Written by WisDems Press, Hannah Menchhoff Thursday, 15 September 2022 10:00 -



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Will Rally with Fellow Floridian Ron Johnson This Weekend.

**MADISON, Wis.** — Ron Johnson was <u>caught red-handed spending up to \$18,781 of taxpayer money to pay for his vacation travel</u> between Florida and DC. Despite Johnson's family owning at least two private planes and a vacation home in Florida, Johnson still charged taxpayers for his personal travel.

Key Points:

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: <u>Sen. Ron Johnson uses tax dollars to travel between</u> Florida family home and the U.S. Capitol

U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson has been using taxpayer dollars to cover the cost of flights between  $\underline{a}$  Florida family vacation home

and Washington, D.C., including nine such trips last year, federal records show.

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## Ron Johnson Caught Using Thousands of Taxpayer Dollars for Florida Travel

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Federal records show that Johnson, a Wisconsin Republican, has been reimbursed for 19 flights from Fort Myers, Florida, to Washington between 2013 and May 2021.

JFT Investments LLC bought a 3,400-square-foot waterfront house in Fort Myers, near Sanib el Island

, for \$1.6 million in October 2013.

**JFT Investments** 

is an affiliate of the Johnson family trust, which was set up by the senator and his wife, Jane Johnson, for their three children, Johnson's office confirmed.

The limited liability corporation, a holding company for various properties, used to share the same address with Pacur

, an

Oshkosh plastics company formerly owned by Johnson

. Ben Johnson, the senator's son,

had been listed as the company's registered agent

, and Jane Johnson once signed a notice for repairs to the house.

Johnson's adult children also own a private business jet that he used to travel between Wisconsin and Washington during

the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Johnson, first elected in 2010, took no trips to or from Fort Myers before the Florida house was purchased by JFT Investments in 2013.

By contrast, Wisconsin's senior senator went to Fort Myers at least nine times between Jan. 1, 2021, and May 10, 2021. Those flights between Florida and Washington cost taxpayers anywhere from \$227 to \$1,152.

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Johnson then billed taxpayers \$565 to fly to Washington two days later to vote on certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election. Johnson was among those who voted in favor of certification, after <u>first indicating that he planned to join with 10 other Republican senators</u> in objecting to the certification.

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He returned to Florida on Jan. 7, the day after the attack on the Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump.

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It is impossible to determine the exact cost for Johnson's jaunts from Florida because many of the reimbursements were lumped in with expenses from other trips, including some within Wisconsin.

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But Senate records show the trips cost taxpayers at least \$5,418 and no more than \$18,781.

- Johnson and his wife recently listed <u>assets worth between \$16.55 million and \$78.3</u> at the end of last year, about the same as the previous year. Johnson wasn't required to report his annual \$174,000 salary as a U.S. senator.