

STRENGTH-VOICE-POWER

# ACTION!

POLITICAL ACTION FROM MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

Volume 4

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## DUMP THE GOV

Get those signatures in by Jan. 10



**Racking up  
the reasons  
to recall Scott  
Walker**

See Page 2

**Rebecca Who?**

THE REQUIRED RECALL  
ONLY LAWYERS UNDERSTAND.  
COMMENT PAGE 2

**Demonizing  
ex-felons!**

Page 3

**MORE RECALLS**

The big fish is Walker, but four GOP state senators are also facing recalls. Know citizens who live in these districts and want to sign petitions?

**Scott Fitzgerald**, GOP majority leader, District 13 includes Fort Atkinson, Watertown, northern Oconomowoc. Signatures needed: 16,742. Web site: recallfitz.com.

**Pam Galloway**, District 29 (Taylor and Rusk counties). Signatures 15,647.

**Terry Moulton**, District 23 (Eau Claire). Signatures 14,958.

**Van Wanggaard**, District 21 (Racine). Signatures 15,353. Except for Fitzgerald, all replaced Democrats.

**Voter ID  
hardly just  
about photos**

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# HIS BRIEF TENURE CAUSED LITANY OF FAILURES

**GOING FORWARD, THERE ARE A HECK** of a lot of reasons to worry about Scott Walker clinging to office, including a bunch of pending legislation that will do more damage. *For one example see opposite page.*

But the clincher comes in looking back at how much our state has been hurt in both image and economy, even as the governor continues the masquerade that ineptness is progress.

The history demonstrates how he has both accidentally and deliberately taken the state backwards while relying bizarrely on a stubborn streak that doubles down on mistakes to gamble more recklessly on the state's future. To recap and update:

## Rather than job growth accelerated job loss

**1. WALKER WAS ELECTED** promising to create 250,000 private sector jobs in Wisconsin. Now, both once supportive media and his own administration acknowledge he won't get anywhere near that, even as disastrous policies drive the state down in economic growth.

(The Center on Wisconsin Strategy confirmed that Nov. 28 in a Job Watch that pointed out how Wisconsin, unlike most states, is trending downward in job growth since Walker's policies took effect, with only 11,200 net job growth in all of 2011, topping an October job loss of 9,400 jobs.

(That was the fourth consecutive month of job loss, but the Center did the math fairly. Wisconsin now has only a 11,200 net jobs gain in all 2011 despite the downward trend of the past months. Trouble is, the decline came in Wisconsin as Walker took office while slow growth was the rule elsewhere. Wisconsin now has an



Illustration by Tim Decker for the American Federation of Teachers Local 212

enormous jobs deficit of 205,200 -- that's the difference between the number of jobs Wisconsin has and the number it needs to regain its pre-recession employment. That number includes the 140,700 jobs Wisconsin lost, plus the 64,500 additional jobs it needs just to keep up with the 2.2% growth in population since the recession began. The figures allow an accurate measure of why Walker's policies must end soon.)

## Cuts too deep for schools to succeed

**2. WALKER'S REQUIRED** two-year budget cut more than \$800 million from our public schools while placing caps on what school districts and supportive municipalities in Wisconsin can collect in property

taxes to fund their schools -- a double whammy. Few dispute that the aid cuts, combined with new limits on how local communities can salvage basic education, translates into a \$1.6 billion loss in state support for education. That will leave any districts recording temporary gains deeply underwater a year from now.

**3. BY CUTTING** more than \$500 million from the BadgerCare program, Walker left more than 200,000 Wisconsinites threatened with health premium increases, and more than 50,000 people facing elimination from their state insurance plan.

**4. EVEN WHILE SLASHING** public schools and health care funding, Walker gave giant tax breaks to corporations, which added roughly \$117 million to Wisconsin's budget deficit. The excuse that he was eradicating a \$3.6 billion state deficit neglects how much of the deficit was on paper and was soon reduced by revenue gains - and his rhetoric certainly neglected how previous governors had with far less hullabaloo eliminated much larger deficits. Walker's tricks with numbers worked in 2010 but ring hollow a year later.

## Unions made scapegoats for corporate greed

**5. WALKER STRIPPED MOST** public employees of their right to collectively bargain - and while that led to union anger and engendered mass protests in Madison, the reality of the impact and moral failure struck far deeper than union workers. More citizens started realizing that average wages and benefits hadn't caused the taxpayer woes and that Walker's good buddies in executive suites were the real culprits.

Still, Walker's union-busting bill was a catalyst. It meant that teachers, nurses, prison guards, and other public employees in Wisconsin no longer have a say in their benefits and working conditions. The minor remaining power to bargain within a narrow wage range has led many state unions to reject participating in Walker's bargaining bill and work on their own with cooperating local governments.

**6. WALKER SIGNED A VOTER ID** bill that goes far beyond requiring a photo at the voting booth. The requirements and restrictions will make it harder to vote for thousands of eligible voters in Wisconsin, most in the categories injured by Walker's other policies. The people most affected by the restrictions in the bill include students, the elderly, the poor, and the disabled. It escaped no one's notice that the affected groups traditionally tend to vote Democratic. *See info on Page 3*

**7. AFTER HUNDREDS** of thousands of

Wisconsinites came to Madison to tell Gov. Walker not to balance the budget on the backs of working families, he put the State Capitol on lockdown, preventing thousands of protesters from entering the building. So fearful are his supporters of public protest that even today they refuse to let signs of peaceful protest in the Assembly and Senate galleries and bar video cameras while allowing concealed guns and Tasers.

## Consequence of policies keep taking their toll

**IF THESE REASONS AREN'T ENOUGH,** consider some co-existing consequences that reveal the small-mindedness of Walker's vision of government and the self-destruction built in.

**FOR INSTANCE,** noted politician Russ Feingold lists several reasons to recall Walker but says that technically there's one issue that isn't a reason because Walker was openly foolish during the 2010 campaign. That was his refusal to take \$800 million in federal money to be part of the nation's high-speed rail system, money that would have added nothing to the state budget and went to other states. His supporters successfully blasted it as the train to Madison while it actually connected communities along the way to Milwaukee and laid the ground for Wisconsin to benefit from a nationwide rail network. But Walker was openly against the money and won election.

**HOWEVER, HE NEVER CAMPAIGNED** on destroying bargaining rights, slashing aid to public education, and refusing to let municipalities decide local spending limits for themselves, all surprises that explain the fever to throw him out of office.

Another consequence came when Walker held his second "job sessions" with the legislature, during which no jobs bills were even taken up and several pieces of legislation passed that made it more difficult for the unemployed to find work even as the economy got better.

## Most remember his Koch preening

**BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT** most citizens remember. Still fresh in their memory is the Walker revealed to them in early 2011 when he was refusing to meet with Democratic lawmakers to negotiate a compromise on his union-busting bill. In the middle of that he spent 20 minutes on the phone with what he thought was out-of-state billionaire David Koch, a call during which Walker bragged to the pretend Koch (an Internet reporter) about the baseball bat in his office, his vision of himself as the new GOP Reagan and toying with planting trouble-makers in the crowd at the protests.

## Walker today uses

### Koch money to fight recall

**NOW WALKER IS USING** the unlimited funds available during a recall to combine money forces with Koch groups like Americans for Prosperity in an unprecedented ad blitz telling the public his "starve the children" approach is working. The handfuls of hired ad pitchmen who sound like your contented neighbors read from a script inventing education savings in places like Wausau and Kaukauna.

Those examples don't bear up under scrutiny as even local officials and documents concede that short-term gains from bargaining cuts and federal stimulus money will evaporate in a few months, leaving them high and dry to protect education a year from now when the weight of health premium increases, less staff and less experience crushes down.

## Rebecca what? Kleehooha?

**THIS IS THE UNDER-THE RADAR STATE RECALL CAMPAIGN** - to the shock of both sides. Her invisibility to the public must be embarrassing to Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch. After all she's the perky brunet, arch-conservative, self-described Palin-like Grizzly Mamma, former morning anchor with the death head's stare who popped up with Scott Walker in 2010 campaign ads and boasted in her own commercial that the state didn't need federal health care or \$800 million in rail money ("I'm a mom, I've got a minivan").

**ALL THAT APPARENTLY DIDN'T LIGHT UP THE STATE'S MEMORY BANK,** judging from door to door responses. Citizens are quick to sign up to recall Gov. Scott Walker, but when it comes to Kleefisch - who would step in if the governor dies -- they keep asking, huh? Even Barbara Lawton didn't go through this -- most knew she was Doyle's running mate, maybe because she spoke up for women and had her own views. Kleefisch on the other hand can't defer often enough to Walker and has clearly been instructed to stay quiet. Thus she is both electoral curiosity and after-thought.

**IT SEEMS HARDLY ANYONE VOTED FOR HER CONSCIOUSLY.** They were simply elected together and she isn't even named in the wire service election returns. Walker is the hated name on everyone's list, but here's how fair-minded Wisconsinites are. They keep asking petition distributors, "What's she done?" (Not much, alas). And "Why a separate petition?" For that, blame GOP Atty. Gen. J.B. Van Hollen. He ruled that while the duo was elected together, separate petitions are now required. A constitutional nightmare looms if the state recalls him and leaves a new Democratic governor with a lame duck Republican heir no one can remember.

**KLEEFISCH DID COST WALKER VOTES** in October 2010 with her extreme opinions in a radio interview when she compared gays to a clock or chair. No kidding. Direct quote, which she later claimed was taken out of context: "At what point are we going to okay marrying inanimate objects? Can I marry this table, or this - you know, clock? Can we marry dogs?" Out of context or off the charts?

**HER OTHER CLAIM TO FAME WAS CANCER.** She says she beat it, for which voters of all stripes are grateful. No one would make political hay over disease, would they? But she didn't reveal her illness to the world or even her running mate until after she had won her GOP primary --at which point she also slammed Obama's affordable care act. (Which is easy to do when you can afford it.) Several of her primary opponents were quietly disturbed that she never told voters of her health issue even when she had a tumor removed two days before the primary, but none wisely made an issue of her colon cancer, which she now says is all gone after chemo.

**KLEEFISCH'S NO-THERE-THERE MAY BE AN ADVANTAGE** right now since everyone is so focused on getting rid of Walker and can't even think of the consequences of her hanging around. But if you need more motive than pending constitutional madness, think of the behavior of her GOP husband, Rep. Joel Kleefisch, also a former TV newsman. In all those YouTube videos he is the surly, stocky self-appointed sergeant-at-arms on the Assembly floor glowering up at quiet protesters.

# Felons bill laced with closet bigotry

IT'S ONE THING TO REWARD your corporate buddies with "incentives" that give them money for not creating jobs, or to scare the bejesus out of ordinary citizens who don't agree with your social policies by forcing obedience anyway

It's another when your power goes loopy inhumane and even sacrilegious, drawing the outrage and disbelief of ethics experts and religious leaders of all denominations and all political persuasions.

THAT IS SB 207, the so-called felons law, approved by the lopsided GOP in the Assembly and heading to do the same in the Senate unless sidetracked by negotiations, common sense and growing community outrage from all quarters.

SB 207 would erase an accepted state standard - that no employer would face an employment discrimination suit for refusing to let a former felon fill a job related to his or her original offense.

But SB 207 would change that law (and forbid any local government to modify it). An employer could now refuse to hire or could even go back in time to terminate ANY former felon not pardoned by a governor "whether or not the circumstances of the felony substantially relate to the circumstances of the particular job."

IN OTHER WORDS, EX-FELONS can be rejected for any reason or any job simply because of the one-time F next to their application, even if it happened 30 years ago, even if it bears no relationship to the job at hand.

## US bought the poison of prison as panacea

THERE WAS A TIME IN OUR SOCIETY when prison was the avenue an angry society used to solve every drug habit, policy protest gone haywire, beating at the ball park, the selling of little packets of powder or weed to your friends, and on and on. When "just say no" didn't work, we threw them all in prison and hang the expense.

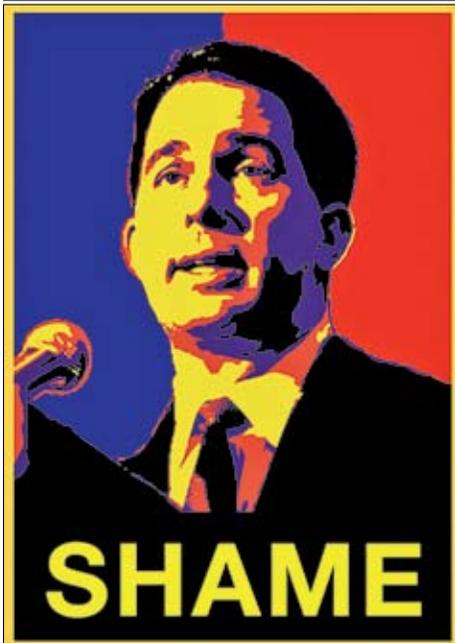
RECENT FEDERAL STATISTICS indicate that 40% of state felony convictions hit those under age 30. Yet few felony convictions are for violent crimes like murder, rape or gun play. Most were drug-related or property-related, which can be burglary but also can be bouncing a check or stealing from a store.

SB 207 LETS ANY EMPLOYER rely on this dead hand of the past to park conscience and human judgment on the shelf. It's also an invitation to nepotism and a temptation to firing -- turning upside down the American concept of work as rehabilitating. History demonstrates that our worst instincts come out in times of economic hardship -- and that also applies to the bosses, who now have a legal excuse to return to the medieval.

So pity the struggling youth who got in trouble and wants to straighten out after doing his time. Forget the reformed offender anxious to be a good parent and support a family. Neither would get a foot in the closing door if you examine the nuances of this bill. A longtime good employee who did something illegal long ago now has to worry if his boss will find an excuse to let him go and later hire that lazy cousin.

IN THE US, ONE IN FOUR - some 65 million - have criminal records. Many did not have the good lawyer, family connections and sympathetic suburban judges that allowed them to skate on misdemeanors for

## ACTION EDITORIAL



charges that in the big city led to felony convictions. Few of those lucky, few who came out of prison long ago and few who are coming out tomorrow are bad to the bone and unredeemable for society. Only someone with hardening of the intellectual and moral arteries could think like that

ONE KEY SPONSOR, Sen. Alberta Darling, defended the bill by outrageously calling ex-felons a "protected" privileged class of workers, like the police officers and fire fighters who retain full bargaining rights under Walker rule. In her view felons can at will sue those sweet nice business owners if they dare not hire them for normal stuff like lack of ability or skill, simply by holler- ing employment discrimination.

Normally you need evidence to accuse people like this, but these are just ex-felons. No proof exists in court and administrative documents, but fear runs rampant among risk-averse business types. Discriminating just because of arrest or conviction -- which is against federal law -- is so high a legal bar that an employer almost has to say, "Get lost, con!" to incur a penalty. The SB 207 solution to a non-existent problem -- sound familiar? -- is keep ex-felons from applying in the first place.

WISCONSIN HAS SOME 60,000 of the 12 million former felons in the US, many white, many not. The folks propagating the myth of organized and probably unionized ex-felons plotting to steal good Republican corporate money by colluding with shyster lawyers - it would be a comedic vision of the world were it not so insulting.

## Exposing the sly wink of corruption

THE REAL REASON FOR THIS BILL is wink and nod -- that sly game that screams of political corruption and allows lawmakers to secretly wink to their buddies that the rules aren't aimed at affluent friends but at the powerless outsiders.

Business owners and those with inherited wealth and clout know how many of their own kind (some nice people, I'm sure) got caught up in the conviction game over the years of drug and white collar crimes and couldn't escape the felony label even with the breaks in lawyers and venues.

IF SB 207 PASSES, they can selectively hire those they know while rejecting without fear of lawsuit the outsider with the beard, the tattoo or the peculiar skin tone. The bias may seem obvious, but when you're in power how can anyone (wink wink nod nod) accuse you of acting like a criminal?

**City of Milwaukee  
Election Commission**

**Wisconsin Law Requires:**  
**Voters to show a photo ID to vote starting  
with the 2012 Spring Primary**



**Acceptable Forms of Photo ID**

An acceptable photo ID is not required to contain a current address.

- ☐ A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- ☐ A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- ☐ A Military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service
- ☐ A U.S. passport

**NOTE: Identifications above must have an expiration date after the November 2, 2010 election.**

- ☐ A certificate of naturalization that was issued not earlier than two years before the date of an election at which it is presented
- ☐ An unexpired driving receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT
- ☐ An unexpired identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT
- ☐ An identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin
- ☐ An unexpired identification card issued by a Wisconsin-accredited university or college that contains the following:
  - ⇒ Date of Issuance
  - ⇒ Signature of Student
  - ⇒ Expiration date not later than two years after Date of Issuance

Bring one of these nine forms of identification to Vote!

**If you do not have one of these acceptable forms of ID, a Wisconsin Identification Card is available FREE of charge.**

## Free Wisconsin ID Card for Voting

### A free ID card is available under Wisconsin law to anyone who:

- will be at least 18 years of age on the date of the next election and;
- requests an ID card for the purpose of voting.

### A free ID card is **NOT** available under the following circumstances:

- If you currently have a valid, unexpired drivers license (DL), you are not eligible under Wisconsin law to obtain an ID.
- If you will not be at least 18 years of age on the date of the next election.
- If you already have a Wisconsin ID card that is not eligible for renewal (you may renew your ID card up to one year prior to its expiration date).
- If you are not eligible to vote in Wisconsin.

### To obtain a free identification (ID) card:

You must report to a DMV Service Center with the required documents. There are [six \(6\) DMV Offices](#) in Milwaukee County. When applying it will be necessary to provide:

- Proof of [name and date of birth](#), for example, a certified U.S. birth certificate, valid passport or certificate of naturalization.
- Proof of [identity](#) (usually a document with a signature or photo).
- Proof of [Wisconsin residency](#).
- Proof of [U.S. citizenship, legal permanent resident status, legal conditional resident status or legal temporary visitor status](#).
- Your social security number.

### Contact the Wisconsin DOT if you have further questions about obtaining a free identification card for voting purposes:

- Email: [driverrecords.dmv@dot.wi.gov](mailto:driverrecords.dmv@dot.wi.gov)
- Call: (608) 266-2353 or;
- Visit DMV's website: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/apply/idcard.htm>

City of Milwaukee Election Commission | 200 E. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 286-3491 | [www.milwaukee.gov/election](http://www.milwaukee.gov/election)

## BEHIND ACTION!

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While Milwaukee specific, the general information and rules of the new voter law provided above by the Milwaukee Election Commission apply to all state voters.

But there are more wrinkles that need to be examined for the absentee voter, the disabled, the shut-ins, the elderly or confidential classes of voters at [gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id](http://gab.wi.gov/elections-voting/photo-id)

# Recall Walker!

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