

# The Wisconsin Taxpayer

A monthly review of Wisconsin government, taxes, and public finance



## It's In Your Hands: Spring Election 2009

On Tuesday April 7, Wisconsin voters will face at least two important decisions. For the third consecutive year, a seat on the state supreme court is being contested. This year, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson faces Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge Randy Koschnick. Voters will also elect a new state superintendent of public instruction. Current superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster is not seeking reelection. Tony Evers and Rose Fernandez survived the five-person primary and will vie for the state's top education post.

In an effort to inform voters about the candidates, the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance asked the judicial candidates why they were running for a seat on the state's highest court, and to discuss a recent decision they felt was particularly wise or unwise. The superintendent candidates were asked why they were running for the education job and to address what they felt was the most important issue facing education in Wisconsin. Information on the candidates' backgrounds and their answers to the questions begin on page three.

### IN BRIEF

On April 7, Wisconsin voters will choose a state supreme court justice, as well as a new state superintendent of public instruction.

■ For the third consecutive year, voters will choose a supreme court justice, with Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson facing Jefferson County Judge Randy Koschnick for a 10-year term on the court.

■ With two-term incumbent Elizabeth Burmaster retiring, Tony Evers and Rose Fernandez are vying for state superintendent of public instruction.

■ Wisconsin is one of 14 states that elects its state education head, and one of six that does so in a nonpartisan election.

■ Most states have state education boards; Wisconsin and Minnesota are the only ones that do not.

### Also in this issue:

Wisconsin's Slowing Job Growth • Union Membership • Wisconsin Outlook • State Spending to Rise?

### COMPARING EDUCATION LEADERS

Prior issues of *The Wisconsin Taxpayer* have examined Wisconsin's court system, including election versus appointment of justices. Here, we examine state education department heads. Not all states refer to this position as state superintendent. However, for simplicity, we use that term here to refer to all heads of state education departments.

### Wisconsin's Superintendent

The office of state superintendent of public instruction is a constitutional office. Article X, Section 1 reads:

*The supervision of public instruction shall be vested in a state superintendent and such other officers as the legislature shall direct; and their qualifications, powers, duties and compensation shall be prescribed by law. The state superintendent shall be chosen by the qualified electors of the state at the same time and in the same manner as members of the supreme court, and shall hold office for 4 years from the succeeding first Monday in July.*

The office is the only state constitutional office elected on a nonpartisan basis.

Wisconsin's first state superintendent, Eleazer Root, served for three years beginning in January 1849. Of the first five superintendents, none served more than 2 1/2 years. The first 16 superintendents each served less than five years.

That changed with the election of Charles Cary in 1903. He was in the post for 18 1/2 years, and his successor, John Callahan, served 27 years. From 1903 to 1961—a period of 58 years—Wisconsin had only three state superintendents. Since then, the longest serving superintendent was Herbert Grover, who was elected to three four-year terms (1981 to 1993).

Of the state's 25 superintendents, only two have been women. Barbara Thompson was elected in 1973 and served two terms. The current superintendent, Elizabeth Burmaster, was first elected in 2001 and is retiring after her second term.

Since 1900, the most common path to the state superintendent job has been through public education, typically progressing from a teacher to a principal to a school district administrator, before being elected state superintendent. That has changed somewhat since 1970. Barbara Thompson was a teacher and school administrator, but was also an education consultant for the state Department of Public Instruction. Her successor, Herbert Grover was in the state assembly from 1965 to 1974 before becoming a school superintendent. And, Elizabeth Burmaster was a teacher and principal prior to being elected to the state's top education job in 2001, but was not a district superintendent.

### **Election or Appointment**

State superintendents nationally are selected in one of three ways: elected; appointed by the governor; or appointed by a state education board.

Wisconsin is one of 14 states that elects a superintendent. Like Wisconsin, California, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, and Washington do so in nonpartisan elections. Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Wyoming all fill the top education post in partisan elections.

In 13 states, including neighboring Iowa and Minnesota, the governor appoints the school superintendent. Nine of the 13 require legislative approval—usually by the state senate—of the appointment.

In the remainder of states, a state board of education (in New York, the Board of Regents) appoints the superintendent. Six states (Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Missouri, and Vermont) require gubernatorial approval, and one (Mississippi), legislative approval.

Wisconsin is one of only two states, along with Minnesota, that does not have a state board of education.

### **Salaries**

Annual salaries for state superintendents vary widely, from \$72,000 in Oregon to \$307,125 in Mississippi. Wisconsin's superintendent earns \$109,587, 39th highest in the nation. Among neighboring states, the state superintendent earns \$159,996 in Illinois, \$144,000 in Iowa, \$168,300 in Michigan, and \$108,388 in Minnesota.

Public sector pay, particularly in the legislative and executive branches of state government, varies widely by state. To account for that variation, superintendent pay was examined relative to the governor's salary. In Wisconsin, the superintendent of public instruction earns 20% less than the state's governor. Nationally, the average public instruction head earns about 20% more than the respective state's governor. Among Wisconsin's neighbors, the difference ranged from 10.8% higher in Iowa to 9.9% lower in Minnesota. In Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi, the state superintendent earns more than double the governor's salary.

Many factors can influence pay for this position. One difficult-to-measure factor is job responsibility. In states where the superintendent has great influence on education policy, one might expect the position to pay more. Another factor is education level and experience. States that appoint the superintendent may have to pay more to attract preferred candidates.

In states that elect superintendents, the average salary was \$104,385. Only California paid more than \$120,000. States that appointed superintendents paid them an average of \$170,766, or 64% more than in states that elected them. □

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## Shirley Abrahamson

### Professional experience

Chief Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court, since 1996. Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court, since 1976. As Chief Justice established innovative programs for children and families, for lenders and home owners in mortgage foreclosures, for veterans in court, for enhancing public safety, reducing criminal recidivism and reducing costs through problem solving programs like drug courts. Practiced law in Madison for 14 years. Professor of Law, UW-Madison; Lecturer, Marquette University Law School. Visited all 72 counties speaking with officials and people about courts.

### Awards and distinctions

- 2009 Best of Supreme Court Justices, Wisconsin Law Journal
- “Chief of the Chiefs”—elected Chief of the Chief Justices of all states, National Conference of Chief Justices
- Past Chair, Board of Directors, National Center of State Courts
- Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence, American Judicature Society
- Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, American Bar Association
- Featured in “Great (top 100) American Judges—An Encyclopedia
- Friend of Counties Award, Wisconsin Counties Association
- Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences

## Randy Koschnick

### Professional experience

I was elected to the Jefferson County Circuit Court in 1999, and was named Presiding Judge in 2006. Prior to my election to the bench, I served for 14 years as a public defender in La Crosse and Jefferson Counties, and was elevated to Deputy First Assistant State Public Defender. While attending Hamline University Law School ('85), I was an intern in the Homicide and Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office.

### Awards and distinctions

- 2008—Named a “Leader in the Law” by the *Wisconsin Law Journal* for redesigning the Jefferson County Circuit Court system resulting in tax savings, increased efficiency, and improved public safety
- 2001-2005—Board Member, State Bar of Wisconsin Criminal Law Section
- 2003-2005—Member, State Assembly's Criminal Justice Reforms Task Force
- 2003-Present—Coordinator and Moderator, Jefferson County Victim Impact Panel
- 1996-1999—Board Member, Jefferson County's People Against Domestic Abuse
- Past President, Jefferson County Bar Association
- Seminar Lecturer: Wisconsin Judicial Education Office, Wisconsin District Attorney's Conference, and the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Conference

*“I want to continue to serve on the supreme court to work to ensure the people of Wisconsin a fair day in court.”*

—*Shirley Abrahamson*

*“I believe my record and conservative judicial philosophy establish me as the candidate who can return the power of the state Supreme Court to the people of Wisconsin.”*

—*Randy Koschnick*

## SUPREME COURT CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

### Why are you running for the Wisconsin Supreme Court?

**Koschnick:** I was born and raised in Milwaukee County, and am a lifelong Wisconsin resident. I have a deep respect for the people of this State, and the institutions they established for our governance. Having served as a Judge, a Public Defender, and in a prosecutor's office, I have a keen appreciation for the role the judiciary plays in maintaining the checks and balance of our government. I am also aware of the danger visited on our society when judges fail to exercise the restraint proper to their office.

I believe that power in our judicial system flows from the people to the courts, not the other way around. When judges go beyond their limited power to interpret the law and, instead, legislate from the bench, they steal power from the people, power properly exercised through the people's legislative representatives. Moreover, activist judges cause the judiciary to lose legitimacy. That erodes and jeopardizes the independence and authority that the courts need to perform their proper function to impartially interpret and apply the law.

*“I believe that power in our judicial system flows from the people to the courts, not the other way around.”*

—Randy Koschnick

*“I decide each case on the basis of the facts and law, not with a personal agenda or ideology, not influenced by extraneous interests.”*

—Shirley Abrahamson

My opponent has practiced this type of activism during her time on the court. Her decisions have been bad for both public safety and economic prosperity in Wisconsin, and have attracted national negative attention. I don't think she should be returned to the Court for ten more years. I am a proven reformer and award-winning Judge. I believe my record and conservative judicial philosophy establish me as the candidate who can return the power of the state Supreme Court to the people of Wisconsin.

**Abrahamson:** I am committed to serving the people of the state. A seat on the Supreme Court presents a unique opportunity to combine the law and public service, to combine scholarship and common sense. I want to continue to serve because the Court and the judicial system need judges who bring all their skills and a fierce commitment to independence to the challenge of interpreting the law and settling disputes. An appellate judge has a responsibility not merely to decide cases but also to support opinions with thorough research and sound scholarship and reasoning. On the Court, I adhere to the same principles that helped me practice law for 14 years, representing businesses and individuals: hard work, long hours, fairness, independence. I am committed to judge, not pre-judge. I decide each case on the basis of the facts and law, not with a personal agenda or ideology, not influenced by extraneous interests. My record demonstrates my commitment to the rule of law.

As chief justice who serves as CEO of the entire state judicial system, I want to continue promoting innovative programs to provide access to justice—and equal justice—for all persons and to advocate for changes in the administration of justice that benefit the people. I have initiated programs to help self-represented persons, to provide certified interpreters, and to reduce costs by use of videoconferencing.

In sum, I want to continue to serve on the supreme court to work to ensure the people of Wisconsin a fair day in court.

**When you think about state Supreme Court decisions in the past ten years, is there one that stands out as exceptionally wise or unwise? Why?**

**Abrahamson:** Over the last ten years, I have written more than 100 opinions for the Court. I have participated in more than 700 cases resolved with written opinions and in at least 9,000 decisions on petitions for review and

lawyer and judicial discipline. Each case is important—for the people involved in that case and for all the people of the state. No case is merely a number.

A justice is to interpret and apply the law. If a law is challenged as unconstitutional the court determines the constitutionality of the law. I do not interpret the law or determine constitutionality on the basis of my personal view or the wisdom of the law.

Several cases have been heralded in recent years as particularly wise or unwise. For example, the Court allowed a child to have a trial when he claimed neurological damage from lead paint. Some favored the decision that was soundly based in precedent. Others condemned it. The jury held for the manufacturers. The court declared the legislative limit on a person's recovery for medical malpractice unconstitutional. Some saw the case as a threat to the medical system; others hailed the opinion as fair to victims of medical malpractice. The legislature increased the limits.

Selecting a few decisions as wise or unwise presents a distorted view of the work of the Court or any justice. All the cases have to be viewed as a body of work—and in conjunction with parallel executive and legislative decisions—to evaluate the work of the Court or any justice.

**Koschnick:** *State v. Knapp* exemplifies the difference between my philosophy and that of my opponent. While investigating a murder, a detective visited the residence of Matthew Knapp, the last person seen with the victim. The detective asked Knapp what he had been wearing the day before, and Knapp pointed to a pile of clothes ultimately determined to contain a shirt with the victim's blood on it. Knapp was charged with murder, and I presided over his trial. Knapp challenged admission of the shirt because he had not been given his *Miranda* warnings prior to being questioned. In accord with long-standing Wisconsin and federal law, I ruled that the bloody shirt was admissible evidence at Knapp's trial.

On appeal, my opponent voted with the majority to reverse my decision based on a perceived change in federal constitutional law. The case then proceeded to the United States Supreme Court. In a related case, the United States Supreme Court held that federal law had not changed, and the decision of the Wisconsin Supreme Court was vacated and remanded for further consideration. On remand, my oppo-

ment again voted with the majority to exclude the bloody shirt as evidence at the defendant's trial. This time, however, the majority relied on the *Wisconsin* Constitution, a basis not even considered in their first decision. Justice Jon Wilcox best stated my view in his dissent: "this

court's recent trend of departing from our long history of interpreting similarly-worded provisions of the state and federal constitutions in concert . . . seriously undermines the prestige, influence, and function of the judicial branch of state government." □

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## SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATES

### Tony Evers

#### Professional experience

I have served communities across Wisconsin for more than 34 years. Since 2001, I've served as Deputy State Superintendent of Public Instruction. From 1992 to 2000, I was the chief administrator of Cooperative Educational Service Agency 6, which serves 42 school districts. I was also superintendent of the Verona and Oakfield school districts, and a high school and elementary school principal, teacher, and technology coordinator in Tomah. I will hit the ground running next July.

#### Awards and distinctions

The Wisconsin Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development recognized my accomplishments with the Leadership in Wisconsin award. On a national level, I am a member of the Council of Chief State School Officers, and was honored by being elected to serve as the national president of the Deputy State Superintendent Leadership Commission by education leaders from all 50 states. I have also been a curriculum auditor in Texas, California, Indiana, Kansas and Ohio.

### Rose Fernandez

#### Professional experience

I've put serving the needs of Wisconsin's children first my entire life. I've used my Masters Degree from the UW to work as a trauma nurse and senior administrator at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin—a world renowned academic medical center. After a career of caring for children, training others to do the same and managing a diverse staff in high-stakes environments, I've led a family coalition that advocates for choices and opportunity in education.

#### Awards and distinctions

I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to share my story, but it is difficult to fully explain my biography and my plans in the space allotted. I'd encourage those who are interested to find out more about me, our campaign, and my stances on the issues to go to [www.ChangeDPI.com](http://www.ChangeDPI.com).

They can also email me at [campaign@changedpi.com](mailto:campaign@changedpi.com).

*"I have dedicated my life to public education in this state, and will continue to do so as Superintendent."*

—Tony Evers

*"I've put serving the needs of Wisconsin's children first my entire life."*

—Rose Fernandez

### Why are you running for Superintendent of Public Instruction?

**Fernandez:** This is an exciting opportunity to change business as usual in Madison. I'm not part of the status quo. I'm not going to merely listen to a few special interests. I intend to listen to, and be the public voice for, all in Wisconsin who support fiscally-sound policies that encourage and promote educational excellence.

Pouring more money at a problem doesn't solve it. That's true in business, government and public schools. The decisions we face center around not just *investment* in education. It's about the *return* on that investment. We can, and must, expect better outcomes for what we are already spending.

Investment in education does not have to be at odds with fiscal restraint and taxpayer protection. We must come together to make sure we're not just throwing money at problems, but rather are investing in educational opportunities that improve student performance.

Parents, teachers and administrators of all political stripes are supporting me because of my desire to work together, demand excellence, and sustain a high-quality public school system that taxpayers can afford.

Those that always demand more from the taxpayers have tried to dismiss me by calling me a 'mom on a mission.' Well, I will wear that label as a badge of honor. I am a mother, a small business owner, a former administrator

and a current taxpayer who knows there is a better way than the business as usual we've been getting out of Madison.

My only special interests are the boys and girls of Wisconsin.

**Evers:** I believe that public schools and libraries are the cornerstones of our democracy, and I want to continue Wisconsin's tradition of educational excellence that reflects the values and ideals of our citizens and communities. I have dedicated my life to public education in this state, and will continue to do so as Superintendent. Every child has a birthright to a quality education. We have the opportunity to create a shared legacy of excellence for our children.

My transformative agenda includes the following priorities:

- Creating a sustainable funding system that guarantees kids, no matter where they live, have the same opportunities for success.
- Supporting positive, safe and respectful environments for students and teachers. The safety and health of our children is the most cherished value held by Wisconsinites.
- Investing in innovation that works. From on-line learning to high-quality and accountable charter schools, we must reward and encourage innovation.
- The goal that every child graduates from high school both career- and college-ready possessing the 21st Century skills that our economy demands of them.
- Ensuring that we are able to recruit and retain high quality teachers in our schools. We must pilot new and innovative systems of teacher compensation, including incentives for educators to innovate.

**What is the most important problem facing public education in Wisconsin, and what would you, as superintendent, do to help solve it?**

**Evers:** Children, no matter where they live, from Milwaukee to Mellen, must have the same educational opportunities. For this to happen, we must ensure that the state continues to provide its two-thirds funding commitment. Deferred maintenance, delayed technology purchases, fewer educational opportunities for students and assessing student fees are becoming the norm instead of the exception. While the recession we are struggling with will continue to hamper efforts to expand investments,

we must take the opportunity now to agree upon the building blocks to create a sustainable funding future. Child poverty continues to grow at a rapid rate; we must leverage available state funds and federal dollars to target schools that have the neediest children.

I believe that this is a golden opportunity for the new State Superintendent to lead policy makers in a discussion of what our state's future direction should be regarding revenue controls, adequate investments and fair taxation. To create this momentum, I will continue my efforts to rally public support for needed changes. Special attention should be focused on those districts that have been held to artificially low levels of spending. It is my belief that these major issues must be reviewed in a comprehensive and systemic fashion to lead to a fair and sustainable system that ensures our commitment to our educational system.

**Fernandez:** Perhaps the biggest problem is the fact that one special interest group has had a stranglehold on the DPI for decades; and WEAC has already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in this campaign to ensure that continues. I am NOT anti-union. Ours is a union household, in fact. And I'm not anti-teacher. I support good and great teachers. But WEAC has to back all the teachers, good and bad. The DPI should look out for the students and families of Wisconsin, not merely the desires of one special interest group.

My independence empowers me to tackle all issues with an open mind. For example, that's why I can advocate for merit pay for teachers statewide. Good teachers deserve a significant raise and poor performing teachers should be let go—no matter how long they've been on the job.

By being the independent voice, I can push for higher standards, without demanding higher taxes. I understand, especially in these tight times, that it is unreasonable to demand tax and spending increases. We must do better with the resources we have. For example, because of my independence, I can push for a sweeping reform of Milwaukee's Public Schools. The problems in Milwaukee impact taxpayers statewide. From the distribution of school aids, to the costs of social services and even the courts and corrections budgets, the fiscal and social costs of MPS' continued floundering are incredible. DPI, under the leadership of my opponent, has tolerated that failure. I will not. □

*“By being the independent voice, I can push for higher standards, without demanding higher taxes.”*

—Rose Fernandez

*“I want to continue Wisconsin's tradition of educational excellence that reflects the values and ideals of our citizens and communities.”*

—Tony Evers

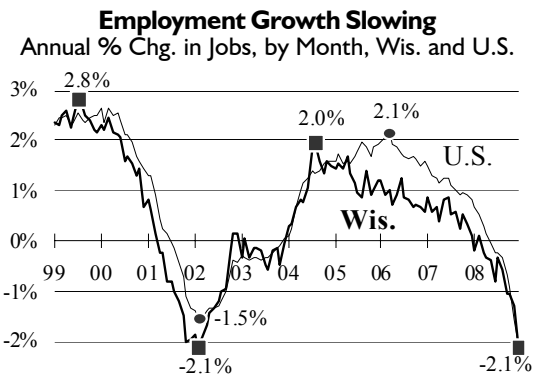
# Wisconsin's Slowing Job Growth

Like the nation's, Wisconsin's economy is in recession. Job growth is slowing and unemployment is rising. But, unlike in the U.S., the number of private businesses in Wisconsin is declining.

## FEWER JOBS

Preliminary figures show total Wisconsin employment in December 2008 was 2.2% below its level in the same month in 2007 (see chart below). The number of private sector jobs in the state declined 2.7% over the same period. By comparison, total national employment was down 2.1% and private sector jobs were down 2.7% from December 2007 to December 2008.

While recent declines in Wisconsin and the nation are similar, job growth in the Badger State began slowing about one and a half years prior to the nation. A similar pattern held prior to the 2001 slowdown when job growth here peaked about 10 months before the nation. As the chart below shows, following the early-2000s slowdown, Wisconsin job growth peaked at 2.0% in August 2004. National growth continued to climb, reaching 2.1% in March 2006.

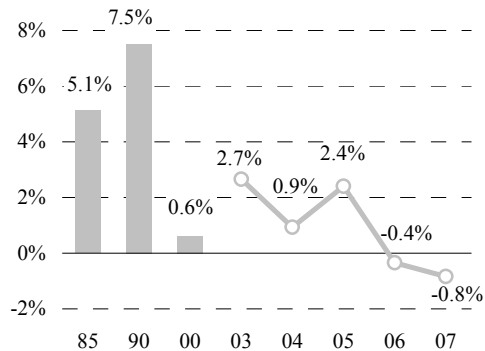


For both Wisconsin and the nation, additional jobs continued to be created for a time, but at slower rates. In January 2008, Wisconsin's job growth turned negative; i.e., there were fewer jobs than in January 2007. Nationally, job creation turned negative in May 2008, four months later. For both Wisconsin and the U.S., the rate of job loss has been accelerating in recent months.

## FEWER BUSINESSES

Possibly more troubling for Wisconsin is the recent decline in private businesses. As the chart above, right shows, the number of private Wisconsin businesses fell in both 2006

**Number of Private Businesses Declines**  
% Increase/Decrease from Prior Year



(-0.4%) and 2007 (-0.8%). Full-year data are not available for 2008.

Nationally, business creations rose more than 2.0% in both 2006 and 2007. Among Wisconsin's neighbors, the only decline in business growth was in Michigan, where the number of businesses dropped 0.9% in 2007.

## GRADING WISCONSIN

Job and business growth are just two indicators of how Wisconsin is faring relative to the nation and its neighbors. A broader picture of the state's competitive position includes performance measures for both the public and private sectors. In *Measuring Success: Benchmarks for a Competitive Wisconsin 2008*, WISTAX tracks 33 indicators in six major areas: economic health, quality of life, workforce excellence, public sector, business climate, and environmental quality.

While Wisconsin's performance on several economic measures has been subpar, the state scored high in several areas.

- High school graduation rates are rising and are significantly above the national average;
- doctoral degrees awarded in the sciences topped 400 for the first time since 1998;
- the state's uninsured percentage (8.2%) declined for the fourth consecutive year and was at its lowest since 2001; and
- the state's export sector continued to expand.

*Benchmarks* is a must-have for anyone interested in evaluating state performance across a variety of measures. The 52-page publication is only \$3.00. Quantity discounts for purchases of 15 or more are available.

To order, call 608.241.9789 or email ([wistax@wistax.org](mailto:wistax@wistax.org)). □

*While the number of businesses in Wisconsin was falling, neighbors Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota experienced business growth.*

*The 52-page publication tracks 33 economic, business, and quality of life indicators.*



### Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance

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### WISTAX NOTES

■ **Union Membership.** Union membership in Wisconsin has been up and down since 2000, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (see chart at right). The number of wage and salary workers that were union members was up by 20,000 in 2008 to 396,000, but down from 456,000 members in 2000.

However, Wisconsin’s union membership was above average as a percentage of employment. In 2008, 15.0% of all wage and salary workers in Wisconsin were affiliated with a union, while only 12.4% were nationally. Three neighbors topped Wisconsin: Illinois (16.6%), Michigan (18.8%), and Minnesota (16.1%).

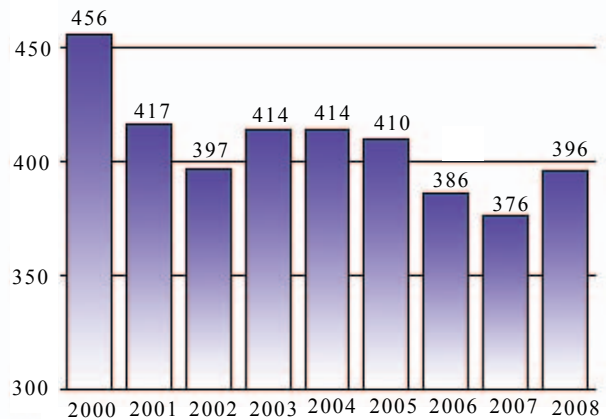
### WISTAX FOCUS

■ **Wisconsin Outlook.** With state tax collections dropping, a recent WISTAX newsletter, “Officials assess state’s condition, look ahead” (*Focus #2-09*) offered two perspectives on Wisconsin economic trends. The first, from the federal government, reviewed historical trends in employment leading up to 2009. The data highlight Wisconsin’s job slowdown that occurred slightly before the national drop.

The second report, from the state’s Legislative Fiscal Bureau, projected the impact of such economic trends on future state revenues. General fund tax revenues are expected to drop 4.2% in fiscal 2009 and 2.3% in 2010. Although a portion of the loss is due to changing tax laws, such as the estate tax hiatus, substantial revenue loss is projected as a result of slowed or declining corporate and individual income.

■ **State Spending To Rise?** The governor recently unveiled his proposed 2009-11 state budget before a joint

**Union Members in Wisconsin**  
In Thousands, 2000 to 2008



legislative session. The budget would reduce spending in some areas; however, total expenditures, whether supported by general fund taxes or monies from all sources, would be higher than in 2007-09. A close review of the numbers is outlined in, “First look at proposed 2009-11 state budget” (*Focus #4-09*).

Historically, the focus of state budget discussions has been on the state’s general fund (GPR), the pool for most major state taxes and fees, including sales, individual, and corporate income taxes. The governor’s budget shows total GPR spending increasing 0.7% from \$27.7 billion in 2007-09 to \$27.9 billion in 2009-11.

However, growing use of money from fees and charges, and especially federal stimulus legislation, shows total biennial expenditures increasing to \$62.7 billion from \$56.7 billion in 2007-09. Under this method, the governor’s proposal would increase state spending 10.7%. □