



August 2005 WCDP News

Winnebago County Democratic Party 920-203-6883

Governor Doyle Signs State Budget Protects Education, Freezes Property Taxes

Governor Doyle signed into law a responsible, balanced budget reflecting the values of the people of Wisconsin, investing in education, lowering taxes, preserving health care, protecting the environment, creating jobs, and protecting property taxpayers.

Governor Doyle's budget contains a responsible property tax freeze, relieving the growing tension between schools and property taxpayers. The difference between the Governor's freeze and the Republican's: Governor Doyle used his veto power to ensure property tax relief AND protect, not cut our schools.

"Two years ago, I signed a budget that brought us out of the depths of the worst deficit in the state's history, and today I sign a budget that continues to move Wisconsin forward," Governor Doyle said. "It is a balanced budget that embodies the values of the people of this great state and keeps Wisconsin on the move."

Governor Doyle reversed the Legislature's cuts to school revenue, fully funding two-thirds of local school costs by vetoing excessive state spending, unnecessary financing strategies, ill-conceived tax giveaways, and pork barrel projects.

The 2005-2007 Budget increases school funding and property tax relief by more than \$400 million over the Legislature's. Schools will be able to increase three percent annually - the same level allowed for years under Republican and Democratic administrations. By fully funding a two-thirds commitment to schools, the state will shoulder these educational costs, allowing Doyle's property tax freeze.

"I have been up front from the start of this process that my biggest priority is protecting education and property taxpayers," Governor Doyle said.

The budget will freeze the average homeowner's property taxes in December and reduce them \$5 next year. There has been an average increase of \$119 the past five years.

The Governor's plan does four things: prevents schools from making devastating cuts; provides local communities a minimum increase of two percent, or the rate of growth, whichever is higher; maintains current limits on technical colleges; and lasts for only two years - the same as the budget cycle. The Governor believes the state shouldn't freeze communities longer than it can guarantee its funding commitment.

(continued inside)

The next meeting of the
Winnebago County Democratic
Party is:
August 10th
@
The Delta
515 N Sawyer Street
Oshkosh, Wisconsin
7:00 - 9:00 PM

Agenda:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Treasurer's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Executive Committee Reports

Old Business

- Volunteer's Needed
 - o Fair Booth
 - o Corn Roast
 - o Membership Updates

New Business

- To be Decided

Please join or renew your membership!

Join the Party

**Send Check for \$25 to: Paula Rouse, Treasurer
839 West 17th Street, Oshkosh, WI 54902**

Petri Votes Against Workers, Jobs, and Constituents in Supporting CAFTA

(From Gordon Hintz's Press Release)

Ignoring negative impacts on workers and farmers in his 6th Congressional District, and throughout Wisconsin, Rep. Tom Petri voted in favor of the Central American Free Trade Act (CAFTA). This vote of support comes despite large failure of previous trade agreements to bring about new markets for businesses, workers, and farmers in Wisconsin and the United States.

"It is pretty clear there is a growing disconnect between Rep. Petri and the people he is supposed to be representing," said Gordon Hintz, 6th CD Democratic Chair. "Who benefits under the current terms of CAFTA? Wisconsin has been devastated by the outsourcing of jobs overseas and has little in return to show for it except lower paying jobs with fewer benefits and an increased struggle for working families."

Since 2000, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and Most Favored Nation status for China, have led to the loss of 92,000 manufacturing jobs in Wisconsin. The six countries in CAFTA have a buying power comparable to New Haven, Connecticut. Due to the limited size of their economies, these countries account for barely one percent of U.S. trade. An amount that makes it unlikely to provide benefit to U.S. workers producing exports, including cheese and Wisconsin's other agriculture exports. CAFTA's trade deregulation model primarily benefits global food corporations and pharmaceutical cartels, not Wisconsin's family farmers and rural communities. Petri's CAFTA vote comes when the United States is projected to become a net importer of agricultural products for the first time in 45 years, a disturbing trend combined with our increasing trade deficit.

"Trade agreements should contribute to economic growth, promote development and respect democracy in other nations, and be part of comprehensive efforts to ensure economic opportunities for U.S. workers," said Hintz. "This agreement fails to do these things. Given the challenges facing Wisconsin's economy, it is disappointing that Rep. Petri won't stand up for the workers, businesses, and farmers in his own District."

Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of Social Security!

Social Security Birthday Rally; Saturday, August 13th, 2005 - 10:00AM

Social Security Administration Office - 607 W Northland Ave, Appleton, WI 54911

Speakers will include:

Leon Burzynski, Wisconsin Association of Retired Americans and **Jon Lipschutz**, Wisconsin United to Protect Social Security

For 70 years, Social Security has provided retirees, children, spouses and the disabled with guaranteed benefits. Now, the President has proposed to privatize Social Security - resulting in massive benefit cuts for all Americans. ***Please join in celebrating the 70 years that Social Security has provided for needy Americans, as well as standing up and saying "NO" to privatization!***

For more info, contact Jim Reiland: 920.725.3796 - jjreilan@famvid.com

Letter Writer's Wanted!

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin wants volunteers to help write letters to the editor and call in to talk radio. If interested, please let us know!

Governor Doyle Signs State Budget

(Continued from page 1)

Some of the Governor's cost reductions have included:

- \$150 million from the Governor's Accountability, Consolidation and Efficiency (ACE) Initiative - using the state's purchasing power, encouraging better commodity contract negotiation, consolidating network servers, and streamlining human resources.
- \$36 million, selling low-priority state buildings and improved use of state-owned office space.
- Health insurance cost increases were less than five percent (less than half the national average), prescription drug costs were reduced by \$25 million.
- Medicaid cost savings of \$40 million proposed by the Governor and \$90 million saved through vetoes coming from prescription drug cost containment, quality control and fraud prevention, expanding managed care, increased federal support, and vetoes of unfunded rate increases. A renegotiated fiscal agent contract will save State Medicaid program costs \$93 million.
- Reducing the number of state automobiles by 1,000.

Through his veto, the Governor restored several Legislature cuts. He vetoed \$43 million in cuts to the University of Wisconsin system. And added back \$8 million, doubling the contribution to UW students' financial aid. He vetoed directives in the Legislature's budget spending \$80 million to buy land the state already owns. He used the veto to preserve the Smart Growth program, and vetoed a plan reducing the state's tipping fee, preventing Wisconsin from becoming a dumping ground for out of state trash.

Finally, Governor Doyle restored \$8 million to child care quality improvement efforts and vetoed the Republican proposal increasing child care costs for working families by up to \$500 a year.

"Wisconsin is a great state because we have always been optimistic about our future," Governor Doyle said. "And I am optimistic for Wisconsin - present and future. The budget I signed today keeps us on course to a brighter future for all Wisconsin citizens."

We hope to see you at these events:

- **Winnebago County Fair - August 9-14**
Show your party pride and spread the word! Shift volunteers needed!
- **WCDP Breakfast - August 26th - 7:00am**
Enjoy with fellow Dems - BJ Clancy's Oneida and Midway - Menasha!
- **WCDP Annual Corn Roast - August 27th - 1:00pm**
County Park, Hwy 76 Oshkosh - speakers TBA - \$5 adults, \$2.50 kids.
- **WCDP Monthly Meeting - September 14th - 7:00pm**
The Delta Family Restaurant - 515 N. Sawyer Street, Oshkosh

Contact Jef Hall, Chair with any questions or to volunteer (*please!*)

920.203.6883 - jef@jefhall.com

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**
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Don't miss the famous WCDP Corn Roast!

Join the Wisconsin Democratic Party

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
Vacant

Joanne Roush, Fundraising
Chair
jroush@earthline.net

Bree Madison, Communications
Chair
bree_615@yahoo.com

- Membership form**
- New Member
 - Renewal
 - General** (\$25) add just \$10 each for up to three additional members in your household
 - Family** (\$60) includes all family members + bumper sticker
 - Special** (\$10) Senior Citizen, Student, Unemployed
 - Cash in the amount of \$ _____
 - Check or money order in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ members enclosed. Make check payable to Democratic Party of Wisconsin
 - Please charge/deduct \$ _____ from the account below (one time charge)
 - Please charge/deduct \$ _____ monthly/quarterly – circle one (A total of \$ _____
 - Visa
 - Master Card

Exp Date _____

Signature

Name (s)

Address

City

Zip

Phone (day)

Phone (eve)

E-mail

Fax No.

Date _____ **County** _____

No. of members joining: _____

Congressional district: _____

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222 State Street, Suite
400 Madison, WI 53703-2273
608-255-5172

party@wisdems.org
www.wisdems.org

About Our Organization...

The Democratic Party of Winnebago County is committed to seeking out and helping to elect Democrats to office at all levels of government, working to have Democrats appointed to boards and commissions at all levels of government, developing and working for the adoption of progressive positions on political and public policy issues, and working to keep our organization vibrant and in touch with its members and the community as a whole. At a minimum, we need every Democratic-minded person's membership.