

## We're all in this together!

We're finally getting Wisconsin's economic house in order. It's time taxpayers, business owners, union members, etc. stand with Governor Scott Walker. If you're not convinced, check out [www.reforms.wi.gov](http://www.reforms.wi.gov) and [www.itsworkingwisconsin.com](http://www.itsworkingwisconsin.com) and you'll be calling 608-712-7880 for "Stand with Walker" signs and bumper stickers. Leave your snail-mail address and I'll deliver them to your door.



No one has all the right answers, but thanks to Scott Walker we're at least heading in the right direction. Please read my letters below and call me for a yard sign.

*FYI, I voted for Kennedy and L.B.J., marched in protests with Russ Feingold, was an O.P.I.E.U. #39 (Organization of Professional International Employees Union) member for most of my career, own three Wisconsin businesses, have organized financial cooperatives/credit unions across the U.S., was a Wisconsin Retired Educators Association (WREA) member, and have taught business development courses for over 40 years. I'm convinced that those who support the recall of Scott Walker are at best misguided and at worse totally ignoring our dairy State is broke and taxpayers have been milked dry.*

**Letter to taxpayers:** By: Rich Woldt - A Wisconsin Taxpaying Voter



**It's time for Taxpayers to "Stand with Scott Walker"**

**It's time taxpayers stand in support of Scott Walker.** According to the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau Scott Walker, in Door County alone, has saved the Gibraltar School District \$269,900, Sevastopol \$199,800, Southern Door \$406,200, and Sturgeon

Bay \$1,172,000, while no teachers have lost their jobs and those electing to retire early did so with what most in the private sector consider a "golden parachute." According to [www.reforms.wi.gov](http://www.reforms.wi.gov) he's been equally successful in other counties.

**No one can deny we taxpayers have emptied our wallets to support our schools.**

In 2011, I wrote Wisconsin property tax checks totaling \$22,088.30, which included \$7,574.68 in school taxes plus another \$2,774.25 for vocational schools. That means roughly 1/2 of our property taxes go to support Wisconsin schools. While Wisconsin school tax levies had increased on average \$162 million each of the past five Democrat years, neither Wisconsin property taxes nor school levies have gone up during Walker's time in office.

**Then the "Recall Walker" Democrats cost taxpayers another unfunded \$750,000** bill from the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board and in Door County alone an estimated unbudgeted \$20,000 to fund the recall at the county level plus the bills submitted by our 14 towns, 4 villages, and the City of Sturgeon Bay. And then taxpayers were required to pick up an estimated \$17,500 unfunded bill at the county level for the primary and another \$17,500 unfunded bill for the recall election plus the bills submitted each time by our 19 municipalities. **In case you've lost count, the Democrat driven recall alone cost Door County taxpayers over \$55,000 plus the aggravations of another campaign. Conservative estimates are the recall of just our governor will take between eighty and one hundred million dollars out of taxpayer' pockets before the final bills are paid. *Just think of the jobs we could create if we'd use all this wasted tax revenue to "buy local***

**Most taxpayers are tired of those complaining that "Walker's in the pocket of the Koch brothers."** For their information, the Koch brothers are known for building some of the most successful job creating, privately owned companies in the country. They've been singled out because they've given 88% of their political contributions nationwide to Republicans 10% to Democrats and 2% to Independents. The Koch brothers know Scott Walker is getting Wisconsin out of debt, our credit rating and consumer confidence up, and investment capital pouring back into Wisconsin. Investors once again are beginning to believe in Wisconsin.

**Taxpayers are also tired of attorneys calling for Walker's recall because they disapprove of his efforts to curb frivolous law suits and cap excessive settlements** that are driving healthcare and medical liability premiums through the roof and doctors out of business. The laws recently signed by Walker curbing third party and product liability settlements were passed by both parties in both houses.

**And then there was what even the liberal press dubbed "One of the most questionable recall strategies in the history of our State."** Petitioners bragged of signing multiple petitions, copying names from phone books and headstones, and signing Donald and Daffy Duck along with Hitler to recall petitions, knowing the GAB admits they'd not vet signatures in any meaningful way. While it's our right to

recall, it's not our right to void votes half way through an election cycle. That's akin to shooting a horse half way through a race he's about to win.

You need only visit [www.reforms.wi.gov](http://www.reforms.wi.gov) or [www.itsworkingwisconsin.com](http://www.itsworkingwisconsin.com) to appreciate the benefits taxpayers have already experienced having Scott Walker in office. As one of my more liberal Democrat friends said, "Recalling Scott Walker is like shooting ourselves in the foot

**Letter to business owners:** By: Rich Woldt - A Wisconsin Business Owner

**Let's "Benchmark" Scott Walker, and you be the judge!**



"Benchmarking" compares where projects are to where you expect them to be. Professional rating organizations regularly benchmark the movement of our economy. So let's benchmark Republican Governor Scott Walker's efforts to get Wisconsin's economic house in order and Democrat Governor Pat Quinn's efforts in Illinois.

Moody's has praised Wisconsin Scott Walker's performance as "credit positive for Wisconsin." Adding, "The money-saving reforms bring Wisconsin's finances closer to the structural budgetary balance." As a result, Wisconsin jumped in the Chief Executive magazine's 2011 ranking of each state's business climate- moving to 17<sup>th</sup> from 41<sup>st</sup> while Illinois dropped to 48<sup>th</sup> from 45<sup>th</sup> as ranked by the nation's top CEOs.

An article in the 1/20/12 Wall Street Journal refers to Illinois as the "Greece Next Door" pointing out they received a Moody's credit downgrade from A1 to A2, the lowest among the 50 states. "That's worse than Democrat controlled California. Illinois cost of borrowing for \$800 million of new 10-year general obligation bonds rose to 3.1%-which is 110 basis points higher than the 2% on top-rated 10 year bonds of more financially secure states." The article goes on to say, "This wasn't supposed to happen. Only a year ago, Governor Pat Quinn and his fellow Democrats raised individual income taxes by 67% and the corporate tax rate by 46%." They did it to raise \$7 billion in revenue, as the Governor put it, to "Get Illinois back on fiscal sound footing and improve the state's credit rating." In contrast to the praise given Wisconsin's Scott Walker, Moody's criticized Illinois lawmakers for "a legislative session in which the state took no steps to implement lasting solutions to its severe pension underfunding or to its chronic bill payment delays." An analysis by Bloomberg found that the assets in the pension fund

would only cover “45% of projected liabilities, the least of any state and in part because the tax increases caused companies to leave Illinois. The state budget office confessed that as of January the state still “had \$6.8 billion in unpaid bills and unaddressed obligations.”

Being a former OPEIU #39 member, I’m frustrated by the union’s relentless criticism of Walker while they ignore all he’s doing to protect their jobs and attract employers to our state. We’re all tired of funding their recall efforts. And now their Democrat’ candidate Kathleen Falk has pledged not to sign any bill until Walker’ reforms have been repealed. That’s akin to throwing us all under the bus to please the unions.

There is hope! As recall advocates realized union bosses were paid 4 to 8 times more than their Governor they’ve gotten mad. When it came time for them to recertify their union contracts, they needed multiply ballots to convince 51% of their membership to vote yes. And according to the DNC’s own web blog, party faithful are abandoning ship before “union endorsed Kathleen Falk digs our economy back into the hole in which Illinois taxpayers live.”

**PS:** Go to [www.RichWoldt.com](http://www.RichWoldt.com) and click on “Learning more about Wisconsin Politics,” as well as [www.door.wisgop](http://www.door.wisgop). There you’ll find links to pro-Walker articles from respected business journals as well as other eye opening pro-Walker facts you’ll NOT hear from the liberal press. For example, did you know about the cuts recommended by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn or his personal and corporate tax increases that just dug them deeper in debt? Or, what about the debt Illinois taxpayers now have because the were duped into financing “high speed rail” let alone purchase the “Train-from-Spain” Doyle crammed down our throat before leaving office. Following are excerpts from Guinn’s budget proposal:

**Illinois Budget Introduced: Layoffs, Tax Hikes & Massive Cuts to Medicaid:** This week Illinois Governor Pat Quinn introduced his budget proposal, which according to the Chicago Tribune and Associated Press:

- Closed numerous prisons;
- Closed mental health and social service offices;
- Contained massive cuts to Medicaid;
- Closed popular tourist attractions two days a week;
- Contained a nine percent cut to most state agencies;
- Made major reductions in the public employee workforce, including layoffs; and
- Increased taxes on businesses.

The Chicago Tribune reported that even with these cuts Illinois still would carry over \$8 billion in unpaid bills. All of these cuts come after Illinois enacted massive tax increases on both businesses and individuals last year. Also in his budget address Governor Quinn said, "This year's General Revenue Fund payment for public pensions is \$5.2 billion; triple what it cost in fiscal year 2008."