

## Local

### **Marchers demand social services funding amid fiscal cliff cuts**

Dozens of protesters gathered outside Sen. Kohl's and Sen. Johnson's downtown Milwaukee offices Monday, calling on them to tax the wealthiest Americans and preserve public programs for the poor and middle class.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/182873181.html>

### **Teachers union requests contract talks**

Janesville public school teachers voted Monday to seek contract negotiations with the school board. The board rejected a similar request Oct. 9th, but some board members encouraged the union to try again.

Read more: <http://gazettextra.com/news/2012/dec/11/teachers-union-requests-contract-talks/>

### **Former Walker appointee to be sentenced for theft**

Kavanaugh, appointed by Walker as head of the Milwaukee County Veterans Service Commission, is set to be sentenced after he was convicted of stealing more than \$51K intended to assist veterans and their families.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/formerwalkerappointeetobesentencedfortheft>

### **Caledonia man leading Wisconsin workers to join Michigan protests**

An organizer for Ironworkers Local 8 pulled together a group of workers from Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula to join the protest against the legislature's push to make Michigan a right-to-work state.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/3ea95f80-4280-11e2-a2a9-0019bb2963f4.html>

### **Janesville firefighters, police to pay into pensions**

The Janesville firefighter and police unions would begin to pay into their pensions under tentative three-year contracts with the city. The firefighters have already ratified their contract with about 90% voting in favor.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/janesvillefirefighterspolicetopayintopensions>

### **Barrett braces for renewed challenge to residency law**

With Republicans in control of both houses of the Legislature come January, Milwaukee officials are convinced lawmakers will take another stab at ending the city's residency law, perhaps early next year.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/182753151.html>

### **School Board backs DPI chief's plan to increase state aid**

The Baraboo School Board officially endorsed state Superintendent Tony Evers' plan to change public school financing. The board voted unanimously in favor of a resolution urging state officials to adopt the proposal.

Read more: <http://www.wiscnews.com/7277d7c0-4342-11e2-bb36-0019bb2963f4.html>

## State

### **Einhorns' contribution to Walker could trigger 'pay-to-play' rule**

A conservative Milwaukee financier donated \$25K to Gov. Walker a month before his firm won a contract to manage \$1 million of taxpayer money, potentially triggering federal "pay-to-play" conflict of interest rules.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/business/182683161.html>

### **Hansen pushes redistricting bill**

Democratic Sen. Hansen said Thursday he's working on a redistricting bill that would take redrawing political boundaries out of the hands of lawmakers and give it to the nonpartisan Legislative Reference Bureau.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/e2bc3fe0-3fef-11e2-aaa5-0019bb2963f4.html>

### **Wisconsin wins \$22.7 million in Race to the Top funds**

After a spout of losing federal Race to the Top grant competitions, Wisconsin won a \$22.7M grant to help expand and improve services for young children in day care centers, preschools and kindergarten classrooms.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/education/182395501.html>

### **Forbes magazine calls Wisconsin one of 10 worst states for business**

According to Forbes, Wisconsin is one of the 10 worst states in the nation for business. It dipped two notches from 2011. Wisconsin's gross state product is \$255 billion, with a five-year annual growth rate of minus 0.1%.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/b639d7a0-44a6-11e2-bf0b-0019bb2963f4.html>

### **Federal health care law will cost state, secretary says**

The state health secretary told Congress that Wisconsin will pay more for its health care programs for the needy under the looming federal health care law, but does not have hard financial figures on his claim yet.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/183219081.html>

### **Ending same-day registration would cost state \$5.2M right away, report says**

According to a state report, repealing same-day voter registration would cost the GAB about \$5.2M right away and another \$1.9M every two years after that, while also preserving some Election Day registration.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/29c55b88-4333-11e2-b76d-001a4bcf887a.html>

### **GOP redistricting leaves its stamp on 2012 election**

Seemingly odd November election results are a striking testament to the power of the GOP redistricting plan adopted last year, which increased the number of Republican-friendly seats in Madison and Washington.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/182754381.html>

### **Law professor joins state Supreme Court race**

Marquette University law professor Ed Fallon says he is joining the race for Wisconsin Supreme Court justice. He becomes the third confirmed candidate, ensuring a primary will be needed on February 19, 2013.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/lawprofessorjoinsstatesupremecourtrace>

## Federal

### **Wisconsin GOP wavers on no-tax pledge**

Norquist has presented his tax pledge to every Republican candidate since 1986. All six Republicans in the Wisconsin delegation are among the 219 House members and 39 senators who have endorsed the pledge.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/wisconsin GOP wavers on no tax pledge>

### **Embattled Snyder says Michigan labor fight 'fundamentally different' from Wisconsin**

Tensions exploded in Lansing Thursday as Gov. Rick Snyder jumped on board a lame-duck Republican effort to make Michigan the 24th state to pass right-to-work legislation, ending mandatory payment of union dues.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/snydersaysmichiganlaborfightfundamentallydifferent>

### **Baldwin lands spot on health committee**

U.S. Sen.-elect Tammy Baldwin announced her committee assignments Wednesday which include positions overseeing health, the budget, homeland security and aging. She actively sought out a health panel spot.

Read more: <http://host.madison.com/ded1c22c-44b0-11e2-aeac-001a4bcf887a.html>

### **Obama criticizes Michigan right-to-work bills**

Pres. Obama says right-to-work legislation in Michigan is more about politics than economics. He's criticizing a measure that prevents requiring non-union employees to financially support unions at their workplace.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/obamacriticizesrighttoworkbills>

### **Super PACs are here — political action committees targeted First District for first time**

Paul Ryan won his congressional battle handily, but the political landscape surrounding his win has changed. For the first time, District 1 got a taste of outside spending from independent groups, including super PACs.

Read more: <http://www.journaltimes.com/79956dca-42c4-11e2-b09b-001a4bcf887a.html>

### **Federal spending in state dips 52%**

Federal contract awards in Wisconsin in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 were down roughly 52% to \$3.4 billion from \$7.2B in fiscal 2011, according to preliminary figures from the Wisconsin Procurement Institute.

Read more: <http://www.jsonline.com/business/182924761.html>

### **Baldwin-Thompson U.S. Senate race sets spending record**

Candidates and interest groups poured more than \$78M into Wisconsin's recent U.S. Senate race, in which Tammy Baldwin defeated Tommy Thompson, making it the most expensive Senate election in state history.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/baldwinthompsonussenateracesetsspendingrecord>

## Upcoming Events

For a listing of statewide events visit <http://www.seiuwi.org/events/>

For a listing of legislative hearings visit <http://committeeschedule.legis.wisconsin.gov/>