

Governor Signs Budget

Final
11-13
July 11, 2011

Governor Scott Walker signed a two-year \$66 billion state budget bill on Sunday, June 26th at Fox Valley Metal-Tech in Green Bay.

The budget closed a \$3.6 billion shortfall over the next two years and leaves the state with an estimated \$300 million surplus at the end of fiscal year 2013.

Acknowledging the contentious nature of the budget debate, Walker stated, "The recent debates in Madison found us spending too much time focused on our differences, rather than our similarities. But today we turn the page."

In his veto message, Walker tied the transportation investments in the budget to his goal of business expansion and job creation.

In total, Walker issued 50 vetoes, including the following 4 transportation-related vetoes:

- Deletion of a provision requiring WisDOT to include in each biennial budget request, a funding proposal for maintenance activities performed by counties that is no less than the base amount appropriated plus an inflationary factor. The governor stated that budget requests should be based on available revenue and departmental priorities.
- Removal of the requirement that a 10-year plan be submitted every two years with DOT's budget request. According to the governor's veto message, "Long-term transportation finance planning is a valuable activity, at less frequent intervals than this section requires."
- Elimination of the deadlines for reports on Southeastern Wisconsin mega-projects because WisDOT will not be able to comply.
- Deletion of \$10,000 in 2011-12 in the

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