



# ASSEMBLY REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

# 2011-12 Session Notes

## Tough Decisions for a Tough Economy means a Balanced Budget...

*Out-of-control government spending* and *disastrous policies* from previous administrations have *bankrupt Wisconsin*. Assembly Republicans are committed to making the *tough decisions* that will *balance our budget now* so that we can *grow a robust and sustainable economy* for the future.

- Eliminates more than 1,000 state positions
- Reduces Debt Restructuring by \$100 Million
- Cuts new bonding under Governor Walker by \$415 million and under Governor Doyle by \$1.5 billion
- Deletes the \$587,600 child care earmark for Madison state employees
- Reduces Bonding in the Stewardship Program
- Reduces Bonding in the Building Commission by \$58 Million
- Makes Significant Welfare Reforms:
  - Reduces the benefit by \$20 a week
  - Cuts the paid Maternity Leave benefit from 12 weeks to 8 weeks
  - Reinstates the 24 month time limit for community service jobs, trial jobs and transitional placements
  - Focuses more on work and limits hours on education
  - Makes it easier to impose sanctions for non-participation
  - Reinstates the job ready category to save \$5 Million over the biennium
- Makes a number of changes to police, fire, and mediation arbitration
  - Eliminates MOE for police and fire
  - Requires new hires to pay pension and health care, while addressing salary compression issue for management
  - Makes Med-Arb Changes for health plan design and greatest weight for local economic conditions
- Provides Implementation and Funding of Voter ID
- Defunds Planned Parenthood and Prohibits Abortions at UW Hospital
- Requires Drug Tests for Unemployment Insurance
- Eliminates Immediate Payment for Unemployment Insurance to second week
- Reforms Insurance Bidding for School Districts by Requiring more transparency from WEA Trust
- Eliminates Public Financing of Campaigns
- Makes Changes to Tax Law in a Number of Ways
  - Makes Major Changes to Collective Bargaining
  - Reinstates a Manufacturing Tax Credit
  - Makes Changes to Cap Gains for Reinvestment in Wisconsin Companies
  - Repeals the Increased Utility Tax Instituted by the Democrats in December '10
- Makes Pension Reforms:
  - Requires Five Years to Be fully Vested
  - Must be a 2/3 employee to be eligible for WRS
- Eliminates Regional Transit Authorities
- Pays our bills: Minnesota Reciprocity and Patients Compensation Fund
- After these actions, Wisconsin is back to a AAA bond rating