

## Wisconsin is open for business!

By Governor-elect Scott Walker

On January 3, 2011, we will declare: "Wisconsin is Open for Business!"

After taking the oath of office as Governor, I will call the Legislature into an emergency special session to pass a sweeping series of reforms aimed at making Wisconsin the most competitive state in the nation. Our actions will be swift, clear and dedicated to unleashing the power of economic freedom in our state.

Wisconsin needs to create 250,000 jobs in the next four years. And I am committed to creating an environment that fosters job creation for our families. We will focus like a laser on jobs. Period.

For too long, our state has languished at the bottom of the lists for best business climate and at the top of the lists of the highest taxed states.

We need to flip that. We need to be at the top of the rankings for business climates and heading down the tax rankings year after year. Taxes should never exceed our ability to pay.

The next four years is our opportunity to fundamentally change Wisconsin government for the better. We will lower taxes, cut red tape, shake up the bureaucracy, crack down on frivolous lawsuits, reform government worker unions, and cut state government spending.

Why? To let taxpayers and business owners keep more of what they earn so they can invest. So businesses can create jobs. So families can afford a new car, a college education, or a new home.

We need to let Wisconsin businesses and families free to dream of a better life tomorrow.

Wisconsin's goal of creating 250,000 jobs in four years is a lofty but achievable goal. But it is a shared goal for all of us – Republicans, Democrats, teachers, farmers, union leaders, doctors, lawyers, manufacturers, or simply put, every Wisconsin resident.

I am committed to offering a positive vision for our state. But we need to look back at recent history to see that increased government spending and taxation got us into the mess we saw in the past two years. We must see the path to economic freedom from the perspective of recent history.

In 2009, just as national recession was hitting, the Legislature and previous Governor enacted over \$3 billion in higher taxes and fees to fund a 10 percent government spending increase.

These tax hikes were roundly endorsed by the government worker union leaders.

Those taxes, fees, and spending were stacked on top of our already high tax burden. That sent a signal to the business community that our state was officially closed for business.

And, those state tax hikes occurred while the federal government was approving the massive "stimulus" spending legislation, government run health care and other anti-jobs legislation.

It was a double whammy for Wisconsin employers.

What happened?

They reacted rationally. They pulled back expenses to try to save their companies.

We saw massive and swift layoffs from businesses. We saw plant closings. Entire businesses disappeared. And, jobs were lost.

For the first time in state history we saw government employment exceed manufacturing employment in our state. That's just wrong. We saw unemployment hit 9 percent. Private sector employers cut wages and benefits to stay afloat and survive.

But the higher taxes and fees in Madison kept big government afloat and allowed government to avoid the pain our families were feeling.

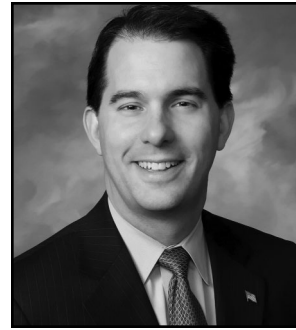
I want to be clear: Front-line government workers do a vital service for our citizens. They are good, hardworking people, who are to be commended for their dedication.

But the government worker union leaders used the higher taxes to continue to pay their contribution to their pensions, Cadillac health care benefits, and avoid layoffs.

In the last two years, we did not see massive government layoffs in state government or most other units of government. And, we are still seeing state government worker union contracts that require taxpayers to pick up almost the entire employee portion of the pension contribution. Furthermore, government worker health insurance benefits in Wisconsin are more generous than private sector benefits and at a lower expense to the employee.

As governor, I will be committed to bringing government spending in Wisconsin in line with our ability to pay. And that means seeing wage and benefit concessions from the government worker union bosses and other reforms.

With the necessary government reforms, we can achieve the flexibility needed to cut spending



Governor-elect Scott Walker

# Education in Wisconsin

**Bob and Jean Dohnal**  
**Publisher/Editors of The Conservative Digest**

Our family is very proud of the fact that five of the seven of us have graduated from the University of Wisconsin system and the other two attended for some time. We all attended public schools in our youth. We are very pro-education. Jean was a teacher for many years.

But, times have change in the last 20 years or so. Spending on education has skyrocketed. Quality has gone down. Kids are forced to mortgage half of their lives to graduate from college and it takes five years. MPS is a total disaster with only a small number of kids being able to read in the 10th grade. Many businessmen consider high school degrees worthless.

School budgets are bloated with administrators, salaries, and benefits far exceed what the average taxpayer makes. The unions have little interest beyond themselves. If left to their own, kids would continue to come out dumber per national average than when they went into the system. All of the advertising on the Packer games will not change that.

• University of Wisconsin system: When the systems were merged under Gov. Pat Lucey, we were supposed to save millions in administrative costs. Hasn't happened. The University system is bloated with worthless subjects and more worthless administration. We need an audit by one of the toughest auditing companies in the world on how to streamline this mess, reduce costs, speed up graduations and help the kids. The system exists for the benefit of the kids, not the educrats. The presence of the student loan system has allowed the University systems to raise costs interminably, for their benefit at the expense of the kids. This must stop.

• Technical College System: When the technical colleges of this state were merged, many of us argued that the governing system would make these college groups impossibly expensive. Lack of any intelligent oversight has led to huge salary and benefit costs for the teachers and a fat and

happy administration. We need to reform the system. Electing the board will not change things, as the unions, and educrats will control the boards with their money and their votes. Most citizens do not use the system so they will pay little attention to the system.

Merge the whole group into one system. Make it into a cabinet level program run by the governor with responsibility over the system. They can control costs and the process, so that they will be responsible up or down.

- State Department of Education: Abolish it.
- Local Education: We have as many administrators now as we did 40 years ago with half the kids. The state needs to adopt a ratio of administrators per thousand kids and cut off funding for the fat programs. Eliminate the WEA Trust Health plans. Adopt HMO programs or other suitable plans that use some market regulation of costs.

• Milwaukee Public Schools: This has been a disaster since Federal Judge John Reynolds upheld Lloyd Barbees legal suit to radically change the system to equalize racial groups. Even though that system was finally tossed out, the damage is still there. Many families moved from the city to get away from the mess. The administration is a disaster and foils any attempts to adopt new programs or programs that actually work. It is hopeless.

In 1974 I designed a proposal for Bill Dyke, candidate for governor that would blow up the system and make 18 different districts that answered to the neighborhoods and the parents. It was the right idea then and it is now. Continuing down the road, commits hundreds of thousands of kids to little or no future.

If the parents have control through the local school boards, they then have to produce or take the responsibility of their kids never improving. If they don't, then, they do not have any complaint.

- Virtual Schools, Charter Schools and CHOICE: Improve and enlarge these programs. Parents are happy with them and the kids are learning, plus they save money.

## Volunteers: give a hundred, distribute a hundred

We need your help to awaken the people of this state to the problems of liberal government. The formerly powerful newspapers in this state have withered away to a meaningless group, unable or unwilling to alert the people of the problems in D.C. and Madison.

They do not pass on the message, of too powerful of a government, sucking up all of the resources to pass out to their friends. The last budgets in Madison and in Washington have done just that.

Your property taxes going out to pay for numerous schemes of redistribution of wealth from those that work to those that spend.

If you can send us a hundred dollars and/or distribute a hundred Digests, we can all give them hell during the budgets and during elections. It does not take a lot of people, but it does take dedicated people.

The Russian revolution was started by 17 people and our revolution only had a few more. "Now is the time for all

good men to come to the aid of their country".

We need your help!!

Send a contribution or call/email us to send you some digests to take out to schools, colleges, free newspaper areas, etc. and to distribute to friends. We can do it.

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## New attitude in Wisconsin: Jobs are job one

### Lt. Governor-elect Rebecca Kleefisch

People often ask: Can't we do a better job marketing Wisconsin?

The best marketing is telling the truth. Governor-elect Scott Walker and I are about to embark on creating a new brand for Wisconsin. A new truth: "Wisconsin is open for business."

From that simple concept we'll help create an environment in which businesses will generate 250,000 new jobs over the next four years.

It doesn't take a marketing expert to know that we need to keep what works, eliminate what doesn't and focus on our strengths.

Our greatest strength is our people, our families, and the uncommon work ethic and commitment to quality that is the Wisconsin tradition. We have a robust manufacturing sector that pays some of the highest wages in America. Our agricultural sector is unrivaled. Our tourism industry is among the best in the nation. We need to nurture our emerging high-tech sector that can pave the way for a strong future while building on our current strengths.

We have natural advantages: two great lakes, 15,000 inland ones, the Mississippi River, lush crop land, forests, and according to industry leaders, 25% of this nation's iron ore reserves.

What we have lacked in Wisconsin has been a positive attitude toward business in the very building that has the most potential to help or harm economic development. We've seen punitive taxes, suffocating regulation and an unseemly long permitting process for the job creators who just want to put Wisconsin to work. As Wisconsin is open for business, government must work at the pace of business.

But expediency alone will not resurrect our business climate. We must also respect taxpayers, using dollars with as much responsibility and cre-

ativity as our state's savvy business owners and smart families. Our state government has lost touch with Wisconsin's frugal tradition, raising taxes in a recession. An out-of-touch administration used those tax increases to fund state employees' contributions to their pensions and Cadillac health care under deals cut by government employee union leaders.

These deals are crippling our government's ability to be innovative and fiscally nimble. We need to reform government to foster economic freedom.

So let's zero in on our strengths: Our people, our vital economic sectors, and our natural resources.

We must eliminate what doesn't work: Big taxes, big government spending, and big government worker union deals that drive up taxes and hamper job creation.

But it's a new day in the state capitol. Activist bureaucrats who drive their personal agenda to stifle economic growth will not be tolerated. And the big union bosses who demand higher taxes and more spending to protect the status quo will need to come up with new ideas.

We propose economic growth as a vehicle to provide the needed resources to fund government services.

Governor-elect Walker and I are committed to creating a new attitude in state government. Businesses are good. Jobs are good. Growth is good. And we all benefit from economic freedom that will make us a beacon of hope atop the Industrial Midwest.

But we have much work to do.

That's why Governor-elect Walker will call the legislature into an emergency special session to cut taxes, cut red tape, crack down on frivolous lawsuits, reform the Department of Commerce, and much more.

## ...Wisconsin open for business

### From page 1

so we can lower taxes for businesses and individuals. But government wage and benefit cuts won't be enough to create 250,000 new jobs.

Essential to our success will be a new attitude at state government. Businesses are good. Jobs are good.

When businesses succeed, Wisconsin succeeds. When our economy grows, we have more resources to provide vital services—police protection, fire departments, schools, and higher education.

We will provide additional economic resources for state and local government through economic expansion, not higher taxes.

When a business asks for a government permit to create a job, that's a good thing. When the government approves the permit and jobs are created, that's a great thing!

I want every citizen in Wisconsin to be greeted

with a smile when they work with state government, whether it's getting a fishing license, a driver's license or a complicated permit to build a factory or start an iron mine.

We need jobs, and we need to be aggressive at all levels of government.

In my first days as Governor, I will introduce tax cuts, regulation reform, a reorganization of the Department of Commerce, comprehensive liability reform and other measures aimed at creating a better business climate.

There will be those who will try to stand in the way of the needed reforms for their own interests.

I ask everyone to join in the drive to create 250,000 new jobs. Call your legislator today and tell them to work with me to bring Wisconsin back with tax cuts, spending cuts, regulation reform and common sense legal reforms.

We can improve our business climate and create jobs. And when we do, we all will prosper!

# Why biofuels are biggest threat to environment

By Steve Welcenbach  
Editor of Reality News

If your aim is to reduce the amount of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere (which is not a goal I share), the last program you want to support is Biofuels. By the nature of the process and its consequences as described below, estimates up to 420 times as much CO2 emissions will result. So eliminating all Biofuels programs and subsidies should be THE NUMBER ONE priority to folks convinced that CO2 reductions are essential to save the planet.

For people like myself who understand and are aware of all the data clearly demonstrating that man-made CO2 emissions are not harmful and in fact beneficial to the planet, we are against the forced use and mandate of Biofuels for all of the following compelling reasons:

1.) Food needs of the planet keep expanding. We need all the food that we can grow to go to feeding people. If we follow this wisdom we will avoid the inevitable consequences of using food to make Biofuels which are:

- Rising food prices. The prices of corn and wheat have dramatically increased since 2005. This rise had lead to a significant rise in all food prices from meat and dairy products as well as clothing due to cotton production being displaced by corn and wheat production. Rising prices for basic foods in poor countries have already caused riots, political unrest and ultimately malnutrition and starvation.

- Deforestation. This is a natural result of Biofuel mandates and artificially high prices resulting from them. Poor countries cannot afford to buy food from the more

productive countries and thus clear more unproductive lands and use less efficient farming methods to try to meet basic needs. Richer countries like the USA clear what would normally be considered low productivity land because the artificially high prices make it economically attractive. This has already been taking place throughout the Midwest. Lands set aside for conservation are now being farmed. Sugar Cane production in Brazil is eating up tropical forest at an alarming rate.

- Loss of the most biodiverse wildlife habitat which WILL lead to species extinction. The best farmland is the least biodiverse. The worst farmland is the most biodiverse and is exactly the land that Biofuels mandates gobble up.

2.) Needless destruction of wildlife. The biggest threat to palm oil plantations in Indonesia are Orangutans. They love to eat the pods and large numbers come out of the forest to feast in the plantations. Hence they are systematically killed by farmers to protect their crop.

3.) Energy shortages. Biofuels are a very inefficient way to use resources. Corn ethanol nets only 50 gallons of gas equivalent per acre. There is no way that such an inefficient energy supply source can meet any significant percentage of future energy needs.

4.) Economic decline. Energy is a necessary component of economic growth. Mandates and subsidies are siphoning financial resources from more productive sources to inefficient uses. Energy shortages and rationing will reduce productivity and thus jobs and wealth.

## 2010 election a call to cut public pensions

By the Christian Science Monitor's Editorial Board

One little-noticed result of the Nov 2 elections—the first since the Great Recession of 2007-09—was greater voter pressure for capping a giant gusher of government red ink: the \$4 trillion in pension liabilities for state and municipal workers.

Few politicians, even Democrats backed by the public-worker unions, could afford not to propose reforms for these retirement benefits that are often abused, underfunded, and usually far more generous than those in private business.

In two key states, California and Illinois, voters approved many local ballot initiatives calling for pension reform. And in six states, newly elected governors have proposed one of the most radical steps: 401(k)-style plans for government employees as an alternative for traditional guaranteed pensions.

Such victories will build on pension changes already begun in a handful of states, where reform has been mainly directed at new hires. In two states, Missouri and Illinois, the retirement age was recently raised to 67, while 16 states have either cut benefits for new employees or required current workers to pay something for their benefits.

Many cities are also being forced to act in order to avoid big cuts in spending. In Los Angeles, for instance, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has announced that pensions would be lower for new fire and police workers.

Moving to “defined contribution” plans like 401(k)s will help public pension plans recoup the massive losses from the 2008 financial collapse on Wall Street. Too many

states were too generous in retirement benefits, believing their investments on behalf of workers would bring 8 percent returns for decades. Two states, Alaska and Michigan, have already adopted 401(k)-style systems, and others are sure to follow.

A question remains over whether reforms will need to cut the pensions of current public workers. If unemployment persists and the stock market doesn't do better, more governments will need big cuts. But the powerful American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees is ready to go to court if any government breaks an agreement on benefits.

The usual partisan politics, however, tend to fail in the face of the need for reform. “This is not a conservative-versus-liberal issue; this is a reality issue,” says Dan Liljenquist, a state senator in Utah who champions such reform.

Elected leaders would be best to work with unions initially to design changes in benefits. But ultimately, politicians are accountable to taxpayers to put public-sector pensions on a solid footing.

States collectively face a \$72 billion shortfall in their budgets this coming year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. And they have enough money to cover only 76 percent of their pension obligations.

With many lean economic years likely still ahead, state lawmakers need to look again in their 2001 sessions at the generous benefits given too easily during the fat years — often under union pressure. With future taxpayers in mind, they will need to ask civil servants to be compensated at levels similar to the people they work for.

# America's biggest problem: The breakdown of the family

By Sen. Glenn Grothman  
(R-West Bend)

We are all grateful when children are not aborted. Nevertheless, out-of-wedlock births have grown from 10.7-percent in 1970 to 41-percent last year. Also, unlike 1970, almost none of those children are placed for adoption. This despite (or because of) the fact that for the past 40 years we have had increasingly aggressive sex ed programs in the schools and now the government spends millions of dollars giving out free birth control to 15 year old girls without the knowledge or permission of parents. Clearly, still more pushing of contraceptives on high schoolers is not the answer.

The Left and the social welfare establishment wants children born out of wedlock because they are far more likely to be dependent on the government. They are 20 times more likely to wind up in prison and 9 times more likely to drop out of school. Well-known author Charles Murray said, Children born out of wedlock are "the single most important social problem of our time—more important than crime, drugs, poverty, illiteracy, welfare, or homelessness because it drives everything else." While we can talk about jobs, education, or crime, our economy and freedoms will inevitably decline as long as the number of children born out of wedlock keeps going up. Was this caused by the government, and if so, what are the politicians going to do to turn things around? Let's look at current programs that are given largely to single parents that they would almost certainly lose if two working parents were married. It should be pointed out that these programs are available for everyone, but since they are based on family income, it is the norm that a single parent with one or no income is eligible and a couple with two incomes are not. Some married couples are eligible for these programs and some single parents do make too much money.

The following information significantly understates the benefit of these tax-funded programs. I did not include WIC which in our scenario provides additional food for our mother's 3-year-old child. Likewise I did not include free school lunch or school breakfast for our 7-year-old child. The BadgerCare benefit is significantly understated in that the government's low reimbursement rate causes the \$3,300 figure to be artificially low. Many recipients cheat by working for cash income and by not reporting income from a live-in boyfriend which is rarely caught. Our single mother does not have to worry about saving for her child's college education because that child will be much more likely to be eligible for \$8,000 per year in federal Pell Grants and the State of Wisconsin Higher Education Grant Program. Because

they are income-based, many children of married couples will not qualify for these college scholarships. I have recently heard that some young girls do not get married because they themselves get free college.

## *Government's message to America: Don't get married...*

Let's look at some government programs available to a single woman with children ages 3 and 7 who is making \$15,000 per year in comparison to the cash value of benefits lost if she marries.

- **Low income housing assistance:** One is eligible for low income housing if your income is less than 50% of the median income for your area. For a family of three, this HUD subsidy is \$31,800 for the Milwaukee area. For a family of 4, this would be \$35,340. The most you pay for rent is 30% of your income after subtracting utility payments. You can then deduct child care of \$480 for each dependent. A family of three is entitled \$7,560 to a \$980 apartment from which they pay \$350 per month for utilities and rent. This is a minimum subsidy of \$630 per month or \$7,560 per year. Total lost if woman marries: \$7,560.

- **Wisconsin Shares—Tax-funded day care:** Our mother is eligible for child care valued at \$9,200 per year. We are assuming one of the two children is in school and does not need daycare. If she is married to the father, she loses this benefit. Total lost: \$9,200.

- **Earned Income Credit:** Because our mother makes under \$34,458 per year, she is eligible for a check of \$4,820. If she gets married, she loses the entire check. The State of Wisconsin will give her an additional credit of \$700 for not being married. Total lost: \$5,520.

- **Food stamps:** A family of three is eligible for up to \$525 in food stamps. This amount may be reduced as your income goes up or is adjusted for other factors including your rent, income, or utilities. A family which gets rental assistance would still get \$444 per month or \$5,328 per year. They would lose this entire amount if mom got married. To be eligible for some food stamps a family of three must make under \$34,000 a year. Total lost: \$5,328.

- **BadgerCare** BadgerCare is a program for which all children are eligible, but our mother will only be eligible if her income is less than 185% of the federal poverty level. Our mom pays no premium. Total lost: \$3,300.

- **Energy assistance:** Energy assistance is a program for people

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## ...breakdown of the family

### ***From page 5***

whose income is less than 60% median income of the area. In the Milwaukee area, this would mean an income of approximately \$38,000 per year. The amount one receives each year varies with dollars available. But, last year the average check was \$688. Total lost: \$688.

- **Milwaukee school choice:** If our mother lives in Milwaukee County, she is eligible for free private school tuition for her child, which has a value of \$6,442 per year. Eligibility for school choice is based on 185% of federal poverty which is \$33,866 for a family of three and \$40,792 for a family of four—the school choice program has a strong anti-family component. Total lost: \$6,440.

The total amount of tax-free benefits lost if our single mother marries a man making \$35,000 per year is \$38,036.

### ***Some possible solutions to restore Wisconsin's families...***

Politicians never address this problem. In so far as it is addressed, it is to increase the current benefits or be more aggressive in handing out contraception to younger children. At the end of this Legislative Session, I introduced Senate Bill 708 which attempts to begin addressing this problem. Key provisions in the bill are:

- **Low income housing:** A complaint I receive is that sometimes apartments available with Section 8 vouchers are superior to apartments people pay for themselves as well as boyfriends illegally staying in these apartments. There is no asset limit for Section 8 housing. We should restrict the square footage to 50-percent of the average square footage for a rental unit in the area and an asset limitation of \$2,000 for non-seniors living in Section 8 housing. We can make it a criminal penalty if an adult not considered in the income calculation stays in the residence.

- **Earned Income Credit:** The Wisconsin Earned Income Credit should be replaced with a general tax exemption going to all Wisconsin taxpayers with dependents.

- **Food stamps:** A complaint I frequently hear from clerks in food stores is the people on food stamps eat more generously than people not on food stamps. We should restrict the type of food which can be purchased with food stamps. This food would be more nutritious

than most food now purchased with food stamps. Some may say this is harsh, but we cannot continue to have the single mom buy food that the married clerk at the food store could not afford. Recent news coverage has started detailing abuse in the Food Share program.

- **Drug Testing:** Testing for drug use will be required for eligibility for these government programs.

- **Daycare:** We have seen numerous reports featured in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel about the many fraud cases involving the Wisconsin Shares Program. This is a \$400 million tax-funded daycare program. To reform this bloated program, my bill restricts the number of hours of free daycare to 40 hours per week per child. The bill also sets a minimum co-payment of \$2 per hour per child to discourage cheating in the system.

- **School Choice:** Income limitations in the Milwaukee School Choice program must end. Right now as a practical matter, many married couples are not eligible for the program because they make too much money with two incomes. It is inexcusable that a single mother making \$15,000 gets her kid out of the Milwaukee Public Schools but a married couple earning \$50,000 is stuck in the public schools.

Ask elected officials what their plans are for the eroding nuclear family in America.

I realize the above is going to be criticized as unnecessarily harsh. Right now, the out-of-wedlock birth rate in America is 41-percent. Unless we do something now, in 20 years it will be 60-percent. There are many single mothers who do a good job raising their children, but statistics also show that it is a very difficult thing to do and many of these children will have problems. If we do not address this situation, our country will not survive in the way we have come to know it. SOMETHING MUST BE DONE. It is also somewhat outrageous that some married couples feel they can only afford one or two children in part because they are paying excessive taxes to provide programs for someone else to have four or five children.

For Further Information about my efforts to restore Wisconsin's families, please contact me toll-free at 1-800-662-1227 or send an e-mail to [Sen.Grothman@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Sen.Grothman@legis.wisconsin.gov).

***For conservative news, visit  
WisconsinConservatives.com.***

# Open for business and ready for common sense leadership

By Rep. Jim Ott  
(23rd Assembly District)

After two years of complete Democrat control in Wisconsin that featured huge spending and tax increases and high unemployment, suddenly the Democrats are showing a renewed interest in the economy and jobs. So much so that they seem to think that any legislation that has anything to do with anything else must be pushed to the sidelines.

This is a very curious attitude coming from a group that spent the last session of the Legislature passing bills that mandated the type of sex education our schools are required to teach and forced schools to abandon long used traditional names if even only one person objected. This agenda was pursued while jobs were leaving Wisconsin and our budget deficit ballooned to over \$3 billion. And by the way, thanks to the Democrats we now have a state microbe.

So what has brought about the remarkable change in attitude in such a short period of time? Are these same Democrats now accepting the fact that it's vital that state government pursue policies that encourage job growth rather than send jobs to other states? I wouldn't count on it.

A recent editorial (11/12/20) in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel shed some light on the Democrats' real concerns. The editors expressed alarm that if the Republicans take up a photo I.D. for voting bill or an immigration bill resembling Arizona's early in the session it would distract from the pressing economic issues we face.

What??? These are the same people who didn't bat an eyelash as Thomas Industries was leaving Wisconsin, or the newly enacted combined reporting tax was costing Harley Davidson \$22 million on the company's bottom line. Could it be that seeing their numbers in the Assembly plummet from 52 to 38, or their numbers in the Senate

drop from 18 to 14 have caused the Democrats to realize that their policies of the last two years have been wrong?

I don't think so. It really comes down to a fear among Democrats that many initiatives that Republicans have been pursuing for the last several sessions of the Legislature may now become reality. That would include a photo I.D. for voting bill and concealed carry legislation. And their contention that passing these bills will detract from tackling the economic issues facing the state is absolutely ludicrous.

That's because the many of these bill have already been written and passed by previous Republican controlled Legislatures. Both a photo I.D. bill and concealed carry bill were thoroughly vetted, only to be vetoed by Governor Doyle. It will take very little time to dust off the old bills and reintroduce them.

Meanwhile, economic issues will certainly be our top priority. The Walker administration and Republican leadership in the Assembly and Senate have made that very clear. As one of the co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules I will be looking at ways to make doing business in Wisconsin easier by streamlining the rules under which companies operate in our state.

A great opportunity as well as a great responsibility lies ahead for Republicans in Wisconsin. While the Democrats have been advocating for a "high speed" train that will take millions of dollars from our state's transportation fund, Republicans will be looking for ways to operate our state more efficiently by cutting wasteful spending and making our state more business friendly. I believe we will be successful.

Yes, Wisconsin will be open for business again. And along with that will come more jobs and more common sense governing than Wisconsin has seen in a long time.

## New pro-business attitude comes to Madison

By Kevin Fischer

To hear Zach Brandon's assessment, one would believe Wisconsin's outlook for job creation and retention is quite rosy.

Brandon, Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Commerce under Governor Jim Doyle, was addressing the Special Legislative Council Study Committee on Strategic Job Creation at the state Capitol on August 25, 2010. The committee assignment, in part, was to "study and make recommendations to promote strategic development of high-wage jobs and an educated and skilled workforce in the state." One of the proposed methods to bolster job creation was to promote "green jobs and industries utilizing solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass technologies, including technologies for converting farm

wastes to energy." The committee's mission was flawed from the very beginning.

Controlled by legislative Democrats, the committee stacked the invited panel of experts with public sector representatives, including Brandon who committee members, "Wisconsin has put together some of the most powerful economic development tools in the country." In clinical fashion, Brandon rattled off a litany of available state tax credits, grants, loans and bonding for business owners. Wisconsin's reputation of being uncompetitive was no more, Brandon claimed. Why, just the previous week, the governor had lured a southern company to Fond du Lac.

Sitting, observing, and listening in the hear-

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# Restoring American exceptionalism

By Congressman Paul Ryan

Americans sent a message to Washington in November that they would no longer tolerate a government that grows too large, too fast, while their most urgent concerns go unaddressed. As a Wisconsinite, I was thrilled to see the Badger State play such a pivotal role in the national debate, and to see conservative solutions for addressing our concerns win the day. Now comes the hard part: implementing those solutions, especially at the national level, where government remains divided and our challenges continue to mount.

Governments around the world are currently hitting a fiscal dead end. The forced austerity being imposed in Europe shows America exactly why failure to act can be so fateful. Our window of opportunity for reform is closing, but it is not too late to avert growth-killing tax increases, cuts for

current beneficiaries of government programs and reduced standards of living.

We can all recognize that our current policy mix—borrow and spend, tax and spend, print and spend—has put our nation on the path to a lost decade. As the next House Budget Committee chairman, it will be my job to help chart a course out of our fiscal wilderness and onto a path to prosperity.

Rather than consign future generations to broken entitlement programs and a bankrupt future, I believe we can begin to make the necessary reforms to secure our safety net and restore a growing opportunity society. The ideas I've put forward in my reform plan—A Roadmap for America's Future—represent a viable alternative to the unus-

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## ...pro-business attitude in Madison

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ing room, my skepticism-meter was jumping. Joanna Richard, Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development also had me shaking my head when she called the massive federal stimulus expenditures a "God-send." Apparently Richard either dismissed or ignored an Associated Press analysis from earlier this year that found, "A federal spending surge of more than \$20 billion for roads and bridges in President Barack Obama's first stimulus has had no effect on local unemployment rates" and that "it didn't matter if a lot of money was spent on highways or none at all: Local unemployment rates rose and fell regardless. The stimulus spending only barely helped the beleaguered construction industry."

During the all-day hearing, there were no slides, charts, graphs, power point presentations or even mentions about Wisconsin's abysmal business climate, rated as one of the ten worst among all states by The Tax Foundation, rules and regulations that have put a stranglehold on businesses, and our horrendous budget deficit and tax and spending fever.

Committee Chair, state Senator Robert Wirch (R-Kenosha) couldn't hold back from chuckling when he informed everyone that the committee had specifically invited two representatives from the private sector to testify but both cancelled. Too bad. The committee could have gotten a necessary earful. The Business Services page on the state of Wisconsin web site says, "Wisconsin is a great state for business." Not if you talk to people who actually run businesses.

In early 2009, legislative Republicans convened a roundtable in Brown Deer of close to three dozen business owners from SE Wisconsin who laid their position out in no uncertain terms

and unanimously: State government is hostile to job creators. The businesspeople noted they were scared, they feared losing everything, they have never felt welcome here by state government, they are demonized because they make profits, and they are capitalists, not, as one businessperson put it, "a faceless bastard."

Is Wisconsin a great place to live? "Yes," said one speaker, "if we can survive."

Badger State businesses that confront one government obstacle after another to prosperity have little in their arsenal. They can stay and gut it out and struggle to avoid passing cost increases onto customers. Or they can pack up and take their operations to any of the 40-plus states that treat their businesses more favorably. Expansion here has not been an option as wary business owners sit back and wait to see if the economy brightens, in part, because of a change in the political landscape. That change has come in the form of a steamrolling Republican takeover of Madison.

If you run a business, the message should be crystal clear: You now have loyal friends in the new Governor and the people controlling the state Senate and state Assembly. There's an entirely new attitude about doing business in Wisconsin that, coupled with state policymakers making the right moves, should be the blueprint for true job creation and retention the previous party in power never understood.

*Award-winning journalist Kevin Fischer is a long-time Wisconsin state Senate aide. He appears weekly on Milwaukee Public Television's InterCHANGE, is a regular fill-in talk show host at Newstalk 1130 WISN, and has been involved in radio and TV broadcasting for over 30 years.*

## ...American exceptionalism

### *From page 8*

tainable status quo.

We must get to work to bring spending in line with revenues, and not the other way around. President Obama has fortunately joined the growing bipartisan consensus to stop taxes from shooting up on January 1. He should go further to help spur private sector growth and public sector restraint, joining our call for spending cuts proposed by House Republicans. Our newly divided government has legislative limitations, but this move would send the right signal that both parties can work together.

In all this we must also avoid the hubris and overreach that defined President Obama's first two years. Congress must no longer seek to micromanage our economy and our daily lives. Republicans in Congress should draw their inspiration from the fiscal honesty seen in the young governorships of Chris Christie in New Jersey and Bob McDonnell in Virginia, both of whom have provided specific reforms to fill fiscal holes. I look forward to working with Wisconsin's own new Republican governor, Scott Walker, as he brings the fiscal responsibility he demonstrated in Milwaukee County to the governor's office in Madison.

We Republicans must not lose sight of our past failures: excessive spending, pork-barrel profligacy and a failure to stand united on principle. Our passionate opposition to higher taxes must now be matched with an equal commitment to cutting spending. We must stand ready to work across the aisle—collaborating to achieve policy goals, while never compromising on principle.

In short, we must decide what kind of nation we aspire to become in the 21st century. We face a choice: between an opportunity society with a safety net for those who need it most, or a cradle-to-grave social welfare state where government becomes the determining factor of our lives.

The President has a choice too: to double-down on his economic and fiscal agenda; or realign his policies to the center, to reflect the message delivered by American voters in November. If he chooses to stick with the same policies, he can only expect the same failed results.

Our fiscal and economic problems have been decades in the making – a bad situation made much worse over the past two years. It will require years to dig ourselves out. The president's veto pen and the Democrat-held Senate still present major hurdles. Yet, the difficulty of the climb only underscores the urgency of getting started now.

## Students lack education for military

America's military is the envy of virtually every nation in the world, however, the U.S. military of tomorrow does face significant challenges. Americans should be concerned about rogue states such as North Korea and Iran as well as non-state actors such as Al-Qaeda, but we should be equally concerned about U.S. domestic policies. The American educational system and economic policies at every level of government are setting its citizens up for failure. If our elected officials do not repair our educational system and strengthen our economy, our nation will inevitably face emboldened adversaries with a U.S. military that is smaller and less effective than the current force.

There is no doubt in my mind that national defense is the responsibility of the federal government, however, the building blocks of a strong national defense, a viable economy and a strong education system have historically been the responsibility of state and local governments.

A robust economy and effective educational systems serve as the foundations of a powerful national defense, not the other way around. There is little debate that America's educational system is no longer the world's gold standard, and our economy has scarcely rebounded from the recession and many believe that high employment is here to stay. The American people frequently point to our failures in Washington, and for good reason, but education is a state and local issue and the majority of our states are equally as culpable for mismanaging our economy as Washington.

Recently released statistics revealed that 75 percent of Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 are ineligible for military service because of a lack of education, having a criminal record and/or as a result of being overweight. The demands placed on today's military professional require an

ability to collaborate, problem solve and communicate. These are basic skills that could be learned in a structured and competent learning environment, our schools! Our military professionals are just as likely to be working as community builders as they are to be engaged in traditional combat. In addition, the majority of our forces always has been, and will continue to be, combat support. We need young adults who are able to compute, develop electrical systems, deliver supplies around the world and repair complex mechanical and electronic equipment. General David Petraeus stated it well: "Counterinsurgency is not just the thinking man's warfare, it is the graduate level of warfare."

The majority of our nation's students will not serve in the military, but their educational success remains critical to our national defense. They will bring their talents to our technology and manufacturing industries that have kept our technology a generation ahead of those of our adversaries. Without technical skills and American innovation, we will fight tomorrow's enemies with yesterday's technology. A well educated populace also serves as a catalyst for a technically strong and entrepreneurial workforce.

Providing a national defense is expensive and is only going to be more costly as our European allies continue to fall from the weight of their social welfare systems. America cannot make the investments in national defense if the economy does not provide the necessary tax base. The Cold War was won, in part, because the Soviet Union realized the American economy was growing and the Soviet economy was stagnant. The American economy

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## ...education for military

### **From page 9**

was not only providing an increased tax base, but was also creating new technology as a result of a robust entrepreneurial culture.

Today, interstate commerce is increasingly difficult because of drastically different environmental, legal, labor and tax policies from one state to another. States, such as Wisconsin, have created and expanded state bureaucracies that act as adversaries, as opposed to partners, to businesses of every size. Governments at every level have taken on staggering debt, and the price for their recklessness places an extraordinary burden on individuals and businesses alike. State government can create business efficiencies and boost productivity by deregulating and reducing the overall burden of conducting business at home and abroad. Our business owners should be free to devote their resources to developing new technology and increasing productivity instead of navigating 51 separate tax codes and legal regulations.

Highly skilled students will serve as guardians to our country's national defense by growing the national economy with innovation, or some may choose to serve in uniform as members of the Armed Forces. Our national

defense is the primary role of the federal government, and as such, it is imperative we provide the opportunity for all individuals to obtain quality educations to further strengthen the foundation of this country. Our state governments are crucial to this success, and our elected leaders must set forth a clear path to achieve our educational goals. May we, as citizens, leaders, friends and neighbors, all unite for the defense of our country's principles and a better future for the next generation.

I encourage elected officials at every level of government to feel this sense of urgency. Over-regulation, high taxes, ballooning debts, unacceptable unemployment rates and second-class education systems are propelling this once great nation backwards. Our education, economy and national defense are inextricably linked. It's in the collective interest of all Americans to focus on rebuilding our educational systems and restoring economic growth. The consequences of failing to take drastic action threaten the greatness of both our state and our country.

*Dale Kooyenga will serve his first terms as Representative to the Assembly from the 14th District in Madison, WI this January. He is a CPA and serves in the Army Reserve as an Army Intelligence Officer.*

## Change comes to Washington

### **By Congressman Tom Petri**

Wisconsin is open for business, and soon the U.S. House of Representatives will be as well.

Congress has been incredibly dysfunctional over the past two years, failing even its most elementary job this year of approving a budget and appropriations. Instead, the federal government is being funded by stop-gap measures and a \$814 billion grab-bag stimulus bill filled with pet projects chosen with little oversight.

Speaker Pelosi brags of leading a highly productive House. And she has particular reason to brag—the most important bills passed in the House this Congress were largely written behind closed doors by the Speaker and her lieutenants instead of being debated and crafted in the committees. Health insurance, stimulus, cap and trade (or cap and tax), the states' Medicaid and teacher funding and more were put together in secret and rushed to the floor.

This is all about to change. Incoming Speaker John Boehner has pledged to restore the House to what we call "regular order" by returning the writing of bills to the committees.

Further, the Republican leadership intends to do away with massive catch-all bills and instead bring forward smaller, digestible proposals. There was no good reason, for instance, to bundle ObamaCare in the same bill with student loan reform and then require a single up-or-down vote.

All legislation will be available for at least

three days before coming up for a vote. It will not be possible to force a vote before everybody has a chance to read the bill.

Rules Committee sessions will be televised so everybody can see whether or not the procedures for debating bills on the House floor are fair and conducive to open debate and amendment.

And finally, to strengthen adherence to the Constitution, every bill will cite its specific Constitutional authority.

Once we have carried out crucial reforms of the legislative process, the serious work of cutting the budget will get under way.

At 25 percent, the federal share of gross domestic product is at a 60-year peak. The new House will fight to get that down to a more normal 20 percent or less. Can we do it? It won't be easy, but the determination I'm sensing from my colleagues makes me confident that we will make real progress over the next two years. Of course, much depends on President Obama and the Democratic-controlled Senate.

The House will likely vote to repeal the President's massive health care law. Even if it got through the Senate, however, any repeal would be vetoed by the President. Accordingly, Republicans will be laying the groundwork for repeal in the future by investigating the problems likely to be caused by ObamaCare, by withholding funding, and by coming up with superior, market-based and patient-centered alternatives.

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# Conservatives must return state to fiscal responsibility

By Sen Mary Lazich  
(R-New Berlin)

Conservatives are often accused of fiscal irresponsibility for supporting tax and spending reductions. Liberals and Democrats complain tax cuts are unaffordable, because cutting taxes means less tax revenue. They fear cutting taxes will eliminate affordability of the plethora of government programs.

The fallacy in this argument is that liberals and Democrats only focus on taxes. They ignore spending levels.

This methodology places Wisconsin and our nation in the worst financial state since the Great Depression, making it far more difficult to bring Wisconsin and our nation out of economic doldrums. In addition, it makes it far more likely that Wisconsin will succumb to economic disturbances again.

A checkbook has two important columns, the deposit column and the withdrawal column. The numbers in the deposit column should total more than numbers in the withdrawal column. If the withdrawal column is greater than the deposit column, more money is spent than is available.

Replace the word deposit with the word taxes or revenues, and replace the word withdrawals with the words government spending. Tax revenues should equal government spending, or be slightly greater. The acceptable condition of the personal checkbook is the acceptable condition for the state's General Fund. Unacceptable conditions for a personal checkbook are unacceptable conditions for the government checkbook. In other words, do not spend money that is not available!

Governor-elect Walker said many times during the campaign that he is committed to state government not spending more than is available. Gov. Walker's command of the ship will be very contrary to Democrat leadership of recent years.

The 2009-11 biennial budget crafted by Democrat Governor Doyle, edited and approved by Democrat majorities in the Senate and Assembly, increased taxes on Wisconsin families by \$1.9 billion, and increased fees by an additional \$250 million. Liberal Democrats justify increased taxes and fees with the belief government can collectively spend money and do things more efficiently than individuals, so it is not surprising that they increased taxes to implement a larger, more intrusive government. However, they also increased spending by more

than the tax and fee increases.

Democrats increased spending \$3.6 billion in the 2009-11 budget. Making matters worse, much of the new spending was supported by one-time money including federal stimulus money, borrowing, and fund transfers. Unfortunately, this was not the first time Wisconsin balanced the state budget via magic money.

It is like having a perpetually overdrawn checking account. Rather than scaling back spending to balance a personal checkbook, a credit card is used and spending habits continue. A higher level of spending can be continued for a while, however sooner or later, new funds run out.

Government is slightly different than an individual or a business, because government has the deep pockets of the taxpayer, allowing far more resources to tap and satisfy the insatiable appetite to tax others for programs. A government does not disappear or go out of business as a business does, and government can increase its income by desire.

Dollars in people's checkbooks started with business. If we want more dollars in more pockets, we must have more businesses providing jobs. Wisconsin state government must be organized and conduct itself in a manner that attracts and promotes business.

Wisconsin must begin budgeting honestly, and not shy away from difficult decisions. The Walker Administration and Republican Legislators must fight the special spending interests that treat any hint of budget cuts as an act of war.

Doing so will mean lower tax burdens, and provide businesses with confidence. Confidence to start a business and confidence to expand a business within Wisconsin borders. Whether a business is already within our borders, deciding whether to expand, or deciding whether to move, businesses must have the confidence that the Wisconsin economic climate they need will come alive and remain healthy and strong into the future.

This is the clean breath of fresh air our new Republican Governor, Republican Senate, and Republican Assembly are undertaking with an undying commitment. The voters that made this possible must be constantly vigilant and vocally loud as they were on election day, insisting the ship stay the course.

*Visit [FoxPolitics.net](http://FoxPolitics.net) for the latest in conservative news.*

# Wisconsin not yet open for business

By Jason Adkins

Gov.-elect Scott Walker has triumphantly declared that "Wisconsin is open for business." If the city of Milwaukee is any indication, however, a lot of things need to happen before Walker's inspiring and ambitious words become a reality.

Unemployment in Milwaukee hovers around 10 percent. Milwaukee is the fourth-poorest big city in the nation. The city has lost more jobs over the past 20 years than Detroit and Cleveland.

It's a big understatement to say that Milwaukee has to figure out how to attract jobs. And add to that the fact that Wisconsin has the 48th-worst business climate according to Forbes magazine.

Milwaukee city leaders spend approximately \$100 million dollars a year on economic development projects in the hope of stimulating the local economy. The real "stimulus" Milwaukee needs, however, is not more corporate welfare. What is needed is more freedom for entrepreneurs.

Unfortunately, Milwaukee places barriers in the way of businesses along every step of the path to success. The city strangles businesses in layers of red tape and fees that make it difficult for some businesses to even get off the ground.

If you thought all it took to open a business in Milwaukee—and probably most other Wisconsin cities—was a good idea and some seed capital, think again.

That's a summary of the findings of my recent study, "Unhappy Days for Milwaukee Entrepreneurs." Among other things, Milwaukee:

Abuses the custom of aldermanic privilege to destroy promising businesses by denying them the licenses and permits they need when an alderman does not like the business or would prefer a different one.

Rigidly restricts the ability of entrepreneurs to operate businesses from their homes. Milwaukee's rules force everyone from candle makers to photographers to operate illegally from their home or move out of town.

Imposes restrictions on food-related businesses that make it almost impossible for small entrepreneurs to start or expand their businesses. These are regulations that go well beyond any legitimate concern for public health and safety.

Needlessly prevents would-be taxi drivers from owning their own cab and instead protects existing cabs from honest competition.

Effectively prohibits most street vending entirely by requiring those who are allowed to vend to obtain at least five separate licenses.

Milwaukee not only makes it difficult to go into business, it makes it difficult to go out of business. The city requires a costly and burdensome license to tell the public your business is closing. Milwaukee kicks businesses when they are down by requiring them to complete an avalanche of paperwork (certified by a CPA) about

their inventory, and then pay a sliding scale fee based on the duration of the sale, plus \$2 for every \$1,000 worth of inventory they seek to sell. This "failure tax" serves no public good other than providing a revenue stream for the city.

At the state level, a multitude of occupational licensing laws fence many people out of various trades. For example, the state of Wisconsin requires African hairbraiders and East Indian eyebrow threaders to attend hundreds of hours of cosmetology school before they can practice crafts that have been passed on from generation to generation and present no serious health and safety risks to the public. The right to earn an honest living is placed in jeopardy by senseless regulation.

So, what can be done?

City leaders need to make a paradigm shift. Government has to stop treating businesses, particularly small ones and start-up entrepreneurs in low-skilled occupations, like nuisances to be managed. Rather, they are people who should be respected and encouraged—or at least not blocked from earning an honest living.

Small business represents the backbone of the economy. Eighty-five percent of Milwaukee businesses have fewer than 25 employees, and 98 percent of Wisconsin businesses are considered "small" by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Thus, any economic recovery in Milwaukee and greater Wisconsin will be generated by small businesses.

Sixty-two percent of Milwaukee businesses recently surveyed stated that regulation was a significant problem. One in five had contemplated closing or moving out of the city. Amazingly, the same survey showed that Milwaukee city leaders are almost completely unaware that there is a problem, and believe that the city imposes only low costs of compliance with its thick book of ever-expanding regulations.

Politicians of both parties have failed to tackle the unfriendly regulatory environment at the state and local level. A new legislature in Wisconsin is an opportunity to address this critical problem. But if politicians and bureaucrats continue to ignore the importance of grassroots entrepreneurs and small businesses, then citizens have to start making them pay attention by holding their feet to the fire when they continue to impose unnecessary and arbitrary regulations.

Milwaukeeans and other residents of Wisconsin cannot sit idly by while more laws and red tape strangle small businesses. The economic future of both the city and the state depends on the people standing up for economic liberty.

*Jason Adkins is an Institute for Justice (IJ) staff attorney. IJ is one of the nation's leading legal advocates for the rights of small businesses and entrepreneurs. To read more about Jason's study of Milwaukee, visit [www.ij.org/CityStudies/Milwaukee](http://www.ij.org/CityStudies/Milwaukee).*

# Iran continues march to new world order—When will we put an end to it?

By **Reza Kahlili**  
**FoxNews.com**

During a speech last July at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, I revealed that Iran was currently in possession of missiles not previously known to the West. In addition, Iran's collaboration with North Korea and its long term plans—to reach major European capitals with their missiles—was also discussed. Since the early 80s, Iran's focus has been on missile technology. Their strategy was first drawn up by the Guards' command and announced by Mohsen Rezaei (the Chief Commander). These facts were reported to the CIA. At the same time, the Guards made the decision to organize thousands of smaller units along with a massive missile capability for an unconventional war against America and Israel. Why? Because they knew that in any conventional military confrontation, their forces would not stand a chance against America. So the idea was born that a successful missile program would deliver in its goal to bring about the destruction of Israel and the demise of America and the West. Recent WikiLeaks releases about Iran reveal that American intelligence operatives have concluded that the Iranians have obtained a cache of advanced missiles from North Korea. These missiles can carry nuclear warheads. They now give Iran the capacity to strike the capitals of Western Europe. They can also easily reach Moscow. The information revealed by WikiLeaks also confirms that there is much deeper military and nuclear cooperation between North Korea and Iran than was previously known. Iran now holds the largest inventory of missiles in the Middle East (over a thousand). While the Guards continue working on their missile delivery system, they have also been working on a parallel nuclear bomb project in collaboration with North Korea. Iranian and North Korean scientists have been sharing their expertise and some unverified reports from within Iran talk about the presence of Iranian nuclear scientists in North Korea for a possible nuclear weapons test. The fact remains that Iran has successfully moved forward with its missile delivery and nuclear program despite all the objections from the West, including four rounds of U.N. sanctions in response to its illegal nuclear program. There is a grave danger confronting the world. The radicals in Iran are very close to successfully weaponizing their missiles with nuclear warheads and have openly talked about a "New World Order" where Israel ceases to exist and America will no longer be the superpower that it is today. The Iranian leaders truly believe that Allah has empowered them and America will not be able to do anything about it. They believe that their actions will bring about the reappearance of the last messiah, Imam Mahdi, when Islam will conquer the world and kill the rest of the infi-

dels. An official website run by the Iranian government goes further and actually predicts that the reappearance [of the last messiah] is close and verifies, through centuries-old hadiths, that Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, is the one who will lead Muslims before the reappearance of Imam Mahdi and that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is the deputy to the leader and will take the word of Allah fearlessly to the heart of the non-believers. While it is shocking that the radicals in Iran, who have been actively involved in worldwide terrorism, could soon have nuclear warheads to fulfill the Islamic prophecy, it is more shocking that every U.S. administration, including the current one, has allowed this regime to continue on with its deadly activities with impunity. Through the information revealed by WikiLeaks, it is obvious that U.S. diplomats, Arab leaders, and other world leaders see the Iranian leadership as pure evil and one that needs to be stopped. So the question remains why the Obama administration is acting as though it is helpless, hopeless, and confused. What is it that they don't understand? They must surely know that Iran is geographically located in the Persian Gulf, an area that supplies over 40 percent of world's energy. It is foolish to allow a government in that region access to nuclear arms.-- The world could be taken hostage many times over should they acquire nuclear capabilities. The Iranian leadership has continuously and openly indicated that they will continue on with their nuclear program and that America and the West cannot do a damn thing about it. Iran's nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi announced on Sunday, December 5 that for the first time the country had mined its own uranium and that the shipment of the first domestically produced yellowcake from the Gachin mine was delivered to the Isfahan nuclear facility. He added, "No matter how much effort they put into their sanctions ... our nuclear activities will proceed and they will witness greater achievements in the future." It has been almost two years since President Obama extended his hand to the Iranian leadership; when that did not work, he moved towards sanctions. It is time to realize that both actions have been a total failure and that we can no longer remain indecisive. There is no doubt that the radicals in Iran present the greatest danger of the 21st century. America needs leadership, courage and commitment to our fundamental principles. It is time to side with and the Iranian people. It is time to help Iranians overthrow this regime. If we do, it will go a long way toward winning a peaceful future for the world. If we don't, millions of lives could be lost.

*Reza Kahlili is a pseudonym for an ex-CIA spy who requires anonymity for safety reasons. "A Time to Betray," his book about his double life as a CIA agent in Iran's Revolutionary Guards, was published by Simon & Schuster in April.*

# Why I support the Ryan Roadmap

By Sarah Palin  
Wall Street Journal Dec. 10, 2010

The publication of the findings of the president's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform was indeed, as the report was titled, "A Moment of Truth." The report shows we're much closer to the budgetary breaking point than previously assumed. The Medicare Trust Fund will be insolvent by 2017. As early as 2025, federal revenue will barely be enough to pay for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and interest on our national debt. With spending structurally outpacing revenue, something clearly needs to be done to avert national bankruptcy.

The commission itself calculates that, even if all of its recommendations are implemented, the federal budget will continue to balloon—to an estimated \$5 trillion in 2020, from an already unprecedented \$3.5 trillion today. The commission makes only a limited effort to cut spending below the current trend set by the Obama administration.

Among the few areas of spending it does single out for cuts is defense—the one area where we shouldn't be cutting corners at a time of war. Worst of all, the commission's proposals institutionalize the current administration's new big spending commitments, including ObamaCare. Not only does it leave ObamaCare intact, but its proposals would lead to a public option being introduced by the backdoor, with the chairmen's report suggesting a second look at a government-run health-care program if costs continue to soar.

It also implicitly endorses the use of "death panel"-like rationing by way of the new Independent Payments Advisory Board—making bureaucrats, not medical professionals, the ultimate arbiters of what types of treatment will (and especially will not) be reimbursed under Medicare.

The commission's recommendations are a disappointment. That doesn't mean, though, that the commission's work was a wasted effort. For one thing, it has exposed the large and unsustainable deficits that the Obama administration has created through its reckless "spend now, tax later" policies. It also establishes a clear bipartisan consensus on the need to fundamentally reform our entitlement programs. We need a better plan to build on these conclusions with common-sense reforms to tackle our long-term funding crisis in a sustainable way.

In my view, a better plan is the Roadmap for America's Future produced by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis). The Roadmap offers a reliable path to long-term solvency for our entitle-

ment programs, and it does so by encouraging personal responsibility and independence.

On health care, it would replace ObamaCare with a new system in which people are given greater control over their own health-care spending. It achieves this partly through creating medical savings accounts and a new health-care tax credit—the only tax credit that would be left in a radically simplified new income tax system that people can opt into if they wish.

The Roadmap would also replace our high and anticompetitive corporate income tax with a business consumption tax of just 8.5%. The overall tax burden would be limited to 19% of GDP (compared to 21% under the deficit commission's proposals). Beyond that, Rep. Ryan proposes fundamental reform of Medicare for those under 55 by turning the current benefit into a voucher with which people can purchase their own care.

On Social Security, as with Medicare, the Roadmap honors our commitments to those who are already receiving benefits by guaranteeing all existing rights to people over the age of 55. Those below that age are offered a choice: They can remain in the traditional government-run system or direct a portion of their payroll taxes to personal accounts, owned by them, managed by the Social Security Administration and guaranteed by the federal government. Under the Roadmap's proposals, they can pass these savings onto their heirs. The current Medicaid system, the majority of which is paid for by the federal government but administered by the states, would be replaced by a block-grant system that would reward economizing states.

Together these reforms help to secure our entitlement programs for the 21st century. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the Roadmap would lead to lower deficits and a much lower federal debt. The CBO estimates that under current spending plans, our federal debt would rise to 87% of GDP by 2020, to 223% by 2040, and to 433% by 2060. Under Rep. Ryan's Roadmap, the CBO estimates that debt would rise much more slowly, peaking at 99% in 2040 and then dropping back to 77% by 2060.

Put simply: Our country is on the path toward bankruptcy. We must turn around before it's too late, and the Roadmap offers a clear plan for doing so. But it does more than just fend off disaster. CBO calculations show that the Roadmap would also help create a "much more favorable macroeconomic out-

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# Who got stimulated?

**By Mark Alexander**  
**The Patriot Post**

(This shakedown has nothing to do with the TSA.)

"The sober people of America are weary of the fluctuating policy which has directed the public councils. ... They have seen, too, that one legislative interference is but the first link of a long chain of repetitions, every subsequent interference being naturally produced by the effects of the preceding." –James Madison

Barack Hussein Obama, intent on increasing your taxes in January by way of letting the Bush-era tax reductions expire (ostensibly to reduce the deficits Democrats created), has launched a ruse to steal the budget-cutting thunder of his Republican opponents.

First, Obama ordered a freeze on bonuses for some 3,000 of his high-paid political appointees. Then he announced a freeze on the wages of all federal workers for the next two years.

One Social Security administrator summed up the reaction of her fellow federal union workers: "That's why Obama's ratings are below Bush's, and that's hard to be unless you're Osama bin Laden. I can't wait until I retire."

Well, given the fact that federal bureaucrats are now endowed with grossly disproportionate wages and benefits, one can understand why retirement remains attractive for them. On the other hand, millions of private sector citizens will be working well beyond retirement age in order to make ends meet, especially given the increased tax burdens they'll likely incur in the future to pay off Obama's deficit.

Let's review the most recent data.

Compared to more productive private sector employees, whose income is confiscated to pay government wages and benefits, hourly government workers are paid 57 percent more than those in the private sector for comparable jobs (\$28.64/hour vs. \$18.27/hour). Salaried bureaucrats enjoy average annual wages of \$78,901, while those in the private sector average \$50,111, and the number of bureaucrats collecting more than \$150,000 a year has doubled since Obama took office.

When benefits such as taxpayer-funded contributions to pensions are included, government bureaucrats end up with 85 percent more compensation than their private sector comparables.

On top of that disparity, bureaucrat jobs are virtually tenured, both recession proof and unaffected by a dearth of productivity. Benjamin Franklin once famously said, "Nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Today, however, you can add government jobs to the short list of guarantees.

Notably, Obama did not order a freeze on government hiring, and I can assure you that the number of exemptions for government agency wage freezes will eventually equal the number of government agencies. Additionally, Obama didn't freeze promotions, meaning that any federal worker can receive a de facto pay raise by "promotion" into the next incremental GSA scale.

Since the beginning of the current recession, private sector employment is down 6.8 percent. On the other hand, Obama has used taxpayer funds and debt on future generations, his so-called "recovery program," to grow the ranks of central government bureaucrats by more than 10 percent in the same time period.

Of course, Obama's wage-freeze charade fails to put any noticeable dent into his accumulating \$1,000,000,000,000-plus deficits. Taxes, he says, must be increased to do that.

Once again, let's review.

Like any devoted Socialist, Obama's objective is to break the back of free enterprise, in this case, with unbearable deficits. When challenged about his motives, Obama invariably claims that he "inherited this mess" from the Bush administration.

However, the Executive Branch does not set the budget. Congress does. And from the '09 budget forward, budget deficits have increased greatly.

For the record, Democrats have controlled Congress since January 2007, about the time the housing market collapse began. Thus, Democrats controlled the budgets for FY2008 and FY2009 as they did with FY2010 and FY2011.

**Obama Deficits Chart**

For FY2008 Democrats compromised with President Bush on spending. However, for FY2009 Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid bypassed the Bush administration by way of continuing resolutions until Barack Obama took office.

Again, for the record, Obama was a member of the Senate majority in 2007 and 2008, and he voted for those spending bills.

The last budget deficit that Democrats "inherited" was FY 2007, the last of the Republican congressional budgets. That deficit was the lowest in five years, and it was the fourth straight decline in deficit spending. Thus, the only deficit Obama has inherited is that which he and his Democrat majorities generated.

Those pesky facts notwithstanding, a Republican majority is about to take over the House, and Republicans in the Senate seem to have found a spine.

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# Walker outlines chief legislative priorities

Submitted by Pax Americana Institute

At the end of November, Governor-elect Scott Walker unveiled a bold and ambitious agenda for the upcoming legislative session. Walker made it clear that he intends to enact all of the reforms described below within the first year of his governorship. With a large Republican majority in the Assembly and a six vote majority in the Senate, it appears highly likely that Walker's main legislative priorities will be enacted.

Walker's legislative agenda has six major components. First, he intends to establish a Waste, Fraud and Abuse Commission, which will be given the daunting task of eliminating waste in the state budget. Second, he has pledged to balance the state budget—possibly his most arduous task. Third, he has pledged to assist the state legislature with the creation of a small-business tax cut, intended to stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and foster a business-friendly environment in Wisconsin. Fourth, he intends to restructure the Department of Commerce so as to allow the Secretary of Commerce to spend a maximum amount of time on economic revitalization. Fifth, he has pledged to provide tax breaks for those with health savings accounts. Finally, he has pledged to curb malpractice lawsuits against medical professionals. Walker's ambitious legislative agenda will restore economic prosperity, make Wisconsin a business-friendly state, and restore integrity to Wisconsin's government.

- **Waste, Fraud and Abuse.** Walker told the Wisconsin State Journal that the declaration of an "economic emergency" will be his first act as Governor, declaring that he will call for a special session of the legislature intended to deal solely with issues pertaining to the economy, job creation and taxes. The "economic emergency" declaration includes the creation of a Waste, Fraud and Abuse Commission which will be responsible for finding \$300 million per year to trim from state spending, which body he can create without the deliberation of the legislature by issuing an executive order. The chief priority of this committee will be cutting wasteful spending from the state budget, government agencies and appropriations bills, but Governor-elect Walker has yet to outline his plan for selecting the members of this important committee. It is critical that the Commission be independent and composed of individuals dedicated to Wisconsin's welfare ahead of their own political agendas, because the eradication of wasteful and out-of-control spending can ultimately lead to a balanced budget and the restoration of economic stability. So long as this committee puts politics aside and focuses on the issue at hand, the budget can be balanced and economic prosperity will be restored.

- **Balancing the State Budget.** Walker's most arduous task in the upcoming legislative session will be balancing the state budget. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue finds that the Wisconsin budget deficit is the highest in state history, a colossal \$3.3 billion. In order to balance the state budget, Walker's plan will probably aim to eradicate wasteful spending, freeze agency budgets or

cut them to pre-2006 levels, drastically alter BadgerCare, and cut income and property taxes. Walker's promise of creating 250,000 new jobs during his tenure will not become a reality if he fails to make economic recovery his foremost priority in the 2011-2013 period.

- **Tax Cut for Small Businesses.** Small businesses are the engines that keep the Wisconsin economy running, and in order to improve the Wisconsin economy, cutting taxes for small businesses and entrepreneurs should be a chief priority. Throughout his campaign, Walker pledged to make business expansion and job creation the focal points of his legislative agenda in the years to come. Last week, he announced that he will encourage the state legislature to enact a state income tax reduction of one percentage point for businesses with 50 or fewer employees. The Wisconsin Department of Revenue finds that there are 321,300 businesses in the state owned by sole proprietors and another 69,400 S corporations comprised of 100 or fewer shareholders. A one-point reduction in income taxes for small businesses, proprietorships and S corporations will create a climate of business friendliness, add jobs, and foster greater economic productivity.

- **Restructuring the Department of Commerce.** Late last week, Walker outlined an ambitious plan for restructuring the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. Currently, the Wisconsin Department of Commerce is responsible for regulating business and industry, fostering economic growth, and promoting business growth. Under Walker's reform proposal, the Secretary of Commerce would no longer be responsible for low-level regulation of such things as amusement rides and elevators to petroleum storage tanks, as he is today. Walker's restructuring would make economic and business development the chief priority of the Secretary of Commerce. In addition, Walker's plan includes combining the Wisconsin Department of Commerce with the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. In short, Walker's proposal would reduce the size of government and transfer much control of the economy from the government to the private sector.

- **Income Tax Deduction for Health Savings Accounts.** The fifth prong of Walker's reform agenda is a state income tax deduction for health savings accounts. Health savings accounts, much like Social Security personal accounts, allow individual citizens to control their own personal well-being and livelihood and create a culture of ownership by transferring control of health insurance from the government to the individual. Walker recognizes that individuals are better suited to control their health care needs than the government, and as a result, he has made the expansion of health savings accounts, and tax breaks for those currently in existence, priorities in the 2011-2013 legislative session. It is expected that these tax breaks will encourage Wisconsinites to reject government-run health insurance, and in turn,

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# Illegal immigration fact sheet: crisis on the border

Submitted by Pax Americana Institute

Key Question: Should the world's #2 kidnapping capital be located inside the United States?

In mid-June, after a Mexican teenage boy was shot to death by U.S. Border Agents, it became very evident that the operational anxiety along our southern border was climaxing. While the USG remained focused on peddling a healthcare bill which few in Congress had read, it appeared that only the State of Arizona was serious about the illegal immigration crisis looming on the border.

With other state leaders considering similar legislation—Wisconsin's gubernatorial candidates among them—a synopsis of the facts, the statistics and the consequences is in order. As the Associated Press reported on September 14, bullets from the Mexico-side of the border are continuing to fly into the Texas city of El Paso. If the Obama Administration does not more seriously address the problems our fellow Americans are experiencing along the border, the death and violence witnessed daily in Ciudad Juarez will undoubtedly become a reality for U.S. citizens living within our border states.

FACT: The largest Federal expenditures due illegal immigration: Medicaid (\$2.5 billion); treatment for the uninsured (\$2.2 billion); food assistance programs such as food stamps, WIC, and free school lunches (\$1.9 billion); the federal prison and court systems (\$1.6 billion); and federal aid to schools (\$1.4 bill.).

FACT: \$12 billion dollars a year is spent on primary and secondary school education for children here illegally.

FACT: \$17 billion dollars a year is spent for education for the American-born children of illegal aliens, known as anchor babies.

FACT: \$3 million Dollars is spent a DAY to incarcerate non- U.S. citizens. Most are thought to be illegal aliens.

FACT: 30% of all Federal Prison inmates are not U.S. citizens.

FACT: \$200 billion Dollars a year in suppressed American wages is caused by immigration, both legal and illegal.

FACT: Hispanics in the United States have a crime rate that's 2.5 times that of white non-Hispanics.

FACT: The Center for American Progress (Deporting the Undocumented: A Cost Assessment), estimated the total cost of mass deportation would be between \$206 and \$230 billion or an average cost of between \$41 and \$46 billion annually over a five year period.

FACT: In 2006, illegal aliens sent \$45 billion in remittances back to their countries of

origin.

FACT: The dark side of illegal immigration: Nearly one million sex crimes are committed by illegal immigrants in the united states.

The death toll, 2006-2010:

FACT: As of early June, 5,829 Mexicans have perished in 2010 as a result of the Mexican drug wars.

That's approximately 1,000 deaths a month. Question: If 1,000 people were dying a month as a result of violence anywhere else in the world, say Darfur in the Sudan for instance, wouldn't the liberal Left be screaming for the U.S. to take aggressive action? So why have so many been so quiet when that violence is within only a few miles of the U.S. border?

FACT: In the last week of June alone, over 500 people were murdered along the Mexico side of the border at the hands of the violent drug cartels. Featured Project: Illegal Immigration, Crisis on the Border.

The rate of murders in the last week of June was more than double the already-disturbing rate witnessed in the preceding months. How did the USG respond to this growing threat of chaos that could spill onto U.S. soil at any given time? It decided to sue the State of Arizona over SB 1070 on July 6.

FACT: More than 23,000 people have been killed in Mexico's drug-related violence since President Felipe Calderon launched an all-out offensive against drug gangs in 2006.

FACT: In 2009, the Mexican drug wars claimed the highest death total since the war officially began in 2006 with 67,724 Mexican citizens.

In recent months, leading U.S. news agencies have reported that the number of deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border has increased three-fold since 2008. If Marty Robbins were rewriting his chart-topper "El Paso" today, Falina would indeed be whirling in Rosa's cantina, but it would only be the result of her hurried rush for cover as Mexican gunfire sprayed the building.

Mexican deaths by U.S. hands:

FACT: Mexico's Foreign Relations Department said that its records indicate the number of Mexicans killed or wounded by U.S. immigration authorities rose from five in 2008 to twelve in 2009, and as of June, now totals 17.

Amassing troops on the border—the Mexican effort, 2006-present:

FACT: During his campaign for Mexico's president in 2006, Felipe Calderon promised to deploy thousands of federal troops in an effort to crackdown on drug violence. As of Nov. 20, 2008, President Calderon had deployed 36,000

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# ..illegal immigration

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troops within Mexico to combat drug and people smuggling yet the number of drug related deaths has continued to increase.

Those who brush off the violence in Mexico as a domestic problem for their government are grossly under-estimating the seriousness of the situation. For perspective, until 2009 the entire contingent of U.S. troops in Afghanistan to cover and defend the whole country was roughly 36,000; Mexico has deployed this number within their own country to regain stability, security and legitimacy. Additionally, for those unfamiliar with military affairs, when a neighbor mobilizes 40,000 troops along your border, whether they're an ally or not, you should be very worried. Question: Would you rather build a strong fence to secure the border or permanently deploy 36,000 U.S. troops? There are already 17,000 border patrol agents along the southwest border.

FACT: Since 2008, another 8,000 troops have been deployed within Mexico, bringing the total to 45,000.

Examination of U.S. troop levels, past and present:

FACT: At the inception of the U.S. Border Patrol in 1975, there were 1,746 border agents. As President George W. Bush left office in 2009, U.S. Border Patrol exceeded 18,000 full-time employees and U.S. border security was at an all-time high.

FACT: President George W. Bush took an aggressive stance on border security by deploying 6,000 National Guard troops to the nation's southernmost boundaries.

Amid two ongoing, overseas wars, and during a time when the nation's defense forces were already spread thin, President Bush still recognized the great need to assign 6,000 U.S. troops to the border to prevent the threat of violence against his citizens and his country.

FACT: President George W. Bush attempted to pass the Comprehensive Immigration Act of 2007, which would have deployed 18,000 new border patrol agents and created extensive new physical barriers—including 200 miles of vehicle barriers, 370 miles of fencing and 70 ground-based camera and radar towers. The Act did not pass.

FACT: In May 2010, President Obama ordered 1,200 troops to the border; 524 for Arizona; 250 for Texas; 224 for California and

72 for New Mexico. Another 130 would be at a national liaison office.

Arizona Governor Jan Brewer has said the deployment needs to total 6,000, with 3,000 for Arizona—the state with the most illegal border crossings. Arizona Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain both noted 1,200 was nowhere near enough, and Sen. McCain demanded 6,000 more troops. Texas Governor Rick Perry had asked in January 2009 for 1,000 National Guard troops to help with border security in Texas alone. By the end of July, none of the 1,200 troops had yet deployed to the southwest border.

The Border fence—Initiatives for security and protection:

FACT: In September 2006, Rep. Peter King (R-NY), introduced the Secure Fence Act of 2006. The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the measure 283-138 and shortly thereafter the Senate passed the measure in resounding fashion, 80-19. The legislation, however, did not outline the specifics for creating a border fence. Rather, it stated that Congress would assist in "possibly" constructing a 700 mile long fence along the Southern Border. In October 2006, President Bush signed it into law and construction of the border fence was initiated. In 2007, after the Democratic Party assumed control of both Houses of Congress, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) declared that Congress would reconsider the fence construction plan in an attempt to satisfy those displeased with the initial proposal.

FACT: In 2006, USCBP initiated SBInet, a program of the Secure Border Initiative designed to create a new integrated system of personnel, infrastructure, technology, and rapid response to secure America's southern and northern borders.

FACT: As of Aug. 28, 2008, DHS had constructed 190 miles of pedestrian border fence and 154.3 miles of vehicle border fence, comprising a total of 334.35 miles of fence.

FACT: By January 2009, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that it had completed construction of an additional 580 miles of border fence, totaling 914 miles.

This Fact Sheet is a product of PAI's Policy Division and updated regularly. For source information, visit [www.PaxAmericanaInstitute.org](http://www.PaxAmericanaInstitute.org).

*For conservative articles, visit  
[www.maciverinstitute.com](http://www.maciverinstitute.com).*

# The case for a strong international affairs budget

By Craig Caruana  
MAIA, PAI Fellow in National Security Affairs

Since the height of the Cold War, the U.S. International Affairs budget steadily declined until reaching a historic low of \$21 billion for FY 1995. While the significantly larger defense budget was drastically reduced, the already-smaller International Affairs budget suffered even more in terms of percentage of reduction. From 1992 to 1998, the International Affairs Budget was cut every year, ultimately representing a 38% decrease in our foreign affairs programs (as a percentage of the U.S. GDP) over that time.

In addition to protecting U.S. interests and values abroad, the International Affairs budget also funds humanitarian, economic and various diplomatic agendas. Comprised of less than 1% of the overall federal budget, this money is responsible for addressing issues like global hunger, AIDS, malaria, illiteracy, disaster response, peace building, and religious rights protection. For example, in the past year, through the International Affairs budget, four million children affected by AIDS received support; roughly 2.5 million people received AIDS treatments; and roughly 15 million malaria bed nets were distributed to areas in need. This budget is not only responsible for demonstrating the goodwill of the American people, but also creates and maintains a healthier and more peaceful world. Those in favor of an increased budget base their arguments in the proven improvement of the perception of the United States by foreign countries. By highlighting American strengths in the form of generosity and moral fortitude, America is seen in an increasingly favorable manner.

Beyond the purely moral and humanitarian benefits, the International Affairs budget is also critical to ensuring our national security by protecting against international threats from devel-

oping states characterized by their frail government infrastructures. Several prominent members of the U.S. federal government, including Defense Secretary Gates, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Admiral Mullen, and other military personnel across the political spectrum have requested increases in the International Affairs budget to augment the efficacy of American national security policy.

The International Affairs budget has proven fundamental in pursuing U.S. military, economic and strategic interests around the globe. Programs funded by this budget work to create and support markets for U.S. exports and promote good governance practices that strengthen young democracies.

The International Affairs budget promotes a better, safer America and world by strengthening our national security, building economic prosperity, and demonstrating our moral and humanitarian values. Programs funded by the International Affairs budget stabilize fragile states, combat terrorism and deter threats before they reach America's shores. The Obama administration has classified the International Affairs budget as part of the "security fund" equal in importance to Defense and Homeland Security. However, it currently represents only 6.8% of the national security budget.

During the Clinton administration, Department of Defense and International Affairs budgets were at all-time lows. Over the past fifteen years, funds allocated to International Affairs have doubled from \$29.9 billion during the Clinton years to \$58.8 billion under President Obama. This is due in part to the increase of globalization that the international political and economic communities have experienced over this period. It was also partly necessitated by the fiscal reality of fighting two wars. Because of the political paradigmatic shifts catalyzed by globalization, international

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## ...Walker's outline of goals

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embrace health savings accounts.

- Curb Malpractice Suits against Doctors. Throughout his campaign, Walker made it clear that he would work to curb frivolous malpractice lawsuits against Wisconsin's medical professionals. It is important to note that Walker did not go so far as to say that he supports the enactment of widespread tort reform, but he supports efforts to reduce the price of medical malpractice insurance for Wisconsin medical professionals. The Business Journal notes that in Wisconsin, there is

a cap of \$750,000 for noneconomic damages but no cap on medical expenses or lost income. In effect, malpractice lawsuits can have devastating effects on physicians and, importantly, the quality of care they offer. The fear of being sued for negligence or malpractice has forced many physicians to perform fewer surgeries and potentially harmful medical procedures. A reduction in the number of malpractice suits, coupled with the enactment of a groundbreaking tort reform bill, should be focal points of Walker's legislative agenda.

## ...Ryan's Roadmap

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look" for the next half-century. The CBO estimates that under the Roadmap, by 2058 per-person GDP would be around 70% higher than the current trend.

Is Rep. Ryan's Roadmap perfect? Of course not—no government plan ever is. But it's the best plan on the table at a time when doing nothing is no longer an option.

Let's not settle for the big-government

status quo, which is what the president's commission offers. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to make these tough decisions so that they might inherit a prosperous and strong America like the one we were given.

*Sarah Palin, the former governor of Alaska and the 2008 Republican Party vice presidential nominee, is a Fox News contributor.*

## ...who got stimulated?

### **From page 14**

If Republicans are serious about budget and deficit control, they should start by cutting their own bloated salaries and budgets. There is no greater sweetheart deal than being elected to our national legislature, where members of Congress are paid exorbitantly, and are eligible for lifetime benefits after "serving" for just five years—one term for senators. If they are perpetually elected, as is the case with many members, they are eligible for almost 80 percent of their salary as a guaranteed annual pension.

Membership certainly has its privileges.

If members of Congress don't like the pay cuts, perhaps we can cut their time accordingly. Send them home more often, and see if a little of the reality outside the Beltway sinks in.

As my colleague Cal Thomas opined this week, "The Founders were keenly aware of the danger of a Congress divorced from the realities of the rest of the country. During the Constitutional Convention in 1787, Roger Sherman of Connecticut wrote, 'Representatives ought to return home and mix with the people. By remaining at the seat of government, they would acquire the habits of the place, which might differ from those of their constituents.'"

If Republicans are really serious about the constitutional role of government, they should identify any and all taxes and expenditures not expressly authorized by our Constitution, and schedule them for termination. While they are at it, they should revoke congressional exemptions, and make themselves subject to the same laws and regulations they impose upon the rest of us. (Oh, and Mr. Speaker-to-be, sell Pelosi's opulent Boeing 757, and refund the treasury.)

For his part, poor Barry Obama lamented this week that he might have to delay his "holiday vacation" to Hawaii in order to get his tax-and-spend agenda through Congress. (How many golf outings and exotic vacations must our nouveau riche lotto winner take?)

Perhaps Obama should take a tax lesson from John Kennedy, the father of the modern Democrat party: "A tax cut means higher family income and higher business profits and a balanced federal budget.... As the national income grows, the federal government will ultimately end up with more revenues. Prosperity is the real way to balance our budget. By lowering tax rates, by increasing jobs and income, we can expand tax revenues and finally bring our budget into balance."

Indeed, tax reductions in each of the last five administrations have resulted in tax revenue increases to the fed's coffers.

## ...international affairs budget

### **From page 19**

investment has become inherent to successful diplomatic and economic relations among states.

Because of the range of benefits that can be attributed to this specific budget, it is imperative that the federal government continue to provide ample funding to carry out the mandates set by the people and their representatives. More now than ever before, the United States

cannot sacrifice effort or financial support to accomplishing international goals outlined by our national government. Although the money allocated to this specific sector of government is typically used to support those outside our own borders, numerous positive effects have been historically enjoyed by nations that hold this value as a high priority. By doing so, our representatives will be perpetuating American values and will draw attention to America's devotion to global economic and political success.

## MacIver Institute to push for fiscal responsibility in Wisconsin

The Free Market Voice for Wisconsin has unveiled their framework to repair Wisconsin's broken budget.

Last month, the John K. MacIver Institute for Public Policy released their "MacIver Principles to Guide Wisconsin's Budget," a series of policy and process reforms to restore fiscal sanity in Madison.

"Wisconsin is at a crossroads—the government simply is too large, it spends too much and tries to do too much," said Brett Healy, President of the John K. MacIver Institute for Public Policy. "Moreover the process by which our state budget is crafted is fundamentally flawed and facilitates fiscal malpractice. Now is the time to make the necessary changes in both the process and the product."

The MacIver Principles lay out a reform agenda Healy says must be implemented, immediately, if Wisconsin is to avoid the fiscal meltdown that is looming.

"These principles should serve as a guide for the new Governor and new Legislature who have an historic opportunity and obligation to, quite frankly, fix this mess," said Healy. "We understand that the recklessness of the Doyle Administration and previous legislatures have left our state finances in such disarray that it will take time to repair; however, it is imperative that the reclamation process begin immediately."

The MacIver Principles to Guide Wisconsin's Budget:

- Spending must be restrained. The next biennial budget should spend less, tax less and bond less than the current budget, period. Immediately freeze state spending and hiring

- Do not wait until the next state budget to begin to restore fiscal sanity. Until the newly elected governor and the next Legislature decide what Wisconsin's spending priorities are, all nonessential spending should be put on hold. Governor Doyle's secret deal he signed the week-end before the election to obligate taxpayers to build the \$810 million not so high speed rail line, a luxury we simply cannot afford during these harsh economic times, should be immediately rescinded. The DNR's request currently before the Joint Finance Committee to spend \$7.9 million for land purchases should be objected to so that it can be considered as part of the larger 2011–2013 budget discussion next year. It just common sense that until we have a plan to get Wisconsin out of debt and back on the road to recovery, new government spending should be put on hold.

- Employ honest budgeting. Let's start over and build a budget from the ground up, using zero-based budgeting. No more cost-to-continue budgeting (take last year's budget, add in 3-5% more spending without justification or thought) that naturally leads to bigger government. Every two years, state agencies should be forced to prove each program is vital to the well-being of

Wisconsin's citizens and is operating effectively. The creation of new segregated funds should be prohibited, and existing segregated funds should not be raided for uses other than those for which they were intended.

- Prioritize wants over needs. State government must only take on those functions that cannot be accomplished by an individual or any other entity. Now is the time to rethink the role and scope of government.

- Stop being a social services magnet. Even if stories of day care providers scamming the system by collecting taxpayers' cash for caring for imaginary kids didn't make headlines, this area would be ripe for reform. We must aggressively punish those who abuse the good graces of Wisconsin's taxpayers. Further, eligibility for our state's entitlement programs should be scaled back to where they are no more generous than the federal requirements and should include time limits/lifetime maximums where possible.

- Pursue privatization when cost-effective. The costs of providing compensation and benefits for public employees and retirees are a ticking fiscal time bomb. We can no longer afford to pay for state employees to provide janitorial services, food service and a whole host of jobs that the private sector could provide at a better value. In many cases the private sector can deliver cost savings, innovation and exercise the ability to adapt to meet changing needs in the way unionized public employees cannot.

- Demand equal treatment for all. The days of budget pork, carve outs or tax incentives for a select few should end. The tax code should be simplified, not re-favoritized. We don't want to see any earmarks in the next State Budget, which are added solely to secure enough votes for the plan's passage. No more garbage cans for Wrightstown or bonding for Opera Houses in Oshkosh.

- Scale back the taxing authorities. Consolidation should be incentivized and non-elected boards should be stripped of their ability to tax. The best government is that which is closest to its citizens.

- Eliminate unfunded mandates. If a level of government determines a spending program is beneficial to all of its citizens, that level of government should pay for the entire cost of the program. No more passing the buck down the line. It's time to empower a Mandate Review Commission, which includes the public and the private sector, to determine the scope and costs of all mandates imposed on local units of government by the state

- Conduct a bureaucratic purge. While the legislature passes new laws, the regulations that guide their implementation often exceed legislative intent. To combat this, every single current administrative rule should sunset by years end and

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# Taming government union costs

By James Wigderson  
Special Guest Perspective for the MacIver  
Institute

As we consider the future of state employee unions in Wisconsin, it's worth remembering that we once contemplated that there would be far fewer employees consuming your tax dollars. In 2002, just eight years ago, a candidate for governor even promised to actually reduce the size of the state workforce when it was still 67,240 employees.

He told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "I think we should be trying to get back to the level that (former Gov.) Tommy (Thompson) had, when he took over in the 1980s—it's about 15,000 additional employees hired during this time. I'm setting that target right now." The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel put the estimated cut a little lower at 10,261.

So who was that crazy radical right-winger with the crackpot idea of saving the state taxpayers' money by shrinking the size of the state employee workforce?

Who was that Tea Party fanatic even before there was a Tea Party movement?

It was Wisconsin Attorney General Jim Doyle, who was still running for the Democratic nomination for governor against Milwaukee Congressman Tom Barrett and Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk. Despite the anger of the state employee unions (although nobody compared Doyle to a slave owner), Doyle did win his party's nomination and went on to win the general election.

Eight years later, Wisconsin has 69,356 state employees, or 2,116 more employees than when Doyle announced his goal of reducing the state workforce.

Coincidentally, at the same time Doyle was talking about cutting 15,000 state jobs, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker was in the process of creating his first county budget, the first of eight proposed budgets without an increase in the tax levy. Along the way, Walker fought with the county employee unions to get them to increase their contributions to their pensions and to their health care while the overall headcount of county employees went down.

The Public Policy Forum calculates the number of full-time Milwaukee County employees shrunk from 7,416 in 2001 to 5,457 in 2010, a reduction of over 26%.

Now Governor-elect Walker has asked state employee unions to contribute a modest 5% of their pay towards their pensions and up to 12% for their health care premiums. Walker also asked the state leg-

islature to refrain from holding only the second lame duck session in 162 years to consider the latest union contracts, pacts which were negotiated by Doyle since the election. In the days since it was obvious he would not prevail on that point, several people, including Walker, have asked for the contracts to be posted online for ten days so that the public to review Doyle's handiwork before the lame duck legislature breaks out their rubber stamp.

Given the distance between Doyle's promises and what he actually delivers, it's not an unreasonable request, especially when the current \$150 million state budget deficit is taken into consideration.

When Governor Doyle was still Candidate Doyle eight years ago, he said to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel,

"The next governor is going to have the biggest opportunity, probably that anybody will ever have for the next several decades, to reduce the size of state government, (with) many people reaching retirement age over the next five to eight years. One of the great challenges for the next governor is to make sure – if I'm lucky enough to be elected and serve eight years – is that at the end of eight years, have a state workforce that is significantly reduced."

Whether it was because of political expediency or merely because he judged the task too difficult, Doyle decided to let opportunity pass him by.

Now it's up to his successor rein in the costs of our state employees.

Walker has said that if the state employee unions do not cooperate with these efforts to lower costs, the state should consider changing the law which allows state employee unions to collectively bargain. It's not unprecedented.

As the Wall Street Journal reported this week, twelve other states currently do not allow their state government employees to unionize.

By neutering the unions, Walker and the legislature would remove the conflict of interest of negotiating with the unions while at the same time seeking the unions' political endorsements.

We should all think of it as fiscally responsible campaign finance reform.

Far more importantly, the union concessions are needed if Wisconsin is going to get its \$3.3 billion structural deficit under control. If Wisconsin's employee unions are not willing to go along with contributing to paying for their benefits, then the state needs to change the rules.

Doyle knew this was a problem nearly a decade ago. So does Walker. However, where the old guy failed, the new guy is going to do something about it.

## ...fiscal responsibility

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require re-authorization. Any new rules promulgated from now on should be accompanied by an honest cost-benefit analysis and require reauthorization every three years.

- Embrace transparency. No more secret budget deals. Once submitted by the Governor, the

Legislature should address the plan and make any modifications in public, in the light of day. Every amendment should have an author who is willing to stand behind their proposal and defend its inclusion in the state budget.

For more information, visit [www.MacIverInstitute.com](http://www.MacIverInstitute.com).

# Middle America's economic woes

By Rich Lowry  
Editor of National Review

The unemployment rate for people with a college degree or higher is 5 percent. If that were the rate for everyone, it'd be the 1990s again.

But college graduates are only 30 percent of the country. For the rest of the population, the jobs picture is grimmer. For people without a high-school degree, the unemployment rate is more than 15 percent. If that were the rate for everyone, it'd be the 1930s again.

The unemployment rates are part of a growing divergence between the fortunes of the college educated and the rest of the country, including proverbial Middle America. In his new study, "When Marriage Disappears," University of Virginia scholar Brad Wilcox details how the college-educated have embraced traditional mores and habits - especially the formation of stable families - while they erode among everyone else.

Our elites, broadly defined as the top third of our society, aren't nearly as decadent as advertised. According to Wilcox's data, the highly educated (with a college diploma or higher) are less likely to divorce, less likely to have children out of wedlock, and less likely to commit adultery than the moderately educated (high-school degree or some college) and the least-educated (no high-school diploma).

The moderately educated might be called the lower-middle class or upper-working class. Wilcox refers to them as the "solid middle": "They are not upscale, but they are not poor. They don't occupy any of the margins, yet they are often overlooked, even though they make up the largest share of the American middle class." He documents an equally disturbing separation between the top and the rest, and a convergence between the middle and the bottom.

In the 1970s, 73 percent of both the highly and moderately educated were in intact first marriages. That figure plummeted across the board, yet the moderately educated (45 percent in intact first marriages) are now closer to the least-educated (39 percent) than to the highly educated (56 percent).

The number for out-of-wedlock births is starker. From 1982 until today, the percentage of non-marital births among the moderately educated exploded from 13 percent to 44 percent. That figure is close to the least-educated (54 percent) and a vast distance from the highly educated (only 6 percent). Robert Rector of the Heritage Foundation compares the dynamic to a carpet unraveling from the bottom, as illegitimacy first took hold among the poor and now works up the income scale.

This phenomenon is a calamity for the non-college educated. Growing up in a two-parent family brings enormous social advantages. Children in these families, Wilcox notes, are more likely "to graduate from high school, finish college, become gainfully employed, and enjoy a stable family life themselves." An institution absolutely critical to children's prospects is slowly becoming associated with the upper third.

Social trends are intertwining with economic trends, like increased unemployment and declining wages, in a downward spiral. "High school-educated young men today," Andrew Cherlin of Johns Hopkins University writes, "may be the first generation in memory to earn less than their fathers did." This economic pressure makes it harder to marry; the lack of marriage, in turn, denies men crucial social stability (married men earn more than single men with the same education and job histories).

All of this points to a slow-motion social and economic evisceration of a swath of Middle America. Wilcox even invokes the possibility of "a 21st century version of a traditional Latin-American model of family life, where only a comparatively small oligarchy enjoys a stable married and family life - and the economic and social fruits that flow from strong marriages."

At the moment, American politics offers two separate, distinct ways not to address these issues: Either the brain-dead populism of the Left that blames it all on trade and the decline of unions, or the brain-dead populism of the Right that extols the working class without taking serious note of its agony. We'll have to do better: There's a crisis in the middle.

## ...change comes to Washington

*From page 10*

For my part, my committee assignments will continue to be with the Education and Labor Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee where, as of this writing, I anticipate being Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee.

One of my legislative initiatives in the new Congress will be my Making Work and

Marriage Pay Act. Our hodgepodge of taxes and benefits discourage work and marriage, especially among low-income families. For a low-income worker, getting a raise or a better job can cause benefit cuts and tax increases which can wipe out all or most of the increased pay. The problem does not lend itself to easy solutions. My bill would establish a national commission to recommend alternatives.

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