

# ALECKSON FOR ASSEMBLY

Wisconsin's 50th Assembly District · Republican

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ALECKSON CALLS FOR A PROPERTY TAX FREEZE TO PROTECT WISCONSIN SENIORS

*Assembly Candidate Pledges to Fight for Seniors' Right to Stay in Their Homes*

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SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP, WI — Jon Aleckson, Republican candidate for Wisconsin's 50th Assembly District, is calling for a property tax freeze for Wisconsin seniors. To make it happen, Wisconsin's constitution needs to be changed — and if elected, Aleckson says that fight will be a top priority.<sup>1</sup>

To build support, Aleckson plans to bring together seniors, community groups, associations and local leaders from Green County, Dane County, and across Wisconsin to push for constitutional change.

***"Wisconsin seniors have paid their dues and built this state. They should not be taxed out of the homes they worked their entire lives to own. This is not a partisan issue — it is a moral one."***

— Jon Aleckson, Republican Candidate, Wisconsin Assembly District 50

### THE AFFORDABILITY CRISIS FACING WISCONSIN SENIORS

Property taxes are going up fast — and seniors on fixed incomes are getting squeezed the hardest. In December 2025, Wisconsin saw its biggest school property tax increase in over 30 years.<sup>2</sup> On top of that, home values shot up during the inflation spike, pushing tax bills even higher. For a senior living on Social Security, that can mean being forced out of their own home.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>9. Wisconsin Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1 (Uniformity Clause). Wisconsin Attorney General Opinion, 81 Op. Att'y Gen. 94, 95 (1993): "The Uniformity Clause requires that property either be taxed or be absolutely exempt. Partial exemptions from property tax, valuation based on classes of property and property tax rates based on classifications of property are all unconstitutional." Available at: docs.legis.wisconsin.gov

<sup>2</sup>1. Wisconsin Watch, "Here's where older Wisconsinites can find property tax help," June 3, 2026, citing the Wisconsin Policy Forum. Available at: wisconsinwatch.org/2026/06/wisconsin-property-taxes-older-adults-assistance-home-housing-aging/

<sup>3</sup>4. Wisconsin Watch, June 3, 2026 (same as footnote 1). Quote: "Property tax increases disproportionately affect older adults who rely on fixed incomes through pensions, savings and Social Security."

The statistics tell a sobering story:

<b>\$1,168</b> Max Homestead Credit for qualifying seniors (income under \$24,680)	<b>30+ yrs</b> Largest school property tax increase in Wisconsin (December 2025)	<b>\$24,680</b> Income ceiling to qualify for Wisconsin's Homestead Credit property tax relief
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**Sources:** \$1,168 Homestead Credit max and \$24,680 Homestead Credit income ceiling: Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue, Fact Sheet 1116 (2026)<sup>4</sup>; 30+ year tax increase: Wisconsin Policy Forum via Wisconsin Watch (June 2026)<sup>5</sup>

Social Security gets a small cost-of-living bump each year — but property taxes can jump much faster, especially when schools, counties, and cities all raise their budgets at the same time.<sup>6</sup> A senior getting a 2–3% income raise can easily face an 8–12% tax increase. Plus, because of inflation there has been a trend towards reassessing properties. There's no way out.

**People who have owned their homes for 30, 40, even 50 years are being forced to sell — not because they want to leave, but because they just can't keep up with the bills. This is happening right now in Green County and southwestern Dane County.**

### **WISCONSIN'S CURRENT SENIOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FALLS SHORT**

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Wisconsin does have a Homestead Credit for seniors, but it tops out at \$1,168 — and you can only get it if your household makes less than \$24,680 a year.<sup>7</sup> That leaves out most seniors who are still struggling. There is also a program that lets seniors 70 and older put off paying taxes, but it puts a lien on your home and can wipe out what you planned to leave your family.<sup>8</sup>

Wisconsin is one of the few states that doesn't freeze property tax assessments for seniors at all.<sup>9</sup> Seventeen other states do — including Illinois, right next door.<sup>10</sup> Wisconsin ranks near the bottom nationally for how much help it gives seniors on property taxes.<sup>11</sup> That needs to change.

### **ALECKSON'S TWO-TRACK PLAN**

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Aleckson has a two-part plan: get seniors some relief right away using existing law and then work to change the constitution so the freeze is permanent.

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<sup>4</sup>2. Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Homestead Credit Fact Sheet 1116, Tax Year 2025 (updated February 23, 2026). Maximum credit of \$1,168 for households with income under \$24,680. Available at: [revenue.wi.gov/DOR%20Publications/1116hc.pdf](https://revenue.wi.gov/DOR%20Publications/1116hc.pdf)

<sup>8</sup>5. NationalTaxReports.com, "Property Tax Exemption for Seniors In Wisconsin in 2025 & 2026," updated April 15, 2026. Notes the WHEDA Property Tax Deferral Loan Program for seniors 65+ and that a lien is placed on the property to secure the loan. Available at: [nationaltaxreports.com/property-tax-exemption-for-seniors-in-wisconsin/](https://nationaltaxreports.com/property-tax-exemption-for-seniors-in-wisconsin/)

<sup>9</sup>3. PropertyTaxPeek.com, "Wisconsin Senior Property Tax Exemption 2026," last reviewed April 15, 2026: "Wisconsin does not currently offer a value freeze for seniors. Of the 17 states that do freeze values, neighboring options include: Illinois." Available at: [propertytaxpeek.com/state/Wisconsin/senior-exemption/](https://propertytaxpeek.com/state/Wisconsin/senior-exemption/)

<sup>10</sup>6. PropertyTaxPeek.com, April 15, 2026 (same as footnote 3). Wisconsin's Homestead Credit income ceiling is \$24,680 — "among the least generous by dollar exemption" compared to neighboring states: Illinois (\$8,000 exempt), Iowa (\$3,250 exempt), Michigan (\$1,800 credit), Minnesota (\$2,280 credit).

## **TRACK 1 — Right Now: Double the Homestead Credit**

While the constitutional change works its way through the process — which takes a few years — Aleckson wants the Legislature to act now by **doubling the Homestead Credit** from \$1,168 to \$2,336.<sup>12</sup> No constitutional change needed — the Legislature can do this today.

- Double the maximum Homestead Credit for senior homeowners (age 70+) from \$1,168 to \$2,336 — immediate relief that requires no constitutional amendment.<sup>13</sup>
- Expand the Homestead Credit income threshold from \$24,680 to \$50,000, indexed to inflation — putting up to \$1,200 more directly into seniors' pockets each year and reaching middle-income retirees who are equally squeezed but currently excluded.<sup>14</sup>
- Ask the Legislature's budget office to look at the cost to local governments and find a way for the state to make up the difference so schools and towns don't take a hit.
- **TRACK 2 — Long-Term: Change the Constitution for a Permanent Freeze**

Aleckson's goal is a constitutional amendment to Wisconsin's Uniformity Clause that would allow a permanent, legally durable property tax freeze for senior homeowners. That process, detailed in the section below, is the only path to a freeze that will survive court challenge and provide lasting protection.

- Freeze the assessed value of a primary residence for any Wisconsin homeowner age 70 or older who has lived in their home for at least five years.<sup>15</sup>
- Place a net worth ceiling of \$200,000 on participating seniors
- Provide that the frozen assessed value remains in place for as long as the senior lives in their home as their primary residence.<sup>16</sup>
- Require passage by two consecutive Wisconsin legislatures and approval by voters statewide — ensuring the protection is democratically ratified and constitutionally durable.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup>8. Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Homestead Credit Fact Sheet 1116 (same as footnote 2). Household income threshold of \$24,680 applies for 2025 tax year.

<sup>16</sup>7. PropertyTaxRates.org, "Property Tax Exemptions for Seniors (65+): 2026 State-by-State Guide," April 21, 2026: "Every U.S. state offers some form of property tax relief for homeowners aged 65 and older." Available at: [propertytaxrates.org/blog/property-tax-exemptions-seniors-65-state-guide](https://propertytaxrates.org/blog/property-tax-exemptions-seniors-65-state-guide)

## HOMESTEAD CREDIT — CURRENT LAW VS. ALECKSON PROPOSAL

Category	Current Law	Aleckson Proposal ✦ Track 1 (Statute)
<b>Max Homestead Credit</b> for seniors 65+	<b>\$1,168</b> per year	<b>\$2,336</b> doubled · 2× current amount
<b>Income ceiling to qualify</b> for Homestead Credit	<b>\$24,680</b> household income (2025)	<b>\$50,000</b> +103% increase · indexed to inflation
<b>Assessment freeze</b> for senior homeowners	<b>None</b> unconstitutional under current Uniformity Clause	<b>Permanent</b> via Track 2 constitutional amendment to Uniformity Clause + voter ratification
Sources: WI Dept. of Revenue Homestead Credit Fact Sheet 1116 (2026) <sup>2</sup> · WI Constitution Art. VIII §1; WI AG Op. 81 Op. Att'y Gen. 94 (1993) <sup>9</sup>		

**"I have met seniors and experts across Dane and Green Counties who claim individuals are one property tax bill away from losing everything. We have a large surplus sitting in Madison. There is no excuse for not protecting the people who built this state"**

— Jon Aleckson — Jon Aleckson

### WHY WE NEED TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

Here's the problem: Wisconsin's constitution has a rule called the Uniformity Clause that says property has to be taxed the same way across the board.<sup>18</sup> The state's Attorney General has said that means you can't give one group a break while everyone else pays full price.<sup>19</sup> So if the Legislature just passed a law freezing taxes for seniors, it would almost certainly get thrown out by a court.

Wisconsin has changed that rule before — five times, in fact — to allow different treatment for things like forests, farmland, and business inventory.<sup>20</sup> Protecting seniors from rising property taxes deserves the same treatment.

"Any politician who promises seniors a property tax freeze without telling them it needs a constitutional change is either not doing their homework or not being honest," said Aleckson. "A simple law won't be held up in court. Changing the constitution is the **only** way to make this stick — and it's the only promise I'm willing to make."

<sup>20</sup>10. Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, "Reading the Constitution: The Uniformity Clause." The Uniformity Clause has been amended five times in Wisconsin history — in 1908, 1927, 1941, 1961, and 1974 — each time to authorize a specific category of non-uniform tax treatment (income taxes, forests, agricultural land, merchants' inventory, etc.). Available at: docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/reading\_the\_constitution/reading\_the\_constitution\_1\_2.pdf

To change the constitution, the Legislature has to pass it twice in a row, then Wisconsin voters get to vote on it.<sup>21</sup> Aleckson will start that process in his first term and see it through.

***"The constitutional amendment path is the only legally sound way to give seniors the permanent protection they deserve. I am not going to promise something that a court will strike down. I am going to do this right."***

— Jon Aleckson

## **ABOUT JON ALECKSON**

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Jon Aleckson is a Republican candidate for Wisconsin's 50th Assembly District — 16 townships in Green County and 5 in southwestern Dane County. A lifelong Wisconsin resident, he raised three children with his wife Mary in Cross Plains, founded and led Web Courseworks, Ltd. for 24 years, and holds a PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from UW–Madison. He serves on the board of a pro-life clinic in Middleton providing free healthcare for the uninsured. Introductory Aleckson for Assembly Video - <https://youtube.com/shorts/u1D1OYQeuZs?feature=share>

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