



**To:** Current and Incoming Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature

**From:** Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin, Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty, and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce

**Date:** November 22, 2022

**Subject:** Continuing fiscally responsible budgeting with projected \$6.6 billion surplus

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Over the last 12 years, Wisconsin has gone from a \$3.6 billion budget deficit to a \$6.6 billion budget surplus, in large part because of the fiscally responsible decisions made by Republicans in the Wisconsin Legislature. Not only have Wisconsinites and our economy benefitted from over \$15 billion in tax cuts since 2011, but the Legislature has ensured that government could continue to properly fund its priorities. Now, it will be up to the majorities in the Legislature to ensure continued fiscal responsibility with this projected surplus.

Americans for Prosperity – Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Institute for Law and Liberty (WILL) and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) call on the Wisconsin Legislature to consider the following policy proposals when discussing how this historic surplus should be utilized in the upcoming biennial budget:

1. **Return the surplus to taxpayers.** We urge the Legislature to provide substantial tax relief to Wisconsin citizens and businesses and move our state closer to becoming a flat tax or no tax state. Lowering the top and middle income tax brackets is critical to reinvigorating our economy and supporting small businesses in our state.
2. **Enact universal school choice.** All Wisconsin students and families should be able to access the education that best fits their needs without unnecessary income and geographic barriers. The Legislature can use a portion of the surplus to expand school choice to all families and level the playing field by increasing funding for students who opt to attend a choice school. Government schools have received more and more funding in past budgets, but continue to underperform choice schools, and continue to produce unacceptably low proficiency scores in reading and math. Now is the time to invest in all students and support schools that are best preparing young people.

3. **Reject federal Medicaid Expansion.** Wisconsin has continued to provide Medicaid services to those under the federal poverty line, while refusing to accept federal funds to expand government-run healthcare. In looking at other states that have expanded Medicaid, we see longer wait times for healthcare access and less funding available for other priority programs. The Legislature must continue to reject Medicaid Expansion and the cost shift to employers and their workers that comes with it.

AFP-WI, WILL and WMC collectively urge the Wisconsin Legislature to continue being fiscally responsible with this projected surplus by cutting taxes and expanding education choice to all families.

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