

## Campaign Memo

To: Interested parties

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Re: Schimel – Beyond the Tough Talk: Schimel’s Record of Making Wisconsin Less Safe

On Wednesday, March 19, Wisconsin State Supreme Court candidate Brad Schimel finally admitted at a Milwaukee Press Club event what we all know – no criminal cases are heard by the Supreme Court. So why has he been positioning himself on “tough on crime” and traveling the state talking about it? Didn’t he read the job description? Or cast an eye over the Court’s docket?

It’s clear that Schimel learned from the Trump/Musk fear-mongering playbook instead of listening to the actual needs of Wisconsinites. A close examination of his record reveals that Schimel has consistently advocated for policies that make state residents less safe and increase crime. That’s why voters kicked him out of office in 2018.

Schimel’s leadership on attempting to destroy the Affordable Care Act would have actually led to higher crime rates. Healthcare access is a primary factor in reducing crime rates [(Jacome, 2021](https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/policy-brief/how-better-access-mental-health-care-can-reduce-crime#:~:text=Within%20two%20years%20of%20losing,crime%20and%20criminal%20justice%20expenditures.); [Paxon, 2018)](https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-and-wisconsin-ag-file-20-state-lawsuit-end-grip-obamacare-texas-and-nation). If Schimel was serious about public safety, and not just focused on talking about punishing criminals, he would never have attempted to get rid of healthcare access for millions of Americans.

If he was serious about getting justice for victims, he wouldn’t have let [6,000 rape kits sit untested for two years](https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2025/01/29/murphys-law-schimel-haunted-by-rape-kit-issue/). And it’s unclear how wasting over [$80,000 of taxpayer dollars buying promotional swag](https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/wisconsin-attorney-general-brad-schimel-spent-83k-on-promotional-items) builds a record of being “tough on crime.”

All his talk about crime is intended to cloud Schimel’s actual view on issues that will be decided in the Supreme Court that could affect the hardworking people of Wisconsin.

Schimel supported anti-worker legislation that stripped public sector employees of their right to collectively bargain which led to deflated wages for all Wisconsin workers. That’s because as wages for public sector jobs deflate, wages for everyone decrease. Lowered public sector wages gives the private sector, which generally has higher wages but worse benefits, the ability to lower wages while maintaining a competitive position within the market. Lower wages mean higher rates of poverty, which lead to more crime [(Sarialsan, et al. 2014)](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4180846/). Makes you think.

Let’s talk about what Wisconsinites actually want. We want to be safe and know that our elected leaders are protecting investments in public education, affordable housing, and accessible and affordable healthcare. We want thoughtful leaders who will address crime by getting illegal guns out of our communities and increase access to mental health and addiction resources. We want a judge who will uphold the law and attack crime through prevention rather than retribution.

Schimel can’t be trusted to take our safety seriously when he passionately supports legislation that lowers wages and increases poverty. The correlation between poverty, lack of healthcare, and increased crime is overwhelming. Schimel only focuses on punishing crime after the fact, rather than preventing it from happening in the first place. His poor judgement cannot be trusted on issues that will affect the daily lives of people in Wisconsin.

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The Working Families Party (WFP) is the party of the multiracial working class — Black, brown, and white. In Wisconsin, WFP has been instrumental in electing dozens of state and local elected officials who work on behalf of working families instead of the billionaires and corporations.