

WMC: BUSINESS BRIEFING 2009-2010

Since January 2009, the Wisconsin Legislature is considering a number of policies aimed at Wisconsin business.

Please call 1-800-362-9472 and explain to your legislator why the proposals outlined on this card may make it more difficult for your company to remain competitive. For more information go to www.wmc.org. Don't delay, call today!

On the fast track are proposals to:

- **Increase income taxes** to a top rate of 7.75 percent, 11th highest in the nation. (\$318 million tax increase)
- **Increase taxes** by over \$1 billion on businesses and investors.
- **Increase state spending** by 10 percent over the next two years.
- **Increase capital gains tax** by cutting the 60 percent exclusion to only 40 percent. (\$180 million tax increase)
- **Increase energy costs** with a gross receipts tax on petroleum products. Executives would be fined if they passed the tax on to consumers. (\$271 million tax increase)
- **Expand liability** by returning to joint and several liability that allows a defendant found to bear 1 percent of fault to pay 100 percent of the damages.
- **Increase pressure to raise property taxes** by repealing the QEO, qualified economic offer law.
- **Increase property taxes** by exempting transportation and other expenses for school districts from revenue limits.
- **Increase insurance premiums** by mandating increased coverage for auto insurance.
- **Increase the minimum wage** by 17 percent.
- **Repeal a ban on local minimum wage** ordinances.
- **Index the minimum wage** increases to inflation, year after year, without any connection to worker productivity increases.
- **Increase corporate taxes** by 11 percent a year under a plan that taxes profits made on operations in other states. (\$215 million tax increase)



WMC
WISCONSIN'S BUSINESS VOICE

(OVER)

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- **Increase insurance premiums** on employers by nearly \$100 million for new mandated health care coverage.
- **Increase the garbage tax** from \$5.90 to \$10.30 per ton.
- **Increase fees** for large water users.
- **Mandate that workers' wage liens** supersede banks in the event of a business closing. This will require increased collateral for you to get a loan, and may even require you to provide more collateral for existing loans.
- **Expand prevailing wage law** to private projects receiving public assistance.
- **Expand prevailing wage law** to public projects as small as \$2,000.
- **Increase litigation** by allowing direct access to circuit court for some workplace discrimination claims, bypassing the Labor and Industry Review Commission.
- **Allow juries to hear** presentations from a judge about the legal consequences of a verdict in a civil case and allow lawyers for both sides to comment before deliberations.
- **Ban corporate speech** at election time through increased regulation of business-funded issue advertising.
- **Expand mandated domestic partner benefits** for businesses and government to include workers' compensation death benefits, Family and Medical Leave benefits, and allow claims for wrongful death.
- **Extend the sales tax** to custom software and overturn a Supreme Court precedent established that said custom software is tax exempt.
- **Redirect \$1.45 million from the Wisconsin Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund** to fund reemployment services to unemployment insurance recipients. The Wisconsin Unemployment Fund is currently insolvent and borrowing from the Federal Government to pay benefits.
- **Direct payments to unions** of \$2.6 million for employment training.
- **Extend compensatory and punitive damages** to the workplace in discrimination cases.

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