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WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

41ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Early Glimpse into this Year's State Budget

As your state representative, one of the most important things I do is help decide how Wisconsin will spend its money in our biennial state budget. Every two years, the governor develops a plan to allocate money for state agencies and programs, as well as develop a way for the state to gain revenue to keep Wisconsin a wonderful place to live and work.

For the past eight years, we have seen our state's economy expand with the creation of over 200,000 new jobs. We have an historic amount of money in our rainy day fund, and are starting this year with a surplus. The 2017-2019 budget included a record increase in funding for K-12 education because every Wisconsin kid deserves a quality education.

On February 28th, in a joint legislative session, Governor Evers unveiled an \$83.5 billion budget that increases spending over \$6 billion, and raises sales, income and property taxes on hardworking Wisconsinites like you.

In his budget, Governor Evers proposed:

- Increasing property taxes by 1.7%.
- Allowing for the decriminalization of recreational marijuana use.
- Reallocating state revenue for the funding of Planned Parenthood.
- Increasing the gas tax to 40.9 cents a gallon.
- Increasing the state minimum wage to \$9 by 2021, as well as creating a task force to study ways to move Wisconsin towards a \$15 minimum wage.
- Utilizing Wisconsin's initial budget surplus of \$616 million secured from the past eight years of fiscal responsibility to fund these initiatives. After all is said and done, there would be \$20 million left under his current plan.

If passed, Governor Evers' budget would leave Wisconsin with a \$1.7 billion structural deficit by 2021.

Although Wisconsin chose a divided government in November, we are capable of reaching consensus on issues that are most important to us. We already agree that it is necessary to reform criminal justice and corrections, as well as continue to fund K-12 education. It is important that we find common ground in order for our government to meet the needs of all Wisconsin citizens.

In April, I will be holding listening sessions in the district, and would like to see you there. Also, I will be sending out a budget survey to learn more about your thoughts. In the meantime, you can contact my office in Madison at (608) 266-8077, or Rep.Ballweg@legis.wisconsin.gov. I look forward to working with you and all my colleagues on both sides aisle and in the senate to help develop a budget that is sustainable, balanced, responsible and keeps Wisconsin moving in the right direction.

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