



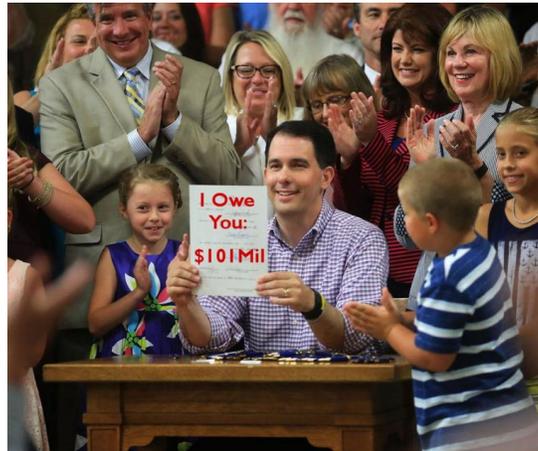
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Governor Walker: “The Dog Ate My Debt Payments”



MADISON- On Tuesday, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau sent a memo to members of the budget-writing Joint Committee on Finance indicating that Governor Walker’s administration intends to delay a \$101 million debt payment coming due this month, and instead push the principal and additional \$2.2 million projected interest costs into future budgets.

At the time, the Walker administration called the decision to delay the debt payment and accrue new interest costs a “prudent financial management tool that takes advantage of historically low interest rates”. However, yesterday Governor Walker changed course and is now blaming his decision on President Obama, stating “We have concerns about the Obama economy nationally and we want to make sure Wisconsin's prepared for it”.

Rep. Gordon Hintz, a member of the Joint Committee on Finance, released the following statement:

“Turning to the credit card again in response to poor budget decisions is nothing new for Governor Walker. However, Wisconsinites deserve better than a Governor’s version of ‘the dog ate my homework’ excuse. In less than six years, Governor Walker has kicked \$741 million of debt into the future, all while claiming to ‘keep the state’s fiscal house in order’. The Governor’s failure to be honest and accountable to the taxpayers demonstrates a lack of leadership.

“First of all, if I follow the Governor’s insinuation that Wisconsin is on the verge of a downturn, it is difficult to understand why he wouldn’t want to pay our debt when it is due now at no additional interest cost, rather than kick that \$101 million in debt payments into the future and also saddle future budgets with \$2.2 million in interest.

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“However, under President Obama, the job growth rate over the most recent one-year span has been 2.2 percent nationally. In Wisconsin, the job growth rate during that same time was nearly half, or 1.2 percent. It’s time for the Governor to stop making half-baked excuses and take ownership of his decisions.”

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