



ACE Newsletter February 2025

Wisconsin Supreme Court Election

ACE Advocates for the Federal Civil Service System

Recent Actions Affecting Federal Agencies

Wisconsin Supreme Court Election - League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters Wisconsin will have a webinar on **Judging Judicial Candidates in the Wisconsin Supreme Court Election** on **Tuesday, February 25, at 6 p.m.**

Speakers:

Chad Oldfather, Marquette University Law School

Rob Yablon, State Democracy Research Initiative and the UW Law School

Jeff Mandell, attorney with Law Forward

You can register for this meeting on Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/X3idkeSTQm2phphk6gclQ>

ACE Advocates for the Federal Civil Service System

ACE recently sent a letter to the *Wisconsin State Journal* and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. We believe that a strong civil service with a qualified, fairly treated and adequately compensated workforce is necessary for good government.

A Civil Service System is a critical guardrail against a takeover of government at all levels. It is a system of laws and administrative and workplace rules that govern how government employees are hired, carry out their duties, and are terminated. It is made up of permanent professional employees, excluding military and judicial employees and elected politicians. Employment is usually based on competitive examination.

Currently, at the federal level, civil service employees are under extreme stress as a small group of people (reportedly six engineers aged 19-24) led by Elon Musk are entering workplaces and accessing databases, personnel files and contract information. Print and broadcast news sources report that employees are being fired, reassigned to other jobs, requested to retire or resign and asked to take illegal actions. These measures have challenged congressional authority and breached civil service protections. It is not legal to fire civil servants without cause.

This is indeed a surprisingly dangerous place to find ourselves. We are grateful that most federal civil service employees will continue to do the best job that they can to serve us.

Sally Drew, President

Recent Actions Affecting Federal Agencies

According to the New York Times, Trump has signed an executive order to limit new hiring and commence what he called a “critical transformation” of government. Many of the proposals come from the Project 2025 document that proposed creation of Schedule F. Federal agency staff reductions and temporary removals that had been confirmed as of Tuesday, February 11, include:

United States Agency for International Development (U.S.A.I.D)

- 7000 on leave or fired
- Inspector general fired

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

- 1700 halted work

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- 4 fired

Veterans Affairs

- 60 D.E.I. workers on leave
- Inspector general fired

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- 15 D.E.I. workers on leave
- Inspector general fired

Education Department

- 50 D.E.I. workers on leave
- Inspector general fired

United States Coast Guard

- 1 D.E.I. worker fired

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

- 3 D.E.I. workers fired (2 Democratic commissioners and the general counsel)

Justice Department

- 24 fired (January 6 and/or Trump investigators)

Federal Bureau of Investigation

- 9 forced out (January 6 and/or Trump investigators)

Inspectors General

- Inspectors general have been fired from 14 other agencies

Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board

- 3 Democratic-selected members fired. Only one Republican member remains, and another seat is vacant, leaving the board unable to take official action.

Office of Government Ethics

- Director fired

Office of Special Council

- Removed director

Federal Election Commission

- Fired chairwoman

National Archives and Records Administration

- Fired national archivist

National Labor Relations Board

- Fired general counsel and a Democratic board member leaving just 2 members — not enough to act

State Department

- Fired 60 contractors

National Security Council

- Sent 160 workers home

With so many employees fired or “removed” it is important to reinforce the principle that it is not legal to fire civil servants without just cause, and certainly not without notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond in a meaningful, timely manner. Civil service is not a spoils system. Indeed, courts have temporarily halted some of the administration’s efforts.

If you found this information helpful, please forward to a friend and ask them to consider joining ACE.

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