



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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STATEMENT ON DEMOCRATS' SPIN ON EVERS' ROLE IN KENOSHA RIOTS

It's shocking to see area Democratic elected officials attempt to rewrite the history of last summer's riots in Kenosha, and trying to absolve Governor Tony Evers of his role in the tragic events. Thankfully, the historical record is clear.

It was Governor Evers and Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes, who used their initial statements to fan the flames of unrest, rather than seek to calm the situation.¹

It was Governor Evers who only called up 125 Wisconsin National Guard (WNG) members the night after the first riots, while thousands were destroying Kenosha. Twice in writing in one day, and through many phone calls, we begged Governor Evers to increase the overwhelmed WNG members.²³ Our efforts, and then-President Trump's efforts to help save Kenosha were rebuffed when Governor Evers publicly rejected President Trump's offer of help, asking for COVID help instead.⁴

It was only after a third night of violent destruction, after two people were killed, and another was shot, and after members of the Kenosha County Board pleaded for more help⁵, that Governor Evers realized his mistake and changed his mind.⁶

We don't issue this statement to rehash or relive the devastating events of last summer. That serves no productive purpose. But we will not sit by while some try to rewrite the history of August 2020 for political purposes. The people of Kenosha and Wisconsin know what happened, and history will too.

Among the lessons we learned following this tragedy is that we must be willing to work better together to improve the lives of all citizens. As we have in the past, we remain committed to doing so. Kenosha and Wisconsin will be better because of it.

¹ <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/29b7e6d>

² <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/21/wanggaard/media/1298/letter-from-wanggaard-and-kerkman-asking-for-additional-resources-for-kenosha.pdf>

³ <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/21/wanggaard/media/1299/letter-to-gov-evers-requesting-additional-help-pm-8-25-20.pdf>

⁴ "The governor informed them... would not need federal assistance in response to protests but would welcome additional federal support and resources for our state's response to COVID-19," Evers spokeswoman Britt Cudaback said. <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/08/25/jacob-blake-shooting-white-house-says-evers-turned-down-federal-help/3439506001/>

⁵ <https://www.fox6now.com/news/kenosha-county-board-members-ask-gov-evers-for-1500-national-guard-members-in-kenosha>

⁶ <https://wqow.com/2020/08/26/white-house-gov-evers-turned-down-federal-assistance-in-kenosha/>

