



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## New School Mascots Legislation Announced

**MADISON**...A group of Republican legislators has put forth a permanent solution in regards to school mascots in Wisconsin.

“These changes are reasonable and address concerns brought forth by all parties,” said Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester). “It puts the proper mechanism in place for appeals from the community without putting an undue burden on school districts.”

In order to object to a school board’s use of a race-based nickname, logo, mascot, or team name, the following would be required.

- A petition with signatures from school district residents that would need to equal at least 10 percent of the school district’s student population.
- The signatures must be obtained within the 120-day period before the complaint is filed.
- A hearing would be held by the Department of Administration’s Division of Hearings and Appeals.
- The burden of proof would be placed on the complainant.

“This legislation is a good step in recognizing that a single individual should not be able to dictate their will over a whole community and in the process deprive an entire group of people their right to due process,” said Rep. Dave Craig (R-Big Bend). “As a resident of the Mukwonago School District, I hope my colleagues will join us in reversing the wrongs that we have imposed on many of our state’s school districts by passing this legislation without delay.”

In addition, the proposal would expand the opportunity for collaboration and partnership between tribes and school districts on nickname and logos.

“I believe this new proposal offers a fair and balanced approach to changing state law on the use of Indian logos, mascots and nicknames. We wouldn’t be at this point except for the principled position taken by the citizens of the Mukwonago School District,” Rep. Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) said.

“It is great to reach reasonable legislation and avoid imposing costly re-branding on school districts,” said Sen. Mary Lazich (R-New Berlin). “School districts will be able to continue respectfully using their treasured mascots to represent their school spirit in competitions.”

The legislation will be considered by the Legislature within the coming weeks.

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