

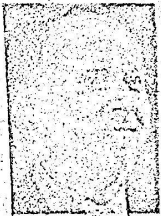
temperatures rising into the mid-40s and mid-50s, respectively, after another dreary day of cold, rain and snow on Friday.

## 2020 ELECTION | REPUBLICAN INVESTIGATION

# 10K deleted files retrieved

Vos' attorney says other messages not recoverable

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Vos

An attorney for Assembly Speaker Robin Vos said Thursday more than 10,000 previously deleted documents related to the GOP-ordered review of the 2020 election have been retrieved, but other deleted text messages or emails from private accounts cannot be recovered.

The documents were sought by liberal watchdog group American

Oversight, which has filed multiple requests for records related to the ongoing election probe being conducted by former state Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman.

In a hearing before Dane County Circuit Judge Valerie Bailey-Rihn, Vos' attorney Ronald Stadler said many of the documents, which come from government accounts and have not been made available to the public, are duplicates and may not be related to the review at all.

Much of Thursday's hearing focused on testimony from Stadler's expert witness Sean Harrington, who specializes in computer forensics, to discuss if deleted records can be obtained from a private cellphone or email account. Essentially, Harrington said deleted data isn't immedi-

ately removed from the device, but the longer the phone is in use, the higher likelihood that such deleted data has been purged.

Deleted records being sought by American Oversight could be six to nine months old at this point, making it highly unlikely such data is recoverable, Harrington added.

"In my experience, based on the phones I've worked on over the years, I would consider it to be highly unlikely to find text messages from that long ago or even two weeks ago, let alone six to nine months ago," he said.

Attorneys with American Oversight could raise further issue on the matter with the court after reviewing the new batch of recovered emails, but Bailey-Rihn said with regard to Vos' private accounts, "there's nothing further

at this point that makes sense to investigate."

"I just don't see that at this point any more time, expense or money is really relevant to the issues at hand to see if there's possibly some way to recover deleted messages on a private phone," Bailey-Rihn said. "Granted, Speaker Vos is the speaker of the (Assembly), but he also is a private citizen and I don't see how you can separate his private messages from his public messages — if in fact you could recover the deleted messages, which I think is doubtful."

Bailey-Rihn scheduled oral arguments in the case for July 21, but added she plans to wrap up the matter before her retirement at the end of that month.

Please see VOS, Page A4