

Bill Eigel Extremism Spotlight

In 2024, Senator Bill Eigel was removed from his Committee Chairmanship with his behavior being described as an “embarrassment,” a “swamp creature” and belonging to the “Chaos Caucus.” Senator Bill Eigel was removed from the position of Chair of the Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Pensions in January 2024. This decision came as part of a broader move by the top leader of the Missouri Senate, Senate President Pro Tem Caleb Rowden, who announced the removal of several state senators from their committee assignments. According to Fox 2 Now Rowden said, “The beginning of the 2024 Legislative Session in the Senate has been nothing short of an embarrassment. . . A chamber designed to be occupied with civil, principal statesmen and women have been overtaken by a small group of swamp creatures who remind me all too often of my children than my colleagues.” Senator Eigel responded suggesting he was being victimized and compared himself to former President Trump saying “These are the same tactics The Swamp uses against President Trump. . . I don’t work for the swamp.” [Fox 2 Now, [1/23/2024](#)]

In 2023, Senator Bill Eigel appeared in a viral video where he used a flamethrower and vowed to burn books while viewers compared the imagery to Nazi Germany and Klan rallies. Senator Bill Eigel and fellow GOP state senator Nick Schroer went viral setting cardboard boxes on fire with flamethrowers at a Republican fundraising event held in Missouri’s St. Charles County. Eigel shared on the X platform that his flamethrower stunt was intended to symbolize his approach to tackling the “swamp” in the state capital of Jefferson City. He said, “Let’s be clear, you bring those woke pornographic books to Missouri schools to try to brainwash our kids, and I’ll burn those too—on the front lawn of the governor’s mansion.” This statement stirred controversy as Eigel appeared to threaten burning certain books, notably those he labeled as “woke pornographic,” if elected governor. The video garnered widespread attention on social media, leading to accusations of book burning against Eigel. According to the Kansas City Star, “Public book burnings typically illustrate extreme censorship related to political, cultural, and religious materials. They often invoke historic atrocities such as burning of Jewish texts in Nazi Germany or racist bonfires by the Ku Klux Klan.” [Associated Press, [9/22/2023](#); Advocate, [9/19/2023](#); Kansas City Star, [11/19/2023](#)]

In 2023, Senator Bill Eigel introduced legislation banning “red flag” gun measures intended to curb gun violence. Senator Bill Eigel introduced Senate Bill 10 responding to the U.S. Department of Justice's plan to allocate funds to states for implementing “red flag” laws and crisis intervention programs aimed at addressing gun violence. However, the legislation failed to advance out of committee after a Republican member joined Democrats in voting against it, citing a recent school shooting in Nashville that resulted in the deaths of three students and three adults. SB 10 failed to pass out of the Senate General Laws Committee on March 29th, 2023. [[SB 10](#), Motion to vote bill do pass failed S General Laws Committee, 3/29/2023] Springfield News-Leader, [2/29/2023](#)]

In 2023, Senator Bill Eigel introduced legislation to eliminate voting machines to be replaced with hand-counting and paper ballots, stating machines were “vulnerable to interference.” According to the Columbia Missourian, “Senate Bill 98, sponsored by Sen. Bill Eigel, R-Weldon

Spring, would require paper ballots for future elections. ‘This would address the concerns and the possibilities that these machines may ... be vulnerable to interference in our elections,’ Eigel said. The bill also contains a provision allowing any registered voter eligible to vote in an election to contest the results of that election in court.” [Columbia Missourian, [3/20/2023](#)]