



Election 2026

Where do moderates turn in a race that features progressive and staunchly conservative voices?

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FOCAL POINT

Bucks, Giannis Antetokounmpo trade rumors dominate NBA landscape entering draft

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Immigration enforcement

Judge rejects Trump's attempt to compel information from Minn. officials

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Great Britain

PM Keir Starmer to resign, pave way for the nation's 7th leader in 10 years

NATION&WORLD. A8

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

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CAMPAIGN 2026 | GOVERNOR

Hughes bows from race

Former leader of the WEDC endorses Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez

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Missy Hughes on Monday became the first candidate in a crowded Democratic field to drop out of the race for governor,

instead throwing her support behind Lt. Gov. Sara Rodriguez. In a social media post Monday, Hughes wrote that while she always looks for ways to serve, it won't be as the state's next governor.

"As you consider what is important to you, I urge you to look beyond the talking points, social media posts and gilded promises and consider what you think is essential to do the job,"



Hughes

Hughes, the former Wisconsin

wrote. "Stop asking 'Who will win?' and start asking who you trust to make big decisions that impact our families and the wellbeing of our loved ones, neighbors and communities."

Economic Development Corporation director under Gov. Tony Evers, entered the race in September but failed to gain traction among the other six Democrats running. In Marquette Law School polls from earlier this year, Hughes polled in the single digits, even as the majority of Democratic respondents said they hadn't decided who they would vote for. Hughes was the only candidate

for governor, Democrat or Republican, who supported the bipartisan surplus deal pitched last month by Evers, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, and Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu, R-Oostburg. The deal had large bipartisan support when the Marquette Law School polled voters about it.

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LAKE MONONA | BLUE-GREEN ALGAE



AMBER ARNOLD, STATE JOURNAL

Linda Thompson shows the algae along the shoreline of Lake Monona from the balcony of her condo at Waterfront Place in Monona on Monday. Thompson and her husband, Allen May, say they have never seen an algae bloom this bad in the area before.

Rank water rankles locals

Residents on north shore contend with foul-smelling bloom

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Linda Thompson, 71, bought her condo for its view of the north

shore of Lake Monona. But on Monday morning, she couldn't open her window to admire it without an odor akin to "pig manure" filling her living room.

The culprit: a blue-green algae bloom spreading across the shoreline outside Thompson's complex at the corner of Monona Drive and Buckeye Road. Though Thompson

said the blooms have been ongoing since she and her husband moved to the condo nearly 10 years ago, this most recent instance was the worst she'd seen.

"The problem has been getting worse and worse each year," she said. "It's smelly, it's very unattractive."

On Monday, the powder-blue

swath of algae floating on the surface of the lake outside Thompson's window clustered thickly enough to obstruct the lake's bottom entirely. People could even smell it across the street at a local wood sculpture festival, she added.

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UNIVERSITIES OF WISCONSIN | SEARCH FOR LEADERSHIP

Price tag of \$461K

UW chancellor and system president jobs both currently vacant

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UW-Madison is searching for its next chancellor at the same time recruitment is underway to find a new Universities of Wisconsin president.

Filling the dual high-ranking posts is expected to cost more than \$461,000, according to a Wisconsin State Journal review of the contracts involved in the searches.

Travel, advertising and background checks all add up. Replacing the leaders requires extensive candidate searches, including public input sessions, interviews, campus visits, a committee's pick and a final vote by the UW Board of Regents.

The new UW system president will succeed Jay Rothman, whom the Regents fired on April 7 after he refused to resign, saying the Regents weren't transparent during his dismissal.

UW-Madison Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin then left the university in May to become president of Columbia University.

Typically, an executive search firm is hired to assist with the hiring process. The UW system selected Boston-based firm Isaacson, Miller for the chancellor search and Washington, D.C.-based firm AGB Search for the presidential search.

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MIDDLE EAST | PEACE TALKS

US waives sanctions on Iran for 60 days

HUMEYRA PAMUK, DAVE GRAHAM AND LAILA BASSAM
Reuters

BUERGENSTOCK, Switzerland — The United States waived sanctions on Iran for 60 days

from Monday after the first talks under a nascent peace deal, and officials reported calm in Lebanon after fighting that prompted Iran to declare the Strait of Hormuz closed.

After a weekend that seemed to put the week-old peace agreement in jeopardy, including threats from U.S. President Donald Trump to restart the war if Iran closed the

strait, tanker traffic started to pick up through the waterway and oil prices resumed their slide.

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