

Dear Governor Doyle,

I am writing to you to express my concern and encouragement for adequate school funding in the upcoming biennial budget. There is not a more significant issue that I trusted you would give high priority to when I voted to re-elect you as Wisconsin's governor.

Last Spring, I joined with other local citizens to form RVReferendum.org in order to encourage passage of a school referendum. It was the second time in two years that a referendum was called to stop the cycle of negative cuts to our school district that undermined our ability to provide every child with an excellent education. The referendum narrowly passed, and we have a 5 year window to hope the broken system of school funding is fixed. Although it's likely that another referendum will be necessary, a smaller amount would be preferable to a larger one.

After the referendum passed, our group invited Rep. Freese and Sen. Schultz to a forum on school funding. Also present were Rep. Pope-Roberts, Tom Beebe of WAES, and superintendent Sam McGrew. Although many people attended on both sides of the referendum issue, Freese and Schultz were the only two that received no applause that evening. It is a pleasure that Freese has been retired, and Schultz has been demoted. It is also good to see the growing support for the approaches that were suggested by Rep. Pope-Roberts and WAES. RVReferendum.org joined WAES in order to recognize that there was a sane voice with a sane solution in this debate over school funding.

As an officer of RVReferendum.org, the democratic state assembly candidate for AD51 in 2004, and a concerned parent and citizen, I encourage you to involve WAES in your plans for adequate school funding. We need to shift the burden of school costs off of property taxes, and give more consideration to tax fairness. We must also address the long list of unfunded mandates that are imposed without adequate aid by the state and federal government.

Thank you for your consideration.

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