

#### Explain it to me:

- → On August 13, 2024, there will be a statewide ballot initiative to approve two amendments to the Wisconsin Constitution that would give the legislature the ability to approve the expenditure of federal funds.
- Unlike the vast majority of states, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and his executive branch <u>spend billions of dollars of federal funds without any approval from the state legislature</u>, the branch of government that has the constitutional "power of the purse."

### Examples of Evers' unilateral spending include:

- <u>\$14 million</u> on minor league sports teams, summer camps and movie theaters
- Millions in funding to political connected groups, including almost half a million to Planned Parenthood
- \$9.3 million for a professional soccer stadium in Milwaukee
- <u>Several</u> of the appropriations targeted DEI issues and created duplicative programs at various agencies



# VOTE YES on both amendments to provide greater spending oversight:

**Question 1:** Shall Article IV, Section 35 (1) of the Wisconsin Constitution be created to provide that the Legislature may not delegate its sole power to determine how moneys shall be appropriated?

If approved, this amendment would ensure that the governor cannot usurp the legislature's "power of the purse". This means that the legislature would have to approve the use of any and all funds before they are spent by state agencies.

Question 2: Shall Article IV, Section 35 (2) of the Wisconsin Constitution be created to prohibit the Governor from allocating any federal moneys the Governor accepts on behalf of the state without the approval of the Legislature by joint resolution or as provided by legislative rule?

→ This means that the legislature must approve the use of any federal funds before they can be spent by a state agency.

#### How does this impact me?

- → Holds the line on state spending, preventing future tax increases: During the COVID pandemic, Wisconsin received \$4.8 billion in relief funds from the federal government roughly 5% of the state's two-year budget. Special interest groups will almost certainly seek to maintain the level of spending even after the federal money runs dry, putting state taxpayers on the hook for the foreseeable future.
- Greater accountability for state spending decisions: By granting spending authority to the legislature, decision-making becomes more accountable and closer to the people, allowing the public to hold politicians responsible for their financial decisions.

## When, where, and how can I **VOTE YES?**

- The questions will appear on the Tuesday, August 13, 2024 ballot.
- Any registered voter can vote YES.
- To find your polling location, learn how to register to vote or learn how to vote absentee, visit myvote.wi.gov

#### **Questions? Contact:**



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