



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2021

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### **Rep. Mark Spreitzer: Statement on Speaker Vos's Sham Audit**

MADISON -- Today, State Representative Mark Spreitzer (D - Beloit), the Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair and the ranking Democrat on the Assembly Committee on Campaigns and Elections, released the following statement in response to reports that Assembly Republicans intend to begin an Arizona-style sham audit in Wisconsin:

“The November 2020 election was free and fair, and the results have been reviewed again and again with the same result: Joe Biden won, and Donald Trump lost. After almost a year of court cases, machine audits, recounts of our 2020 election, and even a nonpartisan audit by the Legislative Audit Bureau, the Speaker and Assembly Republicans have decided to ignore those results, give in to the demands of the extreme right, and drag our state into the same circus that Arizona has been subjected to. For a while, it seemed that Speaker Vos would rein in the worst natures of his party and demonstrate leadership, but we see now that he has completely and utterly failed. Speaker Vos is trading away our state’s credibility for a photo-op with Donald Trump.

“After repeatedly saying that his focus was forward-looking and that he acknowledged the results of the 2020 election, what questions does the Speaker still need answered? Will the Speaker begin his own search for bamboo fibers, or has he replaced that ridiculous theory with another? Or has he simply given up in the face of extremists who have taken over his party?

“After the multiple failures of the contrived audit in Arizona, what will be any different in Wisconsin? How will the votes of Wisconsinites be protected from these “independent contractors” who will be hired and directed on a purely partisan basis? What will stop ballots and voter data from being tampered with or taken across state lines? Republicans had full control of state government for the better part of a decade, Republicans fundamentally shaped the systems that administer our elections, and it is telling that they are only now suspicious of a system with their fingerprints on it.

“We have all watched the sham in Arizona stretch out for months, so it is important that we ask at the outset of this asinine exercise - when will this end? At what point will the extremists on the far right admit that they were wrong? Or will we see the same goalpost shifting and wild accusations that have been coming from Arizona for the last six months - and show no sign of stopping?

#### **45<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

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“Looking forward, how will this new audit ensure that our state is still ready to administer local elections in February and April? Is the Speaker ready to pay to replace machines that are rendered unusable and unreliable through this process? When local municipalities need funds to replace those machines, it will be Republicans to blame if the state’s answer is inadequate.

“The call for this ridiculous audit is built upon a foundation of lies, conspiracy theories, and the narcissism of former President Trump. But it has not started yet. Speaker Vos should do the right thing, tell his party the truth, and put an end to this.”

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