

Sheboygan County Supporters of Gov. Scott Walker Report 78 Damaged Signs

Written by [Eric Litke](#) Sheboygan Press staff

Supporters of Gov. Scott Walker report 78 pro-Walker signs have been vandalized throughout Sheboygan County in the last month.

Susan Hundley, chairwoman of Walker's Sheboygan County campaign, said that includes 60 different locations, with 18 repeat visits by vandals. Six of those signs were 4-foot-by-8-foot vinyl banners that cost about \$300 apiece.

Hundley said she has seen plenty of signs damaged in prior elections, but the polarizing Walker recall has brought an unprecedented amount and severity of damage. She said signs were typically just cut in half, but many now are being "shredded" beyond repair.



A damaged Gov. Scott Walker sign sits Tuesday Jan. 3, 2012, on state Highway 23 at Willow Road. Photo by Bruce Halmo/The Sheboygan Press / THE SHEBOYGAN PRESS

"Of all things to do to get a candidate elected, destroying signs is probably the most non-productive thing to do," Hundley said. "Destroying signs is just pure vandalism."

Tim Lorenz, spokesman for the Sheboygan County Democratic Party, said he had not heard any reports of pro-recall signs being damaged and was not aware of anyone keeping track of such reports.

"Anytime you put a sign up there, you're going to have wind damage, and you're going to have vandalism," he said. "It's just the nature of the business."

Hundley said Sheboygan police Chief Christopher Domagalski told her not to report such damage to the Sheboygan Police Department, but Domagalski stopped short of confirming that today.

"I would say people should report it if they know it's intentional damage that they know someone is doing because of the political campaign," Domagalski said. "Most of the complaints that (Hundley) would get are probably related to juveniles. ... It's a situational thing, and I'm not going to make a blanket statement."

Domagalski said that stance is consistent with the department's policy in past elections and takes into consideration the limited law enforcement resources.

Capt. Dave Adams said the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department takes a similar approach.

"It's serious, but it's not something we can spend a tremendous amount of time on," he said.

The sheriff's department has taken five reports of damaged Walker signs in the last month or so, three involving pro-Walker signs and two reports from the same person involving pro-recall signs, Adams said. The complaints included a Nov. 30 incident in which five large pro-Walker signs were damaged along state Highway 23.

Adams said the volume of damaged sign reports is consistent with past elections.

"Anytime there is a campaign, law enforcement takes theft and vandalism to lawn sign complaints on a fairly frequent basis," he said.

Police Capt. Steve Cobb and Sgt. Timothy Patton said they don't recall any complaints of signs damaged in the city, though Cobb noted police received several recent calls of damaged signs related to the mayoral recall election and aldermanic contests.

Karen Howland, 47, of Sheboygan, told reporters that her homemade pro-recall sign on Lakeshore Drive in Sheboygan was damaged Dec. 14.

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