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### Recalls can proceed, Dane County judge rules

By Tom Tolan of the Journal Sentinel

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July 8, 2011 | (36) COMMENTS

A Dane County judge has ruled that nine recall elections should proceed, according to a release from the state Government Accountability Board.

Judge Richard Niess was considering lawsuits by six Republican and three Democratic state senators challenging the decision of the accountability board certifying recall elections against them. Niess dismissed the suits Friday, according to the release.

The decision came just four days before the first primary races are scheduled to be held. Six "protest" or "fake" Democrats are challenging six actual Democrats who are seeking to unseat the Republican incumbents. The protest candidates were sponsored by the GOP.

Jeremy Levinson, attorney for the Democratic state senators, had argued for the invalidation of many petition pages seeking the recalls of Sens. Dave Hansen of Green Bay, Jim Holperin of Conover and Robert Wirch of Pleasant Prairie because of what he called widespread fraud by some of the paid circulators collecting signatures.

Eric McLeod, representing the Republicans, argued that petitions against them should be thrown out because of a discrepancy in the names on the paperwork setting the recalls up.

"Judge Niess' decision means the recall primaries and elections scheduled for July 12, July 19, August 9 and August 16 will move forward, and the people of Wisconsin will get to exercise their constitutional right to participate in recall elections," said Kevin Kennedy, the accountability board's director and general counsel, in the release.

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Details

Says recall organizers "started their website last November" and began work on their effort



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