



WMC
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News Release

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**Business Leaders Look for No-Tax-Hike Solution to Deficit
Governor Doyle to Deliver Major Address at "Business Day in Madison"**

MADISON - With state government facing over \$650 million shortfall, business leaders in Wisconsin are urging elected leaders to avoid tax increases to balance the budget, WMC said Tuesday.

Governor Jim Doyle is expected to discuss the state budget situation in a major address before 1,000 business executives at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday for "Business Day in Madison" at Monona Terrace conference center. Doyle has said he intends to balance the books without tax hikes, while Senate Democrats have proposed a series of business tax hikes to close the deficit. The GOP-led Assembly opposes tax hikes.

"If state revenue projections are less than had been expected because our economy is slowing down, that would be the worst time to raise taxes to balance the books," said James S. Haney, president of Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce. "If Governor Doyle builds bi-partisan support for a no-tax-hike solution, then he's doing what's best for Wisconsin at this critical time."

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has reported that the state will face a \$652 million shortfall by the end of the fiscal year, largely due to slumping sales tax receipts. The slowdown in the national economy has been blamed.

Doyle's remarks will conclude the state's largest annual business policy meeting. Doyle's comments are highly anticipated by the business community as state elected officials and business executives work together to protect Wisconsin's economy.

"Business Day in Madison" will be held from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26 at Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center at 1 John Nolen Drive in Madison. Business Day in Madison is sponsored by more than 100 business trade groups, local chambers of commerce and individual corporate sponsors.

(More)

Business Day in Madison/Add One

Other “Business Day in Madison” highlights include:

- National Party Face Off** – The former chairs of the Republican National Committee and Democrat National Committee will share the stage during an engaging luncheon about the race for the presidency. Former RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman and former DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe will make their cases in a no-holds-barred presentation. McAuliffe is chairman of Senator Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign. Mehlman served as campaign manager to the Bush-Cheney campaign in 2004. **(Noon to 1:45 p.m., with lunch.)**

- What’s on America’s Mind?** -- Dr. Frank Luntz, a widely respected public opinion researcher, will delve into what is on the mind of the American voter. **(9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.)**

- Government Run Health Care?** – Wisconsin legislative leaders from both houses and both parties will debate the future of health care reform in Wisconsin. **(2-3:30 p.m.)**

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