



## Walker Weekly – October 16, 2009

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### 12th Most Taxed State is Unacceptable

It seems like every day we're reminded of the extremely high tax burden in this state. It doesn't matter if you're buying something at the local store or keeping up with your responsibilities as a home owner, our state government keeps taking more and more from dwindling pay checks. In fact, recently the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance reported that we are the [12th highest taxed state in the nation](#).

While the tax burden has been steady in recent years, the president of the independent Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance said Monday he expects it to get worse given recent tax increases and slowed growth in personal income... Wisconsin faced a record state budget shortfall this year as tax revenue took a dive during the recession. That resulted in the Legislature approving about \$3 billion in tax increases to be collected by mid-2011. That doesn't count local property taxes, which also are expected to increase by hundreds of millions of dollars.

Higher taxes along with slower personal income growth will result in Wisconsin rejoining the ranks of the top 10 highest-taxed states when compared to personal income, Berry said.

Rankings like these are unacceptable. When government takes more from your paycheck and then taxes you again on your car, your healthcare, your savings, and your cell phone, eventually people decide that they've had enough and they vote with their feet by leaving our state.

One all too common example of this is happening is in Janesville where small businesses are being hurt by huge new cigarette taxes that are [driving their customers across the Illinois border](#).

Next year, voters will have a clear choice between the big government, high tax policies that the Doyle Administration has championed or a responsible, reformed, streamlined government that serves everyday people. With your help I will bring this different approach to government to our state capitol and create a Wisconsin that we can believe in again.



### Keeping a Tight Budget

I have been working hard the past several weeks to pass my Milwaukee County Budget. We've looked at creative ways to reform over government like looking to turn the zoo into a nonprofit and asking for a better partnership between private and public employees.

This week, the Public Policy Forum, a nonpartisan government watchdog, [released its assessment of my](#)

[Milwaukee County Budget proposal](#). The summary of the report noted the dire financial challenge that currently faces our county and support our efforts to address the long-term problems we face. In addition to updating the Forum's assessment of the county's structural deficit, the report discusses the centerpiece of the recommended budget: a package of steep wage and benefit cuts. It credits the county executive for recommending budget strategies "to address the wage and benefit pressures that largely define it (the structural deficit)."

Overall, the report concludes that "perhaps the best strategy for the 2010 budget is a balanced approach that includes a combination of significant wage and benefit concessions, cuts in non-mandated services, privatization initiatives, and reasonable increases in new or existing revenue streams, each of which might be selected based on their ability to positively impact the structural deficit in the long-term."

I'm glad to see that the Public Policy Forum and other groups across the state are noting our hard work going on in Milwaukee County. [I'll continue to ask the County Board to join me](#) to find real solutions to the problems facing Milwaukee County.

### A Special Invitation

We are less than 13 months away from victory in 2010! On November 6, 2009, the Republican Party of Milwaukee County will host a "[One-Year to Victory Rally](#)" and a celebration of my 42nd birthday with talk radio host Vicki McKenna as the Master of Ceremonies!

This event will mark the countdown to Election Day 2010 [when we take back Wisconsin's government](#), lower our taxes, and streamline government.



You are all invited, and I hope you will join me for what promises to be a very exciting evening!

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