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Posted June 11, 2006

Election weekly for June 11

With Mark Green clinching the Republican nomination for governor last month, Gov. Jim Doyle's campaign has taken on an increasingly critical tone against the congressman.

Doyle's campaign issued a series of news releases last week attacking Green's record on fiscal management, health care, energy and stem cell research.

Doyle also called into question Green's role in the state caucus scandal that resulted in the conviction of former legislators from both parties for allowing state employees to illegally campaign for legislative candidates. Two of Green's top aides worked in the state Legislature at the time of the scandal.

In the backdrop of a national stem cell summit held this weekend at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., where Doyle was slated to give the keynote speech, the Democratic camp drew attention to Doyle's support of stem cell research in Wisconsin.

Doyle has directed the Department of Commerce to spend about \$5 million to recruit stem cell companies to the state and has launched a \$750 million initiative to invest in stem cell and biotechnology research.

Green backs effective stem cell research

Green cited his efforts to "double funding for the federal government's medical research arm, the National Institutes of Health" and efforts to increase spending for cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's research in response to Doyle's criticisms about his opposition to the governor's stem cell policies.

Doyle and his allies "attempted to use human suffering for crass partisan political gain" at the Democratic Party of Wisconsin Convention in La Crosse "by distorting Green's record on stem cell research," Green said in a statement.

Green was a cosponsor of the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, which he says has led to 67 clinical applications from stem cells derived from umbilical cord blood, while "embryonic stem cell research has yet to produce any

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Election 2006

Key dates

- July 11: Deadline to file paperwork candidacy
July 20: Next round of campaign reports are due
Sept. 12: Primary election
Nov. 7: General election

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State Democratic convention

Democrats held their state convention Friday and Saturday in La Crosse, following the Republican state convention in May in Appleton. Speakers at the Democratic convention included Secretary of State Doug LaFollette, Atty. Gen. Kathleen Falk and Atty. Gen. Peg Lautenschlager, U.S. Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl and the candidate for the 8th Congressional District, Dr. Steve Kagen, Nancy Nusbaum and Jamie Wall. John Curry, candidate for the 9th District, also spoke.

West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin III gave the keynote address.

LaFollette used the forum to kick off his re-election campaign.

Property rights group recognizes Green

The Property Rights Alliance — an advocacy organization dedicated to the protection of physical and intellectual property rights — honored Green for his leadership in preserving physical and intellectual property rights.

Over the last few years, Green has spearheaded several proposals in Congress to strengthen laws against copyright and anti-piracy laws.

Following his Friday appearance in La Crosse, Feingold, a potential 2008 presidential candidate, headed to La Crosse for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor State Convention on Saturday.

Feingold was a speaker last weekend at the New Hampshire and Maine Democratic conventions. At the Wisconsin Democratic convention, Feingold earned several standing ovations from the hundreds of delegates, telling them that he thinks the U.S. is properly engaged in war in Afghanistan, but not in Iraq.

Kagen lands endorsement for Pestigo mayor

Kagen announced Thursday that he had picked up a key endorsement from the backyard of Assembly S. Republican 8th District candidate John Gard, who lists his residence as Peshtigo although he maintains a home in the Prairie near Madison. Peshtigo Mayor Tom Strouf is throwing his support behind Kagen.

Grocers endorse Gard

The Wisconsin Grocers Association Board of Directors voted to endorse Gard for the 8th Congressional District. A majority of the association indicated by ballot they would support a Republican in the general election.

The association represents more than 1,000 independent grocers, retail grocery chain stores, food brokers and suppliers in the state.

Bucher criticizes Doyle's grant awards

The city of Menasha is among 13 communities to benefit from state grants totaling \$885,211 to improve police facilities. Menasha will receive \$9,797 to extend the Ninth Street launch ramp to Little Lake Buttes des M

Republican attorney general candidate Paul Bucher came out against Doyle for distributing the grants, noting that the governor should prioritize spending on crime-fighting efforts.

Falk names campaign official

Falk named Adam Collins her campaign's communication director. Collins, a Kenosha native, recently served as Barbara Lawton's communications manager.

Post-Crescent staff writer J.E. Espino, Post-Crescent Madison Bureau Chief Ben Jones and Green Bay reporters Malavika Jagannathan and Kristen Radtke contributed to Election Weekly, a weekly roundup of election news that will run Sunday until the Nov. 7 election.

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