

FAIR - AND - ADEQUATE

close tax loopholes

protect public structures

control property taxes

October 2010

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Why it is so important to vote November 2

On November 2nd, Wisconsin residents will make serious choices about who will lead the state and nation in the coming years when our economic security is at stake. The candidates fall into two very polarized groups -- those who believe we must invest more money into our communities to bolster the economy and those who want to cut services, staffing and spending as a mechanism for recovery. A national meeting of economists from the right and left have concluded that investment is the winning strategy.



At a recent conference sponsored by several think tanks, Nobel prize-winning economist Paul Krugman declared that the recession could literally continue indefinitely because the economy is stuck in a cycle of depressed wages, reduced consumer purchasing power, damaged banks, and business hesitancy to invest -- and no strategy on the political horizon is about to alter this dynamic.

It's not surprising to hear that from Krugman. The startling thing was that his two co-panelists, former Reagan chief economist Martin Feldstein and the chief economist of Goldman Sachs, Jan Hatzius, agreed that more massive stimulus spending is the necessary cure for the continuing recession.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-kuttner/recovery-please_b_765901.html

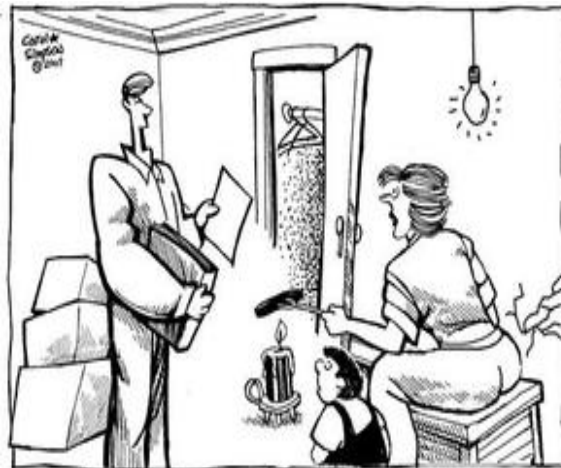
State unions organize rally for public structures



More than 1,000 people joined together October 16 to support the public schools and all the essential public services that improve quality of life for residents across Wisconsin. Calling for an end to cuts to education, safety agencies and public infrastructure, hundreds of Wisconsinites rallied at the State Capitol in Madison with calls to Move Wisconsin Forward. Rally sponsors included the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, WEAC as well as unions representing firefighters, police, teacher, WEAC, AFSCME and many other organizations. See the [full story at WEAC's website](#).

National groups create new economic policy website

[Our Fiscal Security](#) is a new website dedicated to promoting an economic path that achieves fiscal responsibility without undermining the nation's strength which is based on a secure and growing middle class. This website is a collaborative effort of [Demos](#), the [Economic Policy Institute](#), and [The Century Foundation](#). They believe that the American middle class is being tested by falling incomes, lost wealth, high unemployment and record foreclosures. However, instead of rebuilding the public structures that could fortify the U.S. economy, many elected leaders are facing misguided pressure to reduce the federal budget deficit. This website is designed to inform and engage the American people in a campaign to increase federal investment in communities and families. See website at [Our Fiscal Security](#).



"We'd better hurry up and aspire to the middle class... while there still is one."

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel says "Stimulus and TARP worked"



When President Barack Obama signed the Recovery Act in February 2009, he said, "I don't want to pretend that today marks the end of our economic problems. Nor does it constitute all of what we're going to have to do to turn our economy around. But today does mark the beginning of the end, the beginning of what we need to do to create jobs for Americans scrambling in the wake of layoffs."

A chief goal was to save or create 3.5 million jobs. And the administration appears to be on track to do that. The administration projected that 70% of the Recovery Act's funds had been delivered by Sept. 30 - \$308 billion in spending and \$243 billion in tax relief.

A nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office report said that the stimulus raised the Gross Domestic Product between 1.7% to 4.5%; lowered joblessness between 0.7 and 1.8 percentage points; and increased the number of full-time equivalent jobs by 2 million to 4.8 million, compared with what would have happened without the stimulus. See the full editorial at [recovery worked](#)

League of Women Voters surveys US Senate candidates

Democratic incumbent Russ Feingold is being challenged by Republican businessman Ron Johnson as one of Wisconsin's U.S. Senate seats is up for election this fall.

In preparation for the election, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin Education Fund surveyed the candidates.

The link below gives the candidates' responses as they wrote them.

[candidate survey](#)



Quote of the Month

"I offer my opponents a bargain:
if they will stop telling lies about us,
I will stop telling the truth about them."

-Adlai Stevenson, campaign speech, 1952