Tribune

Gov. Walker's agenda mirrors Koch Brothers

Dave Wester Elroy November 12, 2014

What will Gov. Scott Walker do in his next term? Ask the Koch Brothers, his principle financial backers.

Walker is too clever to announce plans for controversial actions beforehand, but in his first term he took his cues from the Koch Brothers. After three elections, Walker is so deep into Koch pockets that their agenda is his agenda.

For insights into Walker's second term, pay attention to organizations such as Americans for Prosperity, FreedomWorks, The Cato Institute and The Heritage Foundation. The first three were founded by the Kochs, and the Kochs are a major contributor to the fourth.

Among the issues identified in the agendas of the above organizations are union-busting, privatizing education, promoting school vouchers, promoting mineral extraction and eliminating Common Core education standards. If those issues sound familiar, it's because they defined Walker's first term.

Other items on the agendas of those organizations include climate change denial and opposing incentives for development of renewable energy sources. Don't expect Walker to do anything about renewable energy or climate change.

The Koch Brothers made their billions in all aspects of oil, gas and mineral development. Koch Industries has a list of environmental violations longer than a trainload of coal.

During his last campaign, Walker said he took the power from the unions and gave it to the people of Wisconsin. He was half-honest. He took the power from the unions, all right, but he gave it to the Koch Brothers.