



Oct. 17, 2018 - Dear Governor Walker & Superintendent Evers: Close the Dark Store Loopholes!

October 18, 2018

For Immediate Release

Contact Gail Sumi, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, 608-267-4477

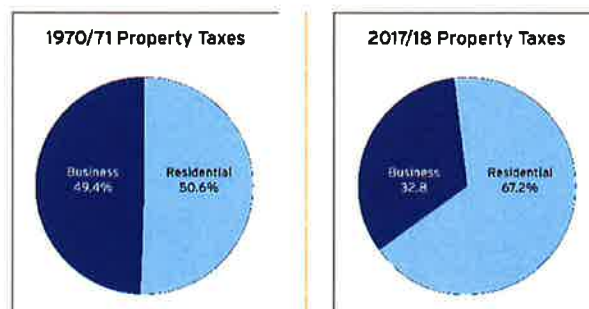
At a media conference in Ashwaubenon yesterday city, village, town and county officials from Northeastern Wisconsin asked the gubernatorial candidates to commit to closing the Dark Store and Walgreens Loopholes in their state budget proposals.

Local officials are concerned about tax fairness. They asked Governor Walker and Superintendent Evers to support closing the loopholes to stop the shift in property taxes to homeowners and small businesses that occurs when big box stores avoid paying their fair share of taxes.

The joint event was organized by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, the Wisconsin Counties Association and the Wisconsin Towns Association. About two dozen officials attended and signed the attached letter to the candidates while those not able to attend had already added their signatures via email. The Town of Grand Chute Board added their resolution to the packet. Additional resolutions adopted by cities and villages statewide are listed [here](#).

More information on the Dark Store Loopholes on the League of Wisconsin Municipalities [website](#).

The Big Shift to Homeowners





October 17, 2018

Dear Governor Walker and Superintendent Evers:

As local government officials deeply concerned about maintaining a fair property tax system, we respectfully ask you to commit to closing the Dark Store and *Walgreens* Loopholes as a part of the next state budget. This is the only way to avoid having even more of the property tax burden shifted from commercial and manufacturing properties to homeowners and small businesses.

For the last ten years growing numbers of commercial and manufacturing properties have been using property tax avoidance strategies known as the Dark Store and *Walgreens* loopholes to push their fair share of paying for the cost of critical local services onto homeowners and small businesses.

Local governments across the state have fought to defend their assessments against the Dark Store and *Walgreens* Loopholes, but the fight is expensive and a waste of public resources.

Cities, villages, towns and counties statewide are in the midst of preparing their 2019 budgets and are acutely aware of the need to fairly share the cost of local government services among all property owners. We know you agree that homeowners should not and cannot bear more of the tax burden than they already do, which is nearly 70% of the total state levy.

Well drafted legislation closing the Dark Store and *Walgreens* Loopholes already exists. The bills have broad bipartisan support and would pass both houses of the legislature easily if put to a vote. We need your leadership to make that vote happen. Please include both the Dark Store and *Walgreens* Loophole bills in your biennial state budget. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Oct. 17, 2018 - Dear Governor Walker & Superintendent Evers: Close the Dark Store Loopholes!

Alice Connor, Calumet County Clerk

Mary Schwabauer, Calumet County Supervisor

Mary Kardoske, President Village of Ashwaubenon

Jerry J. Libaldo, Chair Town of Janesville

Pres. Village of Rothschild

Michael J. Malchuk, Trustee Ashwaubenon

Dan Carlisle, Outagamie County Board

Tom Meyer

Manitowoc County Board Chair

Tom By

Alderman - City of Manitowoc

Steve Cummings

MAYOR, City of Oshkosh

Ed White

Mayor, City of Shawano

Patrick Wojcik

CHAIRMAN, BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Stan Paul

Trustee Ashwaubenon

Dan Mahoney

Village of Plover Administrator



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[Handwritten signature]

Kathy Lefebvre Br. Co. Supervisor Dist. 6

Alex Tran BC Supervisor - District 21

Tom Mc BC Supervisor #1

Jim Patten Village of Allouez President

DJ Collins Oshkosh Outagamie City Supervisor District 33

Cheryl Hass, City of Manawa

Logan Hass, City of Manawa

Alvin Genger Village of Ashwaubenon

Jenny Iverson Outagamie County Board Supervisor District #24



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Steve Barg
City Administrator
City of Marshfield

Gary Henke
Mayor
City of New London

Trey K. Mitchell
Alderman District 9
City of Sheboygan

Steven Bergin
Trustee
Village of Park Ridge

Steve Herman
Common Council Member
City of Oshkosh

Jonathan Neils
County Board Supervisor
Manitowoc County

Jim Bohren
City Alderman, 10th District
City of Sheboygan WI

Wally Hitt
Council Member Ward 5
City of Marinette

Justin M. Nickels
Mayor
City of Manitowoc

Kathie Boyette
First District Alderman
City of Neenah

Rick Jaeckels
Mayor
City of Chilton

Michael Norton
County Board Supervisor
Winnebago County

Bill Brandt
Mayor
City of Antigo

Ryan Jennings
Alderman, District 2
City of De Pere

Gary D. Olsen
Village Administrator
Village of Rothschild

Mary Lynne Donohue
Alderman, District 3
City of Sheboygan

Patrick Laughrin
County Board Supervisor
Calumet County

Jim Osterloh
Chairman
Town of Eaton, Brown County

Dennis DuPrey
Administrator Clerk Treasurer
Village of Hilbert

Pete Marcks
County Board Supervisor
Outagamie County

Katrin Patience
County Board Supervisor
Outagamie County

Barbara J Ermeling
Village President
Village of Weston

Jake Maring
Alderman District 4
City of Algoma

Brian Peterson
County Board Supervisor
Outagamie County

Joy Hagen
County Board
Supervisor/Vice-Chair
Outagamie County

Randy Meyer
Mayor
City of Sheboygan Falls

Diane Reese
Mayor
City of New Holstein



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John Rogers
Village President
Village of Winneconne

Zachary J. Vruwink
Mayor
City of Wisconsin Rapids

John H. Small
Village President
Village of Marathon City

Julie M. Wahlen, CPA
Finance Director/Treasurer
Town of Grand Chute,
Outagamie County

Tom Snider
Chairperson
Town of Winneconne

Danae Steele
Aldersperson
City of Neenah

Duaine Stillman
County Board Supervisor
Calumet County

Kevin Sturn
County Board Supervisor
Outagamie County

Shad Tenpas
City Administrator
City of Sheboygan Falls

Alex Tran
County Board Supervisor
Brown County

Debby Vander Heiden
County Board Supervisor
Outagamie County



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As local government officials deeply concerned about maintaining a fair property tax system, we respectfully ask you to commit to closing the Dark Store and *Walgreens* Loopholes as a part of the next state budget. This is the only way to avoid having even more of the property tax burden shifted from commercial and manufacturing properties to homeowners and small businesses.

For the last ten years growing numbers of commercial and manufacturing properties have been using property tax avoidance strategies known as the Dark Store and *Walgreens* loopholes to push their fair share of paying for the cost of critical local services onto homeowners and small businesses.

Local governments across the state have fought to defend their assessments against the Dark Store and *Walgreens* Loopholes, but the fight is expensive. For example, the City of Wauwatosa expects to spend more money defending against these tax avoidance efforts than it will receive in state shared revenue. This is a waste of public resources.

Cities, villages, towns and counties statewide are in the midst of preparing their 2019 budgets and are acutely aware of the need to fairly share the cost of local government services among all property owners. We know you agree that homeowners should not and cannot bear more of the tax burden than they already do, which is nearly 70% of the total state levy.

Well drafted legislation closing the Dark Store and *Walgreens* Loopholes already exists. The bills have broad bipartisan support and would pass both houses of the legislature easily if put to a vote. We need your leadership to make that vote happen. Please include both the Dark Store and *Walgreens* Loophole bills in your biennial state budget. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Grand Chute Town Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dave Schowalter', written over a horizontal line.

Dave Schowalter, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Sherman', written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Sherman, Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Davidson', written over a horizontal line.

Eric Davidson, Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Nooyen', written over a horizontal line.

Jeff Nooyen, Vice-Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Travis Thyssen', written over a horizontal line.

Travis Thyssen, Supervisor