

Wednesday, July 6, 2011

To: AFSCME leaders, members and staff

From: Susan McMurray, Wisconsin AFSCME Government Relations

Re: AFSCME Report the Wisconsin GOP State Budget (Assembly Bill 40) – now Wisconsin Act 32

This AFSCME report provides some basic facts about how some components of Act 32 affect public employees and some key public services. It is not intended to be comprehensive. At the end of this report, readers will find a list of web sites that provide more in-depth information on Act 32.

It is somewhat challenging to explain the effects of this budget, for several reasons: (a) because it intersects so closely with the radical provisions of Act 10; (b) because it significantly cuts in funding for key services and programs, but provides few details on how some of those cuts will fall; and (c) because it proposes some far-reaching policy changes that will simply take time to be sorted out. It also calls for studies of several key programs (such as the WRS) with reporting deadlines in the future that will surely perpetuate uncertainty regarding the future of those programs. In short, it may take some time before the full effects of Act 32 become clear.

Overview of the GOP Budget – Act 32:

- \$66 billion spending plan, including all sources of funding – general state tax dollars, federal money, bonding, segregated fee revenue and program revenue.
 - Covers July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013.
 - Addresses the deficit by making massive cuts in spending. The deficit, in short, is the difference between program funding needs and projected tax collections.
 - Despite the cuts, the budget spends \$1.1 billion more than the 2009 budget.
 - Despite promises not to raid segregated funds and divert those funds for other purposes, this budget does exactly that.
 - The transfers from the state's General Fund mean there will be fewer dollars available for education, health care and other vital public services.
 - Despite claims that the state is broke, the GOP has dug the hole deeper by authorizing an additional \$93 million in tax breaks for corporations, in addition to the \$117 million in tax breaks enacted since January of 2011.

The GOP Budget is Wrong for Wisconsin:

- Makes deep cuts in funding for public schools, while expanding the use of tax dollars for private schools.

- Cuts nearly \$325 million in funding for higher education at a time when people need job retraining programs and higher degrees to be able to find and keep family-supporting jobs.
- Freezes state financial aid for college students while increasing tuition.
- Cuts funding in Medicaid while providing no specifics on where or how or when cuts in those services may be happening. Under Act 10, the Department of Health Services' (DHS) Secretary is granted extensive powers to decide how to make and implement the Medicaid cuts, with limited public input and no requirement for legislative oversight.
- Contains non-fiscal policy proposals sought by corporate contract lobbyists – banning small craft brewers from holding a brewer's and distribution license, changing in child labor law, creating ways to allow banks to take control over credit unions, and more.

Tax Breaks for Corporations and Investors:

- Creates an exclusion from the income tax for capital gains reinvested in Wisconsin businesses within 180 days – cost: \$36.3 million
 - Creates a separate exclusion equal to 100% of the gains realized on capital investments in Wisconsin businesses held for at least five years – this will eventually cost the state some \$80 million a year.
 - Partially reopens the corporate income reporting law known as the Las Vegas Loophole at a cost of \$46.4 million in 2011-2013.
 - Creates a new income tax credit on business income generated by manufacturing production activities in Wisconsin. The GOP has characterized this as wiping out the income tax on manufacturing in Wisconsin. Cost: \$10.1 million in 2013, \$44.2 million in 2014, \$72 million in 2015, \$104.4 million in 2016 and \$218.7 million in 2017.
 - Creates a tax break for junk mail operators. -\$500,000 a year.
 - Establishes tax break for snow making equipment and snowmobile groomers. - \$150,000/year.

Tax Increases on Workers:

- Cuts funding for the Homestead Tax Credit program, effectively raising taxes on working poor and seniors by \$13.6 million over the biennium.
 - Reduces funding for the Earned Income Tax Credit by \$56 million over the two-year budget period. The cuts are directed mainly at families with 3 or more children, whose taxes will increase by up to \$518 per year.

Raiding Funds -The GOP Budget Steals from the General Fund to Bolster the Transportation Fund:

The transfers into the Transportation Fund are intended to pay for the huge investments in road building in 2011-2013 and beyond. This action will gradually reduce the amount of money in the General Fund to pay for schools, health care services and other critical support services to workers and families in need.

- Raids the state's General Fund (the source of funding for schools, health and local services) and deposits it into the state's Transportation Fund. In 2011-2013, the amount transferred is \$125 million and \$35 million a year after that.
 - Diverts other sources of revenue that typically goes to the General Fund and moves it to the Transportation Fund.
 - Takes \$2.3 million related to airline hub taxes and moves it from the General Fund to the Transportation Fund.
 - Raids \$3 million a year out of the petroleum environmental cleanup fund (known as PECFA) and transfers it to the Transportation Fund.
 - Raids \$21 million from vehicle environmental impact fees and deposits it into the Transportation Fund.

The diversions of scarce resources from the General Fund into the Transportation Fund must be considered in conjunction with separate actions taken by lawmakers this spring. The Assembly has passed Assembly Joint Resolution 21, a TABOR-like constitutional amendment which requires the siphoning off of huge sums of General Fund tax collections into what will be known as the "Fiscal Responsibility Fund". AJR 21 would have to be approved by two consecutive legislatures and by the voters before it would go into effect. It has not yet been approved by the Senate.

Another constitutional amendment to watch is Senate Joint Resolution 23, which has passed both houses. SJR 23 dictates that revenue from motor vehicle fees and such must be deposited into the Transportation Fund and that money from that Fund cannot be lapsed or diverted for other than strictly transportation-related purposes.

Both AJR 21 and SJR 23 will have the effect of shrinking revenues for vital services.

Public Employee Benefits and other Collective Bargaining Law Changes:

- Requires that an individual work at least 2/3 full time to be covered by the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), effective January 1, 2012. This new threshold for most employees is 1,200 hours per year and for 880 hours per year for teachers, librarians and educational support staff. *This proposal means that **state employees who work less than 2/3 time will no longer be eligible for state health insurance plan or other insurance benefits.***
 - Requires that the employee-required benefit contributions be made from the employee's pre-tax income, which reduces the employee's taxable income.

- Require that employees have five calendar years of service before being fully vested in the state retirement system. The legislature had provided for gradual vesting of workers, but a veto removed the gradual vesting language.
- Requires the Department of Administration (DOA), the Office of State Employment Relations (OSER) and the Employee Trust Fund (ETF) to study potential changes to the WRS. The study must include (a) establishing a “defined contribution” plan (like a 401K system) as an option and (b) offering employees the option not contributing to their pensions. The agencies are ordered to submit their recommendations to the governor and the Joint Finance Committee no later than June 30, 2012. *These two ideas have the potential to cripple the WRS. AFSCME will be closely monitoring the study.*
- Lowers the retirement multiplier for state executives and elected officials from 2% to 1.6% and would apply starting on the first day of a term of office that begins after the effective date of the provision.
- Requires newly hired local police, local fire fighters, state troopers and state motor vehicle inspectors to pay the employee-required contributions for pensions and health care if they are hired after the effective date of the budget bill.
- Authorizes school districts and technical colleges to change only wages or benefits under an existing collective bargaining agreement under certain conditions.
- Sought to exempt EMS workers in Door and Waushara counties from Act 10, but this provision was vetoed by the governor.
- Authorizes the state to assess and collect a certification fee for bargaining unit certification elections.

Labor Law and Unemployment Insurance:

- Imposes a one-week waiting period before an individual can qualify for unemployment insurance benefits.
 - Requires that if a person fails or refuses to take a drug test s/he may not qualify for unemployment insurance for the following 12 months.
 - Changes the standards for employment of minors to relax restrictions on the hours of work per day and per week on minors between 16-18 years of age
 - Makes several changes to the state’s prevailing wage law, including establishing uniform prevailing wage rate and hours of labor requirements throughout the state.

State Worker Jobs and State Agency Reorganizations:

- Contains funding for a compensation plan for state employees and language which sets forth certain parameters for how the Administration will make decisions relating to pay, benefits and working

conditions of state employees, and spells out that the language will supersede civil service law and other applicable statutes and rules. It should be noted that Act 10 left in place the ability to bargain over wages but capped any increase at the rate of inflation.

- Eliminates over 1,200 state employee positions, including some 700 long term vacant positions.
- Repeals the long-standing state law that requires legislative approval to create or abolish positions. Instead, the budget grants the DOA Secretary (DOA) authority to abolish any vacant full time equivalent position, contingent upon approval of the Joint Finance Committee.
- Does not split UW-Madison from the rest of the UW System, as Gov. Walker had recommended, so UW-Madison employees will retain their status as state employees, and reducing the overall number of state employee positions that would have been eliminated in AB 40.
- Officially eliminates the Department of Commerce, moving employees from the former Division of Safety and Building to the new Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS). Some employees will go to WHEDA and some to the new Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), a quasi-public authority. (The law that created the WEDC, and started the reorganization of Commerce, is 2011 Wisconsin Act 7). Those at WEDC will no longer be state employees. It is unclear how the move will affect some classifications of state employees.
- Transfers business certification programs from Commerce to DOA, creates an office of business development and two positions in DOA and not, curiously, in the new WEDC.
- Converts 27.60 Department of Corrections (DOC) LTE positions to permanent positions. These workers are employed at the DOC's Community Corrections Monitoring Center.
- Cuts 59.2 jobs at the Wisconsin Resource Center in Oshkosh due to the transfer of sexually violent persons from the WRC to the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center in Mauston. Funding and positions to open units at Sand Ridge had been approved in the 2007 budget.
- Reduces 36 positions at the state mental health institutions to reflect declining patient population. This is directly related to a 2009 law requiring counties to start paying the treatment costs for certain patients which has prompted counties to find other ways to treat mentally ill county residents rather than to send them to the state institutions.
- Provides 104 positions at Southern Wisconsin Center to partially restore positions that had been eliminated in the 2009 budget, based on resident relocation goals that were not met.
- Eliminates 269 total jobs at Southern Oaks Girls School in Racine County and Ethan Allen School for Boys in Waukesha County. The two schools will be closed by July 1, 2011, leaving 15 jobs and minimal funding for ongoing maintenance. All juvenile offenders

will be moved to Lincoln Hill School for Boys in Lincoln County and a new girls' facility, the Copper Lake School, will be built on the grounds of the boys' school.

- Cuts the DOC's Adult Institutions budget by \$52 million but is silent on how those cuts will be implemented.
- Requires heads of each correctional institution to designate a person to meet with correctional officers to "discuss potential or ongoing safety concerns at the institutions and to develop solutions to those concerns."
- Requires DOC managers "with the assistance of OSER to develop a policy for shift assignments that must consider an employees' seniority when assigning shifts."
- Grants the right to know to correctional staff if an inmate has a communicable disease. This language also applies to those who have custody of offenders in county jails.
- Approves a new home for veterans in Chippewa Falls that may be operated and staffed by a private entity, pending the outcome of a cost benefit analysis to be conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). The DVA is to report the findings of the cost benefit analysis to DOA, rather than the legislature's Joint Finance Committee. Specifies that the state must abide by the findings of the cost benefit study.
- Shelves the governor's plan to repeal Act 89, the 2005 law that requires agencies to perform cost benefit studies as a condition of deciding whether or not to outsource services costing more than \$25,000.
- Converts the AFSCME-represented income maintenance worker jobs in Milwaukee County into state employee positions. Those currently holding the jobs will have to reapply for their jobs.
- Eliminates the state employee child care center subsidy (\$293,800 annually).
- Requires cash awards for the Wisconsin Employee Suggestion Program to equal 10% of the average annual savings that result from the suggestion, with a minimum of \$50 and boosting the current law maximum payment to \$10,000.
- Requires the Agriculture Department to report to Joint Finance on actions taken to correct deficit in the state's grain inspection program. AFSCME represents the grain inspectors. This provision was vetoed by the governor.
- Transfers the duties, assets, liabilities and property of two constitutional officers, the Secretary of State and State Treasurer, to DOA.

County Services:

County government takes a big hit in Act 32 in terms of the 0% levy limit and the reduction in state aid to most county services. Some GOP lawmakers have said the cuts in Shared Revenue, for example, weren't so significant. They are wrong. Taken individually, each cut may not appear to be much but, overall, the impact on counties is huge and will affect those who need services most – the elderly, disabled, low-wage workers, the unemployed and single parent families. It may be several months before people feel the effects of this budget.

County Taxing Authority and Revenues:

- Sets the property tax levy limit at 0% (or the increase in equalized value due to net new construction), makes the limits permanent and allows adjustments under certain limited circumstances. Unused levy authority could be carried forward but only to a maximum of 0.5% of the prior year levy and only with a ¾ affirmative vote by the county board.
 - Suspends the state-imposed tax rate limit for county operating levies for the next two years. The tax rate limit, established in 1992, is the other major property tax controls on local government. It became a significant problem when property values began to decline.
 - Repeals authority for Regional Transit Authorities as well as the authority of RTAs to collect taxes or fees. This affects the Southeastern RTA, Chippewa Valley RTA, Dane County RTA and the Chequamegon Bay RTA.
 - Repeals the 2009 maintenance of effort language requiring counties and municipalities to maintain at least the level of spending for emergency services that the locality had in 2009.

State Aid to Counties is Slashed:

- Cuts county and municipal aid (**Shared Revenue**) by \$76 million in 2012, somewhat less than the governor's proposal to cut aid by \$96 million (11.6%) and established a complicated formula for determining aid reductions for counties and municipalities. Under the governor's plan, localities would receive the same dollar figure in 2013 as 2012. The Joint Finance Committee reduced the cut in Shared Revenue to \$76 million and modified the formula, which changes allocations to communities.
 - Cuts funding for the **payments for municipal services** program by about \$2 million annually.
 - The governor had proposed to eliminate the mandate for and state aid for **recycling**. The Joint Finance Committee restored the mandate but did not restore full funding. Rather, the committee voted to provide \$19 million per year for recycling aid – down from \$32 million a year, a 40% cut.
 - Reduces state **funding for child support enforcement** by 50% (at \$4.25 million, rather than \$8.50 million). The Legislative Fiscal Bureau identified that underfunding CSE could result in a loss of \$25 million over the two years for failing to put up enough money to capture federal aid.

- Cuts funding for county **income maintenance** services.
- Changes how the county Medicaid cost reporting program is funded to maximize federal dollars. This program known as **WIMCR** reimburses counties for MA services provided.
- Reduces funding for **W-2 contracts** that counties rely on to provide W-2 services.
- Cuts funding for juvenile offender services under the **Youth Aids** appropriation by 10% in each year while **increasing the juvenile daily rate** from \$275 to \$284 and \$289. Counties pay this amount to send troubled teens into the state's juvenile correctional system (now only Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls).
- Caps Family Care (FC) enrollment and prohibits expansion to new counties that are not already participating in FC.
- Cuts state aid for **court** services by 10%, reducing citizen access to justice.
- Proposed limits on using county highway crews for certain highway improvement projects, but the language was altered by the full legislature (see below).
- Cuts **general transportation aids** by a total of \$10 million over the two year cycle and reduces the statutory distribution for county payments from \$102.6 million to \$94.6 million in 2012 and each year thereafter.
- Decreases funding for the discretionary component of the **local road improvement program** (LRIP) by \$10 million over two years for county projects, but does not reduce funding for town road projects. Amounts would be \$5 million per year for county projects and \$10 million per year for town projects.
- Cuts state aid for **mass transit services** by \$9.6 million.
- Preserves federal transit assistance by restoring collective bargaining rights to municipal transit employees.
- Repeals the 2009 **maintenance of effort** language requiring counties and municipalities to maintain at least the level of spending for emergency services that the locality had in 2009.

County Human Services Program Changes:

- Sets aside the governor's plan to centralize and privatize county income maintenance (IM) services and substitutes the alternative proposal drafted by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) to create multi-county consortia to administer IM programs -saving hundreds of workers' jobs. Requires Legislative Audit Bureau to conduct an audit of statewide IM services and report the findings to Joint Finance by 2013.

- Eliminates the Milwaukee County enrollment services center (MilES) created in 2009 by DHS with extensive input from AFSCME, and provides for the state takeover of IM in Milwaukee County (county workers lose status, must reapply for state jobs).
- Reduces funding for W-2 county contracts while increasing funding for W-2 benefits based on caseload growth projections.
- Reverses changes to the W-2 program adopted in 2009.
- Restores the W-2 Transitional Jobs Program, but this was vetoed.
- Directs DCF to amend the state plan for foster care and adoption assistance to allow agencies to enter into subsidized guardianship agreements.
- Requires DHS to study implementing a photo ID requirement for MA and FoodShare and report findings by December 31, 2011.
- Does not transfer the FoodShare program from DHS to the Department of Children and Families (DCF), as the governor had requested.
- Authorizes counties to establish multi-county human service departments.
- Requires counties, rather than the DHS, to certify and regulate 1-2 bed adult family homes (DHS oversees other forms of group homes).

County Highway Departments:

The Joint Finance Committee had proposed sweeping privatization language barring county highway crews from doing road construction and public works projects over \$100,000. A massive lobbying effort by county administrators, county highway and public works administrators and AFSCME members, as well as opposition from key Republicans, turned this around.

Local officials have said they are unclear on exactly what the final language will allow them to do when it comes to collaboration between counties and municipalities. Some have said that the full impact of this language change will depend largely on how the state Department of Transportation (DOT) interprets the law when it develops the rules for municipal transportation projects.

The full legislature decided to *reject most of the Joint Finance Committee's proposal, contained in Omnibus Transportation Motion 352:*

- Rejected the language restricting local governments from using their own crews to perform highway improvement or public works projects that cost \$100,000 if funded in part or in whole with state or federal funds; that cost \$100,000, regardless of the source of funds, for a city or village.
 - Rejected the language restricting counties from using their own crews to perform highway improvement projects funded under the local roads improvement program (LRIP). *That*

is, counties will be allowed to use their own crews on LRIP-funded highway improvement projects.

- Rejected the language barring counties from doing highway improvement projects for or with another local government, but wrote in new requirements (see below).
- Rejected the language that would eliminate the current law provision that authorizes the state DOT to designate a local government to act on its behalf to perform bidding, contracting and oversight responsibilities for a highway improvement project.
- Dropped the proposed changes to the definition of highway maintenance.

The full legislature *instead voted to adopt the following language:*

- Prohibits a county from using its own workforce to do a highway improvement project on a highway under the jurisdiction of another county or municipality in another county unless the project lies in part or in whole within a municipality that lies partially within the county doing the work.
 - Prohibits a county from using its workers to do a highway improvement project for city or village with a population over 5,000, except as allowed under LRIP.
 - Specifies that these changes would apply on the first day of the fourth month after the effective date of the budget.
 - Bars local governments from using their own work crews from doing construction on behalf of a private entity.
 - Requires DOT to work with county highway departments to “determine an appropriate level of state work sufficient to fully utilize manpower and equipment needed for winter maintenance.”

Nursing Home Funding:

- Provides a 1% “acuity” increase to nursing homes in each year of the biennium.
 - Retains funding to pay the \$39.1 million in supplemental payments to county and municipal nursing homes.
 - Requires DHS to modify the nursing home reimbursement formula in 2013.
 - Directs DHS to prepare its 2013-2015 budget request (due in September of 2012) to increase base year funding for nursing homes by \$415,600 (state GPR) or \$1.3 million (all funds).

Medicaid:

- Calls for \$466 million of unspecified cuts in Medicaid, which will affect BadgerCare, SeniorCare and other health care services that families depend on. The budget contains no directive to indicate how the cuts will be made or who will be affected. *The cuts are linked to the Act 10 language granting the DHS broad powers to write rules that could supersede MA statutes affecting services, eligibility, plan structure and cost sharing requirements, with limited accountability.*
 - Also provides for an increase of \$1.2 billion which pays for some of the projected cost of continuing Medicaid funding at 2009-2011 levels. This is confusing in light of the \$466 million in cuts but is best understood as replacing some of the federal stimulus money that supported Medicaid in 2009-2011.
 - Directs DHS to conduct a study of potential changes to the state MA plan and federal waivers.

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program:

- Reduces funding for the child care provider rating system (YoungStar).
 - Gives the DCF Secretary unilateral authority to implement cost-savings measures.
 - Prohibits a Wisconsin Shares recipient from benefiting from marketing or promotional offerings made by a child care provider to attract clients or increase business.
 - Vetoed a plan to fingerprint child care providers that the Joint Finance Committee supported.

K-12 Education:

- Cuts state aid to school districts by nearly \$800 million, just under 8%.
 - Eliminates funding for several categorical aid programs, including children at risk grants, AODA grants, grants for science, technology, engineering and math, among others
 - Cuts other categorical aid programs by 10% including 4K start-up grants, gifted and talented grants, and more.
 - Reduces revenue authority of school districts by some \$1.6 billion overall.
 - Reduces per pupil revenue limits by 5.5% in 2011-12 and makes no adjustments for 2012-13.
 - Repeals the revenue limit exemptions enacted in 2009 for school nurses, school safety and transportation costs.
 - Removes the enrollment cap on the Milwaukee School Voucher Program.
 - Expands the program to subsidize private schools throughout Milwaukee County.

- Modifies eligibility requirements so parents with higher incomes qualify.
- Expands the voucher program to Racine with an enrollment limit of 250 in 2011-12.
- Provides for the expansion of the voucher program to other cities of the second class if certain criteria are met. At this time, only Racine qualifies, but the language in the budget is said not to reflect the legislative intent, and lawmakers state they will introduce trailer legislation later this year to make this clear.
- Repeals the limit on the number of students who may attend virtual charter schools through the open enrollment program.

Higher Education:

- Cuts the UW System by \$250 million in 2011-2013, with \$94 million of that affecting UW Madison.
 - Cuts funding for technical colleges by \$72 million.
 - Ends the Wisconsin Covenant program which guarantees a spot in a Wisconsin college or university for eighth grade students who sign up for it and maintains good grades.
 - Freezes state funding for student financial aid and eliminates the statutory link that provided for more funding in financial aid whenever tuition was increased.
 - Ends in-state tuition for children of undocumented workers.
 - Establishes a special task force on UW structuring and “operational flexibilities”.

Offensive, Extreme or Just Plain Petty Proposals Contained within Act 32.

In addition to just about everything identified in this gloomy report, there are specific provisions in this budget that reflect the extremist views of the politicians in charge at the Capitol. They include:

- Tried to make it harder for citizens to access state lawmakers’ financial disclosure forms, but this provision was vetoed by the governor.
 - Cuts funding for legal assistance for low income people.
 - Cuts state aid for child welfare services in Milwaukee with a reduction in support for the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare of \$500,000.
 - Ends public funding of state political races, eliminates the Wisconsin Democracy Trust Fund.
 - Eliminates all state funding for Planned Parenthood health centers in Wisconsin.
 - Makes men ineligible for BadgerCare Family Planning Services.

- Restricts access to abortion services by preventing the UW Hospital from providing abortions.
- Includes 10% cuts in funding for AIDS/HIV services, mental health treatment services, and other public health services that mostly working poor families use.
- Makes it easier for banks to convert credit unions into banks.
- Prohibits brewers from holding a wholesale distribution business, effectively crippling Wisconsin's small craft breweries.
- Eliminates the Wisconsin Democracy Fund and all state support for state political races.
- Bars most legal immigrants from qualifying for Food Share.

RESOURCES:

Resources You Can Use to Inform Yourself on Wisconsin's *Ongoing*, Historic Budget Battle

The actual text of the budget -Act 32- can be found on the legislature's website at: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/> and click on "Budget Bill Partially Vetoed" on the lower right hand side.

To see a comprehensive, nonpartisan description of the budget, go to the web site of the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau: <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb/>. Click on "Publications" and next click on "2011-2013 Budget" and scroll down to find the comparative summary document, along with other excellent references.

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families sponsors the top-notch Wisconsin Budget Project, which publishes in-depth information on how the budget affects working families and children. It can be found on the web site of the at <http://www.wccf.org/> and look for the link to the "Comparative Analysis of the 2011-2013 Biennial Budget Bill".

Other excellent sources of information on the Budget:

The Center on Wisconsin Strategy: www.cows.org

The Institute for Wisconsin's Future: www.wisconsinsfuture.org

Citizen Action of Wisconsin www.citizenactionwi.org

Wisconsin Counties Association: www.wca.org

Read how workers are affected by the GOP budget: Wisconsin State AFL-CIO
<http://www.wisaficio.org/>

Sources of Information on the various environment and conservation proposals in Act 32: See the web site of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters

<http://www.conservationvoters.org/PublicFiles/Custom/Final2011CLDBudgetTalkingPoints.pdf>

See also the Political Environment Blog for updates on the budget in general and environmental issues in particular: <http://thepoliticalenvironment.blogspot.com/2011/06/what-wisconsin-budget-writing-committee.html>.

Read about Wisconsin's transportation funding priorities: See the 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, <http://www.1kfriends.org/> and see also WisPIRG at <http://www.wispirg.org/>

Sources of Information on how the budget affects women's health: go to: NARAL Pro Choice Wisconsin <http://www.prochoicewisconsin.org/action/alerts/201103261.shtml>

Sources of information on the corporate and investor tax breaks enacted by the 2011 Wisconsin Legislature: see the Wisconsin AFL-CIO web site at

<http://www.wisafclcio.org/index.cfm?action=article&articleID=3cdc78ab-a853-4c53-85bf-9d76e286df26>

For more fodder on corporate tax breaks in the budget, look up the Wisconsin Budget Project's top ten list of reasons why lawmakers should reject the amendment for a large corporate tax break

<http://wisconsinbudgetproject.blogspot.com/2011/06/icing-on-cake-for-corporations-crumbs.html>

See how our communities will be affected by Act 32: Check out the Institute for Wisconsin's Future's county-by-county analysis of how the budget will affect communities across the state

http://www.wisconsinsfuture.org/organizing_pages/popularEd/Budget/counties/county_impact.html

Read how municipalities will fare under Act 32: See the web site of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, which provides a list of the budget repair bill's impacts on municipalities: <http://www.lwm-info.org> .

See how Act 32 affects public schools: Go to the Wisconsin Education Association Council web site and look for the fact sheet... <http://www.weac.org/Libraries/PDF/WEAC-BudgetImpactonEdu.sflb.ashx>

Sources of information on how Act 32 affects the UW System: Go to the University's own website for details on how the UW System will be affected - <http://www.wisconsin.edu/wip/docs/Summary-of-JFC-Action.pdf>

Read how Act 32 affects nursing homes and Medicaid at the website of the Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging: www.wahsa.org

See how BadgerCare is affected under Act 32: see the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families' excellent summary of the budget at www.wccf.org and click on the "Comparative Analysis of the 2011-2013 Biennial Budget Bill".

Sources of information on Family Care: go to the web site of Disability Rights Wisconsin at <http://www.disabilityrightswi.org/>

For information on how college students are affected: see the web site of the United Council of University Students at <http://unitedcouncil.net/>

Read how Wisconsin's faith community thinks about Act 32: There are many resources in the faith community. For starters, see the Wisconsin Council on Churches -<http://www.wichurches.org/>.

Read how Act 32 affects services for people with mental illness: The NAMI Wisconsin web site has good information - <http://www.namiwisconsin.org/>

For more information, contact AFSCME at 608-836-6666 or www.wiafscme.org