



What's at Stake: State Budget Items Proposed for Removal by the Joint Finance Committee

On Thursday, May 6, 2021 the Joint Finance Committee intends to remove over 300 items from Governor Evers' proposed state budget. Once the JFC removes an item, it cannot be debated or reintroduced in committee. Here's how these items will affect AFT-Wisconsin members and the communities we serve.

All AFT-Wisconsin Members

- Collective bargaining rights for any union representing state, local, or municipal employees whose regular job duties include interaction with the public or large groups of people. This would include all unions with school district employees, city and county employees, technical college and university employees, and state workers.

University of Wisconsin System

- Expansion of Bucky's Tuition Promise, to provide 4 years of free tuition to low-income students (family income less than \$60,000) who wish to attend any UW System campus.
- Creation of a Student Loan Ombudsman to provide borrowers support on financial literacy and hold student lenders accountable.
- Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity agreement.
- Nonresident tuition exemption for relocated service members, tribal members, and undocumented students.
- Prisoner baccalaureate degree program.
- UW-Stevens Point mass burial monument to recognize the up to 80 Indigenous people buried there.

Wisconsin Technical College System

- Minnesota-Wisconsin reciprocity agreement.
- Nonresident tuition exemption for relocated service members, tribal members, and undocumented students.

PK-12 Public Education

- 4-year-old kindergarten to be counted under the state's K-12 funding formula.
- Freeze on enrollment for private voucher schools.
- Elimination of an office within the UW System that authorizes new charter schools statewide.
- Information containing the reduction in state aid as a result of these programs on property tax bills, to increase public awareness of voucher program costs.
- Requirement that voucher school teachers have a teaching license.
- Limits on private school tuition tax deduction.

State Employees and UW Employees

- Paid parental leave for up to 6 months.
- Paid sick leave for Limited-Term Employees.
- Decreased waiting period for medical insurance, from three months to one month.
- Juneteenth holiday.

Other Support for Families and Communities

Equity:

- \$5 million in grants, loans and other assistance for underserved communities, including minorities, women-owned businesses and business owners in rural areas.
- Creation of a new Equity Officer position in multiple departments.
- Ban on police using no-knock warrants.

Non-partisan Redistricting:

- Require the legislature to consider district maps based on a proposal by the People's Map Commission.

Broadband Internet Access:

- Broadband expansion grants for municipalities
- Broadband expansion in underserved or unserved areas

Private Sector Workers' Rights:

- Repeal of "Right to Work" laws that allow non-members to share in union gains without paying dues
- Reinstatement of prevailing wage laws that prevent the use of cheap, non-local labor to undercut local workers

Revenue

- Expansion of the federal Medicaid program in Wisconsin to cover nearly 91,000 additional low-income people, which would generate about \$1.6 billion in public revenue.
- Cap on a tax credit for the wealthy to \$300,000 of income from manufacturing.
- Increased capital gains taxes for the wealthy, generating an additional \$350 million in public revenue.
- Legalized medical and recreational marijuana, which would bring in \$165 million a year in public revenue.
- Expanded Earned Income Tax credit for lower-income families.
- Increased Homestead Credit maximum income threshold to benefit more lower-income individuals.
- Allow municipalities and counties to raise sales taxes by 0.5% in their areas if approved by voters.
- Repeal of "dark store" policies for property assessments, which allow successful big box stores to lower their property taxes by comparing their stores to shuttered retailers.

