

## Ron Johnson Used Tax Loophole to Avoid Paying Millions in State Taxes

Written by WisDems Press, Hannah Menchhoff

Friday, 28 October 2022 19:05 - Last Updated Saturday, 29 October 2022 09:15

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***Report this week by the Heartland Signal found that Johnson has avoided paying millions in state tax on a trust fund since 2015***

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**MADISON, Wis.** — Today, a new [report](#) laid out how Ron Johnson has taken advantage of tax loopholes designed for the ultra-wealthy and the efforts he went through to have the 2017 GOP tax bill changed in a way that benefited himself and the billionaire donors bankrolling his campaign.

**Heartland Signal:** [Sen. Ron Johnson used tax loophole to avoid paying millions in state tax on trust fund](#)

*Key points:*

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The Madison-area news station WKOW [published](#) Monday that a family trust fund that Johnson set up in 2011 and was ***paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in state tax annually beforehand*** is now a tax credit.

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***He has not paid a single cent in state tax on the fund since 2016 — and it is fully legal under a tax credit that benefits the wealthy.***

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As the percentage of manufacturing and agricultural activities scaled up since it went into effect in 2013, the trust fund of the former manufacturing CEO qualified for the [ [Manufacturing and Agriculture Tax Credit](#) ] in 2016 — the first year Johnson did not pay state tax on the fund.

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The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported in 2011 that Johnson used the family trust fund to buy a [seven-figure house](#) in Washington D.C.

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As the senator tries to pitch himself to voters as a tough-love fiscal conservative that isn't afraid to propose controversial government spending cuts, ***he's also one of the Senate's biggest opponents of taxing the wealthy.***

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He personally stonewalled President Donald Trump's 2017 tax cut until his provision to lower taxes on "pass-through" companies even more was passed.

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ProPublica [found](#) in Aug. 2021 that despite Johnson's insistence that it favors small businesses, the provision saved large corporations up to \$215 million in tax deductions — ***coincidentally, benefitting Johnson's biggest donors.***

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Billionaire Diane Hendricks, chairwoman of the ABC Supply corporation, [donated \\$3.3 million](#) to a pro-Johnson PAC just this month, Federal Election Commission records show.

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The Wisconsin Democratic Party sees it as Johnson taking advantage of tax laws created by and for the wealthy (OpenSecrets estimates Johnson was worth [\\$39 million in 2018](#).)

- ***“While Ron Johnson takes advantage of tax loopholes designed for the ultra-wealthy like himself, he’s working overtime to put Social Security and Medicare on the chopping block,*** ” said Grace O’Neill, a spokesperson for the party.