



---

Tuesday, July 8, 2003  
Contact: Jessica Erickson, Governor's Office, 608-261-2156

## **Governor Doyle Announces Veto of GOP Shared Revenue Proposal**

At news conferences in Milwaukee and Sheboygan today, Governor Jim Doyle announced that he will veto the Republican effort to redistribute shared revenue payments and will restore a more equitable funding formula.

"Today, I am announcing that I will restore basic fairness to the shared revenue formula, which provides desperately needed aid to maintain vital local services," Governor Doyle said. "As a result, nearly 1,100 municipalities will be better off and none fare worse than they would have under my original budget proposal."

Despite a \$1.2 billion hole left in the shared revenue program by the previous Governor and Legislature, Governor Doyle's original budget proposal fully restored shared revenue in the first year of the biennium and provided nearly the full amount - \$931 million - in the second year. Had that \$1.2 billion cut in shared revenue gone into effect, Wisconsin taxpayers would have seen the largest property tax increase in the history of Wisconsin, the Governor said.

"My budget distributed any reductions in shared revenue in the fairest way possible - \$13 per person, whether you live in the largest city or the smallest village," Doyle said. "But instead of adopting this simple, equitable formula, Republicans conjured up a plan to pick winners and losers. Their plan - designed in secrecy and motivated by politics - is complicated, arbitrary, and unfair."

Under the formula developed by Republican legislative leadership, shared revenue was cut by \$28 per person for the 396 poorest municipalities and by only \$5 per person for the wealthiest communities.

The Governor said he will use his veto pen to return the formula close to what he originally proposed by reducing shared revenue on a per capita basis - approximately \$13 per person.

"The local elected officials I have talked to across the state are ready and willing to do their part to help bring Wisconsin out of this budget hole," Governor Doyle said. "They deserve to be treated fairly, and treated with respect. I believe we are all in this together. If we shoulder the burden fairly and equally, we will come out a stronger, more vital state."