

FAIR - AND - ADEQUATE

close tax loopholes

protect public structures

control property taxes

Summer 2010

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Wisconsin Recovers website is officially open

There is a new website available to show how the stimulus helped Wisconsin communities. This website is sponsored by Wisconsin State Voices and is designed to be clear, easy-to-use and helpful in finding out how the Recovery Act funding affected you, your family and your county. Take a look at: wisrecovers.org

For more information, contact Jack Norman at IWF: jnorman@wisconsinsfuture.org

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Wisconsin Recovers website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, ABOUT, THE RECOVERY ACT, CAMPAIGN FOR 2011, NATIONAL EFFORTS, and CONTACT. The main content area features a large heading "The Recovery Act in Wisconsin" with a sub-heading "Wisconsin received \$7.9 billion through the Recovery Act in 2009 to help individuals, families, business and communities weather the worst recession since the 1930's. This Federal aid saved thousands of jobs, reduced taxes, gave people support and helped businesses. The crisis is not over yet. This website shows how the funds helped people across the state, why we will need more assistance for the future and what we all can do to make sure Wisconsin gets necessary federal aid in 2011 to pave the way for a prosperous future." Below this text is a "Wisconsin Money Tracker" section with a map of Wisconsin and two buttons: "How was money used in Wisconsin?" and "How was money used in your County?". To the right, there is an "Impact Tracker" section with a photo of workers installing solar panels and a "News" section with three entries dated 5/4/2010. The footer contains a "The fight for future Aid" section with "Locally" and "Nationally" options, and a "Site Navigation" section with links for About, The Recovery Act, Campaign for 2011, National Efforts, and Contents.

Wisconsin helps start national grassroots push for more federal aid to communities, schools and families

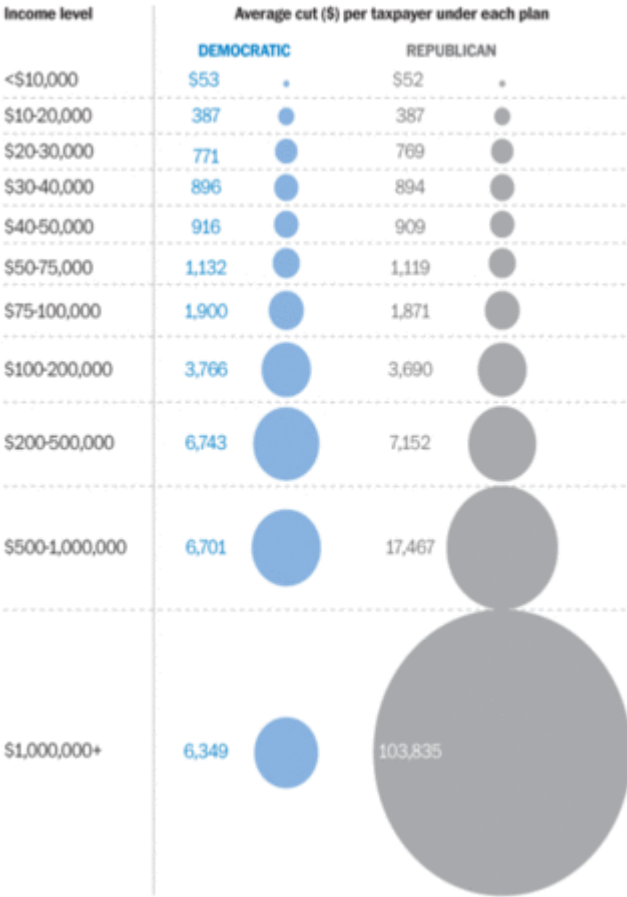


On a muggy July 14 in Baltimore, a Wisconsin delegation of city, county and school board officials — along with teacher union leaders, researchers, congregational organizers, community activists and other dairy state residents — worked with 23 state groups to initiate an organizing drive across the United States. The goal — mobilize people to stand up for their communities and demand federal funds to support vital services and systems.

National experts showed how badly the Great Recession hurt the economy, leading to the most severe revenue crises for states and local communities in U.S. history. The 2009 Recovery Act was a good first step, protecting the country from a full scale depression. But, we could face a double dip recession unless federal investments are continued. State groups plan to spread the word and encourage people to voice their concerns to state and national leaders. Grassroots pressure is needed so national decision makers will send federal funds to states for public safety, transportation, energy conservation, human services and the many other public structures necessary for full economic recovery. For a closer look at the data —

<http://www.cepr.net/index.php/data-bytes/jobs-bytes/jobs-2010-07>
<http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=711>
<http://robertreich.org/post/764586220/slouching-toward-a-double-dip-or-a-lousy-recovery-at>

Bush tax cuts for wealthy need to expire



States are calling for more federal aid to sustain vital public systems while some fear spending will increase the deficit. But there are sources of revenue that could pay for the aid and boost tax fairness. As this chart shows, extending the Bush tax cuts for families making over \$250,000 a year gives a windfall to the Americans who need it the least. These wealthiest people would gain about \$40 billion in 2011 alone if the tax cuts are extended. Those dollars could be used for public safety and infrastructure improvements if the tax cuts end on December 31. Taxpayers in the higher brackets still benefit with the Obama tax plan since they can use the lower tax rates up to their first million dollars of income.

Congress is poised for a fall debate on whether to let the Bush tax cuts on the wealthy expire on schedule. The \$40 billion that would be saved could be invested in economic recovery .

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/ezra-klein/charts_and_graphs/

Communities across Wisconsin hold meetings on Recovery Act impact and 2011 funding cliff

OSHKOSH



Citizens for a Strong Oshkosh (CSO) held a successful community forum on May 20 at the Oshkosh Public Library to explain the benefits of Stimulus dollars in the community. Local leaders also alerted people to the serious revenue challenges that schools, local and state government will face without further Stimulus funds.

Speakers described how \$214 million of Stimulus funds came into Oshkosh and Winnebago County and how they were used. The speakers were:

- Pastor Tom Willadsen of Citizens for a Strong Oshkosh.
- Oshkosh City Manager Mark Rohloff
- Interim Oshkosh School Superintendent Bette Lang
- Winnebago County Executive Mark Harris
- UWO Professor of Economics Kevin McGee
- Becky Lund, a C.P.A. with Schrenck Business Solutions

Links to video and news:

1. The entire May 20 community presentation is on Channel 10's website: http://www.oshkoshcommunitymedia.org/Fed_Stimulus_Dollars.htm
2. A three-minute video starring CSO's Tom Willadsen, on location at projects throughout Oshkosh. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjTh1u9wTPk>
3. Fox News 11 Coverage of the event: <http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/city-of-oshkosh-takes-a-closer-look-at-spending-of-stimulus-funds>

GREEN BAY

On July 12, the UW-Green Bay Center for Public Affairs, JOSHUA (congregational organizing for justice), the League of Women Voters and IWF held a community meeting at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay. Presenters were: Tom Hinz, **Brown County Executive**, Jim Schmitt, **Green Bay Mayor**, Eric Ness, **Wisconsin Small Business Administration Director** and Jean Marsch, **Green Bay School Board President**.

They talked about why Stimulus funding was necessary, how the dollars were used and what happens next. They also showed a video produced by JOSHUA on how Recovery Act funding helped Green Bay schools, the Oneida Nation, the Sexual Assault Center and Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin. Turnout was high and there was significant media coverage of the meeting.



EAU CLAIRE



On August 4, the Alliance for Strong Communities in Greater Eau Claire held a community meeting on the Recovery Act funding at the Royal Credit Union. City, county and school district officials in partnership with leaders from AFSCME, AFT and the Retired Teachers gave community members information on how Stimulus funds were used, the looming local funding crisis, and possible strategies for securing more federal aid in the future. Participants had small group discussions to consider the presentations and decide what they felt was the best course of action for Eau Claire. There was near unanimous agreement on the need for more federal aid and the majority felt higher taxes on investors and the wealthiest people would be an appropriate way to raise the needed revenue.

MILWAUKEE

Congresswoman Gwen Moore joined community activists and leaders from the Milwaukee area to call for more federal aid to save and create jobs. On June 3, Citizen Action, Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods, and many other groups held a press conference to call on federal lawmakers for investments in job protection and creation in Milwaukee and across the state. Many communities are struggling with double digit unemployment, cuts in vital services and a large population of families in crisis. Greeting Rep. Moore is Tina Carr, Director of the Tina N Tots Children's Academy who used Stimulus loan funds to make her Center safer for the children enrolled in her program.



QUOTE OF THE SUMMER

"...the close link between higher unemployment and lower public approval of both President Obama and the government's economic policies could support the notion that Wall Street and the financial sector have no motivation to see any improvement in the unemployment level. In fact, they generally benefit more by actions or commentary that reinforce a bear market or contribute to a lack of general investor confidence in the market. The financial sector is seeing record profits and bonuses by holding onto their \$850 billion bank reserves. Unemployment among middle and working class Americans doesn't seem to hurt the financial sector and it improves the chances for success of the anti-government, anti-public structures, pro-wealthy elites in November." – **Mike Huggins - Eau Claire City Manager**