

JOSH KAUL REPORT



CASCADE STRATEGIES – AUGUST 2022

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BIOGRAPHY

Name: Joshua Lautenschlager Kaul

Birth: Feb. 2, 1981

Residence: 2380 West Lawn Ave.
Madison, WI 53711

Family: Wife, Lindsey; Lindsey; 2 Children: Simon, Henry

Education: BA, Economics/History, Yale University (1999-2003)
JD, Stanford Law

Military: None

Professional Experience: Attorney, Perkins Coie

Assistant US Attorney, US Attorney's Office for the
District of Maryland

Attorney, Jenner & Block (2007-2009)

Law Clerk to Honorable Michael Boudin, US Court
of Appeals for the First Circuit (2006-2007)

Political Experience: Attorney General of Wisconsin (2019-Present)

TIMELINE

Feb. 2, 1981	Born
1999-2003	BA, Economics/History, Yale University
2003-2006	Stanford Law School
2006-2007	Law Clerk to Honorable Michael Boudin, US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
2007-2009	Attorney, Jenner & Block
2010-2014	Assistant US Attorney, US Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland
2014	Attorney, Perkins Coie
2018	Candidate, Wisconsin State Attorney General
2019-present	Attorney General, State of Wisconsin

CRIME INCREASE

- **According to his biography on the Wisconsin Department of Justice website, Josh Kaul's top priority is public safety**
 - According to the Wisconsin Department of Justice website, "Josh Kaul was sworn in as Wisconsin's 45th Attorney General on January 7, 2019. Josh's top priority is public safety. Under his leadership, the Wisconsin Department of Justice has worked to combat the opioid epidemic and the increasing use of meth in Wisconsin, to make our schools and communities safer from gun violence, and to pass legislation designed to prevent Wisconsin from having another backlog of untested sexual assault kits. Josh is also committed to fighting for clean and safe drinking water and against climate change and to protecting the rights of Wisconsinites."¹

- **Wisconsin had 315 homicides in 2021, up from 185 in 2019**
 - In a March 8, 2022, article, Wisconsin Public Radio reported, "Turando Long used to spend his mornings taking long walks around his Kenosha neighborhood. His sister, Romonda Thomas, said exercise brought joy to her brother.

"Long turned 28 on Feb. 14, 2021. For his birthday, his mom and sister gifted him new workout clothes and a pair of headphones, knowing he'd get good use out of them.

"On Feb. 15, 2021, he put on the new jumpsuit and his headphones and headed out for a walk. Hours later he was found in the street outside a store on Kenosha's south side. He was dead, shot three times in the stomach.

"He always walked early in the day, never late at night, or anything like that, so he never worried about anything," said Thomas, 23.

"Long's death was the first homicide in the city in 2021. Kenosha ended the year with 16 homicides, up from six in 2019. It's a trend that's reflected in statewide numbers, which show a 70 percent increase in homicides since 2019.

"Wisconsin had 315 homicides last year, up from 185 in 2019, according to the state Department of Justice.

"Law enforcement experts say the reasons for the ongoing increases in homicides vary from too many guns on the street to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to human desperation."²

¹ Executive Profiles: Attorney General, Wisconsin Department of Justice website, Accessed Aug. 11, 2022

² Corrinne Hess, "Wisconsin had 315 homicides last year. That's a 70 percent increase from 2019," Wisconsin Public Radio, March 8, 2022

- **As of July 27, 2022, data from the Milwaukee Police Department showed that there have been 133 homicides, a forty percent increase from the same time in 2021. If it remains on the current pace, Milwaukee will shatter the record of 193 in a year, which was set just last year**
 - In a July 27, 2022, article, WISN reported, “A national study from WalletHub reports that Milwaukee is the city with the fourth highest homicide rate increase in the United States.

“As of July 27, 2022, data from the Milwaukee Police Department shows that there have been 133 homicides, this represents a forty percent increase from the same time in 2021. If it remains on the current pace, it will shatter the record of 193 in a year, which was set just last year.

“The sharpest increase has come in the south side Police District Two, where homicides are up 143% from the same period last year.”³
- **Wisconsin Public Radio in May 2022: “The city of Milwaukee is on pace to break its homicide record again this year”**
 - In a May 17, 2022, article, Wisconsin Public Radio reported, “The city of Milwaukee is on pace to break its homicide record again this year.

“The county’s medical examiner, in a tweet early Monday, said there were five homicides over the weekend, and 18 in the last half month. That includes three separate shootings late Saturday and early Sunday on the heels of three shootings near the Deer District after Friday’s Milwaukee Bucks playoff game at the Fiserv Forum.”⁴
- **In 2020, either the city or the county of Milwaukee set new records for homicides, nonfatal shootings, motor vehicle deaths and overdoses**
 - In a Nov. 1, 2021, article, the Associated Press reported, “Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul on Monday announced a \$115 million legislative package to strengthen gun control and create grants for community policing and mental health treatment programs.

“The Democratic attorney general’s proposals include funds for a wide array of criminal justice programs, including mental health crisis response programs, substance abuse diversion, re-entry opportunities and police officer recruitment and retention, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported. It also includes gun-control measures, like universal background checks, that have not found success in the Republican-held Legislature.

³ Nick Bohr, “Milwaukee reports fourth highest increase in homicides among major U.S. cities,” WISN, July 27, 2022

⁴ Christine Hatfield, “Milwaukee on pace to break homicide rate record again this year,” Wisconsin Public Radio, May 17, 2022

“Kaul unveiled the proposals, which he said would be funded out of a \$4.4 billion tax surplus, at the Milwaukee County Courthouse. The city of Milwaukee has been hit especially hard with violent crimes amid a nationwide increase. In 2020, either the city or the county of Milwaukee set new records for homicides, nonfatal shootings, motor vehicle deaths and overdoses.”⁵

➤ **Young people are involved in many violent crimes in Milwaukee. Nick DeSiato, chief of staff at the Milwaukee Police Department, said teens have easy access to guns. And younger people are stealing cars and driving recklessly, which is all connected**

- In a Nov. 13, 2021, article, the Associated Press reported, “Last month, a 47-year-old Oshkosh woman tried to stop four teenagers from stealing a car at a Holiday Inn Express in Wauwatosa. The woman, Sunita Balogun-Olayiwola, was killed when one of the boys got into her car, pushed her out and ran her over several times.

“The criminal complaint contains horrific details of the incident that has led to the 13-year-old boy being charged as an adult in Milwaukee County Circuit Court. Despite being 13 years old, the boy now faces six felony charges and up to 115 years in prison if convicted.

“This case is extreme. But it’s one of many violent crimes in Milwaukee County where young people are involved.

“Nick DeSiato, chief of staff at the Milwaukee Police Department, said teens have easy access to guns. And younger people are stealing cars and driving recklessly, which is all connected, Wisconsin Public Radio reported.”⁶

➤ **In January 2022, a Milwaukee city official called for more resources to combat high levels of juvenile crime, including reckless driving and vehicle theft**

- In a Jan. 31, 2022, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “A Milwaukee city official is calling for more resources to combat high levels of juvenile crime, including reckless driving and vehicle theft.

“In a committee of the Common Council on Thursday, Ald. Michael Murphy said it's obvious the ‘system’s not working’ and urged city and Milwaukee County officials to work more closely together to find solutions.

“‘That’s just not an acceptable solution to allow the status quo to continue,’ he said.

“Also at the meeting were District Attorney John Chisholm and Milwaukee County Chief Circuit Judge Mary Triggiano, who said the pandemic has contributed to increased caseloads and stretched resources.

⁵ “Wisconsin AG to push for gun control, \$115 million in grants,” Associated Press, Nov. 1, 2021

⁶ Corrinne Hess, “Youths Caught in Middle of Milwaukee Violent Crime Increase,” Associated Press, Nov. 13, 2021

“Since the pandemic has hit and the violence has risen and other kinds of cases, they’re holding more youth in the detention center than ever before,” Triggiano said.”⁷

- **Reports of vehicle theft have risen dramatically in Milwaukee, more than doubling from 2020 to 2021. Nearly 10,500 vehicles were reported stolen citywide in 2021, compared with about 4,500 in 2020, according to data from the Milwaukee Police Department**

In a Jan. 31, 2022, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Reports of vehicle theft have risen dramatically in Milwaukee, more than doubling from 2020 to 2021. Nearly 10,500 vehicles were reported stolen citywide in 2021, compared with about 4,500 in 2020, according to data from the Milwaukee Police Department.

“People as young as 12 have been caught stealing cars and using them for joyriding and driving dangerously.”⁸

⁷ Sarah Volpenhein, “Alderman: ‘System’s not working’ enough to stem hike in juvenile crime,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Jan. 31, 2022

⁸ Sarah Volpenhein, “Alderman: ‘System’s not working’ enough to stem hike in juvenile crime,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Jan. 31, 2022

DRUG OVERDOSES

- **According to his biography on the Wisconsin Department of Justice website, Josh Kaul “has worked to combat the opioid epidemic and the increasing use of meth in Wisconsin”**
 - According to the Wisconsin Department of Justice website, “Josh Kaul was sworn in as Wisconsin’s 45th Attorney General on January 7, 2019. Josh’s top priority is public safety. Under his leadership, the Wisconsin Department of Justice has worked to combat the opioid epidemic and the increasing use of meth in Wisconsin, to make our schools and communities safer from gun violence, and to pass legislation designed to prevent Wisconsin from having another backlog of untested sexual assault kits. Josh is also committed to fighting for clean and safe drinking water and against climate change and to protecting the rights of Wisconsinites.”⁹

- **In his 2018 campaign for attorney general, Josh Kaul attacked his opponent for not doing enough to curb opioid abuse in Wisconsin, noting nearly 900 people died from overdoses in 2017**
 - In an Oct. 13, 2018, article, the Associated Press reported, “Democratic attorney general candidate Josh Kaul went on the attack during his first debate with Republican incumbent Brad Schimel on Friday, hoping to make up ground after polls show him trailing the veteran prosecutor less than a month before Election Day.”¹⁰
 - According to the same article, “Kaul has been battering Schimel for months for not doing enough to curb opioid abuse in Wisconsin, noting nearly 900 people died from overdoses in 2017. Schimel has countered that prevention and treatment rather than arrests are the way out of the crisis, and continually holds up the DOJ’s ‘Dose of Reality’ public awareness campaign as a national model for promoting prevention.

“Kaul said during the debate that the opioid problem has only gotten worse on Schimel’s watch. He jabbed the attorney general for not joining other states in suing pharmaceutical companies for allegedly using deceptive marketing practices to sell opioid-based painkillers.”¹¹

- **Wisconsin had 1,227 opioid overdose deaths in 2020, 32% more than in any previous year. The preliminary total for 2021, as of April 2022, was 1,237**
 - In an April 28, 2022, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “COVID-19’s disruption of regular life and an increased presence of fentanyl in other types of illicit drugs, often with users not knowing, have spurred record levels of fatal opioid overdoses around the country, including in Wisconsin, officials say. The state had

⁹ Executive Profiles: Attorney General, Wisconsin Department of Justice website, Accessed Aug. 11, 2022

¹⁰ Todd Richmond, “Kaul goes on offensive in testy first AG debate,” Associated Press, Oct. 13, 2018

¹¹ Todd Richmond, “Kaul goes on offensive in testy first AG debate,” Associated Press, Oct. 13, 2018

1,227 opioid overdose deaths in 2020, 32% more than in any previous year. The preliminary total for 2021, as of Tuesday, was 1,237, a figure that may grow.”¹²

➤ **Drug overdose deaths soared to record levels in Wisconsin in 2020. Between 2019 and 2020, reported fatalities from overdoses grew by more than a quarter in Wisconsin — from about 1,200 to 1,530**

- In a July 29, 2021, article, PBS Wisconsin reported, “As the coronavirus swept across Wisconsin, an entrenched epidemic continued to exact its own deadly toll in communities across the state. Drug overdose deaths soared to record levels in Wisconsin in 2020 as social upheaval and isolation upended lives and disrupted life-saving social services.

“Primarily but not exclusively driven by heroin and synthetic opioids like fentanyl, overdose deaths had been growing for years in Wisconsin and the United States before the pandemic struck in early 2020. Then through the rest of the year, they surged.

“Between 2019 and 2020, reported fatalities from overdoses grew by more than a quarter in Wisconsin — from about 1,200 to 1,530 — according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Nationally, overdose deaths rose by nearly 30% over the same period to a record high of around 93,000. All but two states saw more drug overdose deaths in 2020 than 2019.”¹³

➤ **Drug overdose deaths in Milwaukee County broke records in 2021. The county reported 643 drug overdose deaths in 2021, up from 546 deaths in 2020**

- In a March 9, 2022, article, Wisconsin Public Radio reported, “Drug overdose deaths in Milwaukee County broke records again last year, according to updated data from the county Medical Examiner’s Office.

“As of Wednesday morning, Milwaukee County reported 643 drug overdose deaths in 2021, said Sara Schreiber, technical forensic director. That’s up from 546 deaths in 2020.

“‘This stark increase is yet another reminder in a very vivid way of the number of lives that we’ve lost to this just in Milwaukee County alone,’ Schreiber said.”¹⁴

➤ **138 people in Dane County lost their lives to drug overdose in 2020, a 39% increase since 2016, and deaths from synthetic opioids, like fentanyl, have increased rapidly in Dane County**

¹² David Wahlberg, “‘Completely overwhelmed’: Fentanyl, pandemic fuel record opioid overdose deaths,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, April 28, 2022

¹³ Will Cushman, “Overdose Deaths in Wisconsin Soared in 2020 as Pandemic Intensified Opioid Crisis,” PBS Wisconsin, July 29, 2021

¹⁴ Christine Hatfield, “Milwaukee County sees record number of drug overdose deaths in 2021,” Wisconsin Public Radio, March 9, 2022

- According to a May 5, 2022, release from the City of Madison, “Public Health Madison & Dane County released its report on the 2022 Dane County Overdose Fatality Review PDF (OFR). The report is a representation of efforts to gather data, analyze trends, hear real accounts from families impacted by drug overdoses, and develop recommendations to prevent future deaths.

“Drug overdose deaths are 100% preventable. The Overdose Fatality Review provides us with the unique opportunity to gather comprehensive information about overdose victims’ lives and interactions with various systems to better understand what factors may have contributed to these deaths,” said Director of Public Health Madison & Dane County, Janel Heinrich.

“The Dane County OFR Case Review Team reviewed data on overdose deaths from 2018-2020 (the most recent complete data available). They also conducted an in-depth examination of the lives of 20 people who died in 2020. Here are some key takeaways:

- 138 people lost their lives to drug overdose in 2020, a 39% increase since 2016.
- Opioids continue to drive drug overdose deaths, with nearly 9 in 10 deaths involving an opioid.
- Deaths from synthetic opioids, like fentanyl, have increased rapidly in Dane County.
- Nearly half of the people who died of a drug overdose died with multiple drugs in their system.

“The team offered interviews to families who lost a loved one to drug overdose in 2020, leading to conversations with 25 people who shared stories about their loved ones.”¹⁵

¹⁵ Press Release, “Overdose Fatality Review Reveals Troubling Trends in Dane County,” City of Madison, May 5, 2022

KYLE RITTENHOUSE

- **In the fall of 2021, Kyle Rittenhouse went on trial for killing two people and wounding another during highly charged protests during the summer of 2020, with his attorneys arguing he acted in lawful self-defense. The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* said regarding the trial, “this courtroom will be at the center of one of the most fraught chapters in the history of this city and state”**
 - In an Oct. 31, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “It’s a hidden historic treasure inside the grand old Kenosha County Courthouse.

“Step inside Room 203, with its 1960s drop ceiling, six rows of hard wooden benches for spectators in the gallery and portraits of past judges gazing down.

“Over the next few weeks, this courtroom will be at the center of one of the most fraught chapters in the history of this city and state.

“It’s here where Kyle Rittenhouse goes on trial for killing two people and wounding another during highly charged protests during the summer of 2020.

“Jury selection is slated to begin Monday. Rittenhouse has pleaded not guilty to seven charges, his attorneys arguing he acted in lawful self-defense.”¹⁶
- **Kyle Rittenhouse was acquitted of all charges after asserting self-defense in the Kenosha shootings**
 - In a Nov. 19, 2021, article, the Associated Press reported, “Kyle Rittenhouse was acquitted of all charges Friday after asserting self-defense in the deadly Kenosha shootings that became a flashpoint in the debate over guns, vigilantism and racial injustice in the U.S.

“Rittenhouse, 18, began to choke up, fell forward toward the defense table and then hugged one of his attorneys as he heard a court clerk recite ‘not guilty’ five times. A sheriff’s deputy whisked him out a back door.”¹⁷
- **In December 2021, Josh Kaul said he could not say whether prosecutors properly handled the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse because he did not follow every aspect of the case**
 - In a Dec. 16, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Attorney General Josh Kaul isn’t pushing for Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm to step down after his office recommended what Chisholm has called inappropriately

¹⁶ Bill Glauber, “Kenosha braces for Kyle Rittenhouse trial,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Oct. 31, 2021

¹⁷ Michael Tarm, Scott Bauer and Amy Forliti, “Jury finds Rittenhouse not guilty in Kenosha shootings,” Associated Press, Nov. 19, 2021

low bail for a man now accused of driving into and killing paradegoers in Waukesha.”¹⁸

- According to the same article, “Bail was much higher - \$2 million - in the case of Kyle Rittenhouse, who was acquitted of murder charges last month. Rittenhouse became a cause célèbre for conservatives and his attorneys raised money for his bail through crowdfunding.

“Rittenhouse killed two men and injured a third in August 2020 after the city erupted in violent protests in response to the police shooting of Jacob Blake. Rittenhouse, an Illinois resident who said he was in Kenosha trying to protect private property, was found by the jury to have acted in self defense.

“Kaul said he could not say whether prosecutors properly handled the trial of Kyle Rittenhouse because he did not follow every aspect of the case.”¹⁹

➤ **Josh Kaul on the prosecutors: “Not having watched the entire trial or knowing exactly what information they had, I’m not in a position to comment on that”**

- In a Dec. 16, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “I’m confident that our prosecutors around the state take their obligations and their work very seriously. But not having watched the entire trial or knowing exactly what information they had, I’m not in a position to comment on that,” Kaul said.

“Kaul said he respected the jury’s verdict.

“I respect our jury system. I think it is a very good system,” he said. “Based on what I know, there were several days of deliberations. It seems very clear that they took their role seriously.”²⁰

➤ **The jury was given the Kyle Rittenhouse case on Nov. 16, 2021**

- In a Nov. 16, 2021, article, NPR reported, “Twelve jurors have begun deliberations in the criminal trial of Kyle Rittenhouse, who fatally shot two protesters and wounded a third during the unrest last year in Kenosha, Wis.

“Jurors deliberated for roughly eight hours on Tuesday without reaching a verdict. They will resume deliberations Wednesday at 9 a.m. CT.

“Over nearly five hours of closing arguments on Monday, prosecutors and defense lawyers made their final pitch to the panel, alternately describing Rittenhouse as a reckless ‘chaos tourist’ looking for trouble, versus a responsible young man who was viciously attacked by lawless rioters.”²¹

¹⁸ Patrick Marley, “AG says DA’s fate should be up to voters,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Dec. 16, 2021

¹⁹ Patrick Marley, “AG says DA’s fate should be up to voters,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Dec. 16, 2021

²⁰ Patrick Marley, “AG says DA’s fate should be up to voters,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Dec. 16, 2021

²¹ Becky Sullivan, “Jury in the Kyle Rittenhouse trial breaks for the night,” NPR, Nov. 16, 2021

- **As the jury was given the case, political leaders from Kenosha to Madison prepared for whatever reactions might come from the Kyle Rittenhouse verdict. The governor ordered roughly 500 Wisconsin National Guard troops to be ready on standby, and police departments were watching the trial**

- In a Nov. 16, 2021, article, WTTI reported, “Political leaders from Kenosha to Madison are trying to prepare for whatever reactions come from the Kyle Rittenhouse verdict. The governor ordered roughly 500 Wisconsin National Guard troops to be ready on standby, and police departments are watching the trial.

“The Kenosha County Sheriff’s Department and Kenosha Police Department say they understand the anxiety surrounding the Kyle Rittenhouse trial. They say at this time, they have no reason to close roads, enact a curfew or ask for changes to daily routines.”²²

- **On Nov. 18, 2021, Josh Kaul reported a campaign expenditure for a fundraiser at a resort in Scottsdale, AZ**

- According to his January 2022 Continuing campaign finance report, as filed with the Wisconsin Secretary of State, on Nov. 18, 2021, Josh Kaul reported spending \$230.30 at the Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch for “fundraiser – hall rental.”²³

- **The fundraiser coincided with the Democratic Attorneys General Association policy conference in Scottsdale, AZ**

- According to Crowell Morning, from Nov. 17-18, the Democratic Attorneys General Association held its policy conference in Scottsdale, AZ.²⁴
- In a Nov. 17, 2021, Instagram post tagged from the Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch, Texas attorney general candidate Lee Merritt wrote, “Today I am in Arizona meeting with the Democratic Attorney General Association (DAGA).

“People all over the country are watching Texas. Our AG is an international embarrassment and they see a real opportunity for change in our campaign. We have to fight to make it a reality.”²⁵

- **Within a week of the fundraiser expense, and during the Kyle Rittenhouse trial, the Democratic Attorneys General Association reported making more than \$6,000 in in-kind travel expenditures for Josh Kaul for “Candidate Expenses – Travel”**

- According to his January 2022 Continuing campaign finance report, as filed with the Wisconsin Secretary of State, on Nov. 12, 2021, Josh Kaul reported receiving

²² “Kyle Rittenhouse trial: National Guard on standby, police ready,” WTTI, Nov. 16, 2021

²³ Amended January 2022 Continuing Report: Kaul for Attorney General, Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, March 30, 2022

²⁴ State Attorneys General Association Meetings – 2021-2022, Crowell Morning, Accessed Aug. 11, 2022

²⁵ www.instagram.com/p/CWYqf7nPIhr/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y%3D

\$1,151.64, and on Nov. 17, 2021, Josh Kaul reported receiving \$4,860.30, both in-kind contributions made by the DAGA Individual PAC, both for “Candidate Expenses – Travel.”²⁶

➤ **The Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch advertises itself as a AAA Four-Diamond Scottsdale Resort that offers an upscale, authentic experience within easy reach of popular attractions**

- According to the Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch website, “Our AAA Four-Diamond Scottsdale Resort offers an upscale, authentic experience within easy reach of popular attractions. Sip a cold beverage in a cabana by one of our two pools or play a round at McCormick Ranch Golf Club, an adjacent award-winning golf course. We also offer three restaurants and 90,000 sq. ft. of event space.”²⁷



➤ **Tensions rose between law enforcement and demonstrators after Kyle Rittenhouse was acquitted of all charges**

- In a Nov. 20, 2021, article, Fox 6 reported, “Tensions rose between demonstrators and law enforcement Friday night, Nov. 19 – hours after a jury acquitted Kyle Rittenhouse of all charges in connection to the shootings of three people.

²⁶ Amended January 2022 Continuing Report: Kaul for Attorney General, Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, March 30, 2022

²⁷ The Scottsdale Resort at McCormick Ranch website, Accessed Aug. 12, 2022

“FOX6 News at the scene saw at least one person taken into custody around 9:15 p.m. Several other law enforcement vehicles arrived to escort the initial vehicle away after demonstrators surrounded the scene.”²⁸

²⁸ Cassidy Williams, “Kyle Rittenhouse verdict: Protests, arrest outside courthouse,” Fox 6, Nov. 19, 2021

DNA LAB TESTING

➤ **While running for attorney general in 2018, Josh Kaul criticized his opponent for delays in crime lab DNA testing**

- In an Oct. 23, 2018, article, the *Appleton Post-Crescent* reported, “State crime lab workers have sped up drug tests in the past year, but a backlog of months-old DNA evidence has continued to grow to nearly 800 cases.

“Attorney General Brad Schimel, who oversees the state crime labs, released new figures Friday about the tests, about four weeks after USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin requested them under open records laws.

“Schimel is campaigning for re-election Nov. 6 and has faced criticism from his opponent, Democrat Josh Kaul, over crime lab delays. When the Republican entered office in 2015, DNA evidence rarely took more than two months to test.

“Now, about half of all DNA tests take at least two months and hundreds of cases typically take more than three months - potentially slowing investigations or cases that rely on DNA.”²⁹

➤ **In 2019, Wisconsin State Justice Department crime labs were slower to process some types of evidence, taking longer to process evidence related to DNA, major crime scenes, firearms, and forensic video and image analysis, even as the total number of cases submitted to the crime labs decreased**

- In a May 21, 2020, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “State Justice Department crime labs were slower to process some types of evidence in 2019, providing a setback for Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul, who once chided his Republican predecessor for crime lab delays.

“A DOJ Division of Forensic Sciences report released Tuesday outlining crime lab performance showed it took longer last year to process evidence related to DNA, major crime scenes, firearms, and forensic video and image analysis, even as the total number of cases submitted to the crime labs decreased.”³⁰

➤ **In 2021, Wisconsin’s crime labs took longer to process DNA samples. The crime labs on average processed DNA samples in 128 days in 2021, up from 94 days in 2020 and 97 days in 2019, according to the labs’ annual report**

- In an April 18, 2022, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Wisconsin’s crime labs took longer to process DNA samples last year but began bringing down their caseloads at the end of 2021, according to a state Department of Justice report released Thursday.

²⁹ Keegan Kyle, “DNA backlog grows in state crime labs,” *Appleton Post-Crescent*, Oct. 23, 2018

³⁰ Riley Vetterkind, “Report shows delays in testing at state crime labs,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, May 20, 2020

“Attorney General Josh Kaul, a Democrat who won his office in 2018 on a promise to clear up a backlog of cases, said the trendlines are moving in the right direction after processing times fell behind during the coronavirus pandemic.

“‘The crime lab is well-positioned for the long term,’ Kaul said in an interview.

“The crime labs on average processed DNA samples in 128 days in 2021, up from 94 days in 2020 and 97 days in 2019, according to the labs’ annual report. The median processing time last year was 115 days, up from 79 days in 2020 and 65 days in 2019.

“The longer processing time occurred even though the crime lab took in fewer cases last year - 3,612, compared to 3,820 in 2020 and 4,400 in 2019.”³¹

- **The average turnaround time to develop a DNA profile jumped from three months to four; the time to analyze evidence for the presence of an illegal drug increased from 44 days to 61; and time to analyze bodily fluids or tissue for alcohol or drugs increased from 39 days to 48**

- In an April 14, 2022, article, the Associated Press reported, “Wisconsin crime labs took longer to deliver test results last year across a number of disciplines, as analysts continued to face the added difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and spent more time testifying in court than the previous year, according to a state Justice Department report released Thursday.

“The average turnaround time to develop a DNA profile jumped from three months to four; the time to analyze evidence for the presence of an illegal drug increased from 44 days to 61; and time to analyze bodily fluids or tissue for alcohol or drugs increased from 39 days to 48, according to the department’s annual lab performance report.

“The only areas where turnaround times improved were ballistics, tool mark and footwear analysis. The labs shaved almost 100 days off their ballistics turnaround time, from 247 days in 2020 to 157 days last year, although they handled 14 fewer cases. The time for tool mark analysis dropped from 1,164 days to 763. The number of tool mark cases, however, dropped from 23 to seven. Turnaround time for footwear analysis fell from 140 days to 12, with the labs handling two fewer of such cases than in 2020.”³²

³¹ Patrick Marley, “Process time up for state crime labs as caseloads fall,” Milwaukee Daily Journal, April 18, 2022

³² Todd Richmond, “Wisconsin crime labs’ turnaround times slowed last year,” Associated Press, April 14, 2022

HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT

➤ **In 2021, one of Josh Kaul’s appointees at the state Department of Justice accused Kaul of overseeing a state agency with a “hostile work environment”**

- In a May 18, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Attorney General Josh Kaul knew he would come under attack from his Republican foes during his reelection bid next year.

“Certainly less expected by Kaul, a first-term Democrat, was this blast from inside his own camp:

“One of his appointees at the state Department of Justice is accusing the state’s top cop of overseeing a state agency with a ‘hostile work environment.’”³³

➤ **Tina Virgil - head of the Division of Law Enforcement Services - filed a race and sex discrimination complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, accusing state officials of underpaying and mistreating her because she is a Black woman**

- In a May 18, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Tina Virgil - head of the Division of Law Enforcement Services - filed a race and sex discrimination complaint with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on April 16, accusing state officials of underpaying and mistreating her because she is a Black woman.

“Virgil was hired at a salary below her predecessor, a white male, says the three-page complaint. It says she also has more experience than any other administrator in the Department of Justice but is paid less than all but one, based on 2019 data. All of the other administrators are white.

“Beyond that, Virgil, 56, claims she has been the subject of nonstop abusive behavior over the past two years because of her race and gender.”³⁴

➤ **Virgil’s complaint said that Josh Kaul’s No. 2 had repeatedly mistreated female staffers, often exploding in anger when Virgil or other women disagreed with him**

- In a May 18, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Her complaint says Kaul’s No. 2 has repeatedly mistreated female staffers, often exploding in anger when Virgil or other women disagree with him. She also said her calls were secretly recorded by another division administrator who was hoping to put her job in jeopardy.”³⁵

³³ “Top aide to Kaul claims sex, race discrimination,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 18, 2021

³⁴ “Top aide to Kaul claims sex, race discrimination,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 18, 2021

³⁵ “Top aide to Kaul claims sex, race discrimination,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 18, 2021

- **Josh Kaul's name appears only twice in the private complaint, but it was clear that Tina Virgil believed that Kaul was at fault for the problems in his agency**
 - In a May 18, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Her complaint says Kaul's No. 2 has repeatedly mistreated female staffers, often exploding in anger when Virgil or other women disagree with him. She also said her calls were secretly recorded by another division administrator who was hoping to put her job in jeopardy.

“Kaul's name appears only twice in the private complaint obtained by the Journal Sentinel, but it is clear that she believes he is at fault for the problems in his agency.”³⁶

- **In May 2022, Josh Kaul's agency resolved the legal dispute, agreeing to pay \$46,276 in tax dollars to settle the discrimination complaint**
 - In a May 27, 2022, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “State Attorney General Josh Kaul's agency has resolved an election-year legal dispute with one of his top aides.

“The state Department of Justice, headed by Kaul, has agreed to pay \$46,276 in tax dollars to settle a discrimination complaint filed with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by Tina Virgil, administrator of the agency's Division of Criminal Investigation.

“Virgil had alleged that she was underpaid and harassed at work because she's a Black woman.”³⁷

- **Tina Virgil's attorney in the case was Lester Pines**
 - In a May 27, 2022, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “‘We're happy to have the matter resolved,’ said Lester Pines, the attorney for Virgil.”³⁸

- **Under the settlement, the state agreed to pay Pines' Madison firm, Pines Bach LLC, \$23,500 (more than the victim). Virgil then would receive a check for \$13,000 and a payroll check for \$9,776.20 for a total of \$22,776.20**
 - In a May 27, 2022, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Under the settlement, which was signed May 17, the state will pay Pines' Madison firm, Pines Bach LLC, \$23,500. Virgil then will receive a check for \$13,000 and a payroll check for \$9,776.20 for a total of \$22,776.20.

³⁶ “Top aide to Kaul claims sex, race discrimination,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 18, 2021

³⁷ Daniel Bice, “Attorney General Josh Kaul's agency settles race, gender discrimination complaint with top official,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 27, 2022

³⁸ Daniel Bice, “Attorney General Josh Kaul's agency settles race, gender discrimination complaint with top official,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 27, 2022

“The settlement letter said the payroll check reflects ‘deductions for the usual employee withholdings.’”³⁹

➤ **Lester Pines was a donor to Josh Kaul’s 2018 campaign for attorney general, giving \$500**

- According to the Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, on May 10, 2018 and again on Oct. 27, 2018, Josh Kaul took \$250 from Lester Pines, an attorney from Madison, WI.⁴⁰

³⁹ Daniel Bice, “Attorney General Josh Kaul’s agency settles race, gender discrimination complaint with top official,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 27, 2022

⁴⁰ Receipts: Kaul for Attorney General, Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, Accessed Aug. 3, 2022

PROTEST RESPONSE

- **In July 2020, Josh Kaul said he supported the Black Lives Matters protests but didn't agree with defunding the police, as some have sought. Kaul said he wants to see more investments in social services without cutting police budgets**

- In a July 15, 2020, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, "The Wisconsin attorney general is calling for all law enforcement agencies in the state to have body cameras, though funding the effort could be complicated.

"There have been renewed calls for the technology in light of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the protests of police brutality that have swept the country.

"I would like to see the state work to help support the purchase of bodycams for agencies that don't have them," Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul said in an interview with the Journal Sentinel. "The idea of having them for everybody makes sense to me, (but) the trouble of a mandate is you've got to make sure there's a way to fund it."

"Kaul, the highest-ranking law enforcement officer in the state, said he supports the Black Lives Matters protests but doesn't agree with defunding the police, as some have sought. Kaul said he wants to see more investments in social services without cutting police budgets."⁴¹

- **Josh Kaul put in place a set of policy proposals to make the justice system more equitable, such as investing in community policing, implicit bias training and reforming the bail system**

- In a July 15, 2020, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, "Kaul has responded to the Black Lives Matters protests sweeping the world after Floyd died after a police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

"He's put in place a set of policy proposals to make the justice system more equitable, such as investing in community policing, implicit bias training and reforming the bail system."⁴²

- **In July 2020, Josh Kaul opposed President Donald Trump's plan to send federal agents to Milwaukee to combat rising crime. Regarding the proposal, Kaul said that Trump was employing "fascist tactics" and promised to take "appropriate legal action" if agents interfered with peaceful protests**

- In a July 23, 2020, article, the Associated Press reported, "Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers wants President Donald Trump to keep federal agents out of Milwaukee.

⁴¹ Allison Garfield, "AG calls for all law enforcement agencies to have body cameras," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, July 15, 2020

⁴² Allison Garfield, "AG calls for all law enforcement agencies to have body cameras," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, July 15, 2020

“Trump and the White House announced Thursday that federal agents will deploy to Chicago; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Cleveland; Detroit; and Milwaukee to combat rising crime.

“Evers, a Democrat, sent Trump a letter Wednesday saying he’s strongly opposed to the move, warning it will only make things worse. Wisconsin authorities, including the state’s National Guard, can handle protests, he said.”⁴³

- According to the same article, “Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul said in a statement that Trump is employing ‘fascist tactics’ and promised to take ‘appropriate legal action’ if agents interfere with peaceful protests.”⁴⁴

⁴³ “Evers tells Trump to keep federal agents out of Milwaukee,” Associated Press, July 23, 2020

⁴⁴ “Evers tells Trump to keep federal agents out of Milwaukee,” Associated Press, July 23, 2020

WAUKESHA PARADE

- **In November 2021, the driver suspected of plowing through the Waukesha holiday parade - killing five people and injuring more than 40 others - had recently been released from custody after prosecutors recommended an “inappropriately low” bail in the case**

- In a Nov. 23, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “The driver suspected of plowing through the Waukesha holiday parade Sunday - killing five people and injuring more than 40 others - had an ongoing domestic violence case and was recently released from custody after prosecutors recommended an ‘inappropriately low’ bail in the case, the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office said Monday.

“Darrell Brooks Jr., the man suspected of being the driver, has been charged three times in less than two years with recklessly endangering the safety of others, most recently in an incident in which he is accused of running a woman over with his vehicle in Milwaukee.

“Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson confirmed Brooks' identity at a Monday afternoon news conference and said investigators learned Brooks was involved in a ‘domestic disturbance’ before he drove into the parade route. Thompson said there was a report of a knife being involved, but police were unable to confirm that as of Monday afternoon.”⁴⁵

- **In December 2021, Josh Kaul did not push for Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm to step down after his office recommended what Chisholm has called inappropriately low bail for the man accused of driving into and killing paradegoers in Waukesha**

- In a Dec. 16, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Attorney General Josh Kaul isn’t pushing for Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm to step down after his office recommended what Chisholm has called inappropriately low bail for a man now accused of driving into and killing paradegoers in Waukesha.

“The first-term attorney general said it should be left to voters to decide whether Chisholm should go. He did not endorse having Gov. Tony Evers force Chisholm out of office.

“‘Ultimately, I think it’s up to the voters to decide what that means in terms of his future,’ Kaul said of Chisholm in an interview. ‘We’ve got a system where our DAs are elected in Wisconsin and that’s a decision for voters to make.’”⁴⁶

⁴⁵ Ashley Luthern, Daniel Bice, Molly Beck and Elliot Hughes, “Suspect in parade attack has history of charges,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Nov. 23, 2021

⁴⁶ Patrick Marley, “AG says DA’s fate should be up to voters,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Dec. 16, 2021

- **In September 2021, less than two months before the parade incident, John Chisholm donated \$250 to Josh Kaul's re-election campaign for attorney general**
 - According to the Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, on Sept. 30, 2021, John Chisholm, a district attorney from Milwaukee gave \$250 to Josh Kaul's campaign for attorney general.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ Receipts: Kaul for Attorney General, Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, Accessed Aug. 3, 2022

BAIL REFORM

- **In June 2020, Josh Kaul wrote a criminal justice proposal that included, “reform our bail system so pretrial detention is based on danger and risk of flight, not ability to pay”**
 - In a June 9, 2020, op-ed in the *Capital Times*, Josh Kaul wrote, “Americans are faced with a crisis of conscience. While this crisis has taken on renewed sense of urgency in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, it has been with us all along. From slavery, to Jim Crow, to systemic racism, true equality of opportunity has been denied to people of color since long before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. More than a century and a half after the Civil War, and more than 50 years after the Civil Rights Movement, racism and discrimination persist in America.

“We cannot delay for another time – or another legislative session – engaging in open, constructive dialogue and taking action. And as we work to make progress, voices from communities that too often have been unrepresented or ignored by those in power must be included. We must listen, and we must act.”⁴⁸
 - According to the same op-ed, one of the positions listed by Josh Kaul was, “reform our bail system so pretrial detention is based on danger and risk of flight, not ability to pay.”⁴⁹

- **In January 2021, Josh Kaul said following the decision to not charge the officers in the Jacob Blake shooting, “There is a pressing need for reform of our criminal justice system,” adding, “This past June, I called for several actions: increasing community-oriented policing; expanding de-escalation, implicit bias, cultural competency, and critical incident training; broadening Wisconsin DOJ’s limited authority to enforce civil rights laws; enacting bail reform”**
 - In a Jan. 5, 2021, article, Fox 6 reported, “State and local officials offered their thoughts on Tuesday, Jan. 5 regarding the decision to not charge Kenosha Police Officer Rusten Sheskey in connection with the shooting of Jacob Blake.”⁵⁰
 - According to the same article, “Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul

“Irrespective of the decision announced today, this case is a tragedy. An incident that unfolded in just a few minutes will have a lifelong impact on Mr. Blake, as well as others.

⁴⁸ Josh Kaul op-ed, “Attorney General Josh Kaul: We cannot delay taking action to fight systemic racism,” *Capital Times*, June 9, 2020

⁴⁹ Josh Kaul op-ed, “Attorney General Josh Kaul: We cannot delay taking action to fight systemic racism,” *Capital Times*, June 9, 2020

⁵⁰ “Officials react to decision to not charge officer in Blake shooting,” Fox 6 Milwaukee, Jan. 5, 2021

“The past several months have been extraordinarily challenging for the Kenosha community. We need to work together, peacefully, to ensure that Kenosha—and all of Wisconsin—comes out of this difficult time stronger.

“There is a pressing need for reform of our criminal justice system. Across the state, there are dedicated public servants in law enforcement whose work makes their communities safer. But the system we have in place—which, unlike the criminal justice systems in many other states, has not been significantly reformed in recent years—has produced staggering and unacceptable racial disparities.

“This past June, I called for several actions: increasing community-oriented policing; expanding de-escalation, implicit bias, cultural competency, and critical incident training; broadening Wisconsin DOJ’s limited authority to enforce civil rights laws; enacting bail reform; funding a hate-crime hotline; and prohibiting an officer’s disciplinary records from being sealed when the officer applies for employment at another law enforcement agency.

“In addition, Wisconsin should adopt a statewide use-of-force standard providing that officers’ primary duty is to preserve life and that officers must use de-escalation techniques to avoid force whenever possible. And law enforcement officers conducting patrol activities should have body-worn cameras. While many agencies in Wisconsin use such recording devices, that practice is still far from uniform—in significant part because of cost. Funding from the legislature to defray these costs would lead to more widespread use of this technology.”⁵¹

➤ **In November 2021, the driver suspected of plowing through the Waukesha holiday parade - killing five people and injuring more than 40 others - had recently been released from custody after prosecutors recommended an “inappropriately low” bail in the case**

- In a Nov. 23, 2021, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “The driver suspected of plowing through the Waukesha holiday parade Sunday - killing five people and injuring more than 40 others - had an ongoing domestic violence case and was recently released from custody after prosecutors recommended an ‘inappropriately low’ bail in the case, the Milwaukee County District Attorney’s Office said Monday.

“Darrell Brooks Jr., the man suspected of being the driver, has been charged three times in less than two years with recklessly endangering the safety of others, most recently in an incident in which he is accused of running a woman over with his vehicle in Milwaukee.

“Waukesha Police Chief Dan Thompson confirmed Brooks’ identity at a Monday afternoon news conference and said investigators learned Brooks was involved in a ‘domestic disturbance’ before he drove into the parade route. Thompson said there

⁵¹ “Officials react to decision to not charge officer in Blake shooting,” Fox 6 Milwaukee, Jan. 5, 2021

was a report of a knife being involved, but police were unable to confirm that as of Monday afternoon.”⁵²

➤ **In December 2021, Josh Kaul said that he supported strengthening Wisconsin’s bail system. Kaul said the state should consider aligning Wisconsin’s bail system with that of the federal government, which detains offenders before trial if they are deemed a threat to the public or a flight risk**

- In a Dec. 28, 2021, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “Democratic Gov. Tony Evers said he may support proposed changes to the state’s bail system, which has been the subject of criticism after the Waukesha Christmas parade tragedy that left six people dead last month.

“Evers told WISC-TV he could support raising the bail amounts violent offenders have to pay to remain free while pending trial, but added everyone needs to ‘take a breath’ after the Waukesha incident. Evers also said all stakeholders need to be involved in any discussions on bail reform.

“The governor’s comments come after Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul told the *Wisconsin State Journal* he supported strengthening Wisconsin’s bail system. Kaul said the state should consider aligning Wisconsin’s bail system with that of the federal government, which detains offenders before trial if they are deemed a threat to the public or a flight risk.

“‘I think that as lawmakers consider our system, they should look to the federal system as a model,’ Kaul said. ‘I also would say that we do need to continue to invest in our communities and into our criminal justice system. It’s been significantly underfunded for decades in Wisconsin and while there have been some important investments made recently, there’s more investment that needs to be made to make sure that we have the resources in our communities.’”⁵³

➤ **In February 2022, the Wisconsin Assembly approved amending the state constitution to make it harder for violent criminal defendants to get out on bail**

- In a Feb. 16, 2022, article, the Associated Press reported, “The Wisconsin Assembly approved amending the state constitution Tuesday to make it harder for violent criminal defendants to get out on bail after the killing of six people by a driver who authorities say plowed into a Christmas parade near Milwaukee.

“The man charged in that case, Darrell Brooks Jr., had posted \$1,000 bail on an earlier case two days before the Nov. 21 parade in downtown Waukesha. He pleaded not guilty on Friday to 77 charges, including six counts of homicide. He remains jailed on a \$5 million bail.

⁵² Ashley Luthern, Daniel Bice, Molly Beck and Elliot Hughes, “Suspect in parade attack has history of charges,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Nov. 23, 2021

⁵³ Mitchell Schmidt, “Tony Evers considering changes to state bail system following Waukesha parade deaths,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, Dec. 28, 2021

“The Assembly approved the amendment 70-21. It goes next to the state Senate. The proposal must pass two consecutive legislative sessions and a statewide referendum before it can be added to the constitution. The soonest that could be placed before voters is 2023. The governor cannot veto the amendment.”⁵⁴

➤ **Josh Kaul said the bail reform amendment didn’t go far enough, adding that he supported doing away with cash bail and keeping defendants deemed safety and flight risks in custody**

- In a Feb. 16, 2022, article, the Associated Press reported, “Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul, who is up for reelection this year, said after the Assembly vote that the amendment doesn’t go far enough. He said he supports doing away with cash bail and keeping defendants deemed safety and flight risks in custody.

“‘Rich people who commit serious crimes, drug kingpins, and gang leaders shouldn’t be able to pay their way out of jail before trial simply because they have access to money,’ Kaul said in a statement.”⁵⁵

➤ **Josh Kaul opposed the constitutional amendment measure, saying judges should have sole discretion in releasing defendants before trial**

- In a Feb. 22, 2022, article, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported, “Amid the recent furor over major crimes apparently committed by defendants out on low bail, Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes is standing his ground.

“Barnes, the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, once sponsored a bill to end cash bail in the state.

“The 2016 measure would have barred judges from using the ‘nature, number and gravity’ of the charges as the sole reason to hold a defendant before trial. Instead, a judge would be required to release a defendant unless there was “clear and convincing evidence’ that a defendant was a flight risk or a danger to an individual or a witness.

“In a statement, Barnes’ campaign said he remains firmly in support of his proposed legislation, which didn’t make it out of committee. His campaign likened the plan to one adopted in New Jersey under Republican Gov. Chris Christie.”⁵⁶

- According to the same article, “In all, lawmakers have submitted 10 proposals to alter the terms of pretrial release in Wisconsin.

“One constitutional amendment proposed by Republicans would require Wisconsin judges to factor in defendants’ charges, criminal record and public safety risk in

⁵⁴ “Wisconsin Assembly OKs bail change after parade massacre,” Associated Press, Feb. 16, 2022

⁵⁵ “Wisconsin Assembly OKs bail change after parade massacre,” Associated Press, Feb. 16, 2022

⁵⁶ “Barnes still would end cash bail nationally,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Feb. 22, 2022

setting cash bail. Right now, judges are to determine the amount of bail based on whether a defendant is a flight risk or a danger to society.

“Attorney General Josh Kaul, a Democrat, opposed the measure, saying judges should have sole discretion in releasing defendants before trial.”⁵⁷

⁵⁷ “Barnes still would end cash bail nationally,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Feb. 22, 2022

COVID RESPONSE

- **In October 2020, Josh Kaul supported a judge’s decision to allow Wisconsin’s mask mandate to stand. Regarding the ruling, Kaul said, “I encourage legislative Republicans to stop supporting this attack on the mask requirement and instead to work with Governor Evers to adopt statewide policies that will allow us to more effectively to fight the virus and keep Wisconsinites safe.”**
 - In an Oct. 12, 2020, article, WTTI reported, “A Wisconsin judge on Monday allowed the state’s mask mandate to stand, rejecting an attempt by the Republican-controlled Legislature and a conservative law firm to overturn it, even as cases are spiking.

“The judge noted in his ruling that the Legislature could vote to overturn the order from Democratic Gov. Tony Evers if they wanted to, but they haven’t so far.

“Republican legislative leaders and a spokesman for the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, which brought the case, did not immediately return messages seeking comment. The Legislature filed a brief in support of the lawsuit. The ruling is expected to be appealed.”⁵⁸
 - According to the same article, “Attorney General Josh Kaul

“Today’s ruling is the right one. Wisconsin currently faces one of the worst COVID-19 outbreaks in the nation, and the mask requirement is a critical protection against the ongoing danger that the coronavirus poses to Wisconsinites’ health. I encourage legislative Republicans to stop supporting this attack on the mask requirement and instead to work with Governor Evers to adopt statewide policies that will allow us to more effectively to fight the virus and keep Wisconsinites safe.”⁵⁹
- **In March 2021, the Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down Democratic Gov. Tony Evers’ statewide mask mandate. Josh Kaul defended the mask order, and he issued a statement urging people to continue to wear masks**
 - In a March 31, 2021, article, WTTI reported, “The Wisconsin Supreme Court struck down Democratic Gov. Tony Evers’ statewide mask mandate Wednesday, March 31, stripping the governor of one of his last remaining tools to curb large-scale spread of COVID-19 as the state stands on the precipice of another surge in infections.

“At the state level, it is gone. I respect the decision of the supreme court, even though I think it was erroneous on a legal issue and frankly a moral issue,” Gov. Evers said on Wednesday.

⁵⁸ Madeline Anderson, “Wisconsin judge upholds mask order for enclosed spaces,” WTTI, Oct. 12, 2020

⁵⁹ Madeline Anderson, “Wisconsin judge upholds mask order for enclosed spaces,” WTTI, Oct. 12, 2020

“The conservative-leaning court ruled 4-3 that Evers violated state law by unilaterally issuing multiple emergency orders to extend the mandate for months.”⁶⁰

- According to the same article, “Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul, who defended the mask order, issued a statement urging people to continue to wear masks.”⁶¹

➤ **In November 2020, Josh Kaul strongly urged the Wisconsin legislature to pass a mask mandate**

- On Nov. 16, 2020, Josh Kaul tweeted, “The legislature can easily resolve this issue by passing a mask mandate. I strongly urge the legislature to take this action to help save Wisconsinites’ lives.”⁶²

⁶⁰ Jason Calvi, “Wisconsin Supreme Court strikes down statewide mask mandate,” WITI, March 31, 2021

⁶¹ Jason Calvi, “Wisconsin Supreme Court strikes down statewide mask mandate,” WITI, March 31, 2021

⁶² twitter.com/WisDOJ/status/1328419596270002182

VACANCIES

➤ **As of October 2021, there were six vacant assistant attorney general posts in the Department of Justice’s Criminal Litigation Unit and a total of 13 filled positions**

- In a March 28, 2022, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “When Democrat Josh Kaul was sworn in as Wisconsin’s 45th attorney general, he started the job with far less power than his predecessors.

“That’s because in a lame-duck session after the 2018 election, Republicans passed several laws that stripped the attorney general of certain powers, such as how Wisconsin spends court settlements, a move Kaul said has denied the Department of Justice about \$30 million in funding.”⁶³

- According to the same article, “There were six vacant assistant attorney general posts in the Department of Justice’s Criminal Litigation Unit as of October and a total of 13 filled positions, according to the department’s organizational chart.

“Under Schimel, the former attorney general, there were 18 filled posts and one vacancy as of November 2018. The Department of Justice’s Criminal Appeals Unit had comparable staffing levels between the two administrations though, with 24 assistant attorneys general under Schimel and 25 currently under Kaul.

“That’s caused a tremendous strain for prosecutors and law enforcement across Wisconsin,’ Toney said of the Department of Justice’s staffing in an interview. “The failure of Josh Kaul to fill those positions has caused DAs across Wisconsin to be prosecuting cases in a multitude of counties.”⁶⁴

⁶³ Lucas Robinson, “Advocate or partisan? Attorney General Josh Kaul wants record to speak for itself,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, March 28, 2022

⁶⁴ Lucas Robinson, “Advocate or partisan? Attorney General Josh Kaul wants record to speak for itself,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, March 28, 2022

OPIOID LITIGATION

➤ **In August 2021, Josh Kaul announced his intent to join a \$26 billion settlement between states and the nation’s top opioid distributors and manufacturers**

- In a March 28, 2022, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “When Democrat Josh Kaul was sworn in as Wisconsin’s 45th attorney general, he started the job with far less power than his predecessors.

“That’s because in a lame-duck session after the 2018 election, Republicans passed several laws that stripped the attorney general of certain powers, such as how Wisconsin spends court settlements, a move Kaul said has denied the Department of Justice about \$30 million in funding.”⁶⁵

- According to the same article, “Another central promise from Kaul's first campaign, one he emphasized when he declared victory on the steps of the Dane County Courthouse in 2018, was the opioid epidemic.

“Early in his tenure, Kaul joined a multistate lawsuit into the business practices of opioid distributors. In August 2021, Kaul announced his intent to join a \$26 billion settlement between states and the nation's top opioid distributors and manufacturers.”⁶⁶

➤ **Washington County Executive Josh Schoemann, who is a Republican, said of Josh Kaul, “He was a huge obstacle. They (the Department of Justice) literally did nothing nothing nothing until it was becoming clear there was going to be a settlement”**

- In a March 28, 2022, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “Through that suit, Wisconsin is set to receive \$420 million over the next 18 years. About 70% of that funding will go to Wisconsin counties and cities, with the remainder being funneled to the Department of Health Services, Kaul said.

“We’re going to be getting resources, starting this year about \$50 million, but more after that to communities across the state,’ Kaul said. ‘That’s going to help with treatment, prevention and enforcement efforts.’

“But some county executives dispute the extent of Kaul's role in the settlement.

⁶⁵ Lucas Robinson, “Advocate or partisan? Attorney General Josh Kaul wants record to speak for itself,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, March 28, 2022

⁶⁶ Lucas Robinson, “Advocate or partisan? Attorney General Josh Kaul wants record to speak for itself,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, March 28, 2022

“‘He was a huge obstacle,’ alleged Washington County Executive Josh Schoemann, who is a Republican. ‘They (the Department of Justice) literally did nothing nothing nothing until it was becoming clear there was going to be a settlement.’”⁶⁷

- **Josh Kaul opposed a bill signing off on the settlement, arguing it gave the Legislature authority over how to spend settlement dollars that went beyond even the rules passed in the lame-duck session. Evers signed it despite Kaul’s opposition**
 - In a March 28, 2022, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “Kaul opposed a bill signing off on the settlement, arguing it gave the Legislature authority over how to spend settlement dollars that went beyond even the rules passed in the lame-duck session. Evers signed it despite Kaul’s opposition.”⁶⁸

⁶⁷ Lucas Robinson, “Advocate or partisan? Attorney General Josh Kaul wants record to speak for itself,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, March 28, 2022

⁶⁸ Lucas Robinson, “Advocate or partisan? Attorney General Josh Kaul wants record to speak for itself,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, March 28, 2022

RAPE KITS

➤ **In 2020, Josh Kaul opposed a bill that aimed to prevent delays in collecting and testing evidence from sexual assaults**

- In a Feb. 11, 2020, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “The Assembly on party lines approved a bill that aims to prevent delays in collecting and testing evidence from sexual assaults that is opposed by Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul, whose Department of Justice carries out such analysis.

“The measure differs from legislation the Senate passed in the fall and Kaul said the Assembly’s action made it likely rape victims wouldn’t get help they deserve.

“It’s extremely disappointing that Assembly Republicans continue to block that legislation and have instead passed a mess of an alternative that won’t become law and that is opposed by those who work day in and day out to support survivors and fight sexual assault,” he said in a statement.

“Time to address the issue is running short. Assembly leaders want to end their session next week and Senate leaders plan to end theirs in March.”⁶⁹

➤ **The proposed bill would have required law enforcement to report to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement when undocumented immigrants were arrested for sexual assault. In addition, the bill would have allowed students who were sexually assaulted by a fellow student or school employee to automatically qualify for the state's school voucher programs**

- In a Feb. 11, 2020, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Assembly Bill 844 would set procedures for collecting and storing sexual assault kits. It also would require the department to provide reports to the Legislature every year, give victims the ability to anonymously track their sexual assault kits and give them the right to have evidence tested within 90 days and be given notice 60 days before evidence was destroyed.

“But two provisions drew controversy for touching on topics that have divided Democrats and Republicans for years.

“The bill would require law enforcement to report to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement when undocumented immigrants were arrested for sexual assault. In addition, the bill would allow students who were sexually assaulted by a fellow student or school employee to automatically qualify for the state’s school voucher programs.”⁷⁰

➤ **Josh Kaul said the bill would create unfunded mandates for the Department of Justice and require reporting of information that could erode victim privacy. Kaul**

⁶⁹ Patrick Marley and Molly Beck, “Assembly approves costly crime bill,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Feb. 13, 2020

⁷⁰ Patrick Marley and Molly Beck, “Assembly approves costly crime bill,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Feb. 13, 2020

also said the bill could send a message to victims to leave their friends and familiar school instead of requiring the school district to remove an offender and address a negative school environment as a result of the assault

- In a Feb. 11, 2020, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Kaul last week said the bill would create unfunded mandates for the Department of Justice and require reporting of information that could erode victim privacy.

“Kaul also said the bill could send a message to victims to leave their friends and familiar school instead of requiring the school district to remove an offender and address a negative school environment as a result of the assault.”⁷¹

⁷¹ Patrick Marley and Molly Beck, “Assembly approves costly crime bill,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Feb. 13, 2020

SECOND AMENDMENT

➤ **2021, Josh Kaul called for universal background checks for gun sales and so-called red-flag laws to address gun violence**

- In a Sept. 24, 2021, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “Attorney General Josh Kaul and legislative Democrats on Thursday renewed calls for universal background checks for gun sales and so-called red-flag laws to address gun violence.

“While federal law requires federally licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks on anyone who purchases a firearm from them, private party transactions aren’t covered by the law.

“The universal background check bill would address that gap in the law by requiring the state to conduct background checks on all gun sales in Wisconsin to limit illegal sales and transfers, with the exception of sales or transfers to firearms dealers, law enforcement and members of the armed services. The legislation would also create an exception for the sale or transfer of antique firearms or transfers that are a gift or inheritance to a family member.”⁷²

⁷² Riley Vetterkind, “Josh Kaul, Democrats introduce universal background checks, red-flag bills to address gun violence,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, Sept. 24, 2021

OBAMACARE

➤ **In April 2019, a federal court approved Josh Kaul’s request to withdraw Wisconsin from two lawsuits against Obamacare**

- In an April 3, 2019, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “A federal court has approved Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul’s request to withdraw Wisconsin from two lawsuits against the Affordable Care Act, handing a victory to Kaul and Gov. Tony Evers.

“It’s the first time Kaul has removed the state from litigation after Republican lawmakers tried to limit his and Gov. Tony Evers’ power to do so during a lame-duck session in December. Both Kaul and Evers had campaigned on removing the state from litigation challenging the signature health care law.

“Kaul submitted requests earlier this month to remove the state from the ACA lawsuits after a state judge’s order briefly gave him that authority. The order blocked laws enacted by Republicans in the December session that included limits on Kaul’s power to end — with the governor’s approval — the state’s role in litigation. A state appeals court later suspended the ruling.”⁷³

➤ **A week later, a federal appeals court dropped Wisconsin from a lawsuit over Obamacare, allowing Josh Kaul to secure one of his campaign goals**

- In an April 10, 2019, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “A federal appeals court dropped Wisconsin Tuesday from a lawsuit over Obamacare, allowing Gov. Tony Evers and Attorney General Josh Kaul to secure one of their campaign goals.

“The ruling was the latest in a string of court decisions allowing Wisconsin to get out of lawsuits over Obamacare, widely known as the Affordable Care Act. Tuesday’s ruling was the last one Evers and Kaul needed to get Wisconsin out of all litigation on the issue.

“Obamacare will continue to face legal challenges because other states continue to fight it. But Evers and Kaul can say they fulfilled a pledge to end Wisconsin’s participation in the litigation.”⁷⁴

⁷³ Mark Sommerhauser, “Federal court OKs Josh Kaul’s request to withdraw Wisconsin from two Obamacare lawsuits,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, April 3, 2019

⁷⁴ Patrick Marley, “Latest appeals court ruling pulls state out of all Obamacare suits,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 10, 2019

ABORTION

➤ **In May 2022, Josh Kaul said he would not enforce Wisconsin’s abortion laws if Roe v. Wade were overturned**

- In a May 4, 2022, article, the *Center Square* reported, “Wisconsin’s attorney general says he wouldn’t enforce Wisconsin’s abortion laws if Roe v. Wade is overturned.

“Attorney General Josh Kaul on Tuesday said he would not use his office to prosecute doctors if abortion is made illegal in the state.

“‘As long as I am AG, the [state’s Department of Justice] will not be using its resources to investigate or prosecute alleged violations of the 170-plus-year-old abortion ban on the books,’ Kaul said in an interview.

“Wisconsin is one of several states that would automatically outlaw abortion if the Supreme Court strikes down Roe.”⁷⁵

➤ **Josh Kaul argued that the Wisconsin statute banning abortion, which has been on its books since 1849, is so old that it’s unenforceable**

- In a May 4, 2022, article, the Associated Press reported, “A U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade would leave regulating abortion up to the states — and potentially create a legal morass in Wisconsin. The state has had a law banning abortion on its books since 1849, and it has long been presumed that Roe’s fall would mean the end of legal abortion in Wisconsin.

“But some liberals, including Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul, are arguing that the statute is so old that it’s unenforceable. That could lead to a complicated court battle to clarify the ban’s breadth and status.”⁷⁶

➤ **In June 2022, Josh Kaul filed a lawsuit asking the courts to invalidate the state’s 173-year-old abortion ban**

- In a June 28, 2022, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul filed a lawsuit Tuesday asking the courts to invalidate the state’s 173-year-old abortion ban.

“Wisconsin’s near-complete abortion ban adopted in 1849 lay dormant for so long, even as other abortion bans were passed, that courts should declare the earlier law unenforceable, Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul argues in a lawsuit filed Tuesday.

“While the 1849 law bans abortions from the time of conception unless it’s necessary to save a mother’s life, a subsequent law enacted in 1985 years after the U.S.

⁷⁵ Benjamin Yount, “No state enforcement if abortion becomes illegal in Wisconsin,” *Center Square*, May 4, 2022

⁷⁶ Todd Richmond, “How could 1849 Wis. abortion law face challenge?” *Associated Press*, May 4, 2022

Supreme Court declared abortion a constitutional right only bans abortion after fetal viability and includes an exception for saving a mother's life or health.”⁷⁷

➤ **In December 2021, Josh Kaul said that he believed the state’s abortion ban to be unconstitutional**

- In a Dec. 15, 2021, article, the Associated Press reported, “Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul said in an interview Tuesday that he would not investigate or prosecute anyone for having an abortion should the U.S. Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade and a currently unenforceable state ban takes effect.

“The comments to The Associated Press are Kaul’s strongest to date about how he would react to the Supreme Court undoing the landmark 1973 ruling that legalized abortion nationwide. A Wisconsin ban enacted in 1849 has been unenforceable under Roe v. Wade, but would take effect again if conservative Supreme Court justices decide to overrule Roe, as they suggested during oral arguments this month in a case over Mississippi’s 15-week ban on abortions. A decision is expected this summer.”⁷⁸

- According to the same article, “Kaul said the Justice Department is focused on investigating crimes of statewide importance like homicide, sexual assault and arson.

“‘Diverting resources from those important cases to the kinds of cases that could be brought under abortion ban, which I also believe to be unconstitutional, is not something that I would do as attorney general,’ he said.”⁷⁹

➤ **In 2019, Josh Kaul defended Wisconsin’s abortion restrictions in a legal filing made in response to a federal lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood**

- In a March 21, 2019, article, the Associated Press reported, “Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul is defending Wisconsin’s abortion restrictions in a legal filing made in response to a federal lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood.

“The filing Thursday comes a week after Republican lawmakers took steps to hire their own attorneys to intervene in the case because they don't trust Kaul will vigorously defend the laws.”⁸⁰

➤ **Josh Kaul was endorsed by Planned Parenthood in the 2018 election and received more than \$80,000 from its political action committee**

- In a March 21, 2019, article, the Associated Press reported, “Kaul was endorsed by Planned Parenthood in the election and received more than \$80,000 from its political

⁷⁷ Alexander Shur, “Wisconsin AG Josh Kaul files lawsuit challenging near-complete abortion ban passed in 1849,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, June 28, 2022

⁷⁸ Scott Bauer, “Kaul: No Plan to Enforce Any Ban,” Associated Press, Dec. 15, 2021

⁷⁹ Scott Bauer, “Kaul: No Plan to Enforce Any Ban,” Associated Press, Dec. 15, 2021

⁸⁰ “Democrat Kaul defends Wisconsin abortion law,” Associated Press, March 21, 2019

action committee. He's also joined a multistate lawsuit originating in California challenging the Trump administration's attempts to set up obstacles for women seeking abortions.

“Kaul is defending state laws that don't allow nurses to perform abortions and limit the ability of women to obtain abortion-inducing drugs.”⁸¹

➤ **In December 2020, Josh Kaul's assistant attorney general Brian Keenan argued that Wisconsin's abortion laws are constitutional and noted the limits have been in place for years**

- In a Dec. 8, 2020, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin will make abortion-inducing pills available at more than two dozen clinics if it succeeds in striking down several state laws, an attorney for the abortion provider said at the opening of a trial Monday.

“In its lawsuit, Planned Parenthood argues Wisconsin unconstitutionally interferes with the right to abortion with a series of statutes that dictate how the procedure can be offered.”⁸²

- According to the same article, “Assistant Attorney General Brian Keenan disputed that claim, arguing the number of abortions in Wisconsin would increase by just 10% to 15% if Planned Parenthood succeeded with the lawsuit. He contended the state's abortion laws are constitutional and noted the limits have been in place for years.

“‘There are a number of women obtaining abortion despite these laws,’ he said.”⁸³

⁸¹ “Democrat Kaul defends Wisconsin abortion law,” Associated Press, March 21, 2019

⁸² Patrick Marley, “Planned Parenthood seeks to expand abortion medication,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Dec. 8, 2020

⁸³ Patrick Marley, “Planned Parenthood seeks to expand abortion medication,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Dec. 8, 2020

IMMIGRATION

- **In 2019, Gov. Tony Evers directed Josh Kaul to join a group of states asking to invalidate President Donald Trump’s declaration of a national emergency to help fund construction of a wall at the nation’s southern border. Regarding Trump’s declaration, Josh Kaul said, “Diverting federal funds away from Wisconsin to pay for a border wall would do little to enhance our security but have real consequences for communities in Wisconsin”**

- In a March 14, 2019, article, the *Wisconsin State Journal* reported, “Gov. Tony Evers called Wednesday for Wisconsin to join a group of states that want a judge to invalidate President Donald Trump’s declaration of a national emergency to help fund construction of a wall at the nation’s southern border.

“In a statement, Evers said he’s directing Attorney General Josh Kaul to add Wisconsin to a group of states bringing the challenge.

“For Evers, a Democrat who became Wisconsin’s chief executive in January, the move is among his starkest acts of defiance yet toward the Republican president.”⁸⁴

- According to the same article, “Kaul said in the statement that Trump’s move could redirect funding away from Wisconsin and other states to pay for a wall.

“‘Diverting federal funds away from Wisconsin to pay for a border wall would do little to enhance our security but have real consequences for communities in Wisconsin,’ Kaul said.”⁸⁵

- **In 2020, Josh Kaul tweeted support for a court ruling upholding DACA, and called on Congress to “build on this decision with comprehensive immigration reform”**

- On June 18, 2020, Josh Kaul tweeted, “Today’s ruling in favor of a more equitable, inclusive, and just immigration system is life-altering for hundreds of thousands of Dreamers. I encourage Congress to build on this decision with comprehensive immigration reform.”⁸⁶

⁸⁴ Mark Sommerhauser, “State to Fight Border Edict,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, March 14, 2019

⁸⁵ Mark Sommerhauser, “State to Fight Border Edict,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, March 14, 2019

⁸⁶ twitter.com/WisDOJ/status/127363959093448704

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- **In 2022, Josh Kaul took a total of \$40,000 from Steven Spielberg and his wife**
 - According to the Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, on June 9, 2022, Josh Kaul took \$20,000 from both Steven Spielberg and his wife, Kate Capshaw.⁸⁷

- **In June 2022, Josh Kaul took a total of \$10,000 from Jonathan Soros (George Soros' son) and his wife Jennifer**
 - According to the Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, on June 29, 2022, Josh Kaul took \$5,000 from Jonathan Soros, and on June 30, 2022, Kaul took \$5,000 from Jonathan Soros' wife, Jennifer.⁸⁸
 - In an April 27, 2014, article, *Politico* reported, “Some of the country’s biggest Democratic donors — including Tom Steyer and Jonathan Soros — are huddling behind closed doors beginning Sunday in Chicago with union bigwigs and progressive superstars like Bill de Blasio to plan how to pull their party — and the country — to the left.

“The setting is the annual spring meeting of the Democracy Alliance, a secretive club of wealthy liberals that’s the closest thing the left has to the vaunted Koch brothers’ political network.

The DA, as the liberal group is known to insiders, is increasing its ranks of rich donors for the first time in years and is gearing up to spend huge sums on political data, voter registration, ground organizing and advertising to influence the 2014 midterms and 2016 presidential elections. Potentially more significant, the groups’ donors also could play an important role in determining whether the post-Barack Obama Democratic Party embraces the rising tide of progressive populism or hews to a more cautious, centrist course — in other words, whether the Hillary Clinton wing or Elizabeth Warren wing will seize the reins.”⁸⁹

- **In 2022, Josh Kaul took \$20,000 from California donor Karla Jurvetson, who has given tens of thousands of dollars to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and her “squad” in Congress — Rashida Tlaib, Ihan Omar, Ayanna Pressley, Cori Bush and Jamaal Bowman — as well as \$13,600 since 2020 to the Black Lives Matter PAC**
 - According to the Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, on April 10, 2022, Josh Kaul took \$20,000 from Karla Jurvetson of Los Altos, CA.⁹⁰

⁸⁷ Receipts: Kaul for Attorney General, Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, Accessed Aug. 3, 2022

⁸⁸ Receipts: Kaul for Attorney General, Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, Accessed Aug. 3, 2022

⁸⁹ Ken Vogel, “The left’s secret club,” *Politico*, April 27, 2014

⁹⁰ Receipts: Kaul for Attorney General, Wisconsin Campaign Finance Information System, Accessed Aug. 3, 2022

- In a Nov. 6, 2021, article, the New York Post reported, “State Attorney General Letitia James’ top backer is a Democratic mega donor who lives 3,000 miles from New York on the Left Coast — and could be a funding force as James seeks the Democratic nomination for governor in a hotly contested primary next year.

Dr. Karla Jurvetson, 55, a Silicon Valley psychiatrist, has emerged as one of the country’s biggest Democratic contributors pumping her money into left wing candidates and causes and has targeted James as a recipient of her largesse.”⁹¹

- According to the same article, “In 2020, Jurvetson poured \$14.6 million into a super PAC supporting Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s presidential bid. She also reportedly gave more than \$2 million to Stacy Abrams’ Fair Fight group, which backs Democratic candidates and causes.

“She’s contributed \$36,250 this year to lefty darling Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and her ‘squad’ in Congress — Rashida Tlaib, Ihan Omar, Ayanna Pressley, Cori Bush and Jamaal Bowman — as well as \$13,600 since 2020 to the Black Lives Matter PAC.”⁹²

⁹¹ Melissa Klein and Jon Levine, “AG James hit with Left Coast campaign cash from Karla Jurvetson,” *New York Post*, Nov. 6, 2021

⁹² Melissa Klein and Jon Levine, “AG James hit with Left Coast campaign cash from Karla Jurvetson,” *New York Post*, Nov. 6, 2021

TRANSGENDER SPORTS

➤ **Josh Kaul has spoken against legislation that would ban transgender kids from playing sports**

- According to a May 25, 2022, press release from Human Rights Campaign, “Today the Human Rights Campaign PAC (HRC PAC) announced its endorsement of Attorney General Josh Kaul for reelection. HRC PAC is committed to engaging our volunteers, members and supporters to mobilize the 700,000 Equality Voters in Wisconsin in support of Kaul and other pro-equality candidates up and down the ballot.”⁹³
- According to the release, “During his time in office, Attorney General Kaul has been a consistent and reliable LGBTQ+ ally. He has spoken in support of passing the Equality Act by Congress, spoken against legislation that would ban transgender kids from playing sports, and taken action in support of same-sex parents becoming foster parents. He also opposed a Trump-era rule allowing health-care discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and supported the U.S. Supreme Court’s Bostock decision, which forbids discrimination in hiring on the basis of gender identity.”⁹⁴

➤ **In May 2021, Josh Kaul opposed a Wisconsin Assembly bill that would ban transgender athletes from participating in girls and women’s sports at the K-12 and college levels**

- On May 26, 2021, Josh Kaul tweeted, “I played sports growing up. Now I go to games as a proud dad. Sports help kids learn to be part of a team, appreciate hard work, & make lifelong friends.

“Excluding transgender kids from those opportunities is wrong. Kids in WI deserve better than this discriminatory legislation.”⁹⁵



⁹³ Press Release, “Human Rights Campaign Endorses Josh Kaul for Reelection as Attorney General of Wisconsin,” Human Rights Campaign, May 25, 2022

⁹⁴ Press Release, “Human Rights Campaign Endorses Josh Kaul for Reelection as Attorney General of Wisconsin,” Human Rights Campaign, May 25, 2022

⁹⁵ twitter.com/WisDOJ/status/1397632742217633799

- According to the *Wisconsin State Journal* article referenced in the Josh Kaul tweet, “The state Legislature waded into the culture wars on Wednesday, hearing public testimony on controversial Republican-authored bills that would ban transgender athletes from participating in girls and women’s sports at the K-12 and college levels.

“Three legislative committees heard hours of testimony on the bills from a range of individuals and organizations, including cisgender women — women who identify with the gender they were identified with at birth — who called on lawmakers to pass the legislation.

“‘Where is the support for us?’ said Madison mountain bike racer Leia Schneeberger, a cisgender woman in favor of banning transgender girls from girls and women’s sports.

“Schneeberger said she had an undefeated season in 2020 before losing twice this year to a transgender woman. ‘I wouldn’t mind losing to someone like me, someone who worked hard and trained harder to be the best, someone who’s my peer. This is not the case.’”⁹⁶

⁹⁶ Riley Vetterkind, “Legislature hears testimony on bills that would ban transgender girls from girls sports,” *Wisconsin State Journal*, May 26, 2022

UNIONS

➤ **In 2019, Josh Kaul said that he was likely to defend the 2011 law that curbed collective bargaining for public workers in Wisconsin despite his personal opposition to it**

- In a May 26, 2019, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul says he’s likely to defend the 2011 law that curbed collective bargaining for public workers in Wisconsin despite his personal opposition to it.

“GOP legislative leaders want to join the case at taxpayer expense.

“And now a conservative legal group is helping a teacher try to intervene in the case.

“Act 10 has survived repeated rounds of legal challenges, but this month two chapters of a union that represents equipment operators renewed the legal fight.”⁹⁷

➤ **In 2019, U.S. District Judge Lynn Adelman agreed to throw out the lawsuit after Josh Kaul argued the court did not have jurisdiction because the case had previously been closed**

- In an Aug. 15, 2019, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “A federal judge on Wednesday threw out a lawsuit seeking to overturn former Gov. Scott Walker’s signature law that sharply limited collective bargaining for most public employees in Wisconsin.

“The lawsuit over the law known as Act 10 was brought by two arms of the International Union of Operating Engineers after state and federal courts upheld the law in other cases. The union intends to file a new lawsuit, according to a motion filed by its attorneys.

“Union officials filed the latest lawsuit in 2018, dropped it months later and revived it in May to name Democratic Gov. Tony Evers and Democratic Attorney General Josh Kaul as defendants.

“U.S. District Judge Lynn Adelman agreed to throw out the lawsuit after Kaul in July argued the court did not have jurisdiction because the case had previously been closed.”⁹⁸

➤ **Attorneys for the union agreed with Josh Kaul and didn’t object to the lawsuit’s dismissal, according to court records**

- In an Aug. 15, 2019, article, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported, “Attorneys for the union agreed with Kaul and didn’t object to the lawsuit’s dismissal, according to

⁹⁷ Patrick Marley, “Democratic AG says he’ll likely defend state in Act 10 lawsuit,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 26, 2019

⁹⁸ Molly Beck, “Federal judge throws out lawsuit seeking to overturn Act 10,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Aug. 15, 2019

court records. In their challenge, the unions argued Act 10 violates free speech and free association under the First Amendment and ‘has caused and continues to cause irreparable injury to the unions.’

“Locals 139 and 420 together represent more than 10,000 workers in Wisconsin.

“Kaul in the request for dismissal called the attempt to revive the lawsuit after voluntarily dropping it ‘improper,’ but said that if the groups wish to challenge the law, they could do so in a new lawsuit.”⁹⁹

⁹⁹ Molly Beck, “Federal judge throws out lawsuit seeking to overturn Act 10,” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, Aug. 15, 2019