



SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2014

Contact: Tom Evenson, (608) 267-7303

Strong and Getting Stronger Every Day: Excerpts from Governor Scott Walker's 2014 State of the State Address

Watch the State of the State Address Live at 7PM and Access Related Resources at Prosperity.WI.Gov

Madison – Tonight, Governor Scott Walker will deliver his 2014 State of the State Address. Below are a few anticipated excerpts from the speech:

On the State of the State:

The state of our state is strong and improving every day. The economy is dramatically better and our finances are in great shape. Still, there is more work to be done.

Thankfully, the days of double-digit tax increases, billion-dollar deficits, and major job loss are gone. We replaced them with massive tax cuts, growing budget surpluses, and significant job growth. Wisconsin is going back to work.

...

Every time we help someone find a job, it makes for a stronger home, a stronger community, and a stronger state.

On the surplus:

What do you do with a surplus? Give it back to the people who earned it. It's your money.

On the Blueprint for Prosperity:

Tonight, I propose a Blueprint for Prosperity to help provide more opportunities for the citizens of Wisconsin. Specifically, I ask you to work with me over the next few weeks to return the vast majority of the new surplus directly to the hard-working taxpayers of Wisconsin...

On property taxes:

For the third year in a row, property taxes actually went down on a median-valued home in Wisconsin. With the tax controls we already put in place, property taxes on a typical home in December of 2014 will actually be lower than they were in December of 2010. What a difference a few years make.

-more-

On employing people with disabilities:

Filling all the positions available in the state, now and in the future, also requires us to think and act in new ways. Tonight, I want to share with you the stories of some incredible people. A few might say these individuals have disabilities, but I want to talk about their unique abilities in the workplace.

...

We are looking for ways to help employers hire people who will add value to their organizations.

On developing the workforce:

We need to recognize the manufacturing advantage we have here in Wisconsin. It means valuing our sons and daughters, who are high skilled welders and machinists and tool and die operators, as much those who are doctors and lawyers.

On the tuition freeze:

After years of 5.5 percent average tuition increases—we now have a two-year tuition freeze, for the first time in the history of the UW System.

On entitlement reform:

Our reforms are based on common sense. We ask those receiving unemployment checks to seek work four or more times a week instead of two. We ask adults without children seeking food stamps to enroll in employment training. We're not making it harder to get government assistance; we're making it easier to get a job.

On access to affordable health care:

This year, for the first time in Wisconsin history, everyone living in poverty will be able to access health care under Medicaid.

###