

WISCONSIN

Walker raises \$13M to fight recall

Governor shatters fundraising record he set last year in election

BY TODD RICHMOND
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Walker

MADISON, Wis. — Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has raised more than \$13 million in three months for a recall election, a jaw-dropping feat that easily shattered the fundraising record he set last year.

Walker became the target of a recall election after he pushed through legislation eliminating most public workers' union

rights. His showdown with organized labor and its Democratic allies made him a celebrity in Republican circles and enabled him to rake in campaign cash never before seen in Wisconsin.

He set a record for fundraising for a state office last year when he pulled in \$12.1 million. But that paled next to his fundraising so far this year. Campaign finance reports

filed with state elections officials Monday show he collected \$13.1 million between Jan. 18 and April 23.

A special state law allowing recall targets to raise unlimited amounts of money in their campaigns' early days helped Walker, but the pace of his fundraising underscores his popularity in conservative circles nationwide.

He attended a Christmas party thrown by conservative power broker Grover Norquist and raised money with Hank Greenberg, founder and former CEO of American Inter-

national Group, at his Manhattan office. He was in Oklahoma last month, mingling with the corporate elite and top Republicans at a fundraiser co-sponsored by Koch Industries, the oil company led by billionaire brothers who are top backers of conservative causes nationwide.

Walker faces political agitator Arthur Kohl-Riggs in a May 8 Republican primary. Five candidates are running in the Democratic contest. The survivors from both sides will face off in a June 5 general election.

DEMOCRACY

Usually silent Muslims speaking out on election

French president to be chosen Sunday in second round of voting

BY ELAINE GANLEY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — They are France's millions-strong minority with a voice that usually falls silent at election time. But this year, there is a special new effort to mobilize French Muslims to speak up at the ballot box in Sunday's presidential race — amid a surge of Islam-bashing among the French right.

Imams and Islamic associations are calling on Muslims to do their duty as citizens and go to the polls. And while they're not officially endorsing anyone, the call itself is a bold move in a country where statistics on religious affiliation are formally banned and where secularism is enshrined in the constitution.

Socialist Francois Hollande — the poll favorite — is more likely to benefit from the get-out-the-vote push, because conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy has spoken out against Muslim practices in his campaign and experts say that Muslims in poor neighborhoods and Muslim youth tend to vote for the left. But the Muslim vote is diverse, and there's no guarantee that the push will bring out voters, since Muslims have tended in the past to avoid politics.

French Muslims have been pounded with blame throughout the campaign for what they eat (halal meat), how

they pray (in the street), and for allegedly using their growing numbers to supplant France's civilization with their own. The massacre of Jewish schoolchildren and French paratroopers in March by an alleged Islamic extremist put Muslims in the spotlight anew and fed far-right fear mongering.

Under the banner of patriotism and preserving the national identity, Sarkozy is trawling for far-right votes as he tries to undo Hollande.

Far-right candidate Marine Le Pen, who ran an anti-immigration and anti-Europe campaign and sowed fears that France is being Islamicized, placed a strong third in the April 22 first-round vote. Though she was eliminated, her 18 percent score was a historic high for her National Front party and her supporters could now boost Sarkozy's support in the runoff.

For some Muslim religious leaders, it is time to act.

"We don't live on Mars. We live in France and we are constantly listening to what is happening," said Kamel Kabtane, the rector of the Lyon mosque, who was among a group of imams at some 30 mosques in southeast France pressing Muslims to vote.

"By this initiative, we want to show that Muslims aren't citizens of the second zone. ... They can vote for whom they want but be present in the voting booth," he said.

BEL-AIRE

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amount of fines sought by the city.

"It doesn't make the fine go away," Cullen said. "We believe the fines will be upheld."

The same hearing officer will consider the appeal, Cullen added.

Even if repairs are made, city building department manager John Sadowski said, the work will have to be approved by the city before the code violation notices are lifted.

"Every item that has been cited as a violation has to be removed," Sadowski said. "They haven't completed the work until we have inspected it and accepted it."

Most of the 80 units are occupied at rates of \$100 to \$200 a week, according to Motwani, who added that he still is trying to sell the motel. The property



New carpeting has been laid in room 2 at the Bel-Aire Motel.

JASON JOHNSON/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER/Purchase this photo at www.sj-r.com/reprints

is on the market at an asking price of \$900,000, he said.

Motwani said he fell behind on repairs partly because he thought the city of Springfield was serious about buying the Bel-Aire

for conversion to a Route 66 museum and visitors center.

The late Mayor Tim Davlin floated the idea three years ago, but no money was available for the purchase.

"I was under the impression that they were buying it, and I didn't want to spend too much money on it," he said.

Tim Landis can be reached at 788-1536.

RYAN

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successor as governor, Democrat Rod Blagojevich, also in prison for corruption; he began serving a 14-year sentence in March.

Even if Ryan wins a new trial, Thompson said, prosecutors might not have the stomach for another costly, time-consuming trial and could agree to have Ryan resentenced on the convictions not in dispute. That could lead to his release on time served, he said.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Chicago, Randall Samborn, declined to comment on the Supreme Court's decision.

Ryan was convicted in 2006 of steering state business to insiders while secretary of state and governor and receiving vacations and gifts in return. He also was accused of halting investigations into state employees who exchanged bribes for truck driver's licenses.

The federal appeals court rejected Ryan's appeal last year, shortly after the death of his wife of 55 years, Lura Lynn Ryan. The former governor was released for several hours to be at his wife's side before she

died, though he wasn't allowed to attend her funeral.

The main legal question is whether Ryan waived any objections to supposedly faulty jury instructions during his trial.

In upholding Ryan's convictions, the appeals court concluded that defense attorneys did not make a timely objection to alleged jury instructions about "honest services" laws and, even if they had, Ryan's conviction would not have been affected.

Defense lawyers say honest services laws are too vague and a last resort of prosecutors in corruption cases that lack the evidence to prove money is changing hands. The Supreme Court largely agreed in a ruling in 2010.

The ruling sharply curtailed "honest services" laws, with the justices saying such laws must be applied to clear instances of bribery or kickbacks. Ryan's appeal last year was one of several attempts to overturn his convictions based on that ruling.

During Ryan's appeal a year ago, government prosecutors said they did not think Ryan had defaulted on his chance to bring up the Supreme Court's "honest services" decision, but the appellate judges in Chicago disregarded pros-

ecutors on that point.

In a separate case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled earlier this month that appellate courts could some-

times ignore prosecutors' view. In Ryan's case, however, the high court justices said the 7th Circuit should look at that issue anew.

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