

Steve O'Malley apparently will not be fired, or even fined, for delving into politics on his work time for La Crosse County.

After a two-hour hearing on Friday, the county ethics board ruled that O'Malley did not break any rules when he supported a drive to hire a city administrator in La Crosse. Former county board chair Steve Doyle said O'Malley has more freedom than the county's administrative coordinators were given in the past. Doyle says O'Malley often has 'free rein' to pursue activities that he thinks could help the county. Mike Tellier, one of the citizens who filed the complaint against O'Malley, said the ruling shows that 'corruption' in the county is 'pretty bad.'