

The Walker Weekly



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Dealing with Deficits the Old Fashioned Way

It's never easy to tell someone that they're not going to get the raise they wanted or that you're going to cut their pay, but when an organization takes in millions of dollars less than it is spending, it may be the only way to protect the organization and its investors. This is true for government as well as business.

Over the last few weeks, we learned that Milwaukee County is facing budget shortfalls for the remainder of 2009 and 2010, due to sharp declines in tax revenue and state aid. Unlike Governor Doyle and the Democrats in Madison, my plan to deal with declining revenues doesn't include raising taxes on hardworking families or businesses. Instead, we're dealing with this short fall at the county level the Old Fashioned Way. My plan will cut county spending across the board, freeze employee wages at current rates and implement a mandatory 35 hour work week for all county employees.



My hope is that the county can avoid more permanent employee layoffs down the road. Of course, if the state budget passes in its current form, Milwaukee County will likely be facing even sharper declines in revenue next year.

Madison Doesn't Share our Values



If there was any doubt that state leaders in Madison don't share our values, it quickly dissolved Friday morning as the legislature's Joint Finance Committee's (JFC) passed its version of the state budget.

The JFC is led by Madison liberals, Senator Mark Miller and Representative Mark Pocan and includes 12 Democrats and 4 Republicans.

Here are just a few of the policy changes approved by the JFC on a straight party line vote:

[Tuition breaks](#) and [driver's licenses](#) for illegal immigrants

Taxpayer funded health care for the same sex partners of state employees

Early prison release for all kinds of dangerous [criminals](#)

[Removing](#) local spending caps and repealing repeal teacher pay controls while reducing state aid to schools (expect to see sharp increases in property taxes next year)

Allow University of Wisconsin faculty to form [unions](#).

Increase the state [gas tax](#) to \$38.7 cents a gallon (making it the highest in the nation)

Increase the garbage tax by \$63 million (making it the highest in the nation)

Double the sales tax in [Milwaukee County](#) and set aside 15% of the proceeds for the City of Milwaukee to spend however it sees fit.

Creates three unelected Regional Transit Authorities with the power to raise taxes, issue debt and take your property.

We cannot just sit by and allow these changes to be made. As Milwaukee County Executive, I know these changes would be disastrous for our communities and our economy. The early release of prisoners into our neighborhoods will result in more crime, placing additional demands on already stressed law enforcement

and social service agencies. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that higher sales taxes in the state's largest county will result in more businesses leaving the county and state.

Citizen Action Makes a Difference

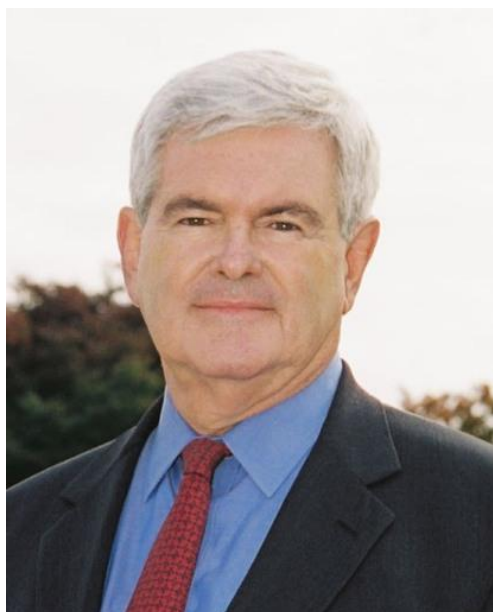
Another important way you can make a difference in the ongoing budget debate in Madison is to write a letter to the editor or a guest column for your local newspaper. Don't be afraid to be controversial and to name names either. Tell readers how you feel about Senator X's support for increasing gas taxes and releasing dangerous criminals into our communities.

[Read this excellent guest column "State must live within means"](#) by Wisconsin Taxpayer, Darlene Vosen in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.



Newt Gingrich is coming to Milwaukee!

Please join me in welcoming former **House Speaker Newt Gingrich** to Milwaukee on June 29, 2009. I am truly honored to have Speaker Gingrich's support for my campaign for Governor of Wisconsin.



Monday, June 29, 2009
The Wisconsin Club
900 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Speaker Gingrich's visit will help us reach an important milestone as we build the resources necessary to defeat Jim Doyle next year. I hope you will join me in welcoming one of the brightest minds in American politics back to Wisconsin.

Newt Gingrich is a leading voice of the conservative movement in America. Speaker Gingrich crafted a platform and vision that led Republicans to take over the U.S. House in 1994, Gingrich is well-known as the architect of the "Contract with America", which led the Republican Party to victory in 1994, capturing the majority in the U.S. House for the first time in forty years. Under his leadership, Congress passed welfare reform, the first balanced budget in a generation, and the first series of tax cuts in sixteen years. He is the founder of the Center for Health Transformation and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. Gingrich has a Ph.D. in history. He is a best-selling author and a contributor for the Fox News Channel.

Make sure to Visit Scottwalker.org Often

Check out the latest from the Walker Campaign at our web site – www.scottwalker.org. I want hear your thoughts on the question in the **What's Your Take** section located on the main page.