

\$42 Million Reasons Walker Goes Easy on Polluters

Written by Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Matt Rothschild
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MADISON - One thing we like to do here at the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign is to amplify the work of other fine nonprofits and enterprising reporters.

This week offered us three opportunities to do just that.

When the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation came out with a report showing that the enforcement of DNR regulations was at a 30-year low, we showed all the money that polluters have given to Walker & Company:

[\(1\) Walker has \\$42 million reasons to reduce pollution enforcement](#)

And when our friends over at WisPIRG put out a report on payday lenders, showing that they're charging a whopping 585 percent interest, we showed how the payday lenders throw their money around.. Note: Walker and Majority Leader Fitzgerald and the Republican Assembly Campaign Committee got the most, but two Democratic committees also got fat checks, as you'll see here:

[\(2\) Payday lenders gave \\$339K in Wisconsin for usury](#)

And when Molly Beck at the *Wisconsin State Journal* revealed that a former Republican legislator got an \$80 million contract from the Walker administration, we revealed the money trail here, too:

[\(3\) Former GOP lawmaker and Walker contributor gets state testing contract](#)

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These are prime examples of how money is contaminating our politics in Wisconsin right now.

But I'm not pessimistic. I was in a federal courtroom this week in Madison hearing the powerful challenge to the Voter ID law brought by One Wisconsin Now. And next week, there's another promising court challenge—this one, regarding the partisan manipulation of electoral maps. The lawsuit establishes a nonpartisan yardstick for measuring whether one party is taking undue advantage over another in the drawing of district maps.

I believe we're going to win both of these cases, which will start giving democracy a chance again in Wisconsin.

Best,

Matt Rothschild
Executive Director

P.S. Please support this urgent work we're doing by sending us a tax-deductible gift today. Simply click [here](#) . We really appreciate it!