



## Dougherty: Packers' offense not yet where it needs to be

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## Here are the voting issues the Republican election review is focused on

Patrick Marley Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

MADISON — After a fitful start, the partisan review of Wisconsin's presidential election is starting to get off the ground.

Its precise scope and timing remain unclear. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos of Rochester this summer hired former state Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman to examine the 2020 election. Gableman, who last year baselessly claimed the election was stolen, was to complete his work by the end of October but recently said he needs more time.

Joe Biden beat Donald Trump in Wisconsin by more than 20,000 votes, or 0.6 points. Vos and Gableman have said they won't try to overturn the results, acknowledging they have been upheld by recounts and court rulings.

Instead, they have said they want to identify ways to improve election processes so they can propose new legislation. Any plans they develop could be stopped by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers, who in recent months vetoed a string of Republican election bills that he argued would have made it harder to vote.



**Gableman** Vos gave Gableman a \$676,000 taxpayer-funded budget to cover costs through December. Gableman and Vos would need to reach a new contract — and possibly a larger budget — if Gableman's work continues into next year.

Gableman has not spelled out his precise plans but has said he's looking at three main issues. Here's a look at what's known about his review and how it got started.

### Grants to cities

Gableman has put the bulk of his energy into reviewing \$8.8 million in grants the state's five largest cities received from the Center for Tech and Civic Life to help run their elections during the coronavirus pandemic. Republicans have expressed frustration with the grants because they helped turnout in cities with large Democratic populations.

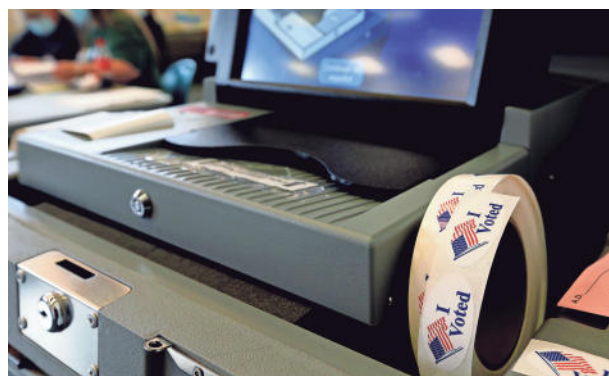
The center — which was funded by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan — gave smaller donations to about 200 other Wisconsin communities, including many that are home to large numbers of Republicans. Gableman has given no indication he plans to look into those grants.

Courts have concluded there are no laws barring cities from accepting the grants.

Gableman this month subpoenaed mayors and election officials for every document related to the 2020 vote that they have. He quickly backed off and said for now they could give him records they have already made public under the state's open records law about the grants.

They recently turned over tens of thousands of documents to him. Gableman had access to many of those records months ago because they were provided in the spring to the Assembly Elections Committee. Gableman hasn't said whether he has already reviewed some records or why he wanted copies of

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"I Voted" stickers are seen at Zablocki Library in Milwaukee.

ANGELA PETERSON/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

## A SPECIAL NEED



**ABOVE:** Marlon Skenandore, Oneida Nation Emergency Food Pantry manager, shows ground buffalo from Oneida Nation Farm that is included in the Tribal Elder Food Box Program.

**TOP:** Skenandore talks about the fresh produce and meat included in the Tribal Elder Food Box Program.

PHOTOS BY SARAH KLOEPPING/  
USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

## Program addresses 'hidden hunger' on Indigenous reservations

Frank Vaisvilas Green Bay Press-Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

As Marlon Skenandore looks at the hundreds of cars lined up outside the Oneida Food Pantry every other Friday, he sees the need and the appreciation that's out there for a new Indigenous food program and hopes it can continue in the community.

"Everybody has been very grateful for it," he said.

The pilot Tribal Elder Food Box Program started in July and runs through December, distributing 900 food boxes every two weeks to Indigenous elders in Wisconsin.

It is operated through a partnership with Feeding Wisconsin, the Intertribal Agriculture Council and the Indigenous sovereign nations of Oneida, Menominee and Red Cliff Ojibwe. It is funded through grants totaling nearly a million dollars from Feeding America National and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"On tribal lands we knew that there was a special need there," said Patti Habeck, CEO and president of Feeding American Eastern Wisconsin. "We soon found out that not only was there a food need, but there was really a need for some Indigenous foods both from a health perspective and also to be culturally appropriate."

She said it can be challenging to find and serve communities where there is "hidden hunger."

"That population (tribal elders) has always stayed a little bit hidden," Habeck said. "The senior population is always hard to serve, anyway, because there are issues of pride and a lot of our seniors don't raise their hand to say they need help very often. And on tribal lands, it can even more so (challenging) because there's a special nutritional need and there's all these other pieces to it."

**"On tribal lands we knew that there was a special need there. We soon found out that not only was there a food need, but there was really a need for some Indigenous foods both from a health perspective and also to be culturally appropriate."**

**Patti Habeck**  
CEO and president of Feeding American Eastern Wisconsin

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USA TODAY

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# Program

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But with the partnerships of Indigenous nations, organizers developed a system to distribute where it's needed on reservations, mostly through drive-through pick-ups from elders themselves or someone on their behalf who shows a tribal ID.

The boxes contain Indigenous-produced food, such as black angus and bison from Oneida and wild caught fish from Red Cliff.

The boxes also contain fresh produce, such as the important Three Sisters crops of corn, beans and squash.

These crops historically had been developed in traditional Indigenous gardens because they have shown to work together in a symbiotic relationship to help each other grow and protect each other from certain insects. The importance of these crops reinforces an Indigenous way of thinking that has humans working in symbiosis with the natural environment for mutual benefit.

But much of the produce currently used in the Tribal Elder Food Box Program is not from Indigenous sources.

"The aim was to have all Indigenous produce, but there wasn't enough out there for this pilot program," Skenandore said. "We need to push for more Indigenous producers out there."

Most produce, instead, comes from local, non-Indigenous farmers.

Organizers said the program will likely continue next year and will include a goal of expanding to use more Indigenous produce.

For example, Skenandore said there are efforts to include Indigenous produced maple sugar in the boxes, as well as products from the Oneida Cannery, such as corn mush flour.

He said enough Ojibwe wild rice from Minnesota was already found to include in the boxes within the next few weeks, so that is in the works.

"I hope it all continues," said Marilyn King, food distribution director for the Oneida Nation. "A lot of the elders have expressed how appreciative they are because it's all fresh (produce)."

When the program wraps up in December, more than 10,000 boxes will have been distributed over 12 biweekly distributions. Each box weighs about 15 pounds and is given freely to tribal elders on reservations in Oneida, Meno-



Shown are items put into Elder Boxes. SARAH KLOEPPING/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

minee and Red Cliff.

Habeck said organizers are planning to not only expand the program next year, but expand the distribution to other Indigenous nations in Wisconsin, which is home to 11 federally recognized tribes and one that is not federally recognized.

The Tribal Elder Food Box program was developed after food security organizers nationally and statewide responded to the hunger and distribution crisis created at the start of the pandemic and created several programs to better address those needs.

But Habeck is particularly proud of the Tribal Elder Food Box program because it's never been done before and is effectively addressing a need.

"It is something that is really novel in the United States," she said. "With its success here we're hoping it becomes a model in places across Indian Country someday."

*Frank Vaisvilas is a Report For America corps member based at the Green Bay Press-Gazette covering Native American issues in Wisconsin. He can be reached at 920-228-0437 or fvaisvilas@gannett.com, or on Twitter at @vaisvilas\_frank. Please consider supporting journalism that informs our democracy with a tax-deductible gift to this reporting effort at GreenBayPressGazette.com/RFA.*

## Want to help? Stock the Shelves donation window is open throughout October

Stock the Shelves is an annual campaign by the USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin in partnership with Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin that encourages readers to donate money to help fight hunger in their local communities.

Since 2010, Stock the Shelves has raised more than \$5 million for food pantries across Wisconsin thanks to the donations of readers and support of community partners, including credit unions. Last year over \$150,000 was raised through this program, providing about half a million meals to those in need in our communities.

Stock the Shelves aims to help those in need in the communities served by the following Northeastern Wisconsin newspapers: Door County Advocate, Green Bay Press Gazette, Oconto County Reporter, Kewaunee County Star-News, Appleton Post Crescent, Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter, Oshkosh Northwestern, Fond du Lac Reporter, Sheboygan Press, Wausau

Daily Herald, Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, Marshfield News Record, Stevens Point Journal and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Donations will help support the community in which the donor resides.

Checks should be made payable to Feeding American Eastern Wisconsin, ATTN: Stock the Shelves, and mail to 2911 W. Evergreen Drive, Appleton WI 54913. Enclose alongside your contribution the donor's address with city, state and ZIP code for internal processing, a notation of whether or not the donation should remain anonymous, whether the donation is in the memory of someone special, and the donor's name as it should appear in the thank-you advertisement to be published in the Thanksgiving edition of USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin's daily newspapers.

To donate online, visit [feedingamericawi.org/stocktheshelvesdonate](http://feedingamericawi.org/stocktheshelvesdonate).

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