



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Joint Finance Committee Wraps Up Budget Hearings

NEENAH- The Joint Finance Committee concluded its public hearings on the 2011-13 biennial budget at the Pickard Civic Auditorium in Neenah.

“We traveled the state and heard from thousands of people,” said Representative Robin Vos (R-Rochester), the Assembly co-chair of the committee. “While the majority demanded higher taxes, the overwhelming majority who voted in November demanded a balanced budget without raising taxes with a commitment on job creation.”

The committee held four public hearings over a two week period in Neenah, West Allis, Superior and Stevens Point.

“It’s great hearing from people and we will certainly take their ideas and opinions under consideration as we move forward,” said Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills), the committee’s Senate co-chair. “Still, we must keep in mind the majority of people who don’t attend public hearings.”

The biennial budget, which was introduced by Governor Walker on March 1, will close the state’s \$3.6 billion shortfall without raising taxes.

“We can’t ignore the fact that Wisconsin is broke,” said Vos. “As we begin deliberations, we’ll make modifications to Governor Walker’s budget. Still, like Governor Walker, we will balance the budget by bringing spending under control. We also will keep our promise not to raise taxes to balance the budget.”

Senator Darling noted that she has heard strong support to rein in government spending from her district.

“Since the introduction of the budget, I’ve held a number of town hall meetings with my constituents,” said Darling. “While not a unanimous opinion, there is a large silent majority out there who supports balancing the budget by reducing the size of government and opposes raising taxes.”

The Joint Finance Committee will begin acting on the biennial budget in the coming weeks.