

# *The Walker Weekly*

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## **Scott Balances Milwaukee County Budget - Again**

It's a tune people have been humming in Milwaukee County since 2002 - [Scott Walker delivers a balanced budget](#). When Scott first ran for Milwaukee County Executive, he promised that he would spend taxpayer dollars like they were his own. Once again, he has kept his promise and balanced the budget - without raising taxes.

In stark contrast, the state has borrowed vast sums of money and avoided making tough budget decisions while expanding government programs. In three biannual budgets since Governor Doyle took office in 2003, new state bonding exceeded new tax revenue collections by \$2.1 billion. In every budget he has signed, Doyle has postponed difficult decisions using accounting gimmicks and excessive bonding to pay for ongoing operational costs.

As a result of borrowing against tomorrow to live for today, the governor has produced the fourth-largest deficit in the nation.

We can name that tune. It's called tax-and-spend.

## **Taxpayers Tell Governor Doyle and the Legislature: "We Can't Afford Your Taxing and Spending!"**

This past Wednesday, Wisconsin Taxpayers finally had the opportunity to express their anger with elected officials over the direction of our state. Thousands rallied in [La Crosse](#), [Eau Claire](#), [Wausau](#), [Appleton](#), [Wisconsin Rapids](#), [Madison and Milwaukee](#) to protest the direction Governor Doyle is taking our government.

Of course, the day after 5,000 taxpayers rallied on the steps of the State Capitol, the Legislature's [budget committee voted](#) to support several parts of Governor Doyle's budget (a budget that increases taxes by almost \$2 billion dollars and spending by over 7%). As the Warden [said](#) in the classic movie *Cool Hand Luke*, "what we've got here is failure to communicate."

## **Unemployment Rate Rises as New Tax Hikes Hit Wisconsin's Employers**

Wisconsin hit another milestone as the [unemployment rate](#) reached 9.4% - a 27-year high. The number doesn't include the 400 job cuts announced recently by Harley-Davidson - fueled in part by [Gov. Doyle's new tax on employers](#) costing \$22.5 million this quarter alone. Legislators [enacted](#) the tax increase as part of Doyle's so called "economic stimulus proposal" in February.

Despite more companies signaling [reduced hours and additional job losses](#) as a result of the new tax, Democrats continue to argue that it won't affect Wisconsin businesses. The 400 sidelined workers at Harley-Davidson might offer a more realistic opinion.

## **Where in the World is Governor Doyle?.Anywhere but in Wisconsin Saving Jobs**

Earlier this year, *The Walker Weekly* noted that Governor Doyle seems to be spending an awful lot of time outside of Wisconsin since announcing his tax-and-spend budget. He checked out [trains in Spain](#),

[golfed in Georgia](#), [helped Chicago with their Olympic Bid](#), and even [talked about health care problems in Michigan](#). As job losses mount, you would think Governor Doyle might consider spending some time in Wisconsin.

Charlie Sykes [revealed](#) the details of Governor Doyle's inaction during this economic downturn. Earlier this year, Thomas Industries - located in Sheboygan - was contemplating whether to consolidate its manufacturing operations in Wisconsin and add 40 jobs or move to Louisiana and take over 366 jobs with them.

Company leaders made the decision to move to Louisiana after Governor Bobby Jindal personally met with company executives and offered three times more in tax credits and economic assistance than the Doyle administration. Most telling was that Doyle never even bothered to meet with the company leaders.

Rome is burning, Governor. You might want to worry a bit less about your handicap.

### **Majority of Wisconsin Voters Lack Confidence in Governor Doyle**

Wisconsin is headed in the wrong direction and residents know it. A St. Norbert College poll released last week shows that Wisconsin residents are unsatisfied with the direction of the State and the Governor. The [results](#) of the poll revealed that 55% of residents believe that Wisconsin is headed in the wrong direction, and 54% disapprove of Jim Doyle's performance as Governor.

### **Join Scott for a Special Announcement**

Next Tuesday, April 28, Scott will make a very special announcement in cities across Wisconsin. We invite you to join us. Click [here](#) for event details and to RSVP today!