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## Capitol Connection

By Senator Joe Leibham  
June 17, 2009

### ~ Budget Input Coming in Strong ~

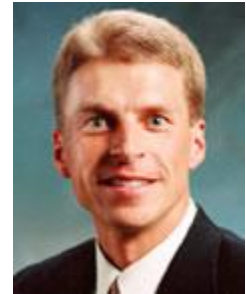
Responses to my *2009-11 Budget Survey* are coming in strong. As I prepare for a vote on the Senate Democrats' version of the state budget, this constituent input will be helpful.

My *2009-11 Budget Survey* asked area residents to offer their input on various provisions included in Governor Jim Doyle's budget proposal. Today, I want to share the survey results I received as of Wednesday, June 16, 2009.

The survey asked respondents if they supported, opposed or were undecided about the following issue questions:

1. Create a new 75-cent monthly tax on all voice and non-voice telecommunication services, including cell phones, data and land-based phone lines? The revenue would help balance the state budget.

Support: 15%  
Oppose: 80%  
Undecided: 5%



2. Raise income taxes on small businesses that file as individuals (LLCs and S-Corps) and taxpayers reporting income over \$225,000/year?

Support: 18%  
Oppose: 76%  
Undecided: 6%

3. Increase the state garbage tax (tipping fee) from the current \$5.90/ton to \$13/ton?

Support: 20%  
Oppose: 71%  
Undecided: 9%

4. Increase the current state nursing home bed tax from \$75/month to \$170/month?

Support: 5%  
Oppose: 92%  
Undecided: 3%

5. Increase the state cigarette tax from the current \$1.75/pack to \$2.25/pack?

Support: 51%  
Oppose: 41%  
Undecided: 8%

6. Reduce funding for public schools by \$294 million over the next two years?

Support: 38%

Oppose: 50%  
Undecided: 12%

7. End the QEO, which currently helps to control property taxes by capping the salaries and benefits of public school teachers?

Support: 25%  
Oppose: 66%  
Undecided: 9%

8. Impose joint and several liability, which could force a party determined to be only 1% at fault in a civil legal action to pay 100% of damages?

Support: 5%  
Oppose: 86%  
Undecided: 9%

9. Require that a prevailing "union" employee wage be paid by any contractor who is hired to provide construction service to a municipality or business located in a taxpayer-funded business park or development?

Support: 14%  
Oppose: 77%  
Undecided: 9%

10. Mandate that private health insurance plans and self-insured government health plans (state, county, town, village, or school district) cover contraceptive drugs and devices?

Support: 26%  
Oppose: 68%  
Undecided: 6%

11. End Truth-in-Sentencing by allowing certain felons to get reduced sentences for good behavior?

Support: 20%  
Oppose: 68%  
Undecided: 12%

12. Allow illegal immigrants who have been in Wisconsin for at least three years to receive in-state tuition rates at UW System schools and Wisconsin technical colleges?

Support: 7%  
Oppose: 91%  
Undecided: 2%

13. Allow illegal immigrants to get a "driver card" that would permit them to operate an automobile on Wisconsin roadways?

Support: 8%  
Oppose: 89%  
Undecided: 3%

14. Require taxpayers to provide retirement and group health insurance benefits to same-sex and unmarried partners of state employees?

Support: 12%  
Oppose: 84%  
Undecided: 4%

15. Postpone the scheduled phase-in tax deduction for health insurance premiums until 2013?

Support: 19%  
Oppose: 60%  
Undecided: 21%

16. Provide a \$6.6 million earmark for renovations at the Bradley Center in Milwaukee?

Support: 7%  
Oppose: 86%  
Undecided: 7%

17. Require energy companies to collect an additional \$9.2 million from energy consumers over the next two years to expand the low-income energy assistance fee?

Support: 10%  
Oppose: 84%  
Undecided: 6%

18. Provide taxpayer funded condoms to boys and men ages 15-44?

Support: 11%  
Oppose: 86%  
Undecided: 3%

19. Remove the requirement that any land purchased by the taxpayers via the Stewardship Fund be accessible to recreational activities such as hunting, trapping and fishing?

Support: 24%  
Oppose: 57%  
Undecided: 19%

20. Increase the gas tax by creating a new tax on oil company revenue?

Support: 13%  
Oppose: 80%  
Undecided: 7%

Thank you to everyone who responded to this survey! Constituent input is one of the most important tools that I use as I seek to make wise decisions on behalf of the residents of the 9<sup>th</sup> Senate District. I look forward to your continued input and interest as the budget process moves forward.

As always, it has been a pleasure communicating with you. Please remember to communicate with me and share your input by calling 888-295-8750, writing to me at P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882, or by e-mailing me at [Sen.Luibham@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Sen.Luibham@legis.wi.gov). You can also log on to the 9<sup>th</sup> Senate District on-line office at [www.leibhamsenate.com](http://www.leibhamsenate.com).

It is an honor representing the residents of the 9<sup>th</sup> District in the State Senate.