

START

WALKERLAND

By Allison Geyer, Joe Tarr and David Michael Miller

Gov. Scott Walker announced Monday that he's running for president. Nobody was surprised—he's been playing this game for a while. Follow his moves on the board. Where will the game take him next?

CAPITOL

An ambitious Milwaukee County executive beats a big-city liberal mayor to become governor. 11/2/10

Walker keeps his campaign promise and rejects \$80 million for a high-speed rail line that would have linked Chicago to Minneapolis, winning points with rural residents.

Walker drops a bomb with a bill to eliminate collective bargaining rights for most public employees. 2/1/11

College students, teachers, union workers and others begin massive protests at the Capitol against Walker's agenda. But they also put the gov in the national spotlight. 2/14/11

A gonzo journalist phones Walker pretending to be billionaire conservative David Koch and releases a recording of the call. 2/22/11

Occupation of the Capitol ends, as Walker survives the storm. But protests continue. 3/5/11

Walker signs Act 10 into law. Though challenged in court, the changes that severely curtail union power are eventually upheld. 3/11/11

Railroad executive and top Walker donor William Gardner is charged with two felonies after a secret John Doe investigation reveals he funneled more than \$60,000 in illegal campaign contributions through his employees over five years. 4/11/11

Walker signs a law legalizing the concealed-carry of handguns, saying "We are making Wisconsin safer for all responsible, law-abiding citizens." 7/8/11

Opponents launch a recall petition, hoping to oust Walker from office. 1/4/12

The John Doe probe uncovers sex crimes. Brian Pierick, the domestic and business partner of a former top Walker aide, is charged with felony child enticement over texts to a 17-year-old Waukesha boy. 1/5/12

Opponents submit 1 million signatures to prompt a recall election. 1/17/12

Walker's former Milwaukee County executive constituent services coordinator, Darlene Wink, admits to doing campaign work on taxpayer time. 2/7/12

Walker survives recall election with 53% of the vote. He tells supporters, "Tonight, we tell Wisconsin, we tell the country and we tell people all across the globe that voters really do want leaders who stand up and make the tough decisions." 6/5/12

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign reports that Walker and his allied Republican groups spent \$58.7 million beating back the recall attempt. The campaign helps Walker master the art of asking for money. 7/25/12

Walker sheds a tear on national TV while listening to his buddy Paul Ryan — the vice presidential nominee — speak to the Republican convention. 8/29/12

Kevin Kavanaugh, a former Walker appointee to the Milwaukee County Veterans Service Commission, is convicted of skimming more than \$51,000 from donations to help veterans and their families. 10/12/12

Former Walker aide Timothy Russell pleads guilty to embezzling more than \$21,000 from a nonprofit group that raised money for veterans. 11/29/12

Walker rejects the expansion of Medicaid in Wisconsin as called for by the Affordable Care Act, saying "I care too much about the people of this state not to empower them to control their own destiny." 2/13/13

At a Reagan Day Dinner, Walker boasts that Nancy Reagan invited him to examine Reagan's Bible, which had been untouched since his death. The Reagan Library director later says Walker had asked to see the Bible and that several people have examined it since Reagan's death. 2/15/13

Walker signs a bill that rewrites mining laws in an attempt to pave the way for construction of a \$1.5 billion open pit iron mine in northern Wisconsin. 3/11/13

Walker fires Steven Krieser, a top Department of Transportation official, for posting a rant on Facebook comparing Latino immigrants to "Satan." 8/8/13

Walker travels to Las Vegas to court the financial support of conservative casino magnate Sheldon Adelson. Also attending are his future opponents, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie and John Kasich. 3/27/14

Walker fires Palmisano after it's revealed she made racist tweets regarding Latinos. 12/3/13

Walker campaign worker Taylor Palmisano sends a letter asking supporters to donate to Walker instead of buying their children Christmas gifts. 11/29/13

Walker announces \$100 million in property tax cuts, saving the average homeowner \$33 over two years. 10/10/13

Walker admits he won't meet his campaign promise to create 250,000 jobs in his first term, saying, "My goal wasn't so much to hit a magic number." 8/26/13

Prosecutors in a secret John Doe investigation allege that Walker was at the center of a "criminal scheme" to illegally coordinate fundraising and campaigning activities to beat back recall efforts in '11 and '12. 6/19/14

Walker is elected governor the third time in four years, beating Mary Burke. 11/4/14

Oy vey! News reports surface that, as Milwaukee County executive, Walker confused "Molotov," the slang for a homemade bomb, with mazel tov, a Yiddish expression meaning "congratulations," in a letter to a supporter. 12/10/14

Walker tells MSNBC that documents from the former Soviet Union prove that his hero, Ronald Reagan, got ending an air traffic controller strike in 1981. But the documents don't exist. 1/16/15

Walker's executive budget proposes major cuts to the UW System, drug testing for people receiving benefits, and a radical shift in the UW's mission from one of public service (the "Wisconsin Idea") to serving the state's "workforce needs." 2/3/15

Walker tweets: "The Wisconsin Idea will continue to thrive. The final version of budget will fix drafting error — Mission statement will include WI Idea." 2/4/15

Documents reveal that Walker administration budget writers requested the wording changes to the Wisconsin Idea — over the objections of UW System officials. 2/6/15

"I don't know" whether President Barack Obama is a Christian. Walker tells reporters at a meeting of the National Governors Association. "I've never asked him that." 2/21/15

Walker compares Act 10 demonstrators to ISIS at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland. "If I can take on 100,000 protesters, I can do the same across the world." 2/26/15

Private-sector labor unions are dealt a death blow as Walker signs Wisconsin's controversial "right-to-work" legislation into law. 3/9/15

Former top Walker aide Kelly Rindfleisch reports to jail to serve a six-month sentence for misconduct in office and doing campaign work on taxpayer-funded time. She's one of six people convicted in a secret John Doe investigation into Walker aides and associates. 4/1/15

Walker's plan to expand voucher schools could cost public schools \$800 million over the next decade, estimates show. 5/28/15

Walker scraps his proposed merger of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority hours after an audit reveals rampant dysfunction within the governor's flagship jobs creation agency. 5/8/15

Seeking to further restrict abortion access, Walker affirms that he will sign a bill banning the procedure after 20 weeks — with or without an exception for rape or incest. 6/1/15

Walker raises his profile among the blue-collar set by proudly cruising on a Harley at an Iowa event. 6/6/15

Walker tells a group of donors that British Prime Minister David Cameron complained to him about Obama's leadership. Cameron says he didn't. 6/12/15

Days after a mass shooting in Charleston, S.C., Walker signs two bills loosening gun control in Wisconsin. 6/24/15

Walker calls the U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage "a grave mistake." 6/26/15

After months of "testing the waters" and raising funds, Walker announces his presidential candidacy, becoming the 15th Republican to join the race. 7/13/15

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