



## BOB ZIEGELBAUER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • TWENTY FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### Representative Bob Ziegelbauer's Statement on the Budget

Since early last year when it became clear that the State of Wisconsin's finances were in very serious condition, I have consistently believed that we must solve our problems by restraining government spending, not by raising taxes. This has been my top priority; Wisconsin's economic future depends on it!

In last fall's election, the voters ratified that principle by electing a Legislature and Governor who pledged to hold the line on taxes. Governor Jim Doyle, with only a few weeks to develop a budget, brought forward a proposal, which proved to be an excellent first step. The Legislature has now added to that great beginning by making further spending cuts and adding meaningful controls on local spending and property taxes to a budget proposal, which significantly cut state spending and held the line on income and sales taxes.

Throughout this time, it has been clear that state and local governments are unavoidably financially interconnected so much so that any meaningful limits on spending must include all levels of state and local government in Wisconsin. These necessary controls on property tax increases will, of course, be a challenge for local government managers, but one that I am certain they can meet.

State budgets are, by their nature, imperfect documents. Although I don't agree with every item in it, I believe the Legislature has improved on Governor Doyle's great start. Now, the budget goes back to him for his signature and opportunities to further improve it with his line item veto.

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