



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Legislative Leaders Respond to the Governor’s Unrealistic Budget**

*“His Bounce Backward Budget would return us to dark days of bad budgeting.”*

**Madison** – Today, Legislative leaders Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) Senate Majority Leader Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg), Joint Finance Co-Chairs Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) and Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) released the following statement in response to Governor Evers’ 2021-23 Biennial State Budget:

“Instead of priorities to move the state forward, the governor’s budget proposal is more of a political document to fill the wish lists of his own party,” **said Speaker Vos.** “The spending plan contains far too many poison pills like expanding welfare, legalizing recreational marijuana, repealing Act 10 and growing the size of government.”

“The Governor’s budget is completely irresponsible and unrealistic. It’s reckless with tax dollars and loaded with divisive policies that move our state backward,” **Leader LeMahieu said.** “Our responsible Republican budgeting allowed our state and our people to weather the 2020 storm and come out stronger. We’ll set Evers’ bad budget aside and continue to build on our strong foundation that put our state on strong fiscal footing over the decade.”

“I am disappointed that Governor Evers’ has ignored the calls of Republicans in the legislature and included divisive items in his budget proposal,” **said Rep. Born.** “Welfare expansion and marijuana legalization are items we have already said we would not take up in the budget - but the Governor included them anyway. Now he is using these divisive items to try and fund massive amounts of spending and several new programs, when he can’t even manage the programs he currently has before him.”

“The Governor is selling his budget as a ‘change’ budget. But I don’t know why we would want to change the responsible budgeting that has produced a massive budget surplus despite a pandemic,” **Senator Marklein said.** “I don’t know why we would want to change the reforms that have given us the largest rainy day fund in state history. And I definitely don’t want to change our focus on respecting taxpayers while funding our priorities. The Governor’s change budget is a bad budget for Wisconsin.”

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