



KARL VAN ROY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Rep. Karl Van Roy

April 12, 2006
1-888-534-0090

Van Roy's Views: A Little Less Tax This Tax Day

MADISON – April may start with a day for practical jokes, but the landmark in the middle of the month is no laughing matter. Tax Day, which falls on April 17 this year, is the day all Americans must fork over their money to Uncle Sam and their home states. Nothing too funny about that!

Most Wisconsinites agree that taxes are the price we pay to live in a civilized society. However, there's nothing civilized about the tax and spend mentality of some state leaders. In fact, you could say that some people in Wisconsin are addicted to taxes. They think that more taxes and more government programs will solve every problem. Most citizens think they're wrong, including me.

Technological advances, economic innovation, and above all, the Wisconsin people are what solve problems in our state and make Wisconsin a wonderful place to live. It's hard for the economy and families to thrive, though, when they are burdened by an oppressive tax system.

This session, Governor Doyle proposed increases on everything from sales taxes to nursing homes to health care to iPods. In fact, he proposed raising taxes in Wisconsin by \$240 million.

That's right. \$240 million in tax *increases*.

I think Wisconsin families should keep more money in their pockets, not less. Instead of supporting a tax-hike and spend-more budget, I supported the Assembly Republicans' budget which reined in state spending, prioritized policy goals and actually *cut* taxes. As a result of our success, here are a few ways in which you'll be paying fewer taxes this year:

Gas Tax: As part of our effort to try to keep gas prices reasonable, we cut a penny from the gas tax, saving drivers more than \$45.9 million.

Gas Tax Indexing: For years, the state gas tax increased automatically on April 1st (apparently April is not a good month for taxpayers in general). Not anymore. We eliminated automatic gas tax indexing and saved you \$49.9 million.

College Tuition: To try and make college more affordable, we approved an increase in the tax deduction for college tuition, saving families with students more than \$10.2 million.

Social Security Benefits: Continuing our efforts to make Wisconsin a great place to retire, we eliminated taxation of Social Security benefits, saving seniors over \$99.7 million.

Health Insurance Tax Deduction: We increased the tax deduction on health insurance premiums to 100 percent for individuals whose employer does not contribute to an insurance plan, making insurance more affordable and accessible.

All in all, we cut your taxes by \$250 million. That is money that will stay in your pockets and wind up spurring Wisconsin's economy. As a legislator, one of my jobs is finding ways to give taxpayers the biggest bang for their buck. And even though Wisconsin still faces challenges in finding ways to help government tax less and spend smarter, I hope that the tax cuts I supported this session will help make your Tax Day this April a little less burdensome.

###