

FAIR - AND - ADEQUATE

close tax loopholes

protect public structures

control property taxes

April 2011

Don't forget to vote on Tuesday, April 5th.



SPEAK OUT

Legislative Joint Finance Committee
Budget Hearings

**Governor Walker's budget for Wisconsin
is a blueprint for disaster.**

This budget strips more than \$4 billion from Wisconsin schools, communities and transportation systems. Governor Walker has eliminated thousands of good jobs and is working overtime to reduce pay for public sector workers. This undermines economic growth and shrinks the middle class.

This budget punishes senior citizens, students, the working poor and people with disabilities. Governor Walker redistributes our wealth, taking funds for health care, education, nutrition, child care and tax credits away from families to give mega-corporations more tax breaks.

**TELL LEGISLATORS TO PROTECT OUR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES:
REJECT THIS BUDGET!**

Budget Hearing Schedule:

1) **Thursday, April 7 (10am to 6pm) in Stevens Point**
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point
Lee Dreyfus University Center: Melvin Laird Center
1015 Reserve Street, Stevens Point, WI

2) **Friday, April 8 (10am - 5pm) in Minong**
Northwood School: The Richard's Auditorium
N14463 Highway 53, Minong, WI

3) **Monday, April 11 (10am to 6pm) in Milwaukee**
Wisconsin State Fair Park: Expo Center, Hall A
8200 W. Greenfield Ave, West Allis WI

4) **Wednesday, April 13 (10am to 6pm) in Arcadia**
Arcadia High School: Auditorium
756 Raider Drive, Arcadia WI



For more information on the budget cuts in communities - <http://www.wisconsinsfuture.org/>

Your action is needed: Sign on to an open letter to Wisconsin state legislators from Wisconsin residents

Governor Walker has proposed a state budget for 2011-2013 that hurts Wisconsin families and communities. This budget will not go into effect unless state legislators vote to support it. Local officials and citizens are signing an open letter telling the men and women elected to represent us how this budget harms our state and why they must work to oppose it.

We invite you to sign this letter at <http://www.savelocalcontrol.org/>
You can also see who else has signed the letter at this site. The letter is printed below.

Dear State Senators and Assembly Representatives:

We are writing to ask that you **PROTECT OUR WAY OF LIFE** in Wisconsin! The 2011-13 State Budget proposed by Governor Scott Walker undermines the capacity of schools, local government and the state itself to effectively provide the services we value most.

In 2012, this budget would reduce state aid to local communities by \$96 million. This will negatively affect fire and police protection, emergency services, sanitation and hundreds of basic services that are vital to citizens and businesses. Is this what's supposed to attract people to our state and keep them here?

Over the two-year budget period, K-12 schools will lose an unprecedented \$1.7 billion compared to current law. This comes after 18 years of cutting school budgets under revenue caps. At a time when education is so crucial for economic recovery, schools will be forced to eliminate vital programs, further downgrade class options, increase class size and cut back on services for at-risk children. This cheats our state's children and is wrong!

The Governor's budget cuts \$500 million in medical care funding for the elderly, people with disabilities and the families of low wage workers. On top of that, the Governor proposes to cut millions of dollars from programs that assist people in crisis, protect the environment and stabilize transport systems needed for economic growth. We value protecting all citizens, the earth and our quality of life.

Governor Walker has claimed that these funding cuts will be offset if public employees pay more for health insurance and pensions. The numbers do not add up in most cases. Even with employee contributions, communities and schools face huge shortfalls that curtail a wide range of vital services. Many families are still suffering from the recession and these proposals will worsen their situation. The proposed budget is bad public policy because it fails to protect our common good!

We believe that the citizens of this state want, and deserve, a better financial roadmap for the future. We ask you, as our elected representatives at the state level, to reject these destructive funding cuts and redesign the budget in a way that respects the rights of our people to a decent life and supports local community structures to make that life possible.

To sign this letter -- go to <http://www.savelocalcontrol.org/>



Quote of the Month

I have been listening to the people of Wisconsin and realize that I have been wrong. We need to make sure our schools and communities have the resources needed so all can succeed. We need to generate new revenue to invest in public structures and innovative technology. We need to make sure corporations contribute their share and help meet the needs of state residents. We need to strengthen the rights of working people to fight for decent wages and good working conditions. We need to support public employees who work every day to keep basic systems operating effectively. We need to respect the diverse cultures, ideas and lifestyles that make up our state's population. We need to work together to build a future with shared prosperity and shared responsibility. **Governor Scott Walker (April 1, 2011)**

<http://aprilfoolsday.com>