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# DEVIN LEMAHIEU

## STATE SENATOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Sen. LeMahieu: Our laws and government must respect political speech**

**Madison** – This morning the Wisconsin Supreme Court issued an opinion putting the John Doe investigation to a clear and complete halt.

“This decision finally buries the unconstitutional legal theory pursued by the Government Accountability Board,” Sen. LeMahieu stated. “Today, the Supreme Court was clear and unequivocal: our laws and government agencies must respect, rather than suppress, our constitutionally protected freedom of political speech.”

In its decision, the Supreme Court harshly criticized the theory pursued by the GAB: “The special prosecutor's theories, rather than assuring the unfettered interchange of ideas for the bringing about of political and social changes desired by the people, instead would assure that such political speech will be investigated with paramilitary-style home invasions conducted in the pre-dawn hours and then prosecuted and punished.”

“It should be alarming to all citizens that the Government Accountability Board would pursue such a flawed theory of what it *wants* the law to be,” LeMahieu stated.

“The decision also makes clear the Legislature must act to address ‘the lack of clarity’ in Chapter 11 to avoid aggressive agency action in the future. Ensuring our laws and government agencies encourage and protect free and open public discourse should be the Legislature’s top priority this fall.” LeMahieu concluded.

*Senator Devin LeMahieu serves as chair of the Senate Committee on Elections and Local Government and represents the 9<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes parts of Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Calumet Counties.*

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