

# *Wisconsin Property Taxpayers, Inc.*



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Media Release

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## **Taxpayer Group Lauds Veto of Stealthy Property Tax Shift**

MADISON - Speaking on behalf of the organization's members around the state Michael Birkley, Legislative Director for Wisconsin Property Taxpayers, thanked and praised Governor Doyle for striking a provision in the Budget Repair Bill that would have expanded the property tax exemption for low-income housing projects.

In his veto message, the Governor said "I am vetoing these provisions because they are major nonfiscal policy and should not be included in this bill. These provisions implement a substantial change in the treatment of certain low-income housing projects for property tax purposes that necessitates full public discussion."

"We thank the Governor for responding to our concerns about this provision; the lack of information about how much of the statewide property tax burden it would have shifted from these tax exempt housing projects to the state's property taxpayers; the lack of state funding for the expansion of this state-mandated property tax exemption; the lack of full public discussion of this provision; and the stealthy way in which it was rolled into this bill," Birkley said.

"Like the Governor, we support tax relief for organizations that offer housing to Wisconsin's low-income population, but we believe that state-mandated subsidies for low-income housing should be paid for with state – not local property taxpayers' dollars," Birkley added.

"We look forward to the opportunity to work with the next Legislature to achieve that objective," he concluded.

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