

The Walker Weekly



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State Budget will cost Families Plenty

During his first campaign for Governor in 2002, Jim Doyle looked straight into the camera and convincingly read the following lines:

"Take a look around. We pay more in taxes than just about any other state. So how come our schools can't afford new textbooks? How'd we get the billion dollar budget deficit? Why do so many families have to live without health care? I mean, where'd the money go? A governor has got to set priorities, make sure that tax dollars are only spent on things that matter. If it doesn't help people, we shouldn't spend the money."



It didn't take long for Governor Doyle to set his concern for Wisconsin families aside. In each of his proposed budgets, the Governor increased taxes and fees on Wisconsin families while billions of our taxpayer dollars are wasted on [failed computer projects](#), [employee overtime](#) scams, fraudulent [child care programs](#) and additional programs and initiatives that don't help families.

Unfortunately Governor Doyle's latest budget proposal will have the most adverse impact on Wisconsin families of all, and the Legislature could make things even worse.

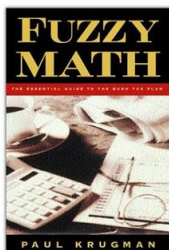
The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) reported that the current budget proposal in Madison will increase costs for everyone who drives a car, owns a home and uses a cell phone. In addition, Milwaukee County taxpayers alone will pay \$228 more per household if a proposed increase in the county sales tax goes through.

It's never too late to make your voice heard. Contact [your state legislators](#) today. Tell them we can't afford higher taxes and fees.

Democrats' Fuzzy Math

Question: When is a 7.7% spending increase really a spending cut?

Answer: Whenever Democrats say so.



This week, freshman [State Representative Ted Zigmunt](#) told reporters that his GOP colleagues were lying when they said the current state budget plan increases state spending more than 7% over the current budget. I guess that means the non-partisan

[Legislative Fiscal Bureau](#) and the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) lied with the same information.

"Their figure is a distortion caused by the one-time influx of federal stimulus dollars disbursed through state agencies, departments and the Legislature," Zigmunt stated. He said the JFC-approved budget includes a 6% spending reduction in the Legislature's operating budget and 5% across-the-board reductions for all state agencies.

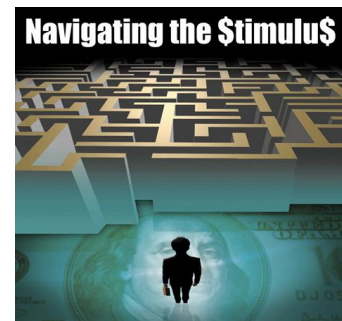
It appears that Governor Doyle, along with Representative Zigmunt and his colleagues, are using a one-time influx of federal stimulus money to justify increasing state spending while the state is running a \$6 billion deficit. The trouble is that when the one-time federal funding is gone, the state will have to fill the budget hole with higher taxes. That's how the state got into this budget mess in the first place.

Stimulus Money is no Silver Bullet

The good news is not every government official is eager to get their hands on federal stimulus money.

Last week, officials for the City of Chetek in Northwestern Wisconsin expressed [concern](#) about the use of federal stimulus money to pay for renovation work for their nursing home. Officials said the money came with a lot of strings attached, including a requirement to use only American made materials and to pay prevailing union wages for the work performed.

Chetek Mayor Dianne Knowlton said the federal stimulus money push has slowed the progress of other federal funding programs and forced cities to delay other projects.



Earlier this year, I wrote an editorial for the [Wall Street Journal](#) explaining my reluctance to use one-time federal stimulus money to increase spending. I believe now, as I did then, that the use of stimulus money to increase spending is a bait-and-switch on the taxpayers that will not offer working families the relief they need.

The stimulus is a classic bait-and-switch. Once the highways are built and social-service case loads have increased, Wisconsin will be left with the bill to maintain the new roads and services. This will force Wisconsin to raise new taxes. Gov. Doyle and legislative Democrats are already discussing higher taxes on hospitals, retailers, employers and even Internet downloads to feed their spending addiction.

The stimulus is also a bait-and-switch on employment. While the stimulus package might create a few construction jobs, the federal money will run out and those workers will lose their jobs. Even worse, most of the money is actually spent on new government programs and on bailing out failed state and local governments.

For the vast majority of residents of my state, the stimulus funds will not help them pay the mortgage or replenish their depleted retirement savings as they worry about being laid off.

True economic stimulus creates sustainable private-sector jobs. The fastest, most effective way to create them is to reduce taxes and implement regulatory and fiscal policies that encourage job growth and economic investment. History has shown repeatedly from John F. Kennedy to Ronald Reagan that as taxes are cut, consumers spend more and investors put more money in the economy. This, in turn, creates jobs, and grows the economy.

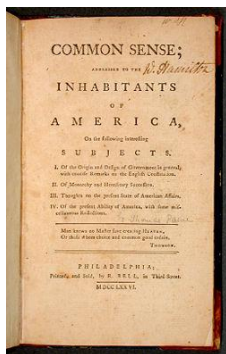
Common Sense Prevails in Court

Last week, U.S. District Judge Charles Clevert ruled [in favor](#) of allowing two Waukesha County high schools to continue holding their graduation ceremonies at Elmbrook Church in Brookfield.

The school district began holding their ceremonies at the church several years ago because it has a capacity of 3,200 whereas the high school gymnasiums hold only 1,200 people.

Judge Clevert rejected the argument of Americans for Separation of Church and State, saying, “A ceremony in a church does not necessarily constitute a church ceremony.”

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Check out the latest from the campaign at our web site – www.scottwalker.org. Your feedback to the question located in the *What's Your Take* section is a great way to share your thoughts with me on important issues throughout the campaign.

Help Scott Continue to Spread His Message to Believe in Wisconsin Again!

Scott needs your support to continue building on the momentum of the past week. You can [make a generous contribution of \\$100, \\$50, \\$25 or whatever you can afford](#) on our web site or click the red “contribute now” button below to help Scott spread his message that we can start to believe in Wisconsin again!