

POWRS SPECIAL EDITION, March 2015:

Dividing & Conquering Your Future

Walker's Budget Takes WI Backwards. Gov. Walker's 2015 - 2017 budget speaks to the worst of what government can do: reduce programs and services to deliberately weaken our *shared social contract*. Wisconsin will not be improved by his budget because it fails to understand a fundamental societal principle: we all do better, when we ALL do better. Few, except the elite and out-of-state corporations, will do better in his budget.

Austerity is shortsighted and NOT necessary

- **\$300 million cut to UW System (13% reduction)**, two-year tuition freeze, and allowing the UW-System to become an "authority" with broad employee flexibility,
- **Allowing state employees to opt-out of state employee health plan** with an annual credit of \$2,000 thereby weakening the entire state health care system,
- **\$5 million cut (34% reduction)** to the Educational Communications Board (WI Public Radio and TV) which provides statewide communication for everyone,
- Converting 37 upper management civil service positions to **new POLITICAL appointments**, giving Walker unprecedented control over agency budgets,
- **\$15 million cut to Senior care** which provides prescription drug benefits to 85,000 seniors over age 65, increasing costs to those least able to pay,
- **Eliminating 66 DNR positions**, many of which are scientific positions that aid in water, air, and groundwater management and regulation,
- **Borrowing \$1.3 BILLION** to cover the cost of state transportation projects instead of finding income streams or project prioritizing,
- **Reducing per pupil aids to public schools by \$135 million** over two years, ending voucher school enrollment cap, and giving \$17 million to voucher schools from public funds.

Trickle down doesn't work

- Walker brags about cutting WI taxes by \$2 billion since 2011. If cutting taxes had really stimulated Wisconsin's economy, he would have met his 250,000 new job goal for 2014. MN raised taxes and has been out performing WI by every measure.
- You can't run a sustainable consumer economy on low wages, low infrastructure and education investments, and high debt.

If it ain't broke...don't fix it

Walker's budget is messing with what has worked for over 100 years:

- Privatizing the **University of Wisconsin** Madison as a "public authority"
- Moving **Worker's Compensation Program** to the Dept. of Administration and reducing services to harmed workers even though it is self funded and nationally recognized,
- Weakening the best **public retirement system** in the nation. Changing to 401K type plans & "opt out" schemes divides young from old and weakens WRS.
- Eroding our **K-12 public school system** that was once "second to none".