



Joe Schmoie

State Representative • 100th Assembly District

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SCHMOIE CALLS ON SENATE TO PASS SCHOOL FUNDING

Rep. Joe Schmoie urges Senator Schmoron to stand up for taxpayers and pass legislation to prevent a \$600 million property tax hike

Madison... State Representative Joe Schmoie called out Senator Jim Schmoron for standing in the way of record school funding, aid for local governments and significant property tax relief for homeowners. According to Department of Public Instruction Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster, the state faces a Friday deadline, only four days away, for the Legislature to fund schools and protect property taxpayers.

"There's no excuse," Schmoie said, "for the Senate to drag its feet on this critical legislation. We were elected to do a job, and the Senate's refusal to pass funding for schools and local governments is going to have a real financial impact on families throughout our state."

Last week, Schmoie and a bipartisan majority of the state Assembly passed two bills to fund two of Wisconsin's top budget priorities and provide real property tax relief. Assembly Bill (AB) 506 provides the largest amount of K-12 education funding in the state's history (more than \$12.3 billion) and fully funds the Shared Revenue program for local governments. AB 507 renews the Property Tax Freeze signed into law by Governor Doyle in 2005, which expired at the beginning of this year.

"The Assembly did its part," Schmoie said. "We confronted a real problem head-on, passing both bills with support from both Republicans and Democrats. It's time for the Senate to step up: the clock is ticking on a \$600 million tax hike."

Last week, all 15 Republican members of the state Senate announced they are ready to pass this legislation as soon as Senate Majority Leader Judy Robson (D-Beloit) is willing to call the Senate into session. In August at the Conference Committee table, Sen. Robson herself said "the longer we draw this out, the longer that our local communities and the longer that our property taxpayers will be left in limbo."

"What makes this delay even worse," Schmoie said, "is the fact that the Senate and governor are standing in the way of their own budget proposals. The bills the Assembly passed included the governor and Senate's own proposed numbers on K-12 education and a Property Tax Freeze the governor has already signed two years ago. There's no excuse for them to allow this deadline to pass with no action."

According to the non-partisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau, if the Senate and governor refuse to pass AB 506 and AB 507, the result will be a \$591 million increase in property taxes, or an average of about \$200 for the median-value home in Wisconsin.

"When their constituents open up their property tax bills and see an increase," Schmoie said, "the do-nothing Senate will have nobody to blame but themselves. Senators, please put politics aside and pass your own funding."

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