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Walker claims Wisconsin has a deficit because we are spending beyond our means. But Wisconsin is actually a frugal state:

- State and local employment ranks 41st out of 50 states.
- State and local payrolls rank 33rd.
- We spend below the U.S. average per capita on public health, police, parks and public welfare.
- Our state pension, unlike California, Illinois, New York and others is fully funded.

The main reason we are facing a deficit is because the Great Recession caused the largest decline in tax revenues since the end of WWII. But ill-advised tax cuts have also contributed to the deficit:

- Between 1999-2009, income tax cuts reduced state revenue by \$1 billion annually.
- Eliminating the state tax on inheritances over \$650,000 has cost the state \$110 million a year.
- Cutting the tax on business computers in 1999 cost the state \$70 million each year.

Wisconsin's tax system unfairly burdens the middle class and the poor:

- Our tax rate on the rich is near a historic low.
- Middle-income families pay twice as much of their income for property taxes as the wealthiest 1%.
- Low-income families pay six times more of their income for sales tax than wealthy households.

We can solve the deficit without destroying our schools. A March 6, 2010 *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* poll shows Wisconsin would rather raise taxes on those making over \$150,000 than cut aid to schools and local government:

- If we increased the sales tax by one penny, we would raise \$860 million each year.
- If we extended the sales tax to business and professional services, we would generate an additional \$517 million a year.
- If we restored the capital gains tax on investment profits, we would raise another \$140 million a year.

Walker says cutting taxes will create a favorable business climate. But six out of ten states with the best economies rank in the bottom 40% of "business climate" rankings while six out of ten states with the worst economies rank in the top 20 for best business climate.

Wisconsin's people will not prosper if we destroy our education system, dumb down our labor force, undermine quality of life and eliminate collective bargaining rights.

No matter how much we reduce worker compensation and taxes, we will not be able to compete with low-wage countries where workers make less than a dollar an hour. The only way we can compete is by investing in a workforce providing skill, innovation, service and quality.



Over 100,000 strong in Madison, March 12.

— Photo by Sue Ruggles

Denmark, Canada and Germany are highly unionized and as a result invest in education, healthcare, transportation, research and development – the building blocks of economic growth, innovation and job creation.

Walker is wrong to slash Wisconsin's investment in education and he is wrong that reducing taxes will lead to prosperity. For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we must continue the fight to prevent him from imposing his extremist ideology on our state and its hardworking people.

President's Message

Deficit No Excuse for Union Busting

By Dr. Michael Rosen
Local 212 President

Gov. Scott Walker claims that Wisconsin is broke, and proposes cutting Wisconsin Technical College funding by 30% annually – \$71 million – over two years. This budget would slash MATC's funding by more than \$7 million a year at a time when enrollments are soaring.

Walker also proposed cutting the UW system by \$250 million and public school funding by \$834 million.

At a time when U.S. student academic achievement is falling behind students in countries like Finland that invest in education and teachers, Walker has proposed

eliminating the mandatory 180-day school year so school districts whose funding he has slashed can reduce their number of school days. He also wants to drop the requirement that charter school teachers possess a teaching license.

But Wisconsin is NOT broke.

According to none other than the *Wall Street Journal*: "...Wisconsin is considered a very creditworthy state, with a double-A credit rating. ..." (*WSJ*, March 1, 2011)

Walker is using the existence of a deficit to implement an extreme anti-education, anti-worker agenda that will redistribute income from Wisconsin's middle class to its corporations and the wealthy. That's why he cut corporate taxes by more than



L212 members march in Madison on Saturday, March 12.

— Photo by Sue Ruggles

\$100 million before introducing his budget repair bill that slashes public employee pay. And his 2011-2013 budget raises taxes by \$51 million on the poor while including \$200 million more in tax breaks for investors and corporations.

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A 'Baseball Bat' to Wisconsinites

By Dr. Michael Rosen
Local 212 President

Governor Walker's 2011-13 budget undermines the social investments Wisconsin needs to prosper in the 21st century.

He proposes to cut \$834 million from K-12 education, an extreme hit unprecedented in the history of Wisconsin. While some budgets have limited planned increases, this is the first time in our state's history that local revenue for public schools would be slashed below current funding levels.

Walker's budget will significantly reduce

the quality of education Wisconsin's students receive. An analysis by Andrew Reschovsky, professor with the UW-Madison's La Follette School of Public Affairs, indicates that Walker's proposed budget would have the greatest impact on the poorest districts and those with the high-

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Condolences

Member:

Elizabeth Harris, Mother

Retiree:

Larry Andersen, T&I Division full-time faculty and longtime 212 Bargaining Team

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VOTE – APRIL 5

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Walker's 'Baseball Bat,' continued from page 1

est needs populations (i.e., schools in rural communities and metropolitan Milwaukee, which together comprise the majority of districts in the state). Many of those districts already operate on shoestring budgets after 18 years of revenue limits, and Walker's budget may force smaller schools to close or consolidate.

State Superintendent Tony Evers said this about Reschovsky's predictions: "Professor Reschovsky's study exposes that public school children will suffer the greatest state cut to education since the Great Depression under Governor Walker's reported budget."

Despite Walker's promises, the economic vise he has placed on already stressed schools will inevitably result in continued layoffs for teachers and support staff, as well as preventing schools from replacing retiring instructors (and many, wanting to get out before their retirement packages suffer even further, will be leaving the profession prematurely).

Walker's so-called budget repair bill – which eliminates collective bargaining and de-professionalizes teachers – further discourages talented individuals from entering a career that has suffered from a significant and chronic image problem.

Walker would slash Wisconsin Technical College funding by 30%, \$71 million over the biennium at a time of record enrollment increases. His budget makes it harder for Wisconsinites to attend tech colleges. It prevents W-2 participants from counting education as work experience and reverses Wisconsin's in-state tuition law that allowed undocumented students who had graduated from Wisconsin high schools to attend tech colleges at in-state tuition rates.

These measures punish state residents by condemning them to a lifetime of poverty and hurt the state's economy by undermining our ability to have a skilled technical labor force.

Walker would privatize UW-Madison while putting the entire university under the control of a board of his own hand-picked partisans. At the same time, his budget increases tuition at Madison by 20%.

Walker's budget slashes hundreds of millions from early childhood education pro-

grams, including cuts to the program designed to combat fraud and improve child care in Wisconsin.

As the rest of the world goes to longer school years to increase competitiveness, Walker's budget would eliminate the 180-day school year requirement. Despicably, he looks at the camera and says Wisconsin needs to compete with "Sydney and Shanghai" even as he works to make that impossible for our next generation.

Walker's budget actually raises taxes on struggling, low-income Wisconsinites by \$51 million. At the same time, Walker has championed more than \$200 million in tax cuts to the wealthiest Wisconsinites.

Walker's extreme budget also slashes revenue-generating spending to help recover money from tax cheats. Walker slashes 5% off the top, which amounts to 78 full-time jobs cut at the Department of Revenue. By contrast, a new \$12 million investment by the last administration yielded \$193 million in revenue from tax cheats, \$41 million more than expected.

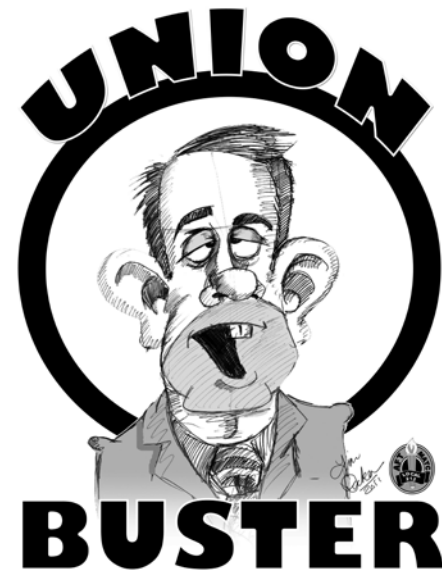
Walker's budget bill takes a baseball bat to the 70,000 Wisconsinites who depend on BadgerCare, including many of our students – yet another attack on the most vulnerable.

Walker's budget throws bureaucratic hoops at seniors who currently rely on prescription drug coverage under SeniorCare. Walker's plan makes Wisconsin seniors ineligible for coverage unless they first try but fail to get coverage under Washington's Medicare D, a half-billion a year boondoggle to benefit pharmaceutical corporations.

Walker's extreme budget bill rewards the road builders that bankrolled his campaign to the tune of \$147,000 by increasing spending to \$5.7 billion on transportation. Walker also raids the general fund to finance these projects as a payback to his campaign donors – nearly the only area in the budget where he increases spending.

At the same time he rewards top campaign donors, Walker slashes over \$80 million from aid to local governments throughout Wisconsin.

Walker's extreme budget bill takes his



This illustration by MATC Animation instructor Tim Decker has been carried at recent protests coast-to-coast.

"baseball bat" to the revenue and job-creating programs Green to Gold and the Renewable Grants and Loans Program. These programs fund cutting-edge clean energy companies that develop new green technologies – helping slow climate changes Walker believes are a hoax, while putting Wisconsinites back to work.

Walker is lying about his extreme budget bill reducing Wisconsin's structural deficit by 90%. His tough-talking rhetoric doesn't meet his own promise from the campaign, when he committed to using Generally Accepted Accounting Principles as a yardstick – which, according to his own budget document, means a \$3 billion hole.

Scott Walker is also lying about making "tough decisions" and not "kicking the can down the road." Walker pushes \$1 billion in debt into the future, costing taxpayers over \$50 million in interest in the next two years alone.

Walker's extreme budget bill even takes his "baseball bat" to recycling programs throughout Wisconsin and to the 97,000 statewide jobs supported by recycling. The bill eliminates all state regulation and every dollar of funding for county and municipal recycling programs.

Walker's budget takes Wisconsin backwards.

Retiree Power

Keep L212 Strong for Our Future Colleagues

By Joanne Shanksy

AFT Local 212 retirees have been active in the fight against the destructive measures that Gov. Scott Walker is forcing on Wisconsin. Many of us have been attending rallies in Madison and Milwaukee, making donations to the Local 212 COPE fund, collecting signatures to recall state Senator Alberta Darling, emailing, writing letters and making phone calls.

As retirees, we have the historical perspective to understand how drastic Gov. Walker's plans are. Some can remember how our courageous colleagues put their jobs on the line in 1969 during the bitter strike to establish the union. They paved the way for the rest of us to be able to carry out our careers with the comfort and security of union representation.

We've had the union there to go to bat for us so that we could concentrate on teach-

ing our students, and build MATC to be the outstanding institution that it is.

Well, these union protections will soon be gone under Scott Walker. He is destroying collective bargaining, the very foundation and reason for existence of any union. Just take the union contract, and cross out everything except limited bargaining over wages. Gone will be anything about benefits, seniority, grievance procedures, job security, class load, class size, health and safety, or any voice in educational policy. The administration won't be able to negotiate these issues with faculty and staff even if they want to.

As retirees, we owe our comfortable lifestyles, pension and health care benefits to the work of our strong union. Let's take the responsibility now to do all we can to leave that legacy for our future colleagues. They deserve it as much as we do.

Part-Time Faculty Corner

Be Proactive – Know Your Rights

By Sally A. Lindner (SAL)
6th VP – Part-Time Faculty

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph."

Thomas Paine wrote those words in December 1776, and they resonate with us today. We are again faced with times that will try our souls, as we face a governor who is forcing an end to public workers' right to join together in a common voice. Thus, ordinary citizens will end up with far less power to shape the course of our democracy, and predatory corporate interests will have even more.

Further, his cuts to Medicaid, Badger Care, Senior Care, etc. will harm the most vulnerable of our citizens. Funding to schools,

including Wisconsin technical colleges, has been slashed to the point that school systems will be crippled.

How will all of this affect you? MATC administration has announced a 25% reduction for our colleagues, the part-time paraprofessionals, and this could very well happen to part-time faculty as well. We need to be proactive. You need to know your rights should administration opt to reduce our classes. Remember that our full-time colleagues have a no layoff clause; you do not have that protection!

The summer and fall Letters of Availability have just arrived in your home mailboxes. This letter can play a very important role for class assignments.

Bottom Line: All part-time faculty need to understand seniority, how to calculate their pay, bumping rights, Letters of Availability, etc. Do *you*? Call me for information: 414-774-0740. Be proactive!

Furthermore, we can't pretend that as retirees we have it made, "scott-free," regarding our pensions and other benefits. Who knows with any certainty that the Wisconsin Retirement System is a keeper in this extreme makeover of Wisconsin and its legacy.

There is much to be done. Call Phyllis Holder, Local 212 Retiree President, to find out how you can help: 414-765-0910.

Zeidler Lecture: 'Why We Need Public Unions'

By Philip Blank, Retired L212 Past President and Chair, FPZ Lecture Committee

At the annual lecture commemorating the late Frank P. Zeidler's life, UW-Madison professor William Jones will speak on "Why We Need Public Employee Unions."

Jones has written and spoken extensively on African-American labor history and is currently writing the history of AFSCME, which had its origin in Wisconsin. No doubt his talk will include the current situation involving public employee unions, their contribution to America's middle class, and the future of the labor movement in a democratic society.

The Frank P. Zeidler annual lectures commemorate Mayor Zeidler, who before, during and after his administration was a strong advocate for vocational education and the labor movement. He fought against almost impossible odds to get Channel 10 for public TV at what is now MATC.

The event will be held at Centennial Hall at the downtown Milwaukee Public Library, 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 29, free and open to the public. (Mr. Zeidler would have it no other way.) Those who itemize tax deductions may wish to contribute by writing a check to International Institute of Wisconsin and write in the lower left "Zeidler Lecture."