**Budget Talking Points**

MAIN MESSAGES: (*what the public is talking about*)

*Governors Evers' budget…*

1. Raises Taxes on individuals and businesses
2. Attacks the most vulnerable - Allows funding to go to Planned Parenthood
3. Rewards Illegal Aliens (driver's licenses, in-state tuition)
4. Makes WI more dangerous - legalizes drug/criminal behavior, reduces prison pop
5. Hurts people who work, boost welfare incentives for those who won't work
6. Raises gas tax by 25% (8 cents/gal + indexing). WI --> 19th in US to 7th
7. Grows government by $7 Billion

FACTS:

* $84 Billion in total spending and borrowing
* Nearly 10% increase in spending over last budget
* $7 Billion in new spending ([equates to approx. $1,200 for every WI resident](https://www.google.com/search?q=7%2C000%2C000%2C000%2F5%2C795%2C000&rlz=1C1GCEA_enUS812US813&oq=7%2C000%2C000%2C000%2F5%2C795%2C000&aqs=chrome..69i57j6.11736j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8))
* WI has a record amount of NEW money in surplus before we start the budget year. ([$588M cash + $2.4B estimated new revenue](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/revenue_estimates/160_january_30_2019.pdf))
* Gov. Evers' budget mentions Marijuana 40 times and tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) 83 times.
* Gov. Evers [budget allows undocumented immigrants to qualify for driver's permits](https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/politics/2019/02/28/gov-tony-evers-delivers-first-budget-drivers-permits-immigrants/3016627002/)
* DOT
	+ 2017-19 total budget =$5.9 Billion
	+ 2019-21 Evers' budget = $6.6 Billion ($700M increase, 11.8%)
		- ($224M in bonding)
* DPI (K-12)
	+ 2017-19 Total budget = $14.2 Billion
	+ 2019-21 Evers' budget = $15.6 Billion ($1.4 Billion increase, 10%)

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:

*Governors Evers' budget…*

* **GROWS THE SIZE OF GOVENRMENT**: *"This budget would accelerate the growth of government and make certain it continues to grow in the future."*
	+ Creates 701 new state government positions
	+ Institutes Automatic 2% local property tax growth increase
	+ Allows municipalities to charge fees for services (trash, fire protection, etc.) & move fee out of levy
	+ Changes assessment practice to allow for tax shift on businesses (Dark Store)
	+ Gives 2% raises per year to all state government employees
	+ Explodes school funding ($200/$204, restore 2/3 funding, increase Special Ed reimbursements (+$600M), 4K program increases, low-income students count as 1.2 for aid formula)
	+ Creates “Green New Deal”-style Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy to create and enforce carbon standards on citizens and businesses - zero carbon for electricity by 2015
	+ Allows teachers to double dip (rehired annuitants)
* **SHRINKS THE WI ECONOMY**: *"Governor Walker had the goal of creating 250,000 PRIVATE SECTOR jobs. Gov. Evers would place WI at a competitive disadvantage in attracting and retaining businesses by shifting money out of the private economy and into government sector by taxing businesses more and spending more."*
	+ Caps the MAC at first $300,000 earned for a business - drastic reduction
	+ Raises capital gains tax
	+ Expands auditors and tax collectors at DOR (36 new FTE)
	+ Hikes minimum wage up to $15 for state employee, $9 for private sector
	+ Cherry picks federal tax code adoption to hurt businesses
* **EXPANDS WELFARE:** *"Instead of continuing the positive economic trends our state has been on and leveraging our 2.9%unemployment to lift people into the middle class, Governor Evers' seeks to expand welfare rolls and incentivize working less."*
	+ Gives free internet for W-2 recipients (up to $57 per month)
	+ Expands the earned income tax credit (EITC)
	+ Removes drug testing for benefits
	+ Expands term of benefits to 5 years (from 4)
	+ Shifts all *WAYFAIR* collections to lower brackets (current law puts into full income tax relief)
	+ Restores indexing for Homestead Tax Credit
	+ Expands Medicaid, imperiling future budgets, taxpayers, and private insurance payers
* **MAKES TAX DOLLARS AVAILABLE TO PLANNED PARENHOOD:** *"Current law explicitly prohibits block grants and other tax dollars from being used to fund abortions. Gov. Evers' budget removes that safeguard which would allow tax dollars to flow directly into Planned Parenthood's coffers to fund the killing of innocent life."*
	+ Reopens avenues for taxpayer funded abortions
	+ Removes the current prohibition on Title V, Title X, and The Women's Health Block Grant funds being given to entities which provide abortion services
* **RAISES TAXES and FEES:** *"This budget would accelerate the growth of government and make certain it continued to grow in the future."*
	+ Raises the gas tax by 8 cents per gallon from $.31 to $.41 - 25% increase
	+ Raises vehicle title fees on new and used car sales ($10 on each sale)
	+ Raises heavy vehicle registration fees (27% increase)
	+ Raises capital gains tax
	+ Caps the MAC credit
	+ Cherry-picks federal tax code provision to adopt
	+ Raises property taxes on homeowners (first dollar credit/school levy credit ---> state school aids.
* **REVERSES GOOD GOVENRMENT REFORMS: "***This budget is heavy on paybacks to those who elected him. Make no mistake… this is a budget BY government, FOR government. It is a Madison-first spending plan and liberal’s dream."*
	+ Freezes School Choice, Voucher program, Eliminates disability aid for Choice Schools
	+ Reinstates prevailing wage
	+ Reinstates Project Labor Agreements (PLAs)
	+ Repeals Right to Work
* **MAKES WISCONSIN MORE DANGEROUS**
	+ Decriminalizes recreational marijuana
	+ Decriminalizes possession, distribution AND manufacturing
	+ Eliminates "odor" as probably cause in drug stops
	+ Rescinds prior conviction of felony drug charges and time served and expunges records
	+ Allows individuals to grow 12 plants (equates to 14 joints per day)
	+ Reduces prison population - 17 years old to juvenile, expunges felon drug crimes after time served, and seeks programing to let criminal out of prison sooner
* **FULL OF ACOUNTING GIMMICKS:** *"The tax-borrow-spend policies and scoop-and-toss budgeting gimmicks that Governor Doyle used to put Wisconsin into a fiscal mess are back in full force in Gov. Evers' budget. I cannot overstate how damaging his budget would be to the Wisconsin economy and to working families, if enacted."*
	+ Assumes bond rating increase and savings from debt restructuring
	+ Spends most money in 2nd year of budget (Madison Math)
	+ Uses GAAP accounting numbers in the first-year to mask long-term obligations
	+ Takes money from property taxpayers (first dollar credit & school levy credit) and pays state school aids - double hit to property owners (doesn't reduced local taxes AND raises state spending)
	+ Plans to use short-term borrowing through "operating notes" (operating notes have not been issued by the state since 2011)

EXAMPLE QUOTES:

* "I cannot overstate how damaging his budget would be to the Wisconsin economy and to working families, if enacted."
* Make no mistake… this is a budget BY government, FOR government. It is a Madison liberal’s dream."
* "This budget would accelerate the growth the of government and make certain it continued to grow in the future."
* "Governor Walker had the goal of creating 250,000 PRIVATE SECTOR jobs. Gov. Evers would place WI at a competitive disadvantage in attracting and retaining businesses by shifting money out of the private economy and into government sector by taxing businesses more and spending more."
* "Instead of continuing the positive economic trends our state has been on and leveraging our 2.9% unemployment rate to lift people into the middle class, Governor Evers' seeks to expand welfare rolls and incentivize working less."
* "The MAC credit has helped create 42,000 jobs since its creation. Wisconsin has been on strong economic footing with growing state GDP and increases state revenues while cutting tax by over $8 Billion over the last 8 years. Why reverse course?"
* "Gov. Evers gives huge increases in unaccountable funding to public schools while capping the School Choice program. His budget writes a blank check to union teachers and traps kids in failing schools in addition to taking away funding for disabled students at choice schools."
* "I have long maintained that we should not even consider raising taxes one cent until we've squeezed every las ounce of efficiencies out of the DOT. Recent audits have confirmed they continue to waste money even after their devastating audit in 2017. WE can't put hard-earned tax dollars into this leaky system."
* "The Medicaid expansion is not just "FREE" money from the federal government. It puts state taxpayers on the hook and has real costs to Wisconsinites – nearly $600 million/year and as much as $700/year for a family of four with private insurance."
* "This budget is full of California ideology and Illinois money management."
* "This budget shows Tony Evers would rather have Wisconsin operate like Illinois. Short-term borrowing, beholden to unions, and out-of-control tax and spending."
* "Current law explicitly prohibits block grants and other tax dollars from being used to fund abortions. Gov. Evers' budget removes that safeguard which would allow tax dollars to flow directly into Planned Parenthood's coffers to fund the killing of innocent life."
* "After the truly despicable comments from leaders in Virginia in support of infanticide, Gov. Evers responds in-kind by attempting to funnel more taxpayer dollars to Planned Parenthood - the nation's largest abortion provider."

TAX AND FEE INCREASES:

* $1.64 Billion in new “Revenue Enhancement Measures” aka “Taxes” not counting $.08 gas tax increase. (Pg. 98 Budget in Brief)
* 25% gas tax increase (+$.08/gal.) $485 Million additional new taxes. (Pg. 76 Budget in Brief)
* Raises $42 Million more in gas taxes by reinstating gas tax indexing ON TOP of $.08/gallon tax increase (Pg. 76 Budget in Brief)
* Increase Heavy Truck and Title Fees by $72 M. (Pg. 76 Budget in Brief)
* Over $2.2 B. in combined tax and fee increases in just 2 year budget cycle

FAST FACTS:

* Claims and spends money on the speculated savings from phantom debt restructuring due to a bond rating increase
* Claims and spends money derived from 36 new DOR FTE – (numbers don’t match in his own document)
* Repeal the Extraordinary Session bills – Sue & Settle, Agency Deference, Guidance Doc Transparency – which