

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask the Internal Revenue Service to review the tax-exempt status of The 1848 Project Inc. (Employer ID #84-434372) for inappropriately engaging in political activity to promote the candidacy of the group's president, Rebecca Kleefisch.

As you know, 501(c)(4) organizations are allowed only limited political activity and that activity cannot be the organization's primary activity. However, the 1848 Project Inc. is being used exclusively as a vehicle for 1848 Project President Rebecca Kleefisch to run for governor of Wisconsin.

In fact, at a recent event where Kleefisch was speaking in her role with the 1848 Project, Kleefisch responded "you're not wrong," when pressed by a reporter on whether she was running for office ([Wisconsin State Journal. 6/20/21](#)).

With Kleefisch's admission that she is running for governor, it raises new concerns about how she is using the 1848 Project's tax-exempt status to raise money and operate a statewide campaign.

- Kleefisch has regularly used her position with the 1848 Project to travel across the state, often speaking at partisan events and targeting Gov. Tony Evers, who she will face if successful in her primary election.
- Kleefisch has used the 1848 Project's to air radio advertisements across Wisconsin expressly targeted the governor. Kleefisch's "[Weekly Rundown](#)" segments regularly focus on Gov. Evers and are clearly designed to raise Kleefisch's profile around the state.
- Kleefisch has hired partisan political operatives at the 1848 Project. These employees have used their position to [directly attack](#) Gov. Evers.
- Kleefisch has previously made the connection between the 1848 Project and her soon-to-be-announced campaign clear in interviews with reporters. Recently [she said](#), "We will be rolling out our policy agenda for Wisconsin's future in the near future, and I suppose after that happens you can look forward to me determining what my next step is going to be. . .I will make it my top priority to ensure that Tony Evers is a one-term governor."

With Rebecca Kleefisch's political intentions clear, the 1848 Project has been exposed as nothing more than an organization designed to promote her candidacy and build a campaign without the scrutiny or responsibilities of a candidate. I believe this is a clear violation of the organization's tax status and look forward to your investigation into this matter.

Sincerely,

