

Recap of Visits by Candidates for Governor Milwaukee County Exec. Scott Walker

On Tuesday, April 6th one of the Republican candidates for Wisconsin Governor, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker, visited Beaver Dam at the invitation of the Chamber, in coordination with the Dodge County Republican Party, to field some business related questions for gubernatorial candidates. Both he and the frontrunner in the other major political party received an identical set of questions. Over 50 residents and business people attended the event at the Veteran's Center. Here are some paraphrased Q & A highlights:

- *What makes you the best candidate to lead Wisconsin's business community to renewed economic vitality?*

Candidate Walker described himself as an elected official who walks the talk. He highlighted the fact that he, as a fiscally conservative Republican, had won overwhelming victories in Democratically leaning Milwaukee County, largely as a result of his commitment to presenting no tax increase budgets, every year he has been the County Executive, and by slowing resolving the County Pension Scandal that got him elected to the position after the recall of former County Executive Tom Ament.

- *What do you see as the role of the Governor when it comes to reassuring business owners in Wisconsin that we are a business friendly state?*

Candidate Walker told the group that he would present himself as the number one cheerleader for the state, appointing a Cabinet that would focus on working with the private sector to support job creation and who would be capable of carrying out a government wide change in the state's approach to working with business. He also stated that he would start with retaining and helping existing Wisconsin businesses to grow. He stated that only the private sector can create jobs, not government.

- *If elected Governor, what specific types of pro-business legislation would you encourage the Wisconsin Legislature to pass in your first year in office?*

Candidate Walker described a holistic approach to transforming the state's appeal to business that would include broad based tax cuts, general deregulation, smaller government and a rule based standard in all departments of government when dealing with business so that business owners and managers can make long term economic investments in their organizations without fear of the rules changing.

- *Do you support expansion of passenger rail service between Milwaukee & Madison? Why or why not?*

Candidate Walker adamantly opposed the notion of the proposed rail line as unnecessary and absolutely financially unsustainable.

- *Recently, President Obama signed into law sweeping changes to our nation's healthcare system. Is this legislation good or bad for the citizens of Wisconsin? If you believe the legislation is bad for Wisconsin, what, if anything, would your Administration do in the implementation of the legislation at the state level?*

Candidate Walker stated that he could not find it stated anywhere in the constitution where the federal government had the right to impose coverage mandates on citizens. He stated he was opposed to the national healthcare legislation and would support the Wisconsin Attorney General joining suit with other states to oppose it.

From the candidate's stump speech:

He reiterated the three theme points of his *Brown Bag Lunch Campaign* philosophy: First, never spend more than you have. Second, smaller government is better government. Third, people create jobs, not government.



Recap of Visits by Candidates for Governor Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett

in the other major political party received an identical set of questions. About 25 residents attended the event at the Veteran's Center. Here are some paraphrased Q & A highlights:

- *What makes you the best candidate to lead Wisconsin's business community to renewed economic vitality?*

Candidate Barrett told the group that he was not an ideologue. He said, if you're looking for that, I'm not your guy. He touted his success at being able to keep Midwest Express Airlines (now Frontier) headquartered in Milwaukee, through his proactive and aggressive personal negotiations with airline management.

- *What do you see as the role of the Governor when it comes to reassuring business owners in Wisconsin that we are a business friendly state?*

Candidate Barrett described himself as a leader who wants to change the way politicians do business in Madison by handling difficult decisions openly and honestly. He stated that he was not a Madison insider and that he would not necessarily live in Madison all the time with his family. He told the group that he had made tough fiscal decisions including cutting \$32 million by requiring government furloughs to help balance the city budget, angering city workers, but doing what was right for the citizens of Milwaukee.

- *If elected Governor, what specific types of pro-business legislation would you encourage the Wisconsin Legislature to pass in your first year in office?*

Candidate Barrett described an approach that would include targeted tax incentives and specific programs to attract growth industries to the state, using the example of biotech's success as a growth industry in the Madison area.

- *Do you support expansion of passenger rail service between Milwaukee & Madison? Why or why not?*

Candidate Barrett has been at the forefront supporting the proposed Milwaukee / Madison rail line, highlighting the construction and trade jobs that would be created to build it. He stated that only major metropolitan areas in the country with rail service were growing.

- *Recently, President Obama signed into law sweeping changes to our nation's healthcare system. Is this legislation good or bad for the citizens of Wisconsin? If you believe the legislation is bad for Wisconsin, what, if anything, would your Administration do in the implementation of the legislation at the state level?*

Candidate Barrett spoke in support of the new national healthcare legislation, identifying that only the government could address the inequities in the health insurance industry. He proposed the idea that a humane society should take care of those in need.

From the candidate's stump speech:

He stated that what the current economic environment calls for in Wisconsin is someone who is going to make job creation, job retention and job growth the Number 1 priority, and that the person who could do that job was Tom Barrett.

