

The Word

JANUARY 2012



Have friends or relatives still not willing to sign a recall petition? Share the following article from the Huffington Post.

Wisconsin Recall Opponents: Barking Up the Wrong Fruit

Rick Horowitz

MILWAUKEE - "Sour grapes!"

You've been hearing that a lot lately here in the Badger State. A half-million petition signatures in a matter of weeks can do that - make certain folks just a little tetchy, I mean. Hypersensitive.

Call it Recall Reaction Syndrome.

You get a recall campaign up and running against some prominent state official - a recently elected governor, say (in Wisconsin, say) - and his defenders start complaining that you're nothing but a "sore loser." You want a "do-over."

It's "sour grapes!" they cry.

No it's not. In fact, they're barking up the wrong fruit!

Inside This Issue

Recall Opponents.....1

Job Growth.....3

Pattern of Lies.....4&5

USEFULL.....6



Don't think grapes – think lemons. Think: the Lemon Law!

You know the Lemon Law, don't you? Lots of states have them, to protect consumers from getting ripped off when they make a big purchase that goes really bad.

You buy a new car, say, and you sign on the dotted line and you drive it off the dealer's lot all bright and shiny, and before long everything's going wrong with it. We're not talking little pings here; we're talking major problems. You try to get it fixed – you take it into the shop two, three, four times – but it keeps breaking down on you. Whatever goes wrong stays wrong.

Are you stuck with that rotten new car? Of course not! Under those Lemon Laws, you're protected. This new car of yours wasn't anything like what it was supposed to be. It didn't work anything like it was supposed to work. So you can drag it back to the dealer and get yourself a different one.

Makes a lot of sense, doesn't it? Nobody deserves to get ripped off like that. They've put you through all sorts of grief – but there's a way to make it come out OK.

Now, let's say you bought a shiny new governor – a Scott Walker, say, the 2011 model Scott Walker – and you barely drive it off the lot before it starts going haywire.

The steering isn't stable – it keeps lurching to the right! It's belching smoke – it's belching such thick smoke that half the time, you can't even see what it's doing!

That's not all, though. The gas pedal on the 2011 Scott Walker sticks to the floor, and the brakes are shot. It runs right over people! Teachers! State workers! All sorts of people – just knocks 'em flat and keeps right on rolling! It's as if speed limits and "Stop" signs aren't even there!

Well, nobody expects you to keep driving a disaster like that, do they? That would be ridiculous. And worse than ridiculous – that would be really dangerous! Of course you take it back to the dealership. Of course you get yourself a new one. Something reliable. Something that isn't always trying to crash right through the guard rails and run right off the road.

When the car dealership sells you a clunker, you're allowed to send it back – that's the Lemon Law.

And here in Wisconsin, when your governor turns out to be a clunker, you're allowed to send him back, too – that's a recall.

Just think of it as a Consumer Protection Plan for voters.



Calendar

January 4 - WAWMEA Exec Board 4:00 p.m. Brookfield UEP

January 11 - WAWMEA Representative Assembly - 4:00 p.m. Brookfield UEP

January 18 - West Suburban Council RA - 4:30 p.m. Brookfield UEP

January 19 - USEFULL - [Learning Workshop - Mentoring Keeping the Communication Open](#)

January 26 - USEFULL - [ESP Learning Workshop - Strategies for Dealing with Problem Behaviors](#)

January 28 - USEFULL - [DPI Reviewer Training 9:00 - 4:00 Saturday](#)

February 1 - WAWMEA Exec Board 4:00 p.m. Brookfield UEP

February 6 - West Suburban Council Board of Directors - UEP - 4:30 p.m.

February 8 - WAWMEA Representative Assembly - 4:00 p.m. Brookfield UEP

February 16 - USEFULL - [PDP Annual Progress Check-In Night](#)

February 28 - [Retirement Forum](#)

Walker/Republican Policies

Put Wisconsin Job Growth 50th in the Nation

Since the beginning of the fiscal year in July, Wisconsin ranks 50th - dead last - among the states in job performance, losing 27,600 jobs. If Wisconsin had simply matched the national rate of job creation since April, nearly 34,000 more families would have someone in the family with a full-time job.

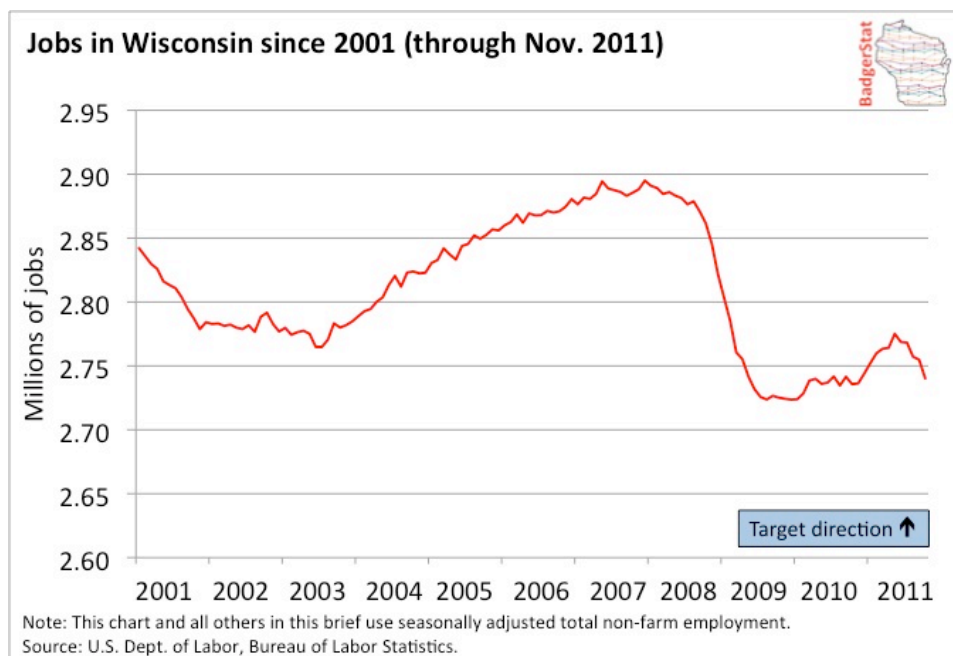
Wisconsin lags behind the national economy because their "cuts only" approach drastically reduced consumer spending, a major roadblock on the path to economic recovery. Their big cuts in state and local government programs and in workers' take-home pay are bad choices in a difficult economy. In tough times, the worst thing a governor can do is further shrink the economy.

One only has to compare Wisconsin with what is happening in Illinois to see the different approaches. Going into this year, both states faced serious revenue shortfalls. But their governors chose opposite strategies.

In Wisconsin, Governor Walker undermined collective bargaining rights and reduced take-home pay of hundreds of thousands of people employed by schools, communities and the state. He slashed over one billion dollars a year from state programs and spurned hundreds of millions of federal dollars that Wisconsin could have received. At the same time, he cut taxes on the state's wealthiest taxpayers and biggest corporations.

In Illinois, Governor Patrick Quinn shepherded increases in corporate and personal income taxes through the legislature, in order to make sure that cuts in state programs were as modest as possible. They took a balanced approach to its budget, mixing revenue increases with cuts.

Estimates predict that Walker's policies are causing the loss of about 18,000 full-time private sector jobs this year. When the state takes money out of the economy, it hurts business. Under Act 10, a typical state worker took home \$70 less each week. This depletes the household budget, costing local businesses \$70 a week. The combined impact of this policy alone subtracted \$700 million from economic activity. *Adapted from an IWF press release, Dec. 14, 2011*





Walker: A Pattern of Lies



The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel regularly takes statements made by state politicians, checks the facts and reports whether they've been honest or dishonest. You can check their sources and review links, related documents and articles online at politifactwisconsin.com. Their research reveals a disturbing pattern:

Scott Walker has a difficult time telling the truth.

Walker's claim: **"I campaigned on (the proposals in the budget repair bill for Wisconsin) all throughout the election. Anybody who says they are shocked on this has been asleep for the past two years."** (Scott Walker on Monday, February 21st, 2011 in a news conference) In the turbulent wake of his controversial plan to sharply curtail collective bargaining rights, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has faced criticism that he gave no warning of such a dramatic plan during the long 2010 governor's race.

The truth: The first public hint Walker gave that he was considering eliminating many union bargaining rights was at a Dec. 7, 2010 Milwaukee Press Club forum, some four weeks after the election. "Walker did not go public with even the bare-bones of his multi-faceted plans to sharply curb collective bargaining rights. He could not point to any statements where he did. We could find none either. We rate his statement False." **(Milwaukee Journal "PolitiFact" Wisconsin)**

Walker's claim: **"We're broke. We don't have any more money."** (Scott Walker on Monday, February 21st, 2011 in a news conference and many other venues) "I don't have anything to negotiate," Walker said. "We are broke in this state. We have been broke for years."

The truth: In January 2011, a month before Walker's statement, Moody's issued a national report that combined state debt and pension liabilities, and showed Wisconsin fares well when compared with other states. A Moody's panel, including Kurtter, one of the most respected municipal finance experts in the country, discussed Wisconsin's dilemma and Walker's assertion and made these observations: "The state's debt has a very high credit rating of AA2 and that has not changed in years. That compares favorably with other states, including Illinois, that face far more severe budget crunches."

Then there is this perspective from within state government itself. "The state is no more broke than it was two, four or 10 years ago," said Frank Hoadley, capital finance director with the state Department of Administration. "There's always a huge gap" as budget deliberations begin, he said. "And it always gets hammered out." Other budget analysts responded with similar conclusions.

We rate Walker's statement False. **(Milwaukee Journal "PolitiFact" Wisconsin)**

Further Note—Governor Walker—in his first weeks in office—introduced several tax cut bills that increased the budget deficit by a total of about \$200 million. And yet he was saying "I don't have anything to negotiate. We are broke."

Walker's claim: **He balanced the budget "without raising taxes."** (A statement repeated almost daily by Walker and various supporters.)

The truth: Two taxes were increased on low-income working families. **Earned Income Credit:** Walker's budget reduced the earned income credit for low-income working families that have more than one child. Since a tax credit reduces the amount of tax you owe, this means higher taxes for those families. This increased the state's tax revenue estimates by \$56.2 million dollars over the next two years—a tax on the working poor. **Homestead Credit.** This is a property tax break that appears as a credit for low-income homeowners and renters. This means those taxpayers pay more in taxes. This increased the state tax revenue by \$13.6 million. A second tax on the poor. "Did Walker raise taxes? We say yes." **(Milwaukee Journal "PolitiFact" Wisconsin)**

Walker's claim: **"My number-one priority is helping Wisconsin businesses create jobs."** and **"In Wisconsin, 98 percent of all small businesses will qualify for income-tax relief under my plan, freeing them to expand and create jobs."** (Scott Walker on Wednesday, January 5th, 2011 in a news release.)

The truth: The overall average for all the 252,000 filers who could qualify for the credit -- \$145. More than two-thirds would get less than \$100 on average. It's apparent that -- for the majority of those small businesses that are eligible -- the tax credit is not nearly enough to create even a single job.

The problems don't stop there. Businesses that don't turn a profit in 2011 would not get a credit. So the no-profit issue means a large percentage of small struggling businesses won't be getting any credit.

"Even business advocates don't contend it would help recipients create jobs, as Walker claims. We rate Walker's claim False." **(Milwaukee Journal "PolitiFact" Wisconsin)**

Walker's claim: Two years ago we had "the largest structural deficit ever in Wisconsin." (Scott Walker on Tuesday, June 21st, 2011 in an appearance on national TV)

The truth: It's the third highest in the 14 years that the agency has compiled the reports. The worst: a \$2.867 billion structural deficit from the 2003-05 budget—under Governor Scott McCallum, a Republican. "He was off by seven years and a political party. We rate his statement False." **(Milwaukee Journal "PolitiFact" Wisconsin)**

Walker's claim: Concerning his budget-repair bill, "collective bargaining is fully intact." (Scott Walker on Friday, February 18th, 2011 in a radio interview)

The truth: In arguing the changes would be modest, Walker cited the civil service system and said "collective bargaining is fully intact." However, Walker himself has outlined how his budget-repair bill would limit the collective bargaining rights of public employees. Indeed, **this is the provision that provoked daily demonstrations at the state Capitol, national media attention, and the recall campaign.** To now say collective bargaining would remain "fully intact" is not just false, it's ridiculously false. And that means it is Pants on Fire. **(Milwaukee Journal "PolitiFact" Wisconsin)**

Walker's claim: "The overwhelming number of (school) districts saw that staffing was the same or greater," after the 2011-13 state budget. (Scott walker, Nov. 15 interview on WTMJ-AM)

The truth: When the survey used to support this statement—done by the Association of School District Administrators—was researched by the Journal Sentinel staff, it was found that Walker's method *doesn't count the retirements of staff as a loss in numbers.* In all, more than 4,700 school employees retired in the last year and none of them are counted as a loss in Walker's statistics. He cherry-picked the numbers in his favor. For example: Racine schools showed a net drop of 100 staff. Walker's method showed Racine had a net gain of 14. The reason for the difference: Walker didn't count the 114 retirements in the district.

When all the staffing numbers are included "the survey actually shows the opposite of what he said. We rate his statement False." **(Milwaukee Journal "PolitiFact" Wisconsin)**

Important note: "This all adds up to a loss of revenue to public schools of over \$1.6 billion—far and away the biggest cut to public education in state history" (from Wisconsin Association of School District Administrators. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Budget Survey Analysis. November 10, 2011)

Walker's claim: When it comes to protesters in Madison, "almost all" are now from outside of Wisconsin. (Scott Walker on Tuesday, February 22nd, 2011 in a secretly-recorded prank telephone call.)

The truth: Several groups doing surveys showed the vast majority of people protesting are from Wisconsin and the largest numbers were actually from Dane County. We rate Walker's statement False. **(Milwaukee Journal "PolitiFact" Wisconsin)**

Note: Over half a million signatures for Scott Walker's recall have already been collected from people protesting his policies who live "inside Wisconsin."

Last but not least: Scott Walker has been lecturing that the notion of a recall election is preposterous. However, his argument is directly contradicted by Walker himself: In 1997, he was a vocal supporter of the "First Breath Alliance," a group that tried to recall Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold.

The truth: The people of Wisconsin do not deserve a leader who uses patterns of continuous falsehoods and outright lies to defend and hide the extremist policies that would not have gotten him elected in the first place. He is not working for the people of Wisconsin and "It's not working for Wisconsin."

We Are Milwaukee Activist Appreciation Party

After months of hard work and heroic activism, it's time to celebrate what we've accomplished and those who've made history. It's also time to build for where we're going and what we're going to create.

Join us for a party during the Packer playoff game to do just that!

Spend some time with fellow activists and movement leaders while we cheer on our favorite union-represented community organization, the Green Bay Packers.

Sunday, January 15th

3:00 - 6:30 PM

The Irish Pub

124 N. Water St.

Milwaukee, WI 53202

For more information and to RSVP: <http://tinyurl.com/WeAreMKEJan15>

With any questions, contact Peter Rickman at rickman.peter@gmail.com

We Are Milwaukee is a coalition of community organizations, unions, & activists fighting for social & economic justice in the Milwaukee area. We Are Milwaukee works on issues, elections, mobilizations and organizing to build independent progressive politics.



*Take control of your
financial future.*

Be your own Super Hero

Use the power of knowledge to help you take control of your financial future. Plan to attend **Retirement Savings 101: The Keys to Success**.

This seminar is designed to teach employees of all ages the basics of investing and retirement planning.

- Find out how to determine your **retirement income needs**.
- Learn what **retirement income sources** are available to you as a public school employee.
- Learn the importance of reducing product fees and tips about how to **make your money work harder for you**.
- Find out the **advantages of different savings options**, including Roth IRA, Traditional IRA, 403(b), and deferred compensation.
- Learn how to **properly diversify** your investment dollars.

This presentation will provide the information you need to achieve your long-term financial goals.

Retirement Savings 101: The Keys to Success

Tuesday, Feb. 28

5–6:30 p.m.

United Education Profession Building
13805 W. Burleigh Rd.
Brookfield, WI

WEAC membership required

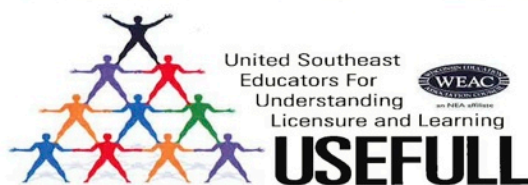
Presented by Michelle Slawny, CFP®
WEA Trust Member Benefits

Register online at
<http://retsav02282012.eventbrite.com>

Sponsored by Cedar Lakes United Educators, Council 10, Lakewood UniServ Council, North Shore United Educators, Southern Lakes United Educators, TriWauk UniServ Council and West Suburban Council.



[Click Here For Print Version](#)



FOR ALL **WEAC MEMBERS OF:**
Council #10
 Lakewood UniServ Council
 North Shore United Educators
 TriWauk UniServ Council
 West Suburban Council

2011-12 CALENDAR OF WORKSHOPS

PI34 "LICENSURE" WORKSHOPS:

Tuesday, October 11, 2011: Overview of PI34 Workshop
Saturday, November 12, 2011: Goal Writing Workshop 9:00-12:00
Thursday, November 17, 2011: Goal Writing Workshop
Tuesday, December 13, 2011: Goal Approval Night
Saturday, January 28, 2012: DPI Reviewer Training 9:00-4:00
Thursday, February 16, 2012: PDP Annual Progress "Check-in" Night
 (prep for verification)
Tuesday, March 27, 2012: PDP Verification Night

GENERAL "LEARNING" WORKSHOPS:

Saturday, October 8, 2011: Toolkit for Teachers 9:00-12:00
Monday, October 10, 2011: Growing Mentors as Teacher Leaders
Tuesday, October 18, 2011: ESP Workshop: Mental Health Issues of Students
Thursday, January 19, 2012: Mentoring-Keeping the Communication Open
Thursday, January 26, 2012: ESP Workshop: Strategies for Dealing w/Problem Behaviors
Wednesday, March 21, 2012: ESP Workshop: Dealing with Diverse Students
Date TBA: April, 2012: Overview of National Board Certification

~ WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS ON BACK ~

USEFULL IS...

- ♦ *your professional organization providing professional development and licensure assistance to you at no additional cost!*
- ♦ *members helping members!*
- ♦ *your union dues working for you!*

Seats are limited and fill quickly!
Watch for these flyers and register early!

All workshops begin at 5 p.m. (unless indicated otherwise) at the IEP Building in Brookfield, with a light meal being served at 4:30 p.m.

PI34 "Licensure" Workshop Descriptions

Overview of PI34 Workshop

An explanation of and brief history of the PI34 law will be provided to all participants. After that, the group will go into two specialized sessions, one for Initial Educators and one for Professional Educators (educators who received their license prior to August 2004) where the Professional Development Plan (PDP) process will be explained.

Goal Writing Workshop

Experienced educators will be on hand to help educators develop and write their goal for their PDP, as well as access internet support.

Goal Approval Night

DPI approved reviewers will work with Initial Educators to approve their PDP goal so they can officially begin carrying out their Professional Development Plan.

DPI Reviewer Training

This one day workshop will take participants through the DPI training that enables them to be certified as PDP Team Reviewers.

PDP Annual Progress "Check-in" Night Workshop

This class will make sure you have completed Step III and Step IV of your PDP correctly, including exemplary examples of pieces of evidence. This is necessary to prepare you for your PDP verification.

PDP Verification Night

PDP Reviewer teams will be available to read and verify educators' Professional Development Plans in time to meet the June 30th deadline.

General "Learning" Workshops

Toolkit for Teachers : "Organize, Manage, and Survive!"

This workshop is designed for teachers who have been in the profession for less than 5 years, yet can be beneficial for any educator! The focus of this workshop will be classroom organization, time management, classroom management, and student engagement. Participants will walk away with a wide array of teaching tools.

Growing Mentors as Teacher Leaders

Participants will learn the role of teacher leaders and explore strategies on how to grow professionally as leaders. Key techniques for developing high quality mentor/mentee relationships will be shared, and participants will develop an action plan and set goals for the school year using mentor standards.

ESP Workshop: "Mental Health Issues of Students and How Best to Deal with Them"

Come to find out effective ways of identifying and working with students who are experiencing a variety of mental health issues.

Mentoring – Keeping the Communication Open

Participants will explore coaching language and the thinking behind it. Strategies on how to organize and focus communication between mentor and mentee will be shared. This session will provide a mid-year "boost" with fresh ideas on how to continue a positive professional relationship even during challenging situations.

ESP Workshop: "Strategies for Dealing with Problem Behaviors"

This workshop will provide Education Support Professionals with strategies to effectively deal with students, parents, and colleagues who exhibit problematic behaviors.

ESP Workshop: "Dealing with Diverse Students"

This will be an excellent opportunity for Education Support Professionals to learn about techniques they can use to help EVERY student they work with succeed!

Overview of National Board Certification

Come to this workshop to learn the "ins and outs" of National Board Certification, as well as support opportunities available if you decide to pursue it.