

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/plum-line/post/wisconsin-dems-6-wisconsin-republicans-0/2011/03/03/AGDOWdFH_blog.html

The Washington Post

Posted at 03:24 PM ET, 05/31/2011

Wisconsin Dems 6. Wisconsin Republicans 0.

By Greg Sargent

Conservatives and some political observers are making a big deal out of the fact that the Dem candidate in the closely watched state Supreme Court race in Wisconsin finally conceded defeat today, as had long been expected.

But surely it's also a big deal that we now know for certain that *six* Wisconsin Republican state senators will officially face recall elections, while a grand total of *zero* Democrats may face the same?

Today the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board [announced](#) that they have now approved the signatures required for recall elections against the following six GOP senators: Rob Cowles, Alberta Darling, Sheila Harsdorf, Randy Hopper, Dan Kapanke, and Luther Olsen. That means these six elections are definitely moving forward.

Meanwhile, the board has also announced that they are *not* prepared to approve the signatures gathered by Republicans for the recall of their three Democratic targets. Dems have alleged that the signature gathering by Republicans is fraudulent, and now the board has [explicitly claimed](#) that their reason for not approving the recall elections against Dems is that the signatures "have raised numerous factual and legal issues which need to be investigated and analyzed."

Translation: The fraud allegations just may have something to them.

What this means: While Dems only need to net three recall elections to take back the state senate, it is now within the realm of possibility that even as twice that number of Republicans face recall elections, *no* Dems will. That's a pretty sizable advantage for Dems.

To be clear, it is possible that the board will ultimately approve some or all three of the recall elections against Dems. But even if that happens, Dems still retain a

significant advantage. Either way, it is clearly an important development that we now know for a fact that six recalls against Republicans will definitely proceed.

One other tidbit: The Government Accountability Board has also asked the Wisconsin state legislature for an additional \$40,000 to help evaluate the signatures and facilitate the recall elections. But a Board spokesman, Reid Magney, confirms to me that the legislature has not responded to the request. “We have not gotten an answer from them,” Magney tells me.

Guess who controls the state legislature? Wisconsin Republicans. Indeed, the senate side of the relevant committee that would make those funds available is [stacked with GOP recall targets](#). Go figure!

By Greg Sargent | 03:24 PM ET, 05/31/2011