

# We're all in this together!

By: Rich Woldt - A Wisconsin Taxpaying Voter

***Before you discount my opinions, please... know 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., took part in many pro-union rallies, 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 unwilling to accept our dairy state is broke, taxpayers have been milked dry, and if nothing was done we'd be destined to follow the economy of Grease past the point of no return. Go to [www.RichWoldt.com](http://www.RichWoldt.com) and get involved.***

**It's time taxpayers have a louder local voice in how their taxes are spent. It's time union members have the freedom to vote their conscience not their Party's platform. It's time we all stand up for our religious freedom. It's time we all "Stand with Scott Walker."**

**Before you vote in the upcoming elections, please...** read my "letters to the editor" below, and the attached 1/20/12 Wall Street Journal article titled "The Greece next Door" as well as the March 21-27, 2012 Wisconsin Capital Times article titled "MEDIGAP - A Madison clinic's decision to stop taking new Medicare patients could be the start of an alarming trend." Then you be the judge!

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

By: Rich Woldt – A Door and Dane Co. Taxpayer

*(Note: While this letter is based on taxpayer experience in Door County, it's virtually the same in every Wisconsin county except Milwaukee and Racine where school boards were convinced to sign union contracts before Act 10 took effect. That's another good reason we don't want Walker recalled before our economic house is back on solid footing. Go to [www.reforms.wi.gov](http://www.reforms.wi.gov) and check out your school districts.)*

**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 Walkers time in office.

**Than 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

## **Let's "Benchmark" Scott Walker – You be the Judge!**

By: Rich Woldt - A Wisconsin Business Owner

**"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.”

#### **A final comment:**

**While we may not be on the same side of the fence on all political issues, nor agree on each political point or policy. When it comes to what’s collectively in our best interest, we need to join hands, bite the bullet, and move forward at least through an entire election cycle.**



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Paid for by Rich Woldt: Go to the **Republican Party of Door County** [www.door.wisgop.info](http://www.door.wisgop.info) yard signs!