



For Immediate Release
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TP Amendment Raises Questions, Doesn't Answer Them

A group of legislators raised more questions than they answered Thursday when they announced a Taxpayer's Protection (TP) Amendment.

Here are some of the initial questions that local officials have raised with us — and their legislators:

- Why aren't sewer and storm water utilities exempted? Communities are under strict federal mandates to end storm water runoff and sewerage discharge. Where should they go to pay for those mandates?
- Why exempt only 60% of new growth from revenue limits? Doesn't the other 40% impose additional costs on local government too?
- Isn't the exemption for revenue raised to offset lost state aid an invitation to the Legislature to cut the shared revenue program and school aids? Where should the blame fall for rising property taxes if that happens — at the local level or with the state?

Those are just a few of the questions that have arisen since TABOR II was dropped on us. They reinforce our long-standing position on TABOR:

- **TABOR, TP, whatever they call it, doesn't belong in the constitution.**
- **TABOR isn't needed. Self-control by elected officials is what is needed.** Local officials have been exercising self control for years. They have lived under the levy limits Gov. Jim Doyle and the Legislature imposed on local governments in the last budget bill, and held property tax increases to historic lows.
- **We're moving in the right direction without "help."** Wisconsin is out of the top 10 states in total taxes per capita, according to new U.S. Census Bureau figures.
- **TABOR should receive full and informed public discussion and debate, not be dropped like a bomb.** After months of secrecy, there is little time to digest this proposal before the Legislature leaps off the precipice.

Wisconsin citizens deserve reform on taxes, health insurance, state and federal mandates and government organization, not more unanswered questions.

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