



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contact: Sen. André Jacque  
Rep. Rob Swearingen  
Rep. Robert Wittke

March 31, 2021  
(608) 266-3512  
(608) 266-7141  
(608) 266-0731

## **HOW GOVERNOR EVERS BECAME “GOVERNOR NO”**

*Sec. Brennan’s attacks show Evers Administration still following the same tired old political script*

MADISON, WI...Earlier this week, no doubt acting at the behest of his party leadership, Gov. Evers’ State Administration Secretary Joel Brennan wrote a carefully scripted, disingenuous screed against Republicans that was published in many of the same places you are reading this guest column now.

It was filled with many of the same tired political attack gimmicks that have become the hallmark of Evers’ administration during Brennan’s tenure: [propose outlandish spending and tax hikes throughout an unbalanced budget that would make a bank robber blush](#), then smear anyone who doesn’t immediately capitulate to putting massive spending on the state’s credit card shortly after being proposed, all in the name of scoring political points.

Sec. Brennan knows that many of the projects in Governor Evers’ proposed capital budget will most likely be included within the overall budget that will be sent to the Governor’s desk; that’s where these projects could actually be concretely greenlighted. However, it is also crystal clear that just within the past two years, Gov. Evers has brazenly stood in the way of economic development, vetoed help for mental health patients, disrespected veterans, and much more. The completely scripted charade played out halfheartedly by the Democratic members of the Building Commission could not have been more of a farce.

Why did they orchestrate this sort of insincere political theater? Pure politics. For Brennan’s dog and pony show of contrived outrage, it was critical to cut off opportunities for actual dialogue outside of when cameras were rolling. Requests from a Republican legislator to speak to the DNR Secretary about his agency’s construction recommendations were repeatedly rejected. An effort at the outset to short-circuit the political pageantry to move discussions to another time when more realistic budget numbers were available? Denied. Asking Brennan

and Evers to be open to potentially using some of the colossal one-time influx of federal dollars to pay for projects up front instead of putting state taxpayers in debt? They said no.

Democratic politicians' refusal to set politics aside to simply do the right thing is unfortunate, but not unexpected. It's the same script they used two years ago, when legislative Republicans needed to be the adults in the room and send Evers the budget he actually signed, rather than the one he proposed with what generally accepted accounting principles indicated would otherwise be a bloated budget deficit. In fact, Brennan's diatribe earlier this week is simply a rerun of his hysterics from just two years ago, when his deceitful fearmongering of stagnated state construction was unambiguously demolished by the final budget that was approved.

For over two years now, Wisconsinites have watched as Secretary Brennan and the Evers Administration have largely gone AWOL in addressing critical needs within our state's unemployment and corrections systems, turned a blind eye to businesses, dragged their feet in providing pandemic assistance, and ignored the needs of families. Now, as the circumstances demand vision and immediate action to help our state bounce back even better than before from COVID-19, the chorus from Democratic leaders is a resounding "NO." Wisconsin deserves better.

*The authors are Republican members of the Wisconsin State Building Commission.*

###