

The Walker Weekly



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County Settles Pension Lawsuit

This week the [Milwaukee County](#) Board voted unanimously to accept a \$45 million settlement offer from Mercer Inc., the consulting firm that helped design the

County's disastrous 2001 pension plan. These funds will be placed into the pension fund where they will offset expenses that would otherwise be paid by the taxpayers of Milwaukee County.



While the settlement is one of the largest in history and a positive outcome for county taxpayers, county finances were irreparably damaged by the 2001 pension deal and the careless actions of county officials and their consultants. There are no heroes in this story and the only victims are the current and future county taxpayers who will pay the price for their mistakes.

As Milwaukee County Executive, I will continue to honor my pledge to spend the taxpayers' money as if it was my own, and I will do it again and again as your Governor.

Governor Doyle Breaks another Promise

Here we go again.

When Governor Doyle signed the new \$400 million Hospital Tax in February, he claimed it would help lower medical costs for consumers by increasing Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals. Today Governor Doyle confirmed what many of us feared all along. The new sick tax on Wisconsin families will be used as government's newest slush fund, allowing Governor Doyle and the Democrat legislature to continue their reckless spending.



Once again Governor Doyle has gone back on his word to Wisconsin taxpayers. The Governor said the hospital tax would allow the state to collect more federal tax money to reimburse hospitals for Medicaid costs, thus lowering the costs for consumers. That scheme would only help some Wisconsin hospitals with

no guarantee savings would be passed on to consumers. Now the Governor is raising the new tax, guaranteeing higher health care costs for Wisconsin families when they can least afford it.

I'm also concerned that the state's reliance on the federal money will prove disastrous if the federal government changes funding formulas in the future. While people all across the state tighten their belts to make it through this recession, Governor Doyle continues to show how out of step he is with the problems facing working families in Wisconsin. He is now proposing to balance his latest deficit with another increase in the sick tax.

Music Lovers find Double Trouble

The Walker family loves their iPods. I love going online and choosing my favorite songs to listen to when I run. Matt and Alex have fun downloading music from their favorite artists too. And every now and then, Tonette and I discover a song from their collection we can actually tolerate!

Unfortunately Governor Doyle isn't a big fan of the iPod pass-time. In fact, his budget proposal would tax music downloads not once, but twice.

My good friend Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner penned this [commentary](#) on the Doyle iPod tax.

Lately, the Democrats have been really into iPods. First, the President gave the Queen an iPod with his speeches on it as his gift (at least the iPod worked, unlike the DVDs the President presented as the official gift to Britain's Prime Minister Gordon Brown).

And now, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle wants to tax the songs you download to your iPod – among all your other online purchases. This means that buying something online will now be double taxed in Wisconsin, as Governor Doyle intends to keep the Internet access tax on the books (look on your next service bill – it's there).



Wisconsin currently has a budget deficit of more than \$6 billion. Rather than trying to figure out where else he can impose a tax, Governor Doyle needs to start saying NO. One of the reasons Wisconsin is struggling right now is because our taxes are too high and Governor Doyle attempts to tax everything that moves. After all, I'm pretty sure Al Gore didn't invent the Internet just so Governor Doyle could tax it.

Wisconsinites don't want to pay more taxes, they want more economic relief. Governor Doyle should do better and want better for the people of Wisconsin.

U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner (R-Menomonee Falls) represents Wisconsin's Fifth Congressional District.

Memorial Day Reflections

As we remembered those who fought for our freedoms and those who continue to do so today, I'd like to ask you to continue to look for opportunities to be of service to our service men and women and their families. The [Department of Defense](#) website provides a variety of ways for you and your family to support our troops every day.



We can never do enough to show our appreciation for these brave men and women but we must never forget the sacrifice they have made to protect our freedom.