

ELON MUSK STEPS IN IT IN WISCONSIN

Susan Crawford beat Brad Schimel by ten points last night in significant part by yoking Schimel to Elon Musk, who dumped millions into the race.

As I've been saying for months, this could undercut Elon's efforts to silence right wing opposition to his destruction using primary challenges; if last night was any indication, that would backfire.

But there are several ways Elon's involvement in the race could have further repercussions. After WI didn't (yet) pursue legal action after Elon offered the same kind of soft bribes he used in last year's election, the winner of his \$1 million check posted a video effectively confirming that her vote was one of the things she did for the money.

On Tuesday, Musk's super PAC, America PAC, pulled a video from X featuring \$1 million giveaway winner Ekaterina Deistler in which she said she received the money, in part, to "vote." X is owned by the tech billionaire.

"My name's Ekaterina Deistler," she said in a video posted Monday morning. "I did exactly what Elon Musk told everyone to do: sign the petition, refer friends and family, vote, and now I have a million dollars."

But the video was taken down yesterday, and America PAC posted a new video of Deistler on X on Tuesday afternoon.

"My name's Ekaterina Deistler, and I'm from Green Bay, Wisconsin," she said in the new video. "I did exactly what Elon Musk told everyone to do: sign the petition, refer friends and family, and now I have a million dollars."

Then there's the backlash from comments Elon and Antonio Gracias made, claiming that someone would be arrested the next day, at a rally for Schimel.

Tech billionaire and senior Trump adviser Elon Musk appeared to boast of advance knowledge of a planned arrest related to alleged Social Security fraud during an appearance on a live stream Monday night promoted to his more than 200 million social media followers, frustrating top law enforcement officials, multiple sources told ABC News.

"Yes. In fact, I believe someone is going to be arrested tomorrow," Musk said in response to a question about whether U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi would prosecute fraud found within the Social Security system.

Musk, discussing the alleged planned arrest, said, "This is someone who actually stole 400,000 social security numbers and personal information from the Social Security database, and was selling social security numbers and all of all the identification information in order for people to basically steal money from Social Security."

[snip]

Musk did not say how he came to know about the alleged planned arrest, but sources familiar with the matter told ABC News that **Musk was referring to an ongoing federal investigation**, and that his public disclosure of the matter disturbed top law enforcement officials with knowledge of the probe.

Previewing an arrest before it takes place would conflict with standard practice intended to protect potentially sensitive law enforcement operations and those involved in carrying them out. [my

emphasis]

ABC's story on the blabbing suggests this is just about law enforcement worrying about tipping someone off. But when you add in Gracias' comments, it may turn out to be more. Gracias effectively leaked details not just of Social Security data, but of Social Security data collated with data from other sources, such as DHS databases.

Gracias alleged that they had identified and reported undocumented immigrants improperly receiving Social Security and registering to vote – allegations that ABC News has not verified.

"The defaults in the system, from Social Security to all of the benefit programs, have been set to max inclusion, max pay for these people, and minimum collection. That's what's happening. We found 1.3 million of them [undocumented immigrants] already on Medicaid, as an example," said Gracias.

"We actually just took a sample and looked at voter registration records, and we found people here registered to vote in this population, yes, and we found some by sampling that actually did vote, and we have referred them to prosecution at the Homeland Security investigation service already," Gracias said.

These are the kinds of DOGE claims that always collapse upon review (and Elon and his DOGE boys seem not to understand that undocumented workers actually keep Social Security afloat with payments they will never recoup). But they also evince visibility into data from several agencies (and state voting records) at once – the kind of intra-agency dissemination that unions have posited as a heightened privacy risk, one that would require additional privacy

assessments. And the theory of fraud here doesn't match the claimed actions DOJ has laid out in response to lawsuits. So this may help unions and others as they try to fight back against DOGE.

Elon's intervention in Wisconsin didn't help Schimel. And he may have caused himself further problems along the way.

Update: FedScoop confirms that DOGE, including Big Balls, has access to USCIS data.