoien

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON – As Wisconsin’s electricity costs continue to outpace those of most of its Midwestern counterparts and voters point to the cost of living as their biggest worry, candidates vying to

be the state’s next governor are highlighting the issue in policy proposals and campaign ads.

The focus on utility rates in the Badger State also comes after Democrats in Virginia and New Jersey won governor races last fall on a platform that included a promise to address utility costs.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel asked the candidates – seven Democrats competing in the Aug. 11 primary and one Republican who will face the winner in the Nov. 3 general election – about their utility policy priorities, how they would seek to balance consumer

See CANDIDATES, Page 3A

Democrats request records on pardons

Lawmakers prompted by reports that procedures aren’t being followed

Marisa Taylor
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – Two Democratic members of Congress on June 15 pressed the administration of President Donald Trump to retain communication records related to pardons granted to recipients including an electric-vehicle manufacturer found guilty of defrauding investors of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Sen. Peter Welch, a Judiciary Committee member from Vermont, and Rep. Dave Min, an Oversight Committee member from California, made the request to determine whether “improper considerations, including quid pro quo or ‘pay-to-play’ dynamics, may have affected the clemency process,” they wrote in letters to the White House, Justice Department and U.S. Secret Service.

The two lawmakers, citing coverage by Reuters and other media, said they have been looking into the administration’s clemency efforts, which include pardons and commutations of sentences. They requested that all records be retained for 17 specific clemency recipients, including Trevor Milton, a businessman who was convicted in relation to a start-up he ran touting electric vehicles that never became operational.

Last week, a Reuters investigation found that 96% of Trump’s clemencies this term have gone to candidates, including Milton, who didn’t meet long-standing Justice Department guidelines for pardons.

In response to questions from Reuters, a spokesperson for Milton criticized his conviction and said it had been politically motivated by prosecutors during the administration of President Joe Biden. The spokesperson didn’t respond to a question about

See PARDONS, Page 7A

Expect smoke near Whiting Ave. during June 23 fire training in Stevens Point

Nida Tazeen

Stevens Point Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

STEVENS POINT – Residents near Whiting Avenue can expect to see large amounts of smoke next week as the Stevens Point Fire Department conducts live fire training.

The training is scheduled from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday, June 23 at 3100 Whiting Ave., according to a community announcement.

The exercise is designed to help firefighters maintain proficiency in fire behavior, suppression, search and rescue, incident management and communications. The scenarios are based on National Fire Protection Association standards



Stevens Point firefighters start off their final eight hour day of a 24 hour Live Fire Instructor Certification Course with a drill monitoring heat and smoke in their building set up of cargo containers at Stevens Point Fire Department Training Center in Stevens Point on April 30, 2025.

GABI BROEKEMA/USA TODAY NETWORK- WISCONSIN



U.S. Representative Dave Min (D-CA) speaks during a field hearing by the Democrats on the House Oversight Committee, as part of their investigation into Jeffrey Epstein, in West Palm Beach on May 12. REUTERS

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