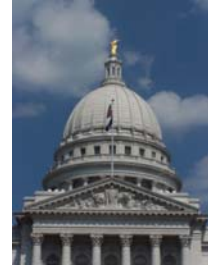


The Inside Scoop

An Inside Look at National, State and Local Politics

August 16, 2005 Vol. 2 # 1 (#23)

Special 1st Anniversary Edition



Mark Graul Visits With the Scoop by Rick Sense

Mark Graul, Congressman Mark Green's former Chief of Staff and current leader of his campaign for Governor, recently took time out to answer questions for Scoop readers.

RS-Thank you for taking time from the Green Team's 72 Counties in 100 Days campaign swing across our great State to answer questions for readers of The Inside Scoop. Let me start by congratulating you on the wonderful work and service you have provided to Mark Green over these many years, and also the amazing work you did for President Bush and Vice President Cheney during the last Presidential Election. You worked tirelessly on bringing the President and Vice President a Wisconsin victory that was snatched away by fraud.

What are your thoughts on the revelations of the many documented cases of voter fraud in Milwaukee and Madison during the November 2004 Election and what do you think can be done to prevent the theft of future elections in Wisconsin?

MG-Since this is a family publication I can't share all of my thoughts on this subject! I don't know if the election was stolen from us in Wisconsin, but I don't know that it wasn't. That's scary stuff...had Ohio gone the other way, we would have been the deciding state and I'm not sure the legal battle would be over even yet.

(Graul continued on pg 3)

Scoop Enters Year 2 by Rick Sense



Deep in the throws of Campaign 2004, friends of the Scoop Marci VanAdestine, Tim Higgins, Carl Soderberg and I were trying to find a way to stay in contact with Bush/Cheney volunteers and politically interested folks in the Fox Cities. We thought of many different avenues, but settled on the idea of developing an 'information tool' that would be created to serve the purpose of keeping in touch with and communicating campaign updates to the growing number of grassroots volunteers.

(Scoop Enters Year 2 continued on page 2)



Speaker Gard: "Congratulations Scoop"

Dear Rick,

Congratulations on the tremendous success of "The Inside Scoop" as you celebrate your "first" anniversary.

Constantly reaching our friends and voters is critical to election day success. In addition, "The Inside Scoop" is a great forum to get feedback on the serious issues we need advice on.

(Speaker Gard "Congratulations" continued on pg 2)

(Scoop Enters Year 2 continued from pg 1)

The first issue of the Scoop was only a few pages in length, and was received by less than 200 'subscribers' in August of 2004. Since that time, more than 1,400 people now receive the Scoop directly from Tim Higgins or me via email. This list of 'subscribers' has grown beyond the Fox Cities as well, and includes readers all over Wisconsin and in Washington, D.C.

I want to take a moment to thank Marci, Tim and Carl for their support and work on behalf of the Scoop this past year. I also want to thank those that have directly contributed material during this past year to The Inside Scoop-Ryan Eddy, Carl Soderberg, Tim Higgins, Brian Riedl, Peter Stueck and Tony Phillips.

Special thanks as well to those that have been willing to submit to interviews over the past year-Congressman Mark Green, Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker John Gard, Republican Party of Wisconsin Chair Rick Graber, Representative Jean Hundertmark, Representative Terri McCormick, Attorney General candidates J.B. Van Hollen and Paul Bucher, Mark Graul, Ryan Smith, Scott Becher, Jason Rostan and Nathan Berken.

Finally, I want to thank you, the readers, for allowing me to enter your email box every once in awhile with this labor of love called The Inside Scoop. I look forward to many more years of providing political commentary and news to the Scoop's many friends all over Wisconsin and in Washington, D.C.

Thank you again.

(Speaker Gard "Congratulations" from pg 1)

I wish you continued success and can't thank you enough for the great work done through "The Inside Scoop"!

Your friend,
John Gard



Needle Delivery Only Undermined its Goal

by Carl Soderberg

(editor's note-the following is an expansion of a letter to the editor written by Carl Soderberg that appeared in the Post Crescent August 6, 2005)

Beginning July 28th, Wisconsin media reported the story of Elizabeth Kastner, a Fish Creek mother of a child with Juvenile Diabetes who gave Governor Jim Doyle a bag full of used needles at his July 14th appearance in Bailey's Harbor. She asked Doyle to deliver the needles to Speaker of the Assembly John Gard, to symbolize her opposition to the bill to ban human cloning, which Speaker Gard supports. Five days later, a Doyle staffer delivered the bag of needles to Speaker Gard's office.

The liberal Wisconsin media reported the story uncritically, portraying it as a mother's attempt to find a cure for her child's illness. But it actually was a crass political stunt to politicize the nonpartisan issue of diabetes research, and to attack Kastner's political opponents who support the human cloning ban.

How does delivering a shopping bag full of medical waste (over 1400 used hypodermic needles) advance diabetes research? It doesn't. It is an outrageous political stunt, violating Wisconsin's laws regarding disposal of hazardous medical wastes. Her actions make people who support and fund diabetes research appear to be cranks and lawbreakers -- hardly a way to encourage the public to support and fund diabetes research. Even the reliably liberal Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel editorial admits "Cheap and dangerous stunts like

(Needle Delivery continued on pg. 6)

(Graul continued from pg 1)

I think it's clear the only path to real election reform in Wisconsin is to replace Governor Doyle. He's now vetoed three times the legislation that would require voters to show a photo ID. That would be step one. We also have to better equip and train election workers.

RS-Many Scoop readers may not know you very well. Will you spend some time and discuss your personal background and education as well as your family and how they have shaped the person you are today?

MG-I grew up the Milwaukee suburb of Wauwatosa the son of union leader and a Democrat. In fact, the first political event I ever attended was a rally for Walter Mondale. I grew up thinking Democrats were the party of the little guy...boy was I wrong! When I got to college at the University of Wisconsin, I quickly realized I wasn't a Democrat and joined the College Republicans. Governor Thompson's re-election in 1990 was the first campaign I volunteered for and that started what has now been 15 years working in Wisconsin politics.

RS-How did you and Mark Green connect?

MG-After I graduated from UW in 1992, I was working part time in the State Capitol for State Representative Peggy Rosenzweig, my hometown representative, but she did not have a full time position available. So, I was hired to work on Assembly campaigns and was sent to Menominee (about half-way between Eau Claire and the Twin Cities) to work for a guy named Chuck Stokke. Chuck's a great guy, but we got our butts kicked. After that, I was going to take a year off and go to Law School. I did apply for a couple of jobs in the State Capitol, including one for a young attorney who just was elected to the Assembly by the name of Mark Green. I thought working for a UW Law School grad would give me a better shot of being accepted there myself. That one year off has turned into 13 years now!

RS-What is your current role with Congressman Green in Washington? Will you describe some of your duties?

MG-I left the Congressional office in March to work on the campaign. But, when I was Chief of Staff, my biggest responsibility was to "coach" the great team Mark has around him to make sure we were achieving the goals he laid out.

RS-What was the hardest part of the work that you did in Washington? What did you enjoy the most?

MG-I think the hardest part about Washington is how horribly slow everything is. It takes forever to get a good idea moved through the legislative process – even when no one objects to the idea.

The parts of Washington I enjoyed the most have to do with the history of the place. Everywhere you turn you bump into something of great historical significance.

RS-What are you proudest of accomplishing while you were in Washington and why?

MG-We've had a lot of great moments during Mark's nearly seven years in Congress, so it is hard to pick just one. But, if I had to, I'll never forget the way I felt when I was driving home from northern Wisconsin and Chad Weinger, Mark's Deputy Chief of Staff, called to tell me that the Navy had found the lost fishing boat the *Linda E*. I knew how much that meant to those families and I was so proud that Mark's efforts had paid off.

RS-Moving from Washington back to Wisconsin, will you take a moment and describe your role and efforts on behalf of the Bush/Cheney 2004 campaign here in Wisconsin? What did you learn that you are able to apply to Mark's current campaign for Governor?

MG-I was the Wisconsin executive director for the President's re-election effort – meaning I helped coordinate the ground game in Wisconsin for the Bush-Cheney team. My responsibilities included everything from ensuring the success of a 20,000 person rally to making sure we were meeting our volunteer voter contact goals.

I learned two fundamental things: 1) volunteers will work hard if you ask them to and they understand

(Graul continued on pg 4)

(Graul continued from pg 3)

the value of their action. 2) Having a good staff team cannot be undervalued. We were so fortunate to have a fantastic group of mostly very young people pour their hearts and souls into that campaign.



Mark Graul (back row, center) poses with the other Bush/Cheney 2004 State Directors at the 2004 Christmas Party at The White House.

RS-Last winter I was amazed at how many people were asking me when Mark was going to announce his run for Governor so they could “start working on winning back Wisconsin.” Now that he has announced, I am equally surprised at how many folks are signing on to the Green Team so early in the process. These folks aren’t just jumping on the bandwagon either, they are rolling up their sleeves and getting to work by walking parades, distributing flyers at county fairs and showing up for calling events for Mark. What has the reaction been in other areas of the state as you continue on the 72 Counties in 100 Days tour?

MG-It really has been fantastic. Mark has been going around the state for years now helping candidates and local parties. Folks are remembering that Mark came around when he didn’t have to and are rewarding that with their support.

RS-Will you share with Scoop readers your role in Mark’s campaign? And can you talk about how the campaign will want us to organize the Green Team in Outagamie County and with whom from the campaign we may be working with to win back the state?

MG-I am the campaign manager, which means I am involved with all aspects of the campaign. Thankfully, I have two very competent and qualified individuals who also work with me. Heather Weininger, who is the deputy campaign manager, has been ensuring we have volunteers at community events and identifying opportunities for Mark to attend. Vicky Renard, who is the finance director, is working to make sure we have all the resources we’re going to need to compete with Jim Doyle and his liberal allies.

Next year, we’ll bring on some field staff to work directly with our county organizations to implement our grassroots plan. Scoop readers will be excited to know that Marci VanAdestine will be part of that effort.

Much like the Bush campaign we’ll be organizing county by county across the state. We’ll have steering committees, coalition chairs and we’ll want community or neighborhood captains to handle a ward, township or whatever political boundaries you all decide make sense for Outagamie County.

RS-Mark, why is this election so important?

MG-Wisconsin is at a crossroads, and we have a governor who is taking a wrong turn that could end up relegating our state to also-ran status. We need an all out effort to make Wisconsin the best place in the country to create good jobs, raise a family, get a good education and have a lot of fun along the way. Jim Doyle seems set on making it even more expensive to stay in Wisconsin, and we just can’t afford that.

Mark has a plan to lead our state forward and I think it is fantastic that he has made it clear that only greatness should be acceptable.

RS-If somebody that is reading this is sitting on the fence on whether or not to get involved with the campaign, what would you tell them?

MG-Look at my answer to the previous question... how can you sit on the sideline when so much is on the line? And, the Green Team has a heck of a lot of fun while we carry out our very serious business!

(Graul continued on pg 5)

(Graul continued from pg 4)

RS-Finally, as you know I am a fan of the game of baseball and I know you are as well. I am wondering what do you think of the Designated Hitter rule, should it stay or go and why?

MG-Well, I grew up an American League guy with the Brewers, and was very opposed to the switch to the National League. Change is never an easy thing for me! However, now that I've had a chance to watch the NL up close, I am a big fan – including not having a DH. There is so much more strategy and thinking that goes into it, especially in late innings. So, put me in the get rid of the DH column.

RS-Thank you again Mark for your time and very interesting insights into your work.

Speaker Gard: “Activist Court Overstepping Authority” on Malpractice Reform

“This is another example of an activist court overstepping its authority. This shortsighted ruling jeopardizes quality health care for every resident in the state, especially for folks in rural areas.

Medical malpractice reform was a major issue which helped return Republicans to the majority in the State Assembly. This law became a nationwide model for frivolous lawsuit reform and helped make Wisconsin a magnet state for good doctors.

Fixing this ruling will be a top priority for Assembly Republicans.”

Speaker Gard Names Public Members of Medical-Malpractice Reform Task Force

Five public members will round out the Speaker’s Task Force on Medical-Malpractice Reform. Assembly Speaker John Gard created the task force to find a way to keep Wisconsin an attractive place for doctors to practice medicine after the recent

Supreme Court decision which threw out caps on non-economic damages.

For a decade, Wisconsin law capped excessive non-economic, pain and suffering awards. The ruling leaves Wisconsin vulnerable to a mass exodus of health care professionals. “I’m very concerned about how this ruling will affect folks in rural Wisconsin,” Gard said, “When the caps were in place, Wisconsin was a destination state for good doctors. In other states that don’t have the caps, rural areas are not able to find quality doctors and people are forced to drive hours for health care. That can’t be allowed to happen here.”

The five public members will be: David Strifling, an attorney with the law firm of Quarles and Brady; Mary Wolverton, an attorney who specializes in health care lawsuits in her practice with Peterson, Johnson and Murray, SC of Milwaukee; Dr. “Bud” Chumbley, an obstetrician and President/CEO of Medical Associates Health Centers in Menominee Falls; David Olson, a hospital CEO, board member and founder of NorthReach; and Ralph Topinka, Vice President and General Counsel of Mercy Alliance in Janesville.

Representative Curt Gielow (R-Mequon) will lead the task force. Joining Representative Gielow will be; Assembly Majority Leader Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem), Representative Ann Nischke (R-Waukesha), Representative Jason Fields (D-Milwaukee) and Representative Bob Ziegelbauer (D-Manitowoc).

“Fewer quality doctors mean an increased likelihood of malpractice cases and malpractice lawsuits,” Gard said, “We need to lower health care costs and keep doctors from fleeing – especially rural parts of the state.”

The Supreme Court threw out Wisconsin’s ten year old statutes protecting patients and doctors from paying for excessive pain and suffering lawsuits. In 1995, Assembly Republicans led the fight to bring lawsuit reform to Wisconsin. It is worth noting that Wisconsin has no cap for economic damages. Injured patients can be fully compensated for their loss of work and medical costs.

(Needle Delivery continued from pg. 2)

this detract from the importance of serious illness like Juvenile Diabetes and the attempts, such as stem cell research, to throw light on their causes and cures.”

Not only do such actions alienate the public, they also alienate diabetes research supporters who disagree with Kastner's stand. Imagine how all the people who support diabetes research - volunteers, fund-raisers, donors, and other activists - that don't agree with her politics react to a stunt like hers. It is a cruel "thank you" for all their hard work.

Elizabeth Kastner is not only a democrat; she is an activist, and the Caucus Co-Coordinator of the Progressive Democrats of Wisconsin Caucus, the far-left ultra-liberal wing of the Democratic Party. Kastner's real motive is to attack her perceived political opponents, the supporters of the bill to ban human cloning. She needlessly politicizes diabetes research by stating, when referring to the future veto of the human cloning bill, “My daughter cannot be cured of her disease without his (Doyle's) veto pen.”

Kastner is trying to convert non-partisan diabetes research into a platform for a left-wing political crusade for human embryo cloning. Instead of supporting all avenues of diabetes research, Kastner demands acquiescence to her political agenda. In Kastner's politics-before-all-else world, if you don't support the left's demands for human embryo cloning, you don't support diabetes research. And this is simply not true. There are non-stem cell avenues of research. And, the human cloning bill doesn't prohibit or ban research on stem cells from other non-cloned sources. Stem cell research will continue under the human cloning ban.

Kastner is incorrect to portray diabetes research as a partisan political issue. People with opposing views on the human cloning ban support diabetes research. Proponents of the ban can support non-stem cell research and non-cloned stem cell research. Opponents of the ban can support and advocate for cloned stem cell research. But diabetes research itself is not on one side of the cloning issue, and should not be portrayed that way. Neither side of the issue can legitimately claim diabetes research as their own.

Such a pointless melodramatic gesture is predictable from an extremist political hack, but the terribly poor judgment shown by Doyle and his administration is just one more disappointment in a growing number of disappointments that illustrate how far out of touch Doyle is with traditional Wisconsin values.

Why on earth would Doyle's security people allow someone they didn't know and hadn't background checked to hand the governor a bag of used needles?

Second, why would Doyle's Chief of Staff not only allow, but order the bag to be delivered anywhere (except to proper disposal) days after it was received? What could she possibly have been thinking?

Third, did anyone at Doyle's office even consider the feelings of Speaker Gard's staffers who received the medical waste, the Capitol's maintenance staff who refused to touch it, or the Capitol Police who had to transport it to a hospital for proper disposal? How were they supposed to know it wasn't contagious or highly dangerous? Or are liberals, counter to their own rhetoric, only concerned about people who feel as they do.

Fourth, why didn't Doyle's staff follow the laws regarding medical waste transport and disposal? Used needles are required by law to be disposed of in puncture-resistant container with a secured lid, not in a paper shopping bag. Doyle swore an oath to uphold the laws of Wisconsin when he took office, not break them. Doesn't he know the laws of the state he is supposedly leading?

Fifth, not having done a background check, didn't it occur to anyone on Doyle's staff that someone wanting bio-waste delivered on their behalf might not be the most stable person in Wisconsin?

As the story developed over several days, Doyle and his aides contradicted themselves or each other. Doyle recently repeatedly claimed that the bag of medical waste was given to an aide, not himself, although the Green Bay Press-Gazette coverage of the July 14th event says “During a stop at Bailey's Harbor, Kastner handed the governor a package with 1400 used syringes ...”. Not only is the administration changing the story on who accepted
(Needle Delivery continued on pg. 7)

(Needle Delivery continued from pg. 6)

the waste, but it can't decide whether or not Doyle authorized its delivery to Speaker Gard's office. The Journal-Sentinel reports Doyle's Chief of Staff as approving the transfer, but the Press-Gazette quotes Doyle's Communication Director as acknowledging that Doyle himself approved of the delivery. In an earlier Journal-Sentinel story, the same spokesperson was unsure if Doyle knew of the transfer, and said Doyle's staff believed the needles were unused.

Even more contradictory, Doyle has admitted that his staff should not have transferred the needles to Speaker Gard's office, but he refuses to criticize his staff, or apologize for their involvement in the stunt. Although Doyle's Chief of Staff eventually apologized for ordering the needles delivered, the apology was not ordered by, or even considered necessary or proper by Doyle. Even the liberal Journal-Sentinel and Wisconsin State Journal, both Doyle supporters, have called on Doyle himself to apologize.

As Doyle's administration shifted into war-room damage control mode, they attempted to justify the stunt and down-play its importance. Spokesperson Dan Leistikow said "the needles were sheathed and posed no threat," adding snottily 'Gard should listen to the people, and not call the police on them. We certainly shouldn't be calling the police against people who have a viewpoint they want to express.'

Imagine if activists delivered a shopping bag containing a handgun and more than 1400 bullets to Doyle's office. Do you think Leistikow would have said, "The gun was unloaded and posed no threat." "Doyle should listen to the people, not call the police on them." After all, the activists only "have a viewpoint they wanted to express."

The only person to emerge from this childish comic-drama as a real leader, considerate of the feelings and opinions of people on both sides of the issue, is Assembly Speaker John Gard.

After maintenance workers refused to touch the bag of waste, the Capitol Police placed the needles in a biohazard garbage can and took it to a hospital for safe, legal disposal.

In the follow-up police investigation to this bizarre incident, Speaker Gard declined to have Kastner arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, even though the Capitol Police determined such a citation was justified. If Governor Doyle had half the self-restraint and common sense of Speaker Gard, he would have advised Kastner stick to rational, civil debate, and not even accepted the bag of needles. He should have ended this immature publicity stunt immediately, instead of approving it, involving his staff in it, and lending the credibility of the governor's office to it.

By accepting and passing on the needles, Doyle is trying to use the suffering inflicted by this horrendous disease on Kastner's daughter for his own political gain. Does he believe that pulling such a political stunt will bolster his sagging chances for re-election?



Bill Sense (left) and Kristy Boyle listen in as Wisconsin State Assembly Speaker John Gard answers questions at a recent gathering in Grand Chute.



Constitution Corner
2nd Amendment:
The Right to Bear Arms
 by Rick Sense

(editor's note-with the recent nomination of John Roberts to replace Justice O'Connor on the Supreme Court a series of articles reviewing the US Constitution is appearing in The Inside Scoop. This is the second of the series.)

**Second Amendment To The Constitution of
The United States**

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.

Many of us know what the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has to say about our right to bear arms, but what do the Founders have to say about this right afforded to Americans under the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution? What follows are selected quotes by the Founders on the Second Amendment.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON:

“If the representatives of the people betray their constituents, there is then no recourse left but in the exertion of that original right of self defense which is paramount to all positive forms of government.”
 --Federalist # 28

“Little more can reasonably be aimed at with respect to the people at large than to have them properly armed and equipped...” -- Federalist # 29

GEORGE MASON:

“Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect every one who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are ruined.... O sir, we should have fine times, indeed, if to punish tyrants, it were only sufficient to assemble the people!”

SAMUEL BRYAN:

“That the people have a right to bear arms for the defense of themselves and their own state, or the United States, or for the purpose of killing game; and no law shall be passed for disarming the people or any of them, unless for crimes committed, or real danger of public injury from individuals...” -- during debates on ratification of the Constitution in the Pennsylvania Assembly

TENCH COXE:

“Who are the militia? Are they not ourselves? Congress has no power to disarm the militia. Their swords and every other terrible implement of the soldier are the birthright of an American . . . The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people.” -- The Pennsylvania Gazette, Feb. 20, 1788

RICHARD HENRY LEE:

“To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them.”

PATRICK HENRY:

“That the people have a Right to mass and to bear arms; that a well regulated militia composed of the Body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper natural and safe defense of a free state...”

THOMAS PAINE:

“Weakness allures the ruffian but arms, like laws, discourage and keep the invader and the plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property. Horrid mischief would ensue were the law abiding citizens deprived of the use of them, and the weak will become a prey to the strong.”
 --“Thoughts On Defensive War”, 1775

Loeffelholz Social Security Tax Cut is Signed by Doyle

State Representative Gabe Loeffelholz (R-Platteville) thanked Governor Doyle today for including his legislation to remove the state's income tax of social security benefits.

"One of my top priorities in the Assembly has always been cutting taxes for those who need it most – our seniors," said Loeffelholz. "I appreciate the Governor's willingness to help the legislature tackle this important issue."

Loeffelholz's bill, Assembly Bill 17, provided for a complete elimination of state income taxes paid on social security benefits. At Loeffelholz's request, the Joint Finance Committee passed his bill and included a five year phase-in provision. With bipartisan cooperation, the Assembly overwhelmingly adopted an amendment to change the phase-in to three years. Today Governor Doyle announced he will modify the legislature's provision eliminating the phase-in. The benefit will take effect in January 2008.

"We are putting \$100 million dollars where it belongs - right pack in the pockets of Wisconsin's senior citizens," said Loeffelholz. "Our seniors have already paid taxes on this money once, and I am proud to say they won't be paying on it again."

Loeffelholz pointed out the current state tax on social security benefits amounts to double taxation of Social Security. Retirees were being punished by having their contributions to the Social Security System taxed at the time they contribute, then again when they receive their benefit.

"Wisconsin's high tax burden has forced many state residents to flee the state, which is not only a loss economically, but puts an undue hardship on our working families," Loeffelholz said. "This tax cut is an important step towards correcting this growing problem."

Loeffelholz co-sponsored this legislation his first term, and authored the bill last session in 2003 as Assembly Bill 167.



"Teacher's Union Slips Republicans Television 'Mickey' by Crediting Doyle for Republican Budget Initiatives" Capone

by Rick Sense

Deceased mobster, political scientist and frequent Inside Scoop contributor Al Capone recently weighed-in on WEAC's airing of pro-Doyle campaign style television commercials.

"Diamond Jim busts me up. He gets his friends at the teachers' union to produce and run commercials, all on their dime. And they give him credit for all the creative stuff the Republicans proposed on top of it. WEAC makes us political types from Chicago envious," remarked Capone.

The Republican property tax freeze and Representative Loeffelholz's Social Security tax cut initiative have now become Doyle 'leadership staples' in the advertisements.

"Wisconsin has a dandy in Diamond Jim Doyle. This guy has friends and staff do his dirty work-voter fraud, campaign commercials that don't do a good enough job telling who put them on the tube and medical waste 'hits' by staffers and almost no one in the 'independent mainstream press' bothers to check into it. I sure would have loved Wisconsin's 'watch dog' media types working the Chicago beat in my day," stated Capone.

Capone believes that Doyle's luck is going to change. "I hope Diamond Jim enjoys the ride now. When people start seeing their property tax bills in December and see Wisconsin's deficit continue to rise-they'll start asking questions that he won't want to have to answer and won't be able to 'silence'," commented Capone.

Property Values Rise, But Thanks to Doyle Budget So Could Property Taxes

RPW Press Release

State officials announced yesterday that property values in Wisconsin rose 9.4% last year, the largest leap in 25 years. While this is a positive sign for the direction of the state's economy, the increase in values may also mean an increase in property tax bills this December due to the state budget Governor James E. Doyle recently signed into law.

According to Doyle, the freeze he signed will mean the average property tax on the average home will not go up next year and will go down \$5 in December 2006. However, Doyle's plan exempts schools and technical colleges and allows municipalities to increase spending by 2% or the percentage growth of new construction in their community, whichever is greater. According to figures released yesterday by the Revenue Department, some municipalities will be able to raise property taxes by as much as 27%.

In response, the governor is asking elected officials in communities with high growth not to raise taxes to the maximum amount even though they are allowed to do so.



RPW Chair Rick Graber

"Governor Doyle is clearly offering a phony tax freeze plan. Taxpayers may actually see an increase in their property tax bills," said Rick Graber, chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. "Not even another misleading ad funded by WEAC can gloss over the reality of his plan."

Under the Republican budget, taxpayers would have received a three-year freeze on property taxes. However, using his veto pen, Doyle took their budget and gave taxpayers a false, two-year property tax plan to cover him through the 2006

elections. According to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, the state may not be able to enforce his plan for more than one year.

Even Doyle's Secretary of Revenue, Michael Morgan, acknowledged in a press release that some homes may see an increase in property taxes.

"The governor's plan is not a freeze. Not only are communities given the means to increase taxes by exorbitant amounts, they may not even be penalized for it," said Graber. "Wisconsin taxpayers will be paying for Doyle's plan for a long time."



Mark Green Reacts to Doyle Voter ID Veto

"Jim Doyle is single-handedly standing in the way of the most significant step we can take to fix Wisconsin's broken election system. Unfortunately, he's made it very clear the only way Wisconsin will ever achieve significant election reform is to remove him from office.

"Democracy is rooted in the principle that each of us deserves to have our vote count equally – but only once. Voting is a sacred right. But when the system is flawed and open to mischief, the result is continued voter apathy and a mistrust of government and elected officials.

"We need a complete overhaul of our election process and it starts with a simple, common-sense measure that would require voters to show photo identification. Jim Doyle's opposition to this measure puts him horribly out of step with the rest of the state.

"If I am elected governor, the very first bill I sign will be one that restores faith to our electoral system...and 2006 will be the last time you don't have to show an ID to vote."

**Milwaukee Rated Country's #2
"Hot Spot" for Voter Fraud**
*Despite further Documentation of Fraud,
Doyle Still Refuses Photo ID Measure*
RPW Press Release

One of the most comprehensive reviews on allegations of voter fraud, intimidation and suppression surrounding the 2004 presidential election has named Milwaukee the number two hot spot in America for Election Day fraud. The American Center for Voting Rights Legislative Fund report, "Vote Fraud, Intimidation & Suppression in the 2004 Presidential Election," exposes voter suppression and intimidation, identifies fraudulent voter behavior and calls for efforts to reform Milwaukee's election system.

"From the US DOJ to the ACVR, Washington gets it. Wisconsin is a magnet for voter fraud. Now when will our governor get it? As this report shows, we have a disturbing pattern of voter fraud in our state, but Governor Doyle continues to blame the problems on bureaucratic errors," said Rick Graber, chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. "Without much-needed, common sense reforms like photo ID, our election system will continue to be a source of embarrassment for our state and a mockery of democracy."

Among the factors that propelled Milwaukee to the number two spot is a joint federal-local investigation that found "clear evidence of fraud" such as hundreds of felon and double voters and thousands more ballots cast than the number of recorded voters. Nine people have been charged with voter fraud in the 2004 elections, while more charges are expected as part of the ongoing investigation. The only other city to rank higher than Milwaukee on the "Hot Spot" list is Philadelphia.

While the evidence, analysis and investigations continue to make the case for a photo ID requirement at the polls, Governor Doyle has insisted that it is not necessary and has vetoed such a measure twice. This month, a photo ID bill that received bi-partisan support and has the backing of a majority of voters statewide will be sent to his desk again. Doyle has said he would veto it.

"Doyle's refusal to enact photo ID sends the signal that he's not serious about ensuring that our election system is as accurate as possible," said Graber. "That works to the disadvantage all voters, regardless of what party they choose to support."

According to the report, Democrats routinely accuse Republicans of voter intimidation and voter suppression but paid Democratic operatives were more involved in such tactics than Republicans in the 2004 elections.

"Governor Doyle needs to prevent voter disenfranchisement and restore the faith of every voter in Wisconsin," said Graber. "In order to regain the confidence in our electoral process, he should join Democrats in the legislature who agree photo ID is a reform that will improve the system."

For more on the report, visit www.ac4vr.com.

**Doyle Veto: "Seniors
Disenfranchised by Voter ID"**
Same Seniors Victims of Doyle Tax Policy
by Rick Sense

As baseball great Yogi Berra said, "its déjà-vu all over again" as Jim Doyle swung and missed for a third time on Voter-ID legislation. After shaking his heavily-used veto pen to prime the remaining drops of ink from it, the Governor vetoed Senate Bill 42, Voter-ID.

Doyle said, "Senate Bill 42 unfairly restricts the right to vote at the expense of far too many of Wisconsin's law-abiding, elderly citizens. Under this proposal – nearly one-quarter of Wisconsin's elderly population could be disenfranchised. I cannot allow that to happen."

Unfortunately, Doyle has already disenfranchised Wisconsin seniors by failing to truly freeze taxes. By raising taxes, Doyle has effectively told Wisconsin seniors that they are welcome to move to states with better tax treatment.

According to Tax Foundation and Bureau of Economic Analysis, Wisconsin is one of the worst states to spend your retirement years. Until this treatment of seniors changes Mr. Doyle needs to stop 'embracing' seniors while he continues to push them away, all the way to Florida, Arizona and Texas.

Special Report -- The Inside Scoop Money Report

by Rick Sense

Now that the filing of campaign finance reports is complete, Scoop readers have a great opportunity to review how candidates and prospective candidates have done in probably the most important part of the early campaign season-the crucial fund raising arena. Early money in a political race is a strong indicator of a prospective candidate's ability to energize and excite the electorate.

A few items of interest include Mark Green's record-setting fundraising, John Gard's strong showing for the short time he has been considering a Congressional run, Democrat Jaime Wall's \$100,000 loan to his own campaign fund and the fact that Republican Lieutenant Governor challenger Jean Hundertmark has more cash on hand and has raised more than 3 times the money that incumbent Democrat Barbara Lawton has raised. The information was taken from reports filed with the State of Wisconsin Elections Board and the United States Government's Federal Election Commission.

8th District Congressional Race		
Republicans		
John Gard		
Contributions		\$225,279.27
Loans		\$0.00
Expenses	\$47,799.58	
Ending Cash:	\$177,620.00	
Terri McCormick		
Contributions		\$19,781.99
Loans		\$0.00
Expenses	\$12,198.64	
Ending Cash:	\$7,383.35	
Democrats		
Jaime Wall		
Contributions		\$145,443.28
Loans		\$106,500.00
Expenses	\$8,354.07	
Ending Cash	\$234,589.21	
Nancy Nussbaum Entered Race Late-Did not file		

**Governor's Race
Republicans**

Mark Green

Beginning Cash		\$1,285,973.68		
Individuals			\$649,822.84	
From Committees			\$16,145.00	
Other Income			\$12,918.42	
Subtotal			\$1,964,859.94	
Expenses	\$224,402.31			
To Committees		\$1,301.00		
Ending Cash:	\$1,739,156.63		Loans	\$0.00

Scott Walker

Beginning Cash		\$109,872.81		
Individuals			\$603,651.00	
From Committees			\$3,250.00	
Other Income			\$0.32	
Subtotal			\$716,774.13	
Expenses	\$214,186.60			
To Committees		\$75.00		
Ending Cash:	\$502,512.53		Loans	\$27,561.15

Democrats

Jim Doyle

Beginning Cash:		\$2,254,622.55		
Individuals			\$1,381,418.71	
From Committees			\$39,250.17	
Other Income			\$21,646.23	
Subtotal			\$3,696,937.66	
Expenses	\$233,733.19			
To Committees		\$0.00		
Ending Cash:	\$3,463,204.47		Loans	\$0.00

Attorney General

Republicans

J. B. Van Hollen

Beginning Cash			\$0.00
Individuals		\$107,537.00	
From Committees		\$0.00	
Other Income		\$0.29	

Subtotal	\$107,537.29		
----------	--------------	--	--

Expenses	\$23,757.13		
To Committees		\$0.00	

Ending Cash	\$83,780.16	Loans	\$0.00
--------------------	--------------------	-------	--------

Paul Bucher

Beginning Cash		\$15,455.43	
Individuals		\$106,887.00	
From Committees		\$750.00	
Other Income		\$0.00	

Subtotal		\$123,092.43	
----------	--	--------------	--

Expenses	\$40,966.44	Obligations	\$30,285.03
To Committees		\$1,546.00	

Ending Cash:	\$80,579.99	Loans	\$0.00
---------------------	--------------------	-------	--------

Democrats

Peg Lautenschlager

Beginning Cash		\$36,182.78	
Individuals		\$132,962.14	
From Committees		\$40,480.00	
Other Income		\$0.00	

Subtotal		\$209,624.92	
----------	--	--------------	--

Expenses	\$68,853.44		
To Committees		\$0.00	

Ending Cash:	\$140,771.48	Loans	\$0.00
---------------------	---------------------	-------	--------

Lt. Governor

Republicans

Jean Hundertmark

Beginning Cash			\$21,105.20	
Individuals			\$29,830.00	
From Committees			\$7,850.00	
Other Income			\$20.00	
Subtotal			\$58,805.20	
Expenses	\$10,165.36	Obligations	\$4,000.00	
To Committees		\$1,085.00		
Ending Cash	\$47,554.84	Loans		\$0.00

Democrats

Barbara Lawton

Beginning Cash			\$27,337.57	
Individuals			\$10,918.15	
From Committees			\$0.00	
Other Income			\$0.00	
Subtotal			\$38,255.72	
Expenses	\$11,948.63			
To Committees		\$0.00		
Ending Cash	\$26,307.09	Loans		\$0.00

FW:FW:FW:FW:

Reading a **forwarded** copy of the Scoop?

Join the list your self and make sure you don't miss a single issue.
For a free subscription contact Rick Sense at rdsense@aol.com



Green Team-September Calling Nights Announced

by Rick Sense

On Monday night September 5th (YES Labor Day) and Monday night September 19th the fifth and sixth calling nights of the Green for Governor campaign will be held at Electroline in Greenville. Please contact me at rdsense@aol.com or at 920-730-2926 if you can attend.

Come join the fun!!!

Next Scoop hits email boxes in September.



A Statement from Terri McCormick:

As you know, I am exploring the option of running for U.S. Congress and established a federal campaign account to reflect that.'

However, I am not currently an announced candidate for Congress. It has not been my priority to engage in heavy fundraising during the budget process for ethical reasons.

By comparison, in July 1997, then-Assembly Representative Mark Green only had \$150 in his Congressional Exploratory account. There's a time to fundraise and a time to address Wisconsin's fiscal problems.

The Wisconsin State Legislature just finished crafting its version of the budget. I wanted to address Wisconsin's fiscal problems before I came to a decision on running for Congress.

The voters in my Assembly District realize these are tough times for Wisconsin, and would expect nothing less. Now that we've sent the budget to Governor Doyle's desk, I am traveling the 8th Congressional District and having a candid discussion with voters.

I am encouraged by what I'm hearing and I'll make a decision soon.