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MADISON, Wis. — New reporting has [revealed](#) Republican state Senate candidate Dave Estenson was the subject of a Wisconsin Department of Justice Investigation over allegations of sexual misconduct and abuse of power while he was working as a police officer for the City of Osseo and Village of Strum.

According to DOJ records, Estenson allegedly pressured women for sexual favors to avoid receiving citations, blackmailed a woman into keeping their relationship a secret, and assaulted another woman during a party. Estenson resigned following the DOJ investigation and pursued a law enforcement career in Minnesota – only to resign again after a “performance audit” in 2012.

The revelations of Estenson’s sexual misconduct and abuse of power follow a pattern of similar disturbing behavior by other Republican candidates. Congressional candidate Derrick Van Orden – a self-described “[great friend](#)” of Estenson – [bragged about sexually harassing junior female officers](#) during his military service, and Republican candidate for governor Tim Michels came under fire this week following [reports of sexual harassment and racial discrimination at Michels Corporation](#) [rep](#) that occurred under his watch.

“We’ve said it before, and unfortunately we have to say it again: culture starts at the top. The people of Western Wisconsin deserve better than Dave Estenson’s “leadership” – not that you can call someone with an extensive pattern of sexual misconduct and abuse of power a leader,” said **Democratic Party of Wisconsin spokesperson Courtney Beyer**. “These disturbing revelations make it clear that Dave Estenson and the other Republicans accused of similar misconduct are unfit to serve the 31st Senate District or represent our state.”