

Date: March 20, 2006
To: Therese Gedemer
From: County Executive Scott Walker
Re: "Civics Questionnaire"

1. *At what point in your life did you decide to become involved in civic matters or politics?*
I became interested in politics in the summer between my junior and senior years in high school when I was a delegate to Badger Boy's State and Boy's Nation, where I had the honor of representing Wisconsin in our nation's Capitol.
2. *What steps did you take to become involved?*
After my experience with Badger Boy's State, I attended Marquette University, where I pursued a degree in Political Science. I also helped some other candidates in their political campaigns. While working at the American Red Cross, I successfully won election to the Wisconsin State Assembly. I represented Wauwatosa in the Wisconsin Legislature for almost nine years. In 2003, I was elected as Milwaukee County Executive. My political career has always been motivated by a desire to become involved so that I could make a difference in people's lives. This continues to be my motivation today.
3. *Could you explain your role as County Executive in county government?*
As County Executive for Milwaukee County, I serve as the Chief Executive of the largest government in Wisconsin, outside of state government. I am responsible for a \$1.2 billion budget and over 6,000 employees. My primary responsibilities include: submitting a yearly budget, overseeing the department heads of the various departments in county government, serving as the representative for the county, and being the final authority for what happens in county government. This includes our parks, the Milwaukee County Zoo, the airport, and many programs that assist our citizens.
4. *What do you consider to be some of your largest accomplishments as a state representative and then as a county executive?*
As a State Representative, I authored the first bill to require voters to show voter ID at the polls, provided key leadership on Truth-In-Sentencing, and was the creator of the LESS (Limit Excessive State Spending.) I am most proud of the fact that I was able to effectively represent the views and beliefs of my constituents. As County Executive, I am most proud of the fact that I have changed the debate in Milwaukee County on the issue of taxes. Prior to my election, the county would regularly pass budgets with tax increases of

5%, 6%, and higher. I have submitted four straight budgets that freeze the property tax levy from the previous year. Even after the board overrode some of my vetoes on tax increases, the tax levy went up less than 2%, on average. This is important as high taxes force people out of their homes and out of the county. High taxes also discourage businesses from relocating to our county.

5. *What are some current issues that you are trying to deal with in Milwaukee County?*

My biggest challenge in Milwaukee County is to save our county from the devastating effects of the pension and benefit enhancements that were passed by my predecessor and which are contributing to the county being in a very serious financial crisis. For years, the people running county government ran up huge expenses on programs we couldn't afford and on outrageous benefit packages to long-term employees. I am proposing some strong measures to help correct this problem and to preserve some of the assets that make this county such a great place in which to live and work.

6. *If elected governor, what do you see as priorities for the State of Wisconsin?*

My first priority if elected Governor would be to enact a real property tax freeze for the state. Wisconsin is one of the highest-taxed states in the country and this affects Wisconsin's ability to attract and retain families and businesses. The government must become more efficient and a tax freeze is an effective way to push government to work smarter. I will also work hard to restore the public's trust in its elected officials and its government. Recent scandals have left a bad taste in many people's mouths concerning their government. I will make clean government a top priority of my administration. In addition, I will ensure that we have fair elections, I will push for tax-free health savings accounts for small businesses and farmers, I will maintain two-thirds funding for schools and will lift the cap on school choice, and I will help protect Wisconsin jobs from frivolous lawsuits.

7. *What do think today's youth can do to become more involved in their communities and the government?*

My advise to today's youth is to be active, be involved, be informed. I think it's important to be aware of what's going on in your community. Read the newspaper and watch the news. If you see something that needs to be changed, get involved. Community groups are always looking for volunteers and are a great way to make a difference in your community. If you are interested in government, the Internet is a fantastic resource. Almost every elected official has a web page where you can find out information. Many also have opportunities for you to volunteer. Government has a huge impact on everyone's life and it is every citizen's responsibility to be aware of what that government is doing. Remember, this is a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.